House votes to allow bars to serve until 4 a.m.

State expands capacity at outdoor venues

Silver Lake Stables could be event venue

Cardio drumming event raises funds for overseas troops

Midweek Times

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We saw that man out picking up others’ trash on Silver Lake Road. Thank you! We all need to be more mindful of trash we might drop. Check the bed of your pickup truck too to make sure there aren’t loose things that could fly out.” — Jason Slater, Fenton police chief

“OK voters, here is our chance to really evaluate our local leaders. The stimulus funding will expose each leader’s character as they maneuver to fund their pet-projects. Worst thing to give a politician — uncommitted money.”

“It was absolutely beautiful walking around downtown Fenton last weekend. We are looking forward to the Thursday and Friday street closures for this summer.”

We saw that man out picking up others’ trash on Silver Lake Road. Thank you! We all need to be more mindful of trash we might drop. Check the bed of your pickup truck too to make sure there aren’t loose things that could fly out.”

By Sharon Stone

By a vote of 61 to 47, House Bill 4115 was passed Thursday, March 18 by the Michigan House of Representatives.

Locally, Bob Bezotte (R-47th Dist.) voted in favor of the bill. Mike Mueller (R-51st Dist.) vote against the bill.

HB4115 would amend the Michigan Liquor Control Code to allow the legislative body of a city, village or township to adopt a resolution to allow on-premises liquor licensees to sell alcohol until 4 a.m., two hours past the current end time.

A fiscal impact analysis says the time change would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and a minimal impact on local units of government. The bill would allow the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC), within LARA, to levy a $250 initial and annual renewal fee for permits issued under the act.

According to the bill sponsor, State Rep. Ryan Berman (R-39), the legislation would provide a tool for local governments to help businesses offset sales lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic by bringing in extra business.

According to the analysis, the bill appears to apply to the new social districts, which would mean those on-premises licensees who have a permit to sell alcohol for consumption off their licensed premises in a common area in a social district could sell alcohol until 4 a.m. Applications would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

See BARS on 11

State expands capacity at outdoor venues

Fully vaccinated individuals may gather at residences without masks per CDC

On Friday, March 19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated its gatherings and mask epidemic order, allowing up to 20 percent capacity in outdoor stadiums and arenas that establish infection control plans.

The update also increases testing for youth ages 13-19 to ensure athletes can safely participate in sports. The changes are designed to balance day-to-day activities while controlling the spread of COVID-19.

See CAPACITY on 7

“CLUE” — Holly High School students performed “Clue” this week. The cast and crew include Keoni Cabatingan (Wadsworth), Zayna Ward (Yvette), Skylar Reynolds (Miss Scarlet), Megan Lindley (Mrs. Peacock), Rachel Kinnamon (Mrs. White), Calvin Senton (Colonel Mustard), Reese Gordon (Gordon), Ethan Palm (Mr. Green), Makensie Harrington (cook/singing telegram girl), Marshall Schaefer-Rice (Mr. Boddy/chief of police), Shayla Brochu (cop), Alyssa Bonikowski (cop/shadow person), Renee Johnston (shadow person), Maebel Schumacher (student director) and Marilyn Richter (cop). See story on Page 5. Submitted photo.

By Hannah Ball

The owner of Silver Lake Stables hopes to allow events like weddings, receptions, family gatherings and more at the facility off Silver Lake Road in Fenton Township.

On March 11, the Fenton Township Planning Commission recommended approval for the request from owner Phil Hagerman.

The current zoning for Silver Lake Stables, owned by SL

See VENUE on 14

Silver Lake Stables could be event venue

Owner submits plans to planning commission for special land use request

See VENUE on 14

Cardio drumming event raises funds for overseas troops

PAGE 3

MidweekTimes

CARDIO DRUMMING EVENT RAISES FUNDS FOR OVERSEAS TROOPS

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See VENUE on 14
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Cardio drumming event raises funds for overseas troops

Hometown Heroes sends packages to troops overseas multiple times a year

By Hannah Ball

Hometown Heroes raised more than $600 to pay for postage to send packages to troops overseas with a cardio drumming fundraiser.

At Your Fit Club in White Lake, the Holly organization Hometown Heroes hosted two cardio drumming classes through Cardio Crazy Fitness Drumming on Sunday, March 21. The exercise involves drumming on yoga balls with drumsticks.

“It went really well,” said Michelle Senton, co-chair of Hometown Heroes with Katrina Berger. “We had a really good turnout. We had whole families come out and individuals. People outside the Holly area came and drummed just to help us out.”

During the Sunday classes, masks were recommended, people were social distanced and they sanitized the equipment between each set. Hometown Heroes had raffles and prizes from different organizations run by people who have

family members who are serving or have served in the military.

Waymaker Custom Creations, owned by Stephanie Lawrence whose son is a marine, donated items to raffle. Jessica MacConaghy, whose husband is in the Army Reserves, was there with her Color Street business.

The MacConaghy family takes a selfie after the cardio drumming event at Your Fit Club in White Lake on Sunday, March 21 that was a fundraiser for Hometown Heroes. The two exercise classes raised money to send packages to troops overseas. Below is Karissa Rithaler, owner and lead instructor of Cardio Crazy Fitness Drumming, who led the classes at the Your Fit Club facilities.

We had a fantastic time. Everyone seems to be excited about raising money for Hometown Heroes.

Michelle Senton
Holly Hometown Heroes co-chair

See DRUMMING on 10
May be you’ve heard. Gen Z told millennials that we need to quit wearing skinny jeans and side parts in our hair. It’s all about mom jeans and a middle part. Some millennials panicked, giving away all of their skinny jeans. Others took to social media to blast Gen Z. Who do these kids think they are?!

I landed somewhere in the middle — literally — I’m wearing a middle part in my hair right now. I also bought some mom jeans, but prefer my skinny jeans. But, this is nothing new. With style, what goes around comes around.

The same can’t usually be said for marketing tools. Last summer that changed. I went out to eat when restaurants began to open after initial COVID-19 shutdowns and found a QR code on the table. The last year’s been weird, but did I get into a time machine and travel back to 2011?

If you don’t know, a QR code is a little black square similar to a barcode when scanned with a user’s smartphone camera will automatically open a linked website on the smartphone’s web browser.

A New York Times article on the recent return of QR codes tells more of their history. “The QR code (which stands for ‘quick response’) was invented in 1994 by Masahiro Hara, then a young engineer at a Japanese company called Denso Wave … he said that he did not anticipate that the market use of QR codes would grow globally (he originally created them to streamline car part production).”

I learned more than I ever wanted to know about a QR code working for a boutique branding agency in the height of — what I’ll call — their premature popularity. Every client wanted a QR code and I couldn’t understand why. Back then to use a QR code you had to download a special app to your phone and then scan the code and then … I’ve lost interest.

Clients wanted QR codes on everything, even where it made sense or not. “That’s a great idea especially the bars that serve food. That way you still cut off the alcohol at 2 a.m. and serve them up something to get them sober. Plus not only for the bars but for the people working late shifts having restaurants open later would be really great for them as well.”

TO THOSE UNAWARE, a Tesla Powerwall 10 kilowatt hour costs $3,600 without installation. On a warm summer’s day, it’ll last you eight hours, on a really cold day a lot less. And that’s only your house.

WHEN THE PRESIDENT and leader of his own party says he should step down, doesn’t Governor Cuomo of New York think maybe he should resign? Governor Whitmer, pay attention to this.

ISN’T IT AMAZING how the cold and flu has practically disappeared with everyone wearing a face mask and using hand sanitizer.

WHAT DO WE need bars open until 4 a.m.? I think it will cause more drunks on the roads. Only people who drink all night are alcoholics. This will create more.
Holly High School students perform ‘Clue’

Socially distanced audiences watch murder mystery play

By Hannah Ball

Holly High School performing the play “Clue” shows that some school functions are returning after a year of restrictions and a mix of virtual and in-person learning.

Holly High School students performed the famous murder mystery “Clue” from Monday, March 22 to Wednesday, March 24.

It was spearheaded by two seniors, Skylar Reynolds, 17, and Ethan Palm, 17, who made a powerpoint presentation to ask school administration if they could do the play with safety measures in place a few weeks ago. They were excited when they were told “yes.”

Students have been happy to be able to participate in a school function again. Palm, who played Mr. Green, said the experience has been “rewarding.”

“I definitely fell back into it. It feels like I’m at home again,” said Reynolds, who played Scarlet. “It’s been really nice getting to know some of the people who aren’t in my grade. Freshman all through seniors are best friends.”

Currently, students can learn in person or virtually. Some students learned from home and then came to rehearsal after school. Palm said he was used to seeing these students three or four times a week last year, and then everything shut down. He hadn’t seen some of them in nearly a year.

This is the first production they’ve put on this school year. Director Laura Legant said they had to stop production in the spring of 2020 on another play when the pandemic began.

They started dress rehearsal March 8 and held auditions, did read throughs and stage work in approximately two weeks. They had to put on the play before spring break because the roof of the auditorium will be redone after.

“It was very fast,” Palm said.

Legant, who directs shows with Holly Youth Theatre and the Holly High School Theatre Department, said they licensed the play through Playscripts.

Reynolds said both she and Palm had “Clue” as their first pick.

Palm said they usually do a musical, but since choir wasn’t allowed to take place this year, they didn’t want to pick a play with music because it would be unfair to students wanting to take choir.

“It was kind of like meeting in the middle of being able to do something without upsetting some people,” he said.

Safety measures include always wearing masks, social distancing backstage when they can, hand sanitizing, not switching props between cast members, and they get ready at home in their costumes, which minimizes the number of people in the dressing room at one time. They also limited the number of tickets in order to space audience members apart.

“We’ve had amazing parents come help us. All the costumes had to be assembled. It’s been really great in that regard,” Reynolds said.

About 20 students and 20 parents were involved. Some students have theatre experience and for some, this is their first time being involved in a production.

This was Reynolds’ second play at the high school. She’s done theatre since she was 5, and she’s also sang in the Michigan Opera Theatre Children’s Chorus. Legant casted her in her first play, which was “Alice in Wonderland,” when she was 5.

“It’s really cool being able to say my first show is with you (Legant) and so is my last, which is a really cool experience,” she said.

This was Palm’s eighth show overall and third at the high school. Both of them are involved in the Kidz Theatre Kompany.

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**Miranda warnings in Michigan**

Since Miranda v Arizona was decided by the United States Supreme Court in 1966, the law requires that prior to any questioning of an in custody criminal suspect, they must be advised of the following rights:

- They have the right to remain silent;
- They have the right to remain silent;
- They have the right to the presence of an attorney, either retained or appointed.

As to the third right, the net effect must be that a suspect has been clearly informed that they have the right to consult with a lawyer and to have the lawyer present during interrogation.

As a result over the years, there have been both federal and state cases as to what wording is required including whether a general warning that a suspect has “the right to an attorney” is sufficient or if there have to be additional words which describe the presence of an attorney during questioning.

Up until recently, Michigan had no binding authority as to whether a general warning was sufficient.

Things changed May 22, 2018 when the Michigan Court of Appeals issued its opinion in People v Mathews.

Mathews involved a defendant who was charged with murder and had signed a written Advice of Rights form, which included the general warning “you have a right to a lawyer.”

After thoroughly reviewing Michigan, other states, and federal case law, the court held that this general warning wasn’t sufficient as it didn’t adequately convey the defendant’s right to the presence of an attorney during interrogation. As a result, the trial court’s decision suppressing or barring the defendant’s statements was affirmed.

Mathews is now binding precedent. Using the right words is important and a critical part of the law when just one word can make a difference. It appears from the Mathews opinion that if the word “presence” had been on the form things would have been much different.

**CAPACITY**

**Continued from Front Page**

The changes to the order went into effect Monday, March 22, and remain in effect through Monday, April 19.

“The pandemic has been hard on all of us, but by staying focused on acting quickly, following the science, and listening to experts, we can save lives and help our economy recover faster,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “By April 5, all Michiganders will be eligible for the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.”

“More than 3.2 million doses of the safe and effective COVID vaccines have been administered in Michigan, and we are well on our way to vaccinating 70 percent of Michiganders ages 16 and up,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS.

Gatherings at outdoor stadiums and arenas are increased to 20 percent of the venue’s capacity if the site:

- Establishes an infection control plan that complies with the protocols included in MDHHS’s document entitled Enhanced Outdoor Stadium and Arena Guidance
- Posts the mitigation plan publicly
- Sends infection control plans to the local health department and MDHHS at least seven days before scheduled events
- Administers a testing program as specified in MDHHS’s Guidance for Athletics for all players

“MDHHS continues to monitor the data to make decisions that allow us to return to normalcy. This includes case counts, percent positivity and hospitalizations,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “We are making this capacity change along with required safety protocols designed to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”

The order also increases weekly testing for youth athletes ages 13-19 to safely participate in sports. More information on the program is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.

“Michigan’s students deserve to safely enjoy the fullest high school experience we can offer,” said JoLynn Clark, principal of Frankenmuth High School. “That means finding ways to provide in-person instruction along with extracurricular activities, a fundamental part of a student’s life.”

To ensure consistency with recently issued CDC guidance, fully vaccinated individuals may now participate in residential gatherings with other fully vaccinated individuals without wearing a mask.
**House Bill 4386: Expand open records law to governor’s office**
To repeal the exemption in the state Freedom of Information Act for records held by the governor and lieutenant governor’s offices and staff, subject to a broad range of exceptions. These exceptions include records related to gubernatorial appointments; sanctions on judges; pardons, reprieves and commutations; executive budget preparations; deficit-related spending cuts; the annual state-of-the-state address; records subject to executive privilege; communications with constituents; and information related to security, employee personal information and more.

Passed 109 to 0 in the House
Rep. Bob Bezotte (R-Dist. 47)  
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51)  
*

**House Bill 4383: Expand open records law to legislators and governor’s office**
To extend the Freedom of Information Act to legislators, whose offices are currently exempt, subject to a broad range of exceptions and exemptions. This is part of a package comprised of House Bills 4383 to 4392.

Passed 109 to 0 in the House
Rep. Bob Bezotte (R-Dist. 47)  
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51)  
*

**Senate Resolution 31: Denounce Attorney General’s refusal to investigate nursing home deaths**
To denounce the decision by Attorney General Dana Nessel to not investigate the governor’s nursing home policy early in the coronavirus epidemic, along with the data that was reported on deaths in nursing homes, and to encourage county prosecutors to pursue independent investigations.

Passed 20 to 15 in the Senate
Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Dist. 14)  
Sen. Jim Runestad (R-Dist. 15)  
Sen. Lana Theis (R-Dist. 22)  
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  
*

**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, March 19.
House Bill 4210: Authorize selective tax breaks for some “broadband” companies  
To exempt “broadband equipment” used by certain internet providers specified in the bill from personal property taxes levied on business tools and equipment.  
Passed 59 to 50 in the House  
Rep. Bob Bezotte (R-Dist. 47)  
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51)  
YES YES

House Bill 4171: Expand cancer liability presumption to more government jobs  
To extend to “forest fire officers” and “fire/crash rescue officers” a presumption that certain types of cancer arose out of and in the course of employment, for purposes of granting workers compensation benefits to these employees. A 2014 law did this for paid firefighters, and House Bill 4172 would expand that to volunteer firefighters.  
Passed 106 to 3 in the House  
Rep. Bob Bezotte (R-Dist. 47)  
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51)  
YES YES

House Bill 4115: Authorize 4:00 a.m. liquor licenses  
To allow local governments to permit on-premises liquor sales in bars and restaurants between the hours of 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. If a municipality did allow this, a bar or restaurant would still need to apply to the state Liquor Control Commission for a special license and pay $250 each year.  
Passed 61 to 47 in the House  
Rep. Bob Bezotte (R-Dist. 47) YES  
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) NO

Senate Bill 209: Revise physician liability in seatbelt notes from doctor  
To establish that a physician is not liable for civil damages that result if he or she refuses to provide a written verification that an individual is unable to wear a seat belt in a car or wear a helmet where that is required for ORVs, snowmobiles, etc. These laws each permit medical exceptions.  
Passed 20 to 15 in the Senate  
Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Dist. 14) YES  
Sen. Jim Runestad (R-Dist. 15) YES  
Sen. Lana Theis (R-Dist. 22) YES  
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) NO  
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

Spring 2020  
Easter Worship  
9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
11:05 a.m. in the Family Life Center  
J oin us online at fentonumc.com  
or on our Facebook page.
DRUMMING
Continued from Page 3
Senton brought prizes from her business Origami Owl. Her son is a marine.

Your Fit Club and Cardio Crazy Fitness Drumming gave away memberships. Lindsey Bolton and Sabrina Farrell with Pallet Signs & Crafts created T-shirts for the event. Anyone who donated received a bag which included a little toy soldier, courtesy of Hometown Heroes.

They had 44 drummers in total at the two classes, and they had to limit the number of people due to COVID-19 restrictions. They raised enough money to buy postage for their spring boxes, which they will send to 46 active duty members from the Holly area. Hometown Heroes packs these boxes with candy, supplies and other items for Holly troops stationed overseas. Some people also wrote cards for soldiers to put in the boxes.

Lindsey Bolton and Sabrina Farrell with Pallet Signs & Crafts created T-shirts for the event on Sunday. Dozens of people participated, and organizers say they plan to hold more exercise fundraisers in the summer. Submitted photo

Karissa Ritthaler, owner and lead instructor of Cardio Crazy Fitness Drumming, led the classes at the Your Fit Club facilities. The two businesses have had this partnership for a while.

The owners of Your Fit Club are residents in the Holly school district. They rented an empty Payless store to have more space for the classes.

Kristen Stulberg, owner of Your Fit Club with her husband, said Hometown Heroes is a “wonderful program.”

“Just helping this community as a whole was just a very rewarding feeling on our part as business owners. I hope we’re able to help them out in some way,” she said.

Postage is often a barrier to sending overseas packages. Senton said in order to send an overseas package to a military base, it has to be a large flat rate box. With the military discount, it costs about $19 per box. If they’re in the states, it costs approximately $17 for medium flat rate boxes.

This past winter, Hometown Heroes paid $550 to send the winter boxes. They held a hot chocolate fundraiser to raise the money.

“It’s nice that we can continue to do these fundraisers. We’re trying to think of at least three to four fundraisers a year to make sure we have enough for postage,” Senton said. They’re hoping to have another drumming fundraiser in the summer when it’s warm enough to have the classes outside so more people can attend.

Senton said it was important that the Hometown families came out on Sunday and continue to stay involved. When her son left for boot camp, Senton said she felt like a “fish out of water” because no one in her family ever left for the military and she felt alone. That changed when she got involved with Hometown Heroes.

“It’s not just active duty military people we’re supporting. The families are important, too,” she said.
BARS
Continued from Front Page
According to the analysis, a number of concerns have been raised regarding the health, safety, and economic implications of expanding the time that on-premises licensees can serve alcohol.
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), about 55 percent of fatal crashes involving alcohol-impaired drivers occur between midnight and 3 a.m.
- Expanding the hours would likely shift the timing of DUI-related crashes to match the change in closing time and could increase related injuries by as much as 11 percent.
- Shifting the closing time could also correspond to when early shift workers are commuting to work.
- A bar or restaurant in a community that opts in to late night alcohol sales may become a “magnet,” especially if surrounding communities do not opt in.
- Law enforcement officials have raised concerns regarding the potential for more fights or assaults due to increased alcohol consumption.
- Addiction experts have expressed concerns that the timing of the bill corresponds to higher rates of depression brought on by the pandemic and a continuing opioid crisis (about 25 percent of overdose deaths involve alcohol) and that enacting the bill, which would increase access to alcohol, would be bad public policy at this time.

Entities supporting 4 a.m.
- City of Detroit
- Michigan Licensed Beverage Association

Entities opposed to 4 a.m.
- Mid-Michigan District Health Department
- Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health and Safety
- Unite to Face Addiction
- Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems
- Center for Urban Youth and Family Development
- Michigan Liquor Control Commission
- Michigan Sheriffs’ Association
- Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
- Allied Liquor Stores of Michigan
- Michigan Association of Recovery Residences

LOCAL POLICE CHIEFS SHARE OPINION ON BILL
Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said, “I am opposed to this bill, as are the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Sheriffs Association, Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems, Michigan Liquor Control Commission and several alcohol addiction groups.
“Research has shown that extending alcohol sales by two hours could lead to an uptick in alcohol-related crashes. Expanding the hours during which alcohol can be served would likely lead to an increase in fatal crashes and this would put our citizens at risk.”
Fenton Police Chief Jason Slater also is opposed to extending the time to 4 a.m. He said the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police is opposed and he concurs with that opinion. “It’s just a bad idea,” he said. He is concerned with traffic safety and the fact that people who work early morning shifts could be affected by those leaving bars at 4 a.m.
Slater said he is curious as to any changes the Senate may make to the bill and also what the governor would do.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
THE ONLY WAY Biden will be successful is if he follows Trump’s policies.

THE ARTICLE MARCH 21 about Fenton roads didn’t mention the streets by Tomek Elementary. They would be better off as dirt roads. Editor’s note: The state of Fenton roads – Part 1 was published March 21. Part II will be published March 28.

THANK YOU, TO the two families that helped rescue the duck in distress by the gazebo. We successfully removed the fishing line. Reminder to those fishing to pick up your lines. There should be signs posted with 24-hour wildlife hotline as I received no information from police or fire departments.

SO MANY THINGS to be concerned about these days, and you’re triggered by an ice cream shop adding a few drinks to their menu.
In 2020 Randy and Carol Haney and their team of realtors sold 114 Million Dollars of Real Estate. They have averaged over 1,000 Real Estate sales transactions per year for the last 10 years. We believe that quality blended with excellent service is the foundation to a successful business relationship.
VENUE
Continued from Front Page
Farms, LLC, is agricultural (AG), and it’s currently used as a horse stable and arena. Hagerman is seeking approval for a special land use permit for agricultural tourism that would allow events. According to the application, no construction would be necessary.

“The property is unique in its large outdoor space and interior areas that can accommodate groups,” according to SL Farms, LLC in a letter to the planning commission. “There is ample area for parking and ingress/egress. Lighting, noise issues and hours of events would be established in conformity with all local ordinances and laws, including those related to COVID-19.”

“Our community has a unique culture that people want to experience on their special occasion. Facilities like the one proposed are found all over the state and are a value add to their local communities. We appreciate your time and consideration of this project.”

The area is 23.89 acres. The facility has a heated indoor arena with connecting stables, as well as an outdoor arena. The barn is used year round. The Master Plan classifies this area as medium density residential.

In the packet from the Fenton Township Planning Commission, it states that agritourism uses, such as event barns, are allowed on AG parcels that are 10 acres or larger as a special use. They would be required to have one parking lot per 400 square feet of usable floor area. No permanent parking spaces are required. Guests can park on the grass. The current area offers a minimum of 122 parking spaces, which is more than enough.

Guests of these events would use the Silver Lake Road entrance. The Pinewood Trail entrance gate would be closed.

The application states that the applicant does not wish to hold outdoor events other than weddings. They would be held in the pasture north of the barn, with the reception indoors.

The packet states that the proposed use would be “in harmony” with the development of the surrounding neighborhood, and that the proposed use would not make vehicular traffic any more hazardous than is normal for the zoning district involved.

MOM JEANS
Continued from Page 4
zero sense, like billboards. I wasn’t alone in thinking QR codes needed to go away. From the same NYT article, “Though QR codes have been persistently popular for payments and other services in Asia, in the United States, until recently, they were widely seen as unsexy, even a hassle.”

When I saw the first QR code I’d seen in years last summer, I cringed. But technology has changed. You no longer need an app with today’s smartphones. Simply launch your camera app and hover your phone over the code. And with COVID-19 protocols, I immediately realized we actually need QR codes now. I’ve now used them to see menus, pay my bill and even to register for COVID-19 contact tracing.

Thanks to today’s ease-of-use, I can also see how QR codes can benefit our clients beyond use during the pandemic. Why make a customer search for what you want them to see when a QR code takes them directly where you want them? Plus, many QR codes are trackable, so clients can measure how many people used a particular QR code. Even better, Gen Z likes them. The NYT article quotes a 17-year-old from Brooklyn who said, “I think this is only the beginning for QR codes … QR codes are going to be absolutely everything.”

Whether you’re wondering how to style mom jeans or how a QR code can assist in your branding I’m here to help. Contact me at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.

Emily Caswell is the brand manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.
New round of eGift Cards announced

Buy $100 eGift Card, receive a $50 bonus card to use at participating Fenton businesses

The city of Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has announced another round of bonus dollars to be added to the Fenton Community eGift Card Program, which will give consumers extra dollars in their spending power.

The new bonus program was approved by the Fenton DDA Board on Tuesday, March 16, with follow up approval by the Fenton City Council at its meeting Monday, March 22.

This new program is slightly different from the program that recently ran. For a limited time, those who purchase $100 in Fenton Community eGift Cards will receive a $50 bonus eGift Card for free. Buying a $75 eGift Card will result in $37.50 bonus, a $50 eGift Card will get you a $25 bonus and if you purchase a $25 eGift Card, you will receive a $12.50 bonus card.

By launching the program with slightly different parameters, another $225,000 will be infused into our local community.

This will be the second round of bonus gift cards going out as the city sees continued success with the incentives. The incentive was initially implemented to assist the businesses with hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is a five eGift Card limit per person. The bonus eGift Cards will expire June 30, 2021.

Once this matching “buy one get one” funding is depleted, the Fenton Community eGift Card program will continue at face value so consumers can purchase Fenton Community eGift Cards to give to friends and family in 2021. Although consumers will not receive a bonus gift, the city of Fenton and DDA hopes people will still continue to support local businesses by sending gift cards.

Purchase a Fenton Community eGift Card at fentonlinden.com/eGift to use at any of the eligible participating businesses in the DDA district. With this card, you can write a personal message and send it to family, friends and colleagues via email, text or physical copy. Recipients can chose to spend it al one of the participating merchants or mix it up and spend flexibly at multiple locations.
Fenton’s Kendra Ryan (top) is a three-time girls state wrestling champion.  
Photo: David Troppens

Fenton’s Kendra Ryan (bottom) and Holly’s Alyssa Johnson in a past Fenton-Holly contest.  
Photo: Christopher Summers

**Fenton opens district with victory vs. area rival Bronchos**

**By David Troppens**

Linden — It was the third game between two great area rivals in the opening game of the Division 1 Girls Basketball District at Linden High School on Monday.

The Fenton Tigers and Holly Bronchos had split the first two outings between each other and Monday’s game didn’t have to be a district contest to be intense, but that added to the flavor.

The battle remained close through most of the game, but two constants determined the outcome. First, the Fenton Tigers found the extra pass, resulting in some outstanding offensive distribution. Second, the Bronchos, whether it was due to Fenton’s defense or Holly just looking for the perimeter shot, the Bronchos took at least 23 three-point shots, but only made two of them the entire contest, resulting in Fenton’s 46-33 victory. The win means the Tigers (11-6) will play the Howell Highlanders today at Linden High School at 7 p.m.

“We worked together as a team,” Fenton senior Kyla Lynch said. “It was awesome. We just kept talking on defense and making the extra pass on offense. We did that really well tonight and got a lot of shots off from a lot of different people. It was really cool.”

“They work really hard. My kids have worked really hard on making the extra pass,” Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Marcia Gehrke said.

Lake Fenton’s Clay Cook (left) won a district title in the 103-pound class at the district meet held at Ortonville-Brandon High School.  
Photo: David Troppens

**Lake Fenton’s Clay Cook (left) won a district title in the 103-pound class at the district meet held at Ortonville-Brandon High School.**

**Thirteen D2 wrestlers headed to regional round**

**By David Troppens**

Thirteen tri-county area wrestlers made it out of the Division 2 Ortonville-Brandon Individual Wrestling Tournament into the regional round.

Lake Fenton had eight wrestlers place while Holly had five place. Both had two individual champions while Lake Fenton had four runner-up finishers.

The tri-county area would’ve clearly had more regional qualifiers if not for COVID-19. The Linden varsity wres-

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Blue Devils lead early, fall to Martians

By David Troppens

A year ago, as the Fenton varsity boys swim team prepared to head to the state meet, the meet was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This season, the Tigers have had to experience a few other struggles due to COVID, but at this point it looks like one won’t be not experiencing the Division 2 Swimming and Diving Championships on Saturday at Jenison High School.

The Tigers are bringing five swimmers to the meet. They are Gavin Crews, Max Haney, Jack Fries, Braden Falvo and Kaz Sieja.

“It feels good. I’m still a little nervous because of contact tracing and all that stuff, but I feel good and feel prepared,” senior Gavin Crews said. “It was a long season.

“It will feel good because of last year and how we got canceled last year. It will feel like more of an accomplishment this year.”

“It feels really good because obviously it was canceled last year,” Fenton sophomore Max Haney said. “I’m happy we can actually go this year.”

When the Tigers do go, the expectations will be high. The 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams expect to break school records and expect to place high. Haney competed at the NCSA Spring Championships last weekend and posted an eye-popping 4:34.61 time in the 500 freestyle. He will swim the 200 freestyle individually as well.

“Hopefully, I can swim as fast as my ability, and hopefully that means I can come in the top three in my 500 freestyle. I dropped a significant amount of time in the 500, and right now my time is No. 1 in D2.”

There are high expectations in all of the events. Both relays will consist of Haney, Fries, Sieja and Crews.

Three LFLF gymnasts headed to state meet, squad finishes fourth at regional event

By David Troppens

The Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton co-op gymnastics team came close to qualifying for the state meet as a team at regional action.

However, the LFLF gymnastics team came one place short of that ultimate goal, scoring a fourth-place finish at Grand Ledge High School.

The squad had plenty of individual state qualifiers, however, as the top 10 in any event qualify for the state meet to be held on Saturday.

Apryl Smith will be competing in the all-around as she placed sixth in it with a total score of 35.675. She placed in the top 10 in each of the events, placing fifth on the beam (8.85), fifth on the floor (9.075), sixth on the bars (8.7) and sixth on the vault (9.05).

Two other gymnasts will be making the trip to the state meet. Lauren Hayden qualified to compete on the vault after taking third with a 9.075 score. Maty Temrowski also qualified for state meet in two events. She placed third on the beam (8.975) and eighth on the vault (9.000).

Others who had team counting scores were Hayden on the bars and the beam, Temrowski on the bars and floor, Avery Miller on the vault, and Kynleigh Copeland on the uneven bars.

Maty Temrowski

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
The Fenton varsity wrestling team had six grapplers advance to the individual regional tournament level after finishing in the top four at the Saginaw Heritage district.

The Tigers had one Division 1 District Champion. Freshman Phillip Lamka (145) improved to 30-2 with three more victories and a first-place finish. Lamka earned the title by beating Davison’s Kyle White by a 16-1 technical fall score.

The Tigers also had Kendra Ryan advance to her district title match, facing Davison’s Justin Gates in the finals. Ryan (103) won her first match by pinfall and the second by decision. She lost to Gates by pinfall in 2:23.

Four others competed in the third-place match. Jackson Carinduff (285) and Dylan Beverly (140) placed third while Ben Triola (152) and Login Fuller (189) placed fourth.

Fenton’s Login Fuller (right) was one of six Fenton wrestlers to place at districts and earn a spot at the regional meet. Photo: Mark Bolen

Three area bowlers headed to state meet

By David Troppens

Area prep bowling teams had three individuals qualify for state meet action during regional competition last weekend, and one team came within a place of qualifying as a squad.

The Holly Bronchos competed at the D2 regional at Oak Lanes in Westland and the Bronchos battled to qualify in the top two all event long. Holly actually led after the first game with a 932 team series, 93 pins ahead of eventual regional champion St. Clair Shores Lake Shore. A 778 in the second game, however, dropped the Bronchos out of the top two, and they never were able to get back in the two team state-qualifying spots again.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Three competitive cheer squads move to regional level

By David Troppens

Three tri-county competitive cheer teams earned the right to extend their seasons during district action.

The Fenton and Linden varsity competitive cheer teams earned spots in the Division 2 regional that was held at Walled Lake Western High School on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Lake Fenton Blue Devils placed fourth in its own D3 District on Saturday, qualifying for the Novi regional.

Fenton and Linden earned their invites by placing in the top four of Friday’s Clio district meet. In fact, the Metro League represented itself well by taking three of the four regional bids. Kearsley won the district while the Metro champion Fenton placed second. Linden took fourth.

The Tigers improved upon its Metro meet championship score of 730.06 at the district by posting a total three-round score of 746.08, a 16.02 point improvement.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Wrestlers finishing in the top four of their weight class earned a spot in regional tourney being held Saturday at Davison High School.

Three area bowlers headed to state meet

By David Troppens

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CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

RyAn

Continued from Page 16

Her weekend began with individual district action Saturday. While there, she placed second and will be competing at the regional meet Saturday.

“We’re D1 so my goals are to make it (to the MHSAA state meet at) D1 and then place at state. I made it last year,” Ryan said earlier this season. “It would definitely be cool. I just have to do what I did last year. I have to maintain my weight at 103, and have to try to work my hardest again.”

Ryan, who will wrestle at North Central College next fall, has won more than 100 varsity matches during her career.

“I didn’t know if I’d get the chance to do it because of COVID. I needed two more wins,” Ryan said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
Blue Devils defeat Swartz Creek, 67-59

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team will be opening district play off a high note.

The Blue Devils won their final regular season game of the season, defeating the Swartz Creek Dragons 67-59.

The Blue Devils (5-6) took control early on. Carter Foerster netted six first-quarter points and Francis Senter had four first-quarter points, leading the Blue Devils to an 18-12 lead entering the second quarter.

Lake Fenton used the three-ball to open up the lead in the second quarter. Jake Helms netted two of his three first-quarter three-pointers in the second period, helping lead the squad to another 18-point stanza.

Lake Fenton led 36-19 at half time.

The Dragons made it a closer game in the second half, but were unable to keep the Blue Devils from earning the win. Carter Foguth scored seven points in the third quarter, and Senter scored eight fourth-quarter points, helping ice Lake Fenton’s victory.

Nine Lake Fenton players scored with Senter leading the way with 19 points. Foerster netted 18 points while Helms collected 10 points.

Lake Fenton opens district action at home against Ovid-Elsie today at 7 p.m.

Lake Fenton’s Carter Foerster attempts a shot in a recent game. He scored 18 points against the Swartz Creek Dragons.

Photo: Mark Bolen

Lady Tigers win final two regular season contests

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team ended the regular season on a positive note.

The squad defeated Ortonville-Brandon 56-39 on Thursday, and then defeated Clío 50-25 on Saturday.

Against Brandon, the Tigers used a 21-4 second-quarter run to blow the game open. Fenton (10-6 overall) trailed at half, but then scored the final five points of that stanza. The 21-4 edge in the second quarter gave the Tigers a 35-18 halftime lead. Brandon never really made a serious run to close the gap from that point.

Adrie Staib had a huge game, netting 17 points to go with her 18 rebounds. The three-point shot was big for Korryn Smith and Kaliegh Shaker. Shaker hit five treys and scored 15 points while Smith hit four treys and contributed 16 points. She also dished eight assists. Kyla Lynch chipped in eight points and fourrebounds. No one on Brandon had double-digits. Sally Borowski netted nine points.

Against Clío, Lynch had a solid game, netting 12 points. Shaker, Staib and Smith had 10 points each while Mallory Lehmann netted seven points.
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810-433-6787
Paige Elizabeth Holmgren - age 30, of Fenton, died Friday, March 19, 2021. It was drug abuse that took our Paige much too soon. She was a beautiful soul inside and out and would want anyone who struggles with addiction to seek help, the consequences are not worth it. Visitation will be held 2 - 8 PM Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. There will not be a formal funeral service held. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Whaley Children’s Center (www.whaleychildren.org), 1201 N Grand Traverse St, Flint, MI 48503. Paige was born November 6, 1990 in Flint to Kevin and Kerry (Lancaster) Holmgren and attended Linden High School. Surviving are mother, Kerry Holmgren of Fenton; father, Kevin Holmgren of Fenton; siblings, Bryce Holmgren and Jayce Holmgren, both of Fenton; aunts and uncles, Terry and Curt May of Fenton, Keith Lancaster of Swartz Creek, Jeff and Peggy Holmgren of West Bloomfield, and Scott Holmgren of Tempe, AZ; grandparents, Dorothy Lancaster of Clearwater, FL; Jim and Amanda Holmgren of Fenton; cousins, Kristen, Tim, Stephanie, Avery and Quinn. Paige was preceded in death by grandfather, Freddie Lancaster; two uncles, Dave and Steve Holmgren. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Mary Jo Bentley - age 85, of Port St. Lucie, FL, formerly of Holly, died Thursday, March 11, 2021. She was born on March 2, 1936 to Melvin and Inez (Measle) Bendle. She is survived by three children, Brian Bentley, Beth Bentley, and Tom Bentley. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence "Bo" Bentley; and her son, Kevin Bentley. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.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
**Horoscopes**

**ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20  
Don’t shy away from the issues that keep cropping up this week, Aries. They may cause a few headaches, but they also are making the days much more exciting.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 20/May 20  
Taurus, many people like to live by the mantra “don’t judge a book by its cover,” but many times appearances matter. Don’t regret picking out a nice outfit or a trendy restaurant.

**GEMINI**  
May 21/Jun 20  
Change may take you in unexpected directions this week, Gemini. The good news is that things are finally turning around for you. Enjoy this exciting time.

**CANCER**  
Jun 21/Jul 22  
Cancer, you may be drawn to people who appeal to your analytical side this week. You could be interested in some intellectual debate and need a worthy sparring partner.

**LEO**  
Jul 23/Aug 22  
Leo, if you see a chance to get ahead this week, jump on it. No matter what is involved or how inconvenient, you do not want to let this opportunity pass you by.

**VIRGO**  
Aug 23/Sep 22  
There is much more clarity in your life this week, Virgo. It’s almost as if a veil has been lifted or if your eyeglasses prescription has been fine-tuned.

**LIBRA**  
Sep 23/Oct 22  
Libra, there might be a lot of activity going around you over the course of the week. Whether it’s good or bad, you won’t be directly involved in any of it.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 23/Nov 21  
Exercise caution when sharing your secrets, Scorpio. Make sure others can be tight-lipped, as some people cannot resist passing on a little gossip here and there.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 22/Dec 21  
There is great harmony in your life right now and it’s due mostly to the fact that you are working together with people both at home and at work. Keep up the collaborations.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 19  
Listen to people around you to get a fresh perspective on various components of life that you share. People may have good ideas and be willing to share their advice.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 20/Feb 18  
Aquarius, if you have been trying to become better acquainted with someone in your personal life or even at the office, pay attention to their body language. It can say a lot.

**PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20  
Pisces, trust your heart this week and be honest with how you feel about situations. Not every decision has to be based on analysis. Trust your gut.
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