

# Board rescinds censure of Winchester

■NOCFA Board votes 3-2 following discussion in closed session

By Sharon Stone

Following a closed session during its Dec. 21 meeting, the North Oakland County

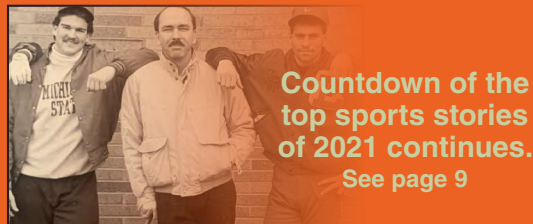
Fire Authority (NOCFA) Board voted 3-2 to rescind the censure of Holly Township Clerk Karin Winchester, the Holly Township representative and secretary of the NOCFA Board.

Censure means to formally reprimand someone.

The vote came from a motion made by Dianne Scheib-Snyder, Rose Township supervisor and NOCFA Board representative for Rose Township. George Kullis, Holly Township supervisor and Holly Township representative on the NOCFA Board See **NOCFA** on 8

“The only reason it was rescinded was because I was allowed to vote on it this time.”

KARIN WINCHESTER  
Holly Township clerk



Countdown of the top sports stories of 2021 continues. See page 9

## Midweek Times

VOL. 29 NO. II

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\$1.00

### Ring in the New Year at For-Mar

■Take the hiking challenge this Saturday, Jan. 8

By Sharon Stone

The community is invited to join other Genesee County Parks enthusiasts for the For-Mar, “I Hiked For-Mar” New Year’s Challenge on Saturday, Jan. 8.

This is five-part hike series to explore every trail at For-Mar in one day. For-Mar naturalists have divided the For-Mar trail system into five sections and if you join them for all five hikes, you will have hiked every trail at For-Mar in one day.

See **FOR-MAR** on 5

### Long wait times for COVID testing



Drivers wait in line for COVID-19 tests at Ascent Walk in Clinic off Silver Parkway on Monday, Jan. 3. Approximately two dozens vehicles were lined up. All across the U.S., experts are reporting a shortage of available tests and long wait times. See **Story** on page 7. Photo: Hannah Ball

### Fenton City approves opioid settlement

■Local municipalities take action with looming deadline to secure funds

By Sharon Stone

During a special meeting Monday, Dec. 27, Fenton City Council voted to approve a national opioid settlement.

The deadline for communities to join national opioid settlements with Johnson & Johnson and drug distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson is fast approaching

Local counties, cities, and towns across the country had until Jan. 2 to submit their forms to sign on to the settlement agreements and secure funds for their communities to abate

See **SETTLEMENT** on 8

### Fenton couple killed in pedestrian crash

■Happened Dec. 27 in Sarasota, Florida — remains under investigation

By Sharon Stone

Two pedestrians from Fenton died after a teenage driver hit them on a roadway in Florida’s Sarasota County

on Monday, Dec. 27, 2021, according to WJRT in Sarasota County, Florida.

The Florida Highway Patrol reported See **CRASH** on 7



“Thank you to the person ahead of me at Tim Hortons on Owen Road who paid my bill on New Year’s Eve. I hadn’t felt well for days and ran out for chicken noodle soup. Your gesture was an extra special blessing and uplift. Happy New Year!”



“Thank you to the person in the Chevy truck who paid for our ice cream Wednesday night at Uncle Ray’s. We left the servers a tip. Happy New Year!”

“Congratulations to Denny Hopkins, I’m a Fenton man, you have earned respect throughout the years. We wish you well in your next adventure.”





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# Lights, camera, action

■ Filming takes place this weekend and next for 'Hallmark style' Christmas movie at Holly Hotel

By Sharon Stone

There's show business excitement at and around the Holly Hotel.

Chrissy and George Kutlenios, owners of the historic restaurant in downtown Holly, announced that a "Hallmark style" Christmas movie will film later this week and next.

Filming will take place at the Holly Hotel and on Battle Alley. The name of the movie is "Christmas at the Holly Hotel" and it is produced by Joel Paul Reisig.

The storyline involves a big city girl named Kathy who comes home to Holly to help her parents run the Holly Hotel. On her way into town, she is pulled over by a local police officer, who has perfect hair.

The restaurant's dinner hours will be modified and extras for the film will include those who are dining at the Holly Hotel on selected days. Confirmed reservations are required to enter the building.

From Monday, Jan. 3 through



Christmas decorations will be on display a bit longer at the Holly Hotel since the historic restaurant will be the backdrop of a new "Hallmark style" Christmas movie, which will be filming later this week and next. **Times file photo**

Thursday, Jan. 6, the restaurant will be closed to the public for filming preparations.

On Friday, Jan. 7, a scene which includes a Christmas Eve celebration dinner will be filmed in the main dining room. This is sold out. On Saturday, Jan. 8, more filming will take place and dinner is also sold out.

On Sunday, Jan 9, the restaurant will be open for its regular brunch. Dinner will be by confirmed reservations only.

There are opportunities for speaking parts with local residents and an indigogo.com page called "Christmas at the Holly Hotel – movie" has been created.

Chrissy Kutlenios said, "We are thrilled, really excited." She said Reisig is a native to Michigan and approached her and George because the Holly Hotel would be the perfect backdrop for a "Hallmark style" Christmas movie. She confirmed this is not a traditional Hallmark movie and that it will eventually be available on Netflix or Amazon or other sites.

Kutlenios said the entire police department is involved with the plot of the movie and that the chief will have some speaking parts.

To top things off, she said Mother Nature cooperated and dropped some white fluffy snow, customary for a Christmas movie.

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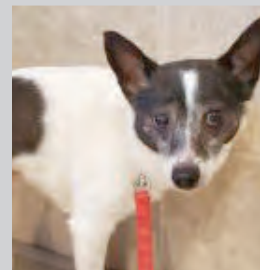
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### CONTACT INFORMATION

General Office .....810-629-8282  
Advertising .....810-433-6778  
Classifieds .....810-433-6787  
Circulation .....810-433-6797  
Editorial .....810-433-6786  
Fax .....810-629-9227  
Hot Line .....[myfenton.com](http://myfenton.com)  
Sports .....810-433-6789

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## Sharin' the spotlight

By Editor Sharon Stone

**N**ow that Christmas and New Year's Day are over, things are calming down a bit, at least for my family. I'm sure delivery people are enjoying a breather after working extra long hours making sure packages made it to their intended destinations on time. People making food deliveries likely saw an increase in purchases as families held small get-togethers to celebrate the holidays. Postal carriers also have been busy delivering letters and small packages. By the number of Christmas cards we received this year, they must have been extra busy over the holidays.

As I peek out my window at the Times office, I can see the sun shining in Fenton. What a welcome relief that is. But just because it's sunny doesn't mean it's warm. When I woke up this morning, my weather app said it was 1 degree outside and it should feel like 1 degree. I almost chuckled at that. What if it had said it should feel like 2 degrees? Would I have noticed the difference? I think not.

I could see that our local departments of public works employees had been out plowing and applying some salt to the roads, which is crucial at some of

# Thankful for those forced to work outdoors in winter

our busy intersections. For that, I say thank you.

When I went outside this morning, I was grateful that my husband had already shoveled our front sidewalk, even if it was just for our dog to use. The crunchy snow reminded me just how cold it was outside.

While I enjoy shopping in person at our local stores, many, because of COVID fears, their own health issues or not wanting to drag young children all over town, use delivery service or rely on making internet purchases. I was impressed



Sharon Stone

with the small table on my daughter's porch when I went over to visit. She's a busy wife and mom with little ones. She has a basket full of goodies and bottled water for her delivery people. She even has a cute note on the basket inviting the workers to take what they needed. She knows

these people have been working extra hours and might appreciate a thoughtful snack.

With the few inches of snow now on the ground, it's a good time to remind

See **THANKFUL** on 8

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

## What's a goal you have for 2022?

## streettalk



"To connect more with relatives and friends. Not with email, which is nice for providing information, but with handwritten notes and conversations. Connections have been missed."

**Donna Schettenhelm Knack**, Fenton



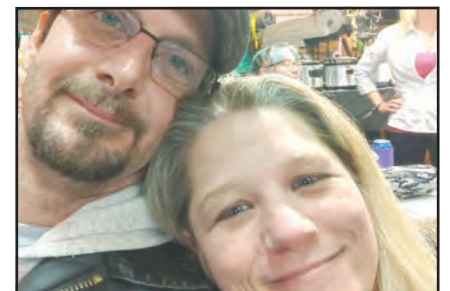
"Hopefully find a truck that's not over priced."

**David Lamb**  
Fenton



"Budget my money, clean more, read more."

**Stacey McBride**  
Linden



"To enjoy and sell more art!"

**Jessie James**  
Grand Blanc

## Hotlines

Submit Hot lines online at myfenton.com or text to 810-771-8398

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.

**KUDOS AND THANKS** to the hard-working maintenance guys in Shiawassee Shores who make the park so beautiful at Christmastime with all the lights. And, for all their efforts with seeing that the park roads are plowed and salted in such an efficient and timely manner. The guys are awesome.

■■■  
**MANY OLDER ADULTS** and those with disabilities, such as military veterans, depend on Social Security. Those who criticize it have no idea how much of a necessity it is for many.

■■■  
**OLD FOLKS BEWARE.** Your future residence may be the local mall should this younger generation eliminate Social Security. They'll never take their parents in as they once did before Social Security.

■■■  
**THANKS FOR THE** tip from the Hot-liner who suggested we check out the social media accounts for our school board members. I know who I will not be voting for next time in the Lake Fenton school district if they decide to run.

■■■





## FOR-MAR

### Continued from Front Page

Each of their hikes will explore a different section of For-Mar and you can pick one, two or join all five hikes this year and still be part of the "I Hiked For-Mar" Challenge. The first hike starts at 8 a.m., where hikers will be exploring the sunrise and learning to snowshoe at For-Mar and will end with a sunset hike that starts at 5 p.m.

Throughout the day, they will be exploring many topics.

8 a.m. — Sunrise Snowshoe Hike — Section 1, meet near Visitor Center

10:30 a.m. — Winter Birding Hike — Section 2, meet at Visitor Center

12:30 p.m. — Winter Wildlife Hike — Section 3, meet at the Dewaters Educational Center off Potter Road

2:30 p.m. — Mindfulness Hike — Section 4, meet at the Dewaters Educational Center off Potter Road

5 p.m. — Sunset Snowshoe Hike — Sections, meet at the Visitor Center

Each Hike section is approximately

2 miles in length and they vary in difficulty level. Hikes are for all ages.

Each hike costs \$2 per person. If you hike all five sections you will receive a copy of For-Mar's New For-Mar Field Guide.

This program is part of the #optoutdoors and "First Day Hikes" movements. Whether you choose to join them for their New Year Challenge, they encourage everyone to enjoy a New Year hike.

## POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### NOVI WOMAN ARRESTED FOR OWI IN FENTON AFTER CRASH

At 6:50 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19, Fenton police responded to a rollover crash on northbound U.S. 23 near Torrey Road. Witnesses reported that a vehicle veered from the highway, traveled into the ditch and jumped over the entrance ramp, flipping approximately five times and landing on the roof. Police spoke with a witness, who had helped the female driver out of her vehicle and into their vehicle because of how cold it was. Police detected the odor of intoxicants on the driver and she refused to cooperate. The woman, a 30-year-old Novi resident, was arrested for drunk driving and taken to the police station where she refused a Datamaster chemical test. After obtaining a search warrant, she was transported to a local hospital for a blood draw to determine her blood alcohol level. Once medically cleared at the hospital, she was lodged at the Genesee County Jail. She is being charged with OWI, resisting police and having a felony warrant. Lt. Jeff Cross said the woman told police she was driving to work in a rental car and thought she was near I-94 or I-696.



# FIREBIRDS FIGHT HUNGER MONTH

Saturday January 8th, 7PM

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■■■

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■■■

HAPPY 2022?



### ENTRAPMENT AS A DEFENSE

An interesting aspect of the ongoing federal and state prosecutions involving the alleged plot to kidnap Governor Gretchen Whitmer is that the defendants in both proceedings have raised the legal defense of entrapment.

Since these matters are still pending, I won't go into specifics, but because there has been recent news as to the defendants raising the defense, it's an opportune time to provide some information about this legal concept that might not be generally known.

The word entrapment comes to us from the Old French word, "entraper" which means "to catch in a trap."

Generally speaking its overall purpose is to deter the corruptive use of governmental authority by invalidating convictions that result from law enforcement efforts that have as their effect the instigation or manufacture of a new crime by one who would not otherwise have been so disposed.

There are two different tests to determine if entrapment has taken place — subjective and objective. A majority of states and federal law use the subjective test while Michigan and some other states use the objective test.

The subjective test looks at when law enforcement pressures the defendant to commit a crime against their will and focuses on the defendant's individual characteristics more than on law enforcement's behavior. If a defendant is "predisposed" to commit the crime without pressure, the defense will not succeed.

Objective entrapment examines the behavior of law enforcement rather than the "individual" defendant.

If the methods used are against fair play and justice, entrapment can be established if the tactics would induce a "responsible law abiding person" to commit the crime.

Michigan has an additional test, which provides that the defense can also be established if the police conduct alone is so reprehensible that it cannot be tolerated in a civilized society.

There is a list of factors to consider including government guarantees that illegal conduct is not illegal, threats of arrest, and payments of large sums of money to commit crimes.

Under the subjective test, the jury decides whether there was entrapment while under the objective test, a judge makes the decision.

The burden of proof is on the defendant to establish the defense by a preponderance of the evidence.

The two cases will go to trial later this year. We'll see what happens.

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# Long wait times for COVID testing

■ U.S. sees largest daily COVID-19 case count since pandemic began

By Hannah Ball

**Fenton** — Two years into the pandemic, scientists anticipate that America could see the largest spike in COVID cases in the coming weeks.

According to The New York Times COVID tracker, the U.S. reported 1,017,376 new cases Monday, Jan. 3. This is the highest reported daily case count during the entire pandemic, however, a portion of the data was likely backlogged due to the holidays. One out of every 100 Americans have tested positive in the last week, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The seven-day average for U.S. residents hospitalized with COVID-19 increased more than 40% during the week between Christmas and New Years.

More than 103,000 people are currently hospitalized with COVID in the U.S., according to the Department of Health and Human Services. More than 820,000 Americans have died from the virus.

This rise in cases is evident locally, as is the need for COVID-19 tests, which are in short supply. Approximately two dozen vehicles were lined up outside of Ascent Urgent Care on Monday, Jan. 3.

The increase is not only fueled by Americans gathering for the holidays. The transmission rate of the latest variant, omicron, is more infectious than the delta variant, according to Scientific American. On Dec. 10, 2021, the United Kingdom's Health Security Agency reported that those infected with the omicron variant can infect three to four other people and that these infections are doubling every three days in the U.K. The high transmissibility creates a larger threat in regards to case counts compared to delta.

Those who have previously had the virus and people who are vaccinated are also contracting this variant. The Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) encourages people to get

tested if they show symptoms of COVID, which include coughing, fatigue, congestion, running nose, and a lack of taste and smell.

COVID testing is available at most medical facilities.

## Genesee County testing locations:

Visit [solvhealth.com](https://www.solvhealth.com) to make an appointment at these locations. Appointments are strongly encouraged. Rapid antigen testing is available and PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Tests are available upon request.

Testing is free. All people can be tested, with or without symptoms, and they do not need a doctor's note. No ID is required. Do not eat, drink, chew gum, or use tobacco 30 minutes prior to your visit.

### World of Life Church

460 W. Atherton Rd., Flint

Testing is available: Tuesday – Thursday from 12 to 6 p.m.

### Bethel United Methodist Church

1309 N. Ballenger Hwy., Flint

Testing is available: Tuesday – Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m.

### Macedonia Baptist Church

G5443 Saginaw St., Flint

Testing is available: Monday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Genesee County COVID cases as of Jan. 3

Weekly cases per 100,000: 460.3

Seven-day average positivity rate: 22.5

County Cases: 74,824

Deaths: 1,365

Argentine: 1,296

Linden: 781

Fenton: 2,239

Fenton Township: 3,267

Gaines Township: 1,146

## Vaccines

As of Dec. 28, 2021, approximately 385,151 vaccines have been administered in the county, with 211,268 being first doses. Out of the Genesee County residents age 12 and up, 49.9% are fully vaccinated and 60.6% have received one dose.



Chris and Cindy Common of Fenton were struck by a vehicle and killed when crossing Palmer Boulevard near Raymond Road in Sarasota, Florida on Dec. 27, 2021.

## CRASH

### Continued from Front Page

that 67-year-old Chris Common and his wife, 62-year-old Cindy Common, were crossing Palmer Boulevard at Raymond Road when the crash happened around 6:15 p.m.

A 17-year-old female driving a sedan hit the couple, who were rushed to Sarasota Memorial Hospital in critical condition. Both of the Commons later were pronounced deceased from their

injuries.

Florida Highway Patrol spokesman Kenneth Watson said investigators don't believe the teen driver was speeding, intoxicated or distracted when the crash happened. No criminal charges have been announced.

Lt. Gregory S. Bueno, Public Affairs Division of the Florida Highway Patrol, said as of this time all he could say is there is an ongoing traffic homicide investigation.



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## NOCFA

**Continued from Front Page**  
seconded the motion.

Voting in favor of rescinding the censure were Scheib-Snider, Kullis and Winchester.

Peter Stouffer, chair of the NOCFA Board and citizen-at-large representing Rose Township, and Paul Gambka, Rose Township treasurer and Rose Township representative on the NOCFA Board, voted against rescinding the censure.

In an occasionally combative meeting, the NOCFA Board voted 3-1 during a special meeting Monday, Sept. 27 to censure Winchester.

The reason for censuring Winchester, according to Stouffer, was because she opened a piece of mail addressed to him that she received at the Holly Township office. Inside the envelope was an anonymous letter, the contents of which were not disclosed at the September meeting. The Times later received a copy of the letter through the Freedom of Information Act.

Stouffer told the Board in September that he filed a complaint with the U.S. Postal Service and had a case number for the investigation. He accused Winchester of embezzling and distributing a letter meant for him. Citing Robert's Rules of Order, he said Winchester, who he was motioning to censure, would not be able to partake in the vote, but could partake in the discussion.

Winchester said during the September meeting that she accidentally opened the envelope. She said the letter stated it should be given to the NOCFA Board and that no personal mail of Stouffer's arrives at the Holly Township office.

Stouffer said his name was clearly on the envelope and that it was a federal offense to open. He said if it's opened in error, what is done afterward is telling. "She decided to

distribute," he said.

During the NOCFA Board meeting Tuesday, Oct. 19, Winchester motioned to rescind the censure against her. She also said she wanted an apology from Stouffer since she believed she had done nothing wrong.

On Oct. 19, Winchester told Stouffer again that he had no authority to censure her because the Board had not adopted the Robert's Rules of Order and that the letter was township mail. She is the clerk of Holly Township and the secretary of the NOCFA Board.

During the October meeting, Gambka said Winchester should not have opened the letter since Stouffer's name was on the envelope. Instead, he said she spread the information to two townships and the Tri-County Times. "You spread it all around," he said. "It was confidential. I don't think you should have done that. I would have sealed it and sent it to the person. I would have kept my mouth shut about it."

Stouffer said he wanted to recuse himself from voting on Winchester's motion over conflict of interest at the October meeting. Although the other Board members indicated he should vote, Stouffer decided to abstain from voting. Scheib-Snider and Gambka voted against rescinding the censure of Winchester. Kullis and Winchester voted in favor of rescinding the censure. With a vote of 2-2, the motion in October failed.

Although the NOCFA Board voted to rescind the censure of Winchester in its December meeting, there was no apology given by Stouffer.

"The only reason it was rescinded was because I was allowed to vote on it this time," Winchester said following the meeting. "Previously, Chairman Stouffer refused to allow my vote to count on this issue and if his policies were consistent, the motion would have failed again 2/2."

## THANKFUL

**Continued from Page 4**

ourselves to shovel our driveways and sidewalks so that delivery people can safely and swiftly deliver our packages and move on to their next stop. This benefits all of us. If you are unable or have no time to shovel, ask your neighbors if there are any kids in the neighborhood that would be willing to shovel for you. There also are countless plow truck drivers in the area who are out doing side jobs of

plowing to make a few extra dollars.

It's only the beginning of January and Michigan natives know that we have a few months of very winter-like weather ahead.

The next time I see a snow plow out clearing the roads of snow, utility workers making repairs in freezing temperatures, delivery people making their way to their next stop or kids shoveling piles of snow, I will be thankful for them and thankful that I have an indoor job (most of the time).

## SETTLEMENT

**Continued from Front Page**

the opioid epidemic, but that deadline has since been extended to Jan. 26.

The \$26 billion settlements reached with these defendants will provide substantial funds to states and subdivisions for critical intervention, treatment, education, and recovery services to combat the opioid crisis that continues to harm communities and their residents nationwide.

Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland said this is a settlement of a lawsuit by Attorneys General of several states, including Michigan.

"The city of Fenton is eligible to be a party to the settlement," Markland said.

He added that he did not know what the compensation would be. It will partly depend on how many are involved in the settlement. To his understanding, any compensation that the city of Fenton receives will be restricted on how the funds can be spent.

Communities throughout the country have been signing on to the settlements by the thousands. In several states, including Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, and Virginia, nearly all litigating subdivisions already have signed up to receive funds. Since Thanksgiving alone, there has been a 300% increase in participation. Increases are expected to continue in the coming weeks as more communities send in their forms and agree on allocation models.

More than 20 states already have reached allocations agreements with their cities and counties and many more are finalizing agreements.

The following Dec. 7, 2021 statement is from PEC negotiation team Elizabeth Cabraser of Lieff Cabraser, Jayne Conroy of Simmons Hanly Conroy, Paul Geller of Robbins Geller, Peter Mougey of Levin Papantonio Rafferty, Joe Rice of Motley Rice LLC, Jennifer Scullion of Seeger Weiss, and Chris Seeger of Seeger Weiss:

"Thousands of cities and counties have signed on to participate in historic settlements with major opioid defendants. More localities are added hourly, and the surge of participants demonstrates widespread support—but a deadline looms. It is imperative that communities register in order to receive and sign on to allocation agreements as soon as they are finalized. Communities

may receive funds as early as April 2022 depending on when a settling state meets certain requirements, so time is of the essence. Participation levels will dictate whether the settlements move forward and affect how much money states will receive. If higher participation rates are not reached, states will not receive the full scope of the settlements or risk losing these funds entirely.

"Overdoses are increasing throughout the country and abatement funds are urgently needed. More than 100,000 people died from overdoses between April 2020 and April 2021, the highest rate of overdose deaths that the U.S. has ever experienced. This crisis continues to worsen, and communities need support now. If states fail to participate in these settlements, they face three to five more years of litigation. The support of the settlements that we have seen thus far is an indication that many communities need help now and cannot afford to wait that long to address this epidemic. This is a nationwide public health crisis that requires a nationwide solution. The PEC unanimously endorses these settlements and strongly encourages every city, county, and state government to register and closely review the agreements and their potential benefits."

The funds will be allocated to a broad range of abatement uses developed by public health experts and approved by state and local governments, including recovery and prevention programs, criminal justice support, healthcare and treatment facilities, and more.

These are not class action "opt out" settlements. Instead, these settlements require that a critical mass of both state and local governments "opt in" over the next six months. The extent of this participation will determine whether the settlement agreements take effect. The Distributors and J&J on the one hand, and the states and subdivisions on the other, each have options to walk away if they are not satisfied with levels of participation.

Participation levels also affect how much money settling parties will receive because about half of the abatement funds are in the form of "incentive payments" and certain other settlement provisions also provide incentives for higher levels of participation. Put simply, the greater the level of participation, the more funds will ultimately be paid out for abatement.





## No. 2 - Fenton boys track captures D1 state title

By David Troppens

Entering the 2021 season, the Fenton varsity boys track and field team knew they had plenty of talent.

They knew they had promise to have a season never really seen before in Fenton school history.

Well, they were right.

Led by all-state athletes like Brandon Miller, Noah Sage, Donovan Mill-

er and Evan Koch, the Tigers captured a Division 1 team state championship, the first team state championship at Fenton High School in 31 years.

“My sophomore year we had a good group of guys (and placed 10th at the state meet),” Sage said. “We had so many guys returning in 2020 that we knew we had a chance (at a team state championship) in 2020.”

That didn’t happen due to COVID, but it planted the seed to 2021. And the seed blossomed at Rockford High School as the Tigers captured their team state championship.

Brandon Miller took two seconds at the event — one in the 100 meter dash (10.84 seconds) and the other in the 200 (21.36). Meanwhile, Sage See **NO. 2** on 10

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022 | PAGE 9 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

# Sports Times

No. 1 story of 2021 is ...

## After 40-plus years coaching sports, Hopkins resigns Linden football position

By David Troppens

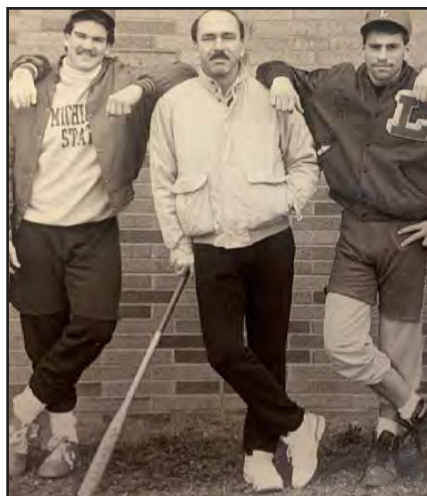
The sports staff had its top six stories figured out from 2021 when something happened.

That incident was Denny Hopkins retiring. Suddenly, our top six became a top seven and we had some changing around to do.

When one thinks about Linden athletics during the last 40-plus years, Hopkins’s name is the first thought on just about everyone’s minds. He’s earned that. No one has mentored more high school kids through athletics than Hopkins over the last five decades than Hopkins. And he did it successfully in three different sports.

Hopkins ended his career with almost 1,000 victories in three varsity sports — baseball, boys basketball and football — in a career that began in the late 1970s at Linden High School. He had resigned the baseball and basketball positions years ago, but remained the school’s varsity football coach until Dec. 22, 2021 when it was made official that Hopkins won’t be returning to be the varsity head coach during the 2022-23 school year.

“After talking with the administration and parents I decided to step away



Denny Hopkins spent parts of five decades coaching three different varsity sports at Linden, but at the end of 2021 he resigned his football position, ending that run. Here he’s pictured in the 1990s with some of his players as the varsity baseball coach (left) and as the football coach from this fall (right). Right photo: Mark Bolen

and resign my position,” Hopkins said. “I’ve had a good run and overall, I’ve had some great assistant coaches. I was able to coach a lot of really great players.”

Hopkins took over the varsity boys basketball program during the 1978-79 school year and held the position for 32 years. He posted a 408-340 record at the helm. He earned 10 district titles, four



Flint Metro League championships and a regional championship. He coached the varsity baseball team from 1979 until 1998, earning a 401-254 record. He won two Metro League titles during that run. But what people now know him best for is his time as the Linden varsity football coach. Hopkins took over the See **HOPKINS** on 10



Fenton’s Gracie Olsen celebrates one of her six individual event state titles while swimming for the Fenton girls program. Photo: David Troppens

## No. 3 - Olsen finishes career with six event state championships

By David Troppens

Gracie Olsen may be the greatest athlete in Fenton school history.

She proved that constantly during her four seasons with the Fenton varsity girls swim team. She captured six Division 2 event state championships during her career with the Tigers, and collected three in 2021.

She was able to collect three in one year with a little help from COVID-19. Due to high COVID numbers, the girls state meet was suspended from November 2021 to January 2021.

When the 2020 state meet returned to a January date at Northview High School, Olsen collected her fifth individual event state title in three seasons See **OLSEN** on 10



# OLSEN

Continued from Page 9

with the defending of her state championship in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 55.18 seconds.

Fast-foward to last fall's D2 state meet at Oakland University and the Olsen collected two more. Her efforts helped the Tigers to a fourth-place team finish at the event and the first team trophy the Tigers have earned at a state meet since the state began hosting a D2 meet. The Tigers last took home a trophy in 2000.

Olsen won her third Division 2 100 butterfly championship of her career with an All-American time of 54.19 seconds. In that event, freshman teammate Tess Heavner placed second. Olsen's other event state title came in the 200 individual medley where she had a time of 2:01.58, just .07 seconds off of the automatic time cut.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

# : No. 4 - Lake Fenton faces Fenton in Metro title game, earns 42-6 victory to capture league championship

By David Troppens

It was a great season for the Lake Fenton varsity football team, helping set up a Flint Metro League Championship game the area won't soon forget.

After a 3-5 season a year ago, not much was expected from the 2021 Blue Devils, at least not from those on the outside looking in. However, the team knew they had something going on, and that was the tight relationship bonds the senior class had created within the program.

It quickly became evident they were right as Lake Fenton ended up winning the Flint Metro League Stars Division title after defeating Goodrich 14-12.

Meanwhile, the Fenton Tigers (4-5) found themselves in

another battle for a Flint Metro League Stripes Division title and had to defeat area rival Linden to earn that spot. In what was a pretty incredible game played over two days (due to poor weather), the Tigers edged Linden 36-34 to earn their third straight trip to the title game.

The Blue Devils (9-2) dominated the Tigers at home during a rainy night, 42-6. It was the first time the Blue Devils had won a Flint Metro League championship since joining the Metro three years prior. It also was the first time that the neighborhood rivals faced off since 2005. That contest, also played at Lake Fenton, was also won by the Blue Devils in convincing fashion 26-0.

"It meant everything," Lake Fenton's Jack Conley, who



Lake Fenton dominated the Flint Metro League championship football game against Fenton, 42-6. Right photo: Mark Bolen

scored three TDs, said. "This is the first time anyone on this side (of the league) won it. It's a statement game. It shows all the people in D4 we are coming for that title."

"This is just an affirmation of everything we preach,"

Lake Fenton varsity football coach Marty Borski said. "The weight of this probably won't hit us until tomorrow to be honest with you. ... I don't think it will hit us until later, but I'd like to think we opened some eyes."

# HOPKINS

Continued from Page 9

varsity head coach position in 1998 and recorded a 162-87 record. He won seven league titles and his teams qualified for the playoffs 19 times. There was one period where the squad qualified for the playoffs 16 straight seasons. He led the team to three 9-0 regular seasons and to two district championships. Hopkins is a member of the Michigan High School

Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame and also the Linden Athletic Hall of Fame.

"Thank God the players dedicated themselves to the program," Hopkins said. "The kids and hard work is the reason we've been so successful. And the assistant coaches — I can't say enough about those guys. They've been loyal. I want to thank those guys for their loyalty."

# NO. 2

Continued from Page 9

finished second in the 400 (47.41) and placed seventh in the 200 (22.58). Sage and Miller also teamed with Donovan Miller and Koch to finish second in the 800 relay (1:28.23).

"It's like indescribable. It's amazing," senior Brandon Miller said. "I knew the team we had this year was really special and I'm so thankful we could pull it off. Early this year I knew we had a few kids that wanted to do it, wanted to be better and with the proper drive in practice knew we could have a good season."

"It's exhilarating," Fenton varsity boys track coach Anthony McMillan said. "It's a dream come true. We had a goal of trying to accomplish this. ... It was really an honor to be able to compete in a meet of that magnitude and come out on top. We are the little dog in the fight with a lot of big dogs and we got to the top of the mountain. It's humbling and I'm elated what these guys were able to accomplish. But if we didn't push for the goal we couldn't have achieved it. They wanted to leave a legacy at the school. They worked their tails off to accomplish that legacy forever."

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# Fenton boys basketball collects two winter break wins : LF wrestling wins another tourney over winter break

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team couldn't have asked for a better scenario in which to end the 2021 portion of prep hoops season during winter break.

The Tigers played back-to-back contests on Dec. 28 and Dec. 29 and came home with two strong victories. First, the Tigers took part in the Troy Holiday Extravaganza and defeated Troy 68-58. The next day they played Owosso in a game that was previously scheduled for Dec. 15. The Tigers won that contest 77-51.

"It was a really nice way to break up the Christmas break," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan said.

The Troy contest was interesting in another respect. The game was played with an experimental 35-second shot clock. Of course, professional and collegiate basketball uses shot clocks, but they are not used in Michigan prep games.

"We liked it. It only came into play twice and both times it was late in the game," Logan said. "One time Seth (Logan) hit a 28-footer as the shot clock expired. The other time we were running the clock down and we were not able to get a

shot before it expired."

Against Troy, the Tigers were on fire during the first quarter, nailing four three-pointers in a 20-point first quarter. Seth Logan had two treys and Ja'Hion Bond netted five points, with three being a trey. Austin Pedlar also hit a trey. The Tigers led 20-15 after one quarter.

The game remained close in the second quarter as Troy outscored the Tigers 15-12, cutting the Fenton lead to just 32-30 at halftime. In the third quarter, both teams kept up the high scoring pace. The Tigers got the best of it though, netting four treys in the eight-minute period. Connor Luck and Logan had two each as Fenton took a 53-48 lead into the fourth quarter. Two of them came late in the third, giving Fenton the lead. In the fourth, Fenton's defense held Troy to just 10 points while the Tigers scored 15. Again, Logan had a big quarter netting 10 points in the fourth.

Logan led the Tigers with a game-high 26 points. Luck had 11 points with nine coming on three treys in the second half. Bond had 10 points while Justin Banura and Sam Dillard had six points each.

In the Fenton-Owosso contest the Tro-



Fenton's Seth Logan scored a combined 43 points in the Tigers' two winter break victories against Troy and Owosso. Photo: Christopher Summers

jans started on fire, netting eight three-pointers in the first quarter. However, despite all that offense, the Tigers still led 21-20 entering the second quarter.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team keeps on winning.

The Blue Devils ended the 2021 portion of the wrestling schedule by capturing the Corunna Team Tournament.

The Blue Devils defeated Airport 57-19, East Lansing 62-15, Hastings 39-27, Corunna 56-24 and Pinckney 60-15.

Five Lake Fenton wrestlers finished the tournament with 5-0 records. Noah Hall (152) went 5-0 with four pinfall wins while Robbie Moore (119) and Jack Conley (160) had five wins and three pinfall victories. Finally, Jorge Marvin (103) and Zack Hall (140) earned 5-0 records with Marvin getting two falls and Hall getting one.

Ty Johnson (135) earned a 4-1 record with three pinfall wins while Jackson Ketchum (125), Drew Corcoran (145) and Karson Krist (171) went 4-1 with two pinfall wins. Clay Cook (112) also earned a 4-1 record.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

## LF girls basketball crushes St. Clair, 81-18

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton finished 2021 doing what they did frequently — they won their final game of the 365-day period.

The Blue Devils competed in the St. Clair Community College Basketball Showcase over winter break and crushed St. Clair 81-18.

The Blue Devils jumped out to a quick 8-0 lead. Six of the points came on three-

pointers by Ella Prevost. Prevost ended up hitting three treys in the quarter, helping Lake Fenton to a 23-3 lead after the first eight minutes.

The rest of the game was equally impressive. The Blue Devils scored 33 second-quarter points. Every Lake Fenton athlete scored in the second quarter, led by Amaya Smith's 10 points.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

## Fenton girls fall to DeWitt, Owosso

By David Troppens

It was a tough way to end 2021 for the Fenton varsity girls basketball team.

The Tigers lost a 42-34 contest against Owosso and also fell to DeWitt, 63-24.

The Tigers started their contest with Owosso impressively, taking an 11-6 lead into the second quarter. Fenton was balanced with its scoring as Adrie Staib scored four points and Kaleigh Shaker chipped in a trey. Grace MacCaughan and Lauren Gangwer had two points each.

However, Owosso tightened its de-

fense in the second quarter and shut out the Tigers. Fenton (2-3) still trailed just 16-11 at the half. The Trojans extended their lead to 27-19 in the third quarter. In the fourth, the Tigers cut the gap to within four points before Owosso pulled away.

Staib led the Tigers with 11 points while Abby Logan and Kaleigh Shaker had six points each.

Against DeWitt, the Panthers jumped to a 14-7 lead in the first quarter and never trailed from that point.

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**Times**

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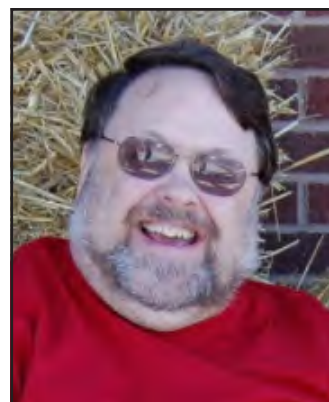


# Obituaries

Times

## John Eric Stork

John Eric Stork – age 63 of Fenton, died Sunday, December 12, 2021. John was born in Flint to Robert and Patricia Stork. In 1976, he graduated from Grand Blanc High as a National Merit Scholar. He was an award-winning competitor and assistant coach to the debate team. At the University of Michigan Flint, John tutored math and earned a BA in Mathematics with a strong background in computers. John studied business at Eastern Michigan University and tutored math at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. John married Janet Kennedy in 1984. The couple had twin sons in 1985 and another son in 1988. Their nephew came to live with them in 2007. John worked as a computer systems design architect for



EDS, then Hewlett Packard, where he earned many awards and accolades before retiring several years ago. John was an avid reader and collector of books. He loved cooking and entertaining family, friends and fellow members of the First Presbyterian Church in Fenton. John enjoyed gaming with his sons and friends. John could converse about movies forever, particularly science fiction and horror films. John is survived by Janet, his wife of 37 years; his sons, Eric, Sean and Donal; his nephew, Patrick; his father, Robert; and brother, Jeff. John also leaves behind a large extended family. A memorial service will be held at Fenton First Presbyterian Church on January 8th, 2022, at 3 PM.

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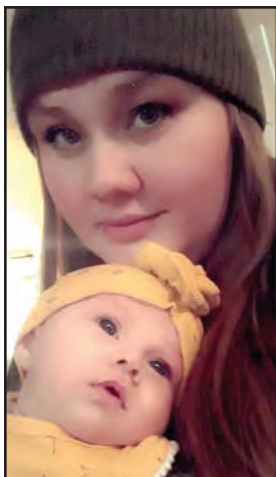


# Obituaries

**Times**

## Jayde Aunna Hart

1995 – 2021



Jayde Aunna Hart- age 26, of Fenton, died Wednesday, December 29, 2021. Services will be held 3 PM Sunday, January 9, 2022 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Visitation will be from 12 - 3 PM Sunday January 9, 2022. Jayde was born May 19, 1995 in Pontiac, the daughter of Frank and Kristina (Kelsey) Hart. She was a graduate of Fenton High School. She worked for Liberty Tax. Surviving are her daughter, Octavia Rayne Carpenter; parents, Kristina and Frank Hart of Fenton; brother Jacob Hart of Fenton; boyfriend James Carpenter of Fenton; grandparents, John and Katherine Young of Houghton Lake, David and Barbara Hart of Davisburg; James' parents, Matt and Rebecca Richmond of Lennon; many aunts, uncles and cousins. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).



## Michael John Ollie

1952 – 2021

Michael John Ollie - age 69, of Fenton, passed away Wednesday, December 29, 2021. Funeral services will be held 11 AM Thursday, January 6, 2022 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Visitation will be held 1 - 8 PM Wednesday, January 5. Those desiring may make contributions to ASPCA. Michael was born September 17, 1952 in Detroit, the son of Hassan and Ruth (Roberts) Ollie. Michael was dedicated to his work in retail pharmacy, where he was a manager, finishing his career after many years with Save-On Save More. He was a person of great character and integrity. Michael was a foodie, he loved good art, clothing and beautiful jewelry. He was kind, thoughtful and the best brother. He is survived by his sister, Patricia (James)



Hall; Michael's family, Ronnie, Peachy, Shawn, Madison, Nancy (Charles), Bradley, Brian, Teddy (Jean Ann), Joey (Karen), Pearl, Cheryl and Dana; Bill's family sons, Shaun and Mike Mahle; brother-in-law, Scott (Tammy) Mahle; sister-in-law, Julie Mahle (Jim Mullins); nephews, Eric, Dylan and Chet; niece, Danielle; friends, Larry Masciovecchio, Joan

and Ed Driscoll; many beloved friends and co-workers. He was preceded in death by his partner, Bill Mahle in 2009; his parents; brother, Richard Ollie; nephew, Brenton Potts; sister-in-law, Karen (James) Keevis and his beloved dog, Chomper. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).



## Barbara "Barb" Ann (Gibson) (Fortin) Forton

1938 - 2022

Barbara "Barb" Ann (Gibson) (Fortin) Forton - age 83, of Fenton, Celebrated a joyous homecoming with our Lord on Sunday, January 2, 2022, after a five week courageous battle with Covid 19. Barbara was born January 23, 1938



margaritas, Casino trips, bingo and other games, General Hospital and Hallmark movies. Barb was always very generous, happy, upbeat, and smiling. She always had loving pet names for everyone, including, "man," "sweetheart,"

"babe," "chickie," "honey," etc. Barb was preceded in death by husbands, Ronald Fortin, Jack Forton; mother and father; brother, William Randolph Gibson (Randy); many aunts; uncles and cousins; and her beloved Schitzu of 15 years, Snickers. Special thanks to the ICU staff at McLaren Flint, The Medical team, and Lockwood of Fenton. Contributions may be made on her behalf to St. Jude's, American Diabetes Association, or to Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Visitation on Thursday January 6, from 5 – 8 PM at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton and visitation Friday from 9 AM until the time of the service. A Celebration of Barbara's life service will be Friday, January 7, at 10 AM at the Funeral Home. Elder Tony McKee officiating. (A live stream of the service will be available on Barb's obituary page at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com)). Final resting place for Barbara will be with her mom and dad and other beloved family at Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth Michigan. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).

Barb enjoyed spending time with her family, music, dancing, gardening, camping, fishing, boating, good food (favorites fried fish and chicken livers),

Barbara graduated from Flint Northern High School in 1956. She married Ronald E. Fortin in 1957. They had two children, Anthony "Tony" (Peggy) Fortin of Fenton, and Tami (Joe) Bastien of Clay. She enjoyed her seven grandchildren, Ryan (Nicole) Schmidt, Nicholas (Julie) Schmidt, Natalie (Ray) Cataline, Kyle (Rachel) Fortin, Katelyn Fortin, Abigail Bastien, and Amanda Bastien. Five great-grandchildren, Christian Schmidt, Madelynn Schmidt, Connor Schmidt, Everett Fortin, and Elizabeth Schmidt. She leaves many friends, cousins, nieces and nephews to cherish her memory. Barbara retired from the State Bank of Linden after 25 plus years of service. She was always a smiling face at the drive through banking window and met her second husband there. Barbara married Jack Forton in 1988 (Hence the name difference of one letter in her last name). Barb enjoyed spending time with her family, music, dancing, gardening, camping, fishing, boating, good food (favorites fried fish and chicken livers),





KING  
FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

ACROSS

1 Biting remark

5 Spheres

9 Victory

12 Skin care brand

13 Joel or Ethan of Hollywood

14 Parisian pal

15 Hourly pay

16 Batman's hood

17 Beer contain-er

18 Rebuff

19 Acting coach Hagen

20 Crazy

21 Actor Brynner

23 Old Olds

25 Mourn

28 Hit song by the Oak Ridge Boys

32 Grown-up

33 Snake poison

34 Autobiog-raphy

36 Herbal tea

37 Geese forma-tion

38 Computer key

39 Lose color

42 TiVo precu-rsor

44 Idle or Clapton

48 Khan title

49 Close

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DOWN

7 Caveat word

27 Silent

29 Pig-poke link

30 Director

31 Soul, to Sartre

35 Disclose

36 "Fab!"

39 Crazes

40 Mellows

41 Loony

43 Give a darn

45 Carry on

46 One-named supermodel

47 Penny

49 "The Voice" network

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20 Features of romantic comedies

22 Loosen

24 Graceland idol

25 Felon's flight

26 Citric bever-age

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Midweek Jumble

JUMBLE

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

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

RSIKE

LEOLH

GLINVI

BAGOLL

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Check out the new free JUST JUMBLE app.

Let's go down and mess with that troll!

Seeing what we can see.

What're ya'll doing up here?

THE GOATS THAT GRAZED ON THE SLOPE WERE

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

"[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] - [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]"

Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

Horoscopes

For the week of  
January 3, 2021

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Your finances need a little extra work, Aries. Start to focus on investments, money and other financial matters. Your mind is quick and you catch on quite fast.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Matters involving work are at the forefront of your mind, Gemini. You may need to put in some extra hours on the job this week. Keep your head down and your efforts will be noted.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Romance is on your mind this week, Taurus. This is the time to focus on solidifying your relationship with someone special in your life or to find that perfect match.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Cancer, you may be longing for an encounter with your romantic partner, but other factors keep getting in the way of your date. You have to make romance a priority.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

An unexpected financial windfall lands in your lap, Leo. It is just the good news you need at this point in time. Start thinking about how to invest this unexpected gift.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Business and personal successes are coming your way soon, Virgo. It could be a project that brings you financial gain or the development of a new friendship.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, whether it's a hunch or a tip from someone close to you, you have some valuable information that will come in handy in the coming days.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

A relationship reaches new heights, Scorpio. If you are unattached, you might find a partner soon. If you have a significant other, he or she will become even closer.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, draw your closest friends together and plan a gathering where you can exchange ideas and rekindle friendships. It's been a while since you socialized.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

A long journey is in your near future, Capricorn. It may come by way of a much-needed vacation, or you may make a move across country to follow a job or passion.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Finances dominate your week, Aquarius. This could be related to a pay raise at work or a personal investment that pans out. One way or another, success isn't too far away.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, a business partner may contact you with some good news after returning from a trip. Prepare to join this person in a promising venture.





*Von Ryan's*

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TWIN	FULL	QUEEN
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KING	SPLIT KING	
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“LAKE SHANNON”**

Plush or Pillowtop



FULL	QUEEN	KING	SPLIT KING
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