

Teen's offense upgraded to homicide

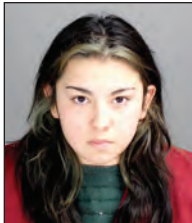
■ Her father succumbs to injuries inflicted on him last October

By Sharon Stone
On Oct. 1, 2021, Michigan State

Police (MSP) Metro North troopers responded to an aggravated assault complaint in Groveland Township where a suspect, Megan Joyce Imirowicz, 18, allegedly threw drain cleaner on her father causing significant injuries.

She was charged with domestic violence and assault with intent to do great bodily harm. She was out on bond and her location was not known.
The victim in this case had been hospitalized since the incident

occurred. He died from his injuries this week, five months after he was taken to the hospital.
The trooper in charge of this investigation resubmitted an investigator's report and the See **HOMICIDE** on 10



Megan Joyce Imirowicz

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Midweek Times

VOL. 29 NO. XI

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

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Holly Township joins firefighters association's efforts

■ NOCFA Board citizen-at-large resigns Tuesday, March 15

By Sharon Stone
During its special meeting on Monday, March 14, the Holly Township Board of Trustees voted
See **NOCFA** on 9

Genesee County election official faces felonies

■ Alleged offenses of ballot tampering, misconduct date back to August 2020 primary election

By Sharon Stone
A former Flint Township clerk and Genesee
See **TAMPERING** on 19

Distracted driver causes seven-vehicle crash



A 33-year-old Mt. Morris man driving the box truck above is cited with careless driving after causing a seven-vehicle crash on Owen Road on Friday, March 11. The driver of the van, shown here, was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. See page 6 for full story. Photo: Sharon Stone

Linden adopts cemetery rules

■ Leashed dogs still allowed in city cemetery
By Hannah Ball

Linden — Dogs are not prohibited from Fairview Cemetery in Linden, but they must be

leashed, they must stay on the paved path and owners must See **CEMETERY** on 10

“Thanks to the person in the car ahead of us on Wednesday who gifted us our breakfast sandwiches and beverages at Linden McDonald's. Your kindness is really appreciated. We gifted a person at Subway the previous day. Sure feels good to give and also to receive. God's love in action.”

“Why isn't there any fencing on Torrey Road running along U.S. 23? It's wide open for dogs to enter the freeway and cause accidents. The fencing along North Road and the freeway needs repair. Some of it is laying down and looks like crap.”

“I've been seeing several people who are complaining on Facebook that their packages aren't showing up on their doorstep as announced. You wouldn't have this trouble if you'd shop local in our wonderful stores.”



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American Pickers returning to Michigan

■ Looking for leads when they visit the state in May

By Sharon Stone

“American Pickers,” a widely popular documentary TV series on The History Channel, is planning to return to Michigan in May.

Producers are looking for leads throughout the state, specifically interesting characters with fascinating items and lots of them. The way they find people and collections for their show is through spreading the word far and wide so that people know they’re coming to town.

The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, Mike Wolfe, Danielle Colby and Robbie Wolfe, Mike’s brother, as they hunt for America’s most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the American Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, they want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or



American Pickers Mike Wolfe and Danielle Colby will be visiting Michigan in May hoping to discover some treasurers.

two about America’s past along the way. The stars have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they’ve never seen before.

They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the American Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send them your name, phone number, location, and description of the

See **PICKERS** on 7



Mike Wolfe, star of The History Channel series “American Pickers,” wants to know who has some treasures he and his staff can look at.

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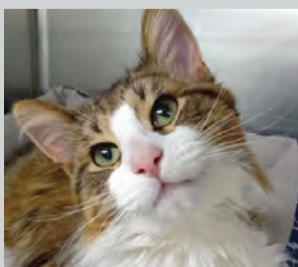


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Sharin' the spotlight

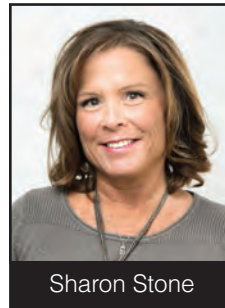
By Editor Sharon Stone

I recently flew to Miami for a long weekend getaway. My husband and I traveled with my 91-year-old mom, Barbara. Jeff and I are no strangers to traveling and flying, but flying with one who doesn't get around very well on their own presented some challenges. We purchased direct flights from Detroit to Miami and signed up for every wheelchair and handicap accessible service we could. I've seen this helpful service in action before at Flint Bishop airport but we had not taken advantage of the service provided by the TSA and Delta in Detroit. I must say, it was the best thing we could have done. If you would like to travel with someone who can't walk very far or is moving slow for other reasons, sign up for the TSA-assisted services. Jeff dropped my mom and me and all of our luggage off at the door and parked our vehicle. I helped my mom over to the handicap services area and a very friendly man came to our aid to push my mom through the massive airport. Anyone familiar with the Detroit airport knows just how big it is. Our guide led us through check-in, security and got us to our gate. We took a few eleva-

Traveling with older folks

tors and rode on the tram, which I didn't even know existed. It was a blessing to have someone lead the way and get us to our gate. When we landed in Miami, we had access to another wheelchair until our Uber ride arrived.

We stayed at the golf resort in Doral where our son works and we caught on quickly to note where wheelchair ramps and elevators are located. The walk-in shower in our suite was helpful too. To be honest, I had not really paid attention to any of that before. The resort sent a wheelchair to our room and let us use it for



Sharon Stone

our entire stay. We even learned how to quickly fit the wheelchair into the back of an Uber SUV.

The weather was beautiful and the hospitality was top-notch. There was a scheduled Sparty Party and a huge golf tournament while we were at the resort and we were fortunate enough

to meet some former MSU and pro athletes.

Sadly, our trip ended last Monday and it was time to fly home. We ordered our Uber over to the airport and just like in Detroit, my mom had

See **TRAVELING** on 19

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WHY CHANGE TIME? Leave it the way it was. No one likes it. We don't need daylight in summer until 10 Whose idea was it?

■■■

LOVE THIS NEW time change so that we have more daylight in the evening. Let's keep things this way and never fall back again. There is no need. Just think how much more we can do for fun in the evenings with an extra hour of light.

■■■

OUR GOVERNMENT HAS tried to divide us, the American people, in numerous categories. We all need to unite and hold our elected officials accountable for the corruption taking place in our ruling elite — both parties and the mainstream media.

■■■

EVERYONE IS FEELING pain at the gas pump. If only there was an alternative. What if politicians looked out 10 to 20 years to help relieve dependence on foreign oil. Oh, wait, we have the electric vehicle. Please give it a chance. Technology will improve in the next few years.

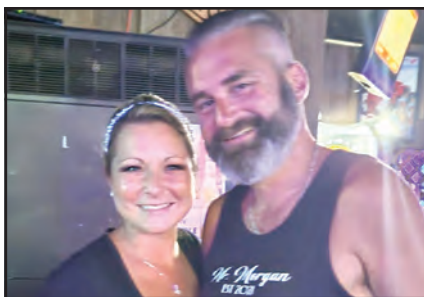
■■■

HOW TERRIBLY SAD for anyone to not have at least one person or neighbor to check on you.

■■■

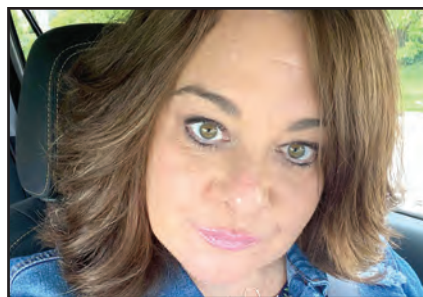
Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter — Question asked to Tri-County Times' Facebook followers

What's a good thing that happened to you recently? | streettalk



"After 10 long months, my wife and I were able to finally purchase a home for our family."

Matt Morgan
Burton



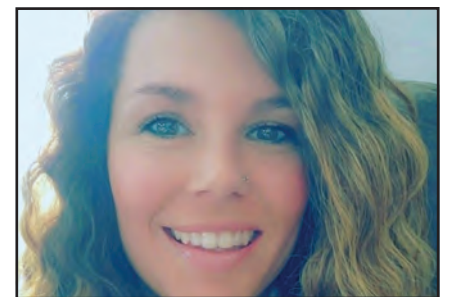
"Our unit at the hospital where I am an RN is finally COVID free. It's been a very long road for us healthcare workers. Praying we stay this way. I have some very amazing co-workers who are so resilient and dedicated."

Teri Joy, Linden



"I'm playing Betty Blast in the Holly High School production of 'Footloose the Musical.' So good for me in so many ways. The kids are enthusiastic, kind and so dedicated. This retiree is blessed to spend time with them."

Sherlynn Everly, Holly



"My 8-year-old son took second place at states for wrestling."

Jenny-cj Ross
Linden

Stay safe this St. Patrick's Day

■ **Don't test your luck, never drink and drive – so everyone gets home safely**

Whether your preference is green beer, Irish whiskey, or some other form of alcohol, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) urges Michiganders not to drink and drive when celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Don't rely on luck to get you home safely. If you drink, set a designated driver, call a friend, call a cab, or use a ride-share app, like Uber or Lyft to get home safely. If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 911 so everyone can be safe. Last but not least, the state's liquor licensees are reminded to serve patrons responsibly so everyone gets home safely.

"St Patrick's Day is one of the deadliest holidays due to drunk driving as many people choose to get drunk and endanger their lives and the lives of others," said

MLCC Chair Pat Gagliardi. "Buzzed driving is drunk driving with serious consequences."

It can be easy for adults to underestimate how much alcohol they are consuming and overestimate their fitness to drive when leaving the bar or a party. Consumers should think in terms of "standard drinks" — not number of drinks. Adults who choose to drink alcohol should stick with no more than one "standard" drink a day for women or two for men in accordance with federal dietary guidelines. What actually counts as a "standard" drink is less than you think.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, a "drink" is defined as 0.6 ounces of pure alcohol, or roughly:

- a 12-ounce beer - (about 5% alcohol)
- a 5-ounce glass of wine, (typically about 12% alcohol); or
- 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits (about 40% alcohol).

So, that 32-ounce beer isn't "just one

beer" any more than a Grande Margarita is "just one drink." Today's beer, wine and spirits products come in a wide range of containers with varying alcohol content, making it difficult to calculate and track just how much you're drinking.

The effects of alcohol are the same whether you drink beer wine, or whiskey. That 12-ounce can of beer, 5-ounce glass of wine, or 1.5-ounce shot of whiskey are all "standard" drinks and contain the same amount of alcohol. Even one drink can impair a person's ability to drive by slowing reaction time, dulling concentration and causing vision problems.

The MLCC reminds liquor licensees of their responsibilities to keep customers safe — to check IDs and serve only those of legal drinking age and to not overserve patrons. Also, licensees shall maintain order and know their establishment's capacity limits to avoid overcrowding that can lead to obstructed exits which are safety and fire hazards.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I WONDER ABOUT the tragic ignorance of the people who think electric cars are going to be anywhere soon. If no more gas-powered cars were made after today, it would take up to 25 years just to replace the fleet that is in the U.S. alone. That's just replacement.

■■■ **I WOULD CONSIDER** buying an electric car if I knew the battery parts came from the U.S. and that there is a safe way to recycle them. I would consider buying if they were affordable and worked the same in any temperature. Until then, I'm keeping my Chevy Malibu.

■■■ **ADJUSTED FOR 2008** high of \$4.12/gallon average, gas must hit \$5.43 today to be at an 'all-time high.' Peak oil occurred in 1970. American is #13 of 195 countries for lowest gas prices. OPEC mostly controls supply and price, not presidents. Want cheaper? Buy more fuel-efficient vehicles.

■■■

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Distracted driver causes seven-vehicle crash

■ Chain-reaction collision on Owen Road sends one driver to the hospital

By Sharon Stone

A 33-year-old Mt. Morris man was cited for careless driving following a multi-vehicle crash on Owen Road last Friday, Oct. 11.

Lt. Jeff Cross of the Fenton Police Department said police and fire departments responded to the crash at 3:50 p.m. The crash happened on eastbound Owen Road, just west of Donaldson Drive.

Cross said the at-fault driver drove his company box truck into the back of a stopped van. Several eastbound

vehicles were stopped for the red light at Donaldson Drive. This impact caused a chain reaction involving a total of six vehicles, plus the box truck.

The driver of the box truck told police he was distracted at the time of the crash because he was trying to remove his eyeglasses, which had broken.

The occupant of the van that was initially struck sustained non-life threatening injuries and was transported to the hospital for medical treatment.

Five of the six vehicles involved were towed from the scene.

Careless driving carries a penalty of three points on a driver's license and a \$205 fine.



Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the

judge

The right to the effective assistance of counsel

In the 1992 comedy film "My Cousin Vinny," Joe Pesci plays the role of Vinny Gambini a newly admitted attorney to the New York Bar, who finds himself in an Alabama courtroom defending his cousin and the cousin's friend in a murder trial.

He has no trial experience and the evidence is overwhelmingly against them.

Nevertheless thanks to his street smarts and with the help of expert witness Mona Lisa Vito (Marisa Tomei), he wins a dismissal of all charges.

It's a funny movie and, believe it or not, is an excellent example of how an attorney is effective in representing a defendant.

In real life, defendants have a Sixth Amendment right to the effective assistance of counsel.

This right has long been considered a fundamental part of our criminal justice system.

The question then becomes what happens when there's a claim that a defendant didn't receive effective representation?

The answer is provided by United States Supreme Court case law and involves a number of different situations.

Three are summarized in the 1984 case of *United States v. Cronin*, which held that there is a "presumption of prejudice" to a defendant's rights and requiring a new trial when:

- There is a complete denial of the right to counsel;
- Counsel fails entirely to subject the prosecutor's case to meaningful adversarial testing;

The circumstances surrounding the case make it unlikely that any lawyer could provide effective representation (such as when a lawyer is appointed on the day of the trial with no opportunity to prepare).

In other situations, the 1984 *Strickland v. Washington* test applies which provides that effective assistance is presumed and the defendant bears a heavy burden of proving otherwise and must show:

- Counsel's performance was deficient by falling below an objective standard of professional reasonableness;

- Counsel's deficient performance prejudiced the defense and it is reasonably probable that, but for the error, there would have been a different result.

These types of challenges are usually not successful.

The movie has been the subject of a number of legal essays and cited in court opinions as variously being an excellent example of trial strategy, cross examination, the use of an expert witness and courtroom procedure.

It's worth watching for both a legal education and entertainment.

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Holly resident John Lauve (left) shows off his collection of treasurers with American Pickers stars Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz in 2016. **Times file photo**

PICKERS

Continued from Page 3

collection with photos to: americanpickers@cinetflix.com or call (646) 493-2184, Facebook: @GotAPick.

Stars of this season's "American Pickers" are Mike Wolfe, Danielle Colby and Robbie Wolfe, Mike's brother.

For the first 21 seasons, Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz were the American Pickers traveling everywhere to find treasures. Fritz was not with the show starting in 2020.

The Times covered the American Pickers treasure hunting when Wolfe

and Fritz visited Holly in 2016. They spent a day with Holly resident John Lauve and purchased some of his items, including a classic Mini Cooper, 1960s Norton motorcycle, some automotive corporate artwork and more. The episode featuring Lauve aired in 2018.

Those associated with American Pickers continue to take the pandemic very seriously and will be following all guidelines and protocols for safe filming outlined by the state and CDC. Nevertheless, producers say they are excited to continue reaching the many collectors in the area to discuss their years of picking and are eager to hear their memorable stories.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

AS I SACRIFICE at the pump and store to support Ukraine, I hope people remember that the magnitude of the sacrifice, if not the war itself, is due to the incompetence of our government.

■■■

TO THE HOT-LINER that says presidents have nothing to do with gas prices has to explain to me why under Obama/Biden and now under Biden/Harris the prices were double what they were under Trump?

■■■

IT APPEARS THAT Biden is being very quiet about opening the Keystone pipeline. That one step would help more Americans than anything else he could do right now.

■■■

I ASSUME THE poll the Hot-liner cherry picked was the politico poll, because that one has Biden doing the best of all the polls. What you didn't mention from that poll is only 45% of people see Biden as being mentally fit and 53% see him as a weak leader.

■■■

TO THE HOT-LINER who has Biden at 45%. The supposed bully you speak of gave us more income and the gas prices were great along with the borders were closed and the world was not in war turmoil. Wise up.

■■■

TO ALL OF you Hot-liners spreading lies. The United States is not a democracy, it is a Republic. The framers knew that in its pure form, democracy could be dangerous as demonstrated by some Hot-liners.


■■■

TO THE CRITICAL thinker: We are not a Democracy. We are a Constitutional Republic. A Constitutional Republic is governed not by a majority, but by laws which any one person can challenge. In a Democracy, no one can challenge the majority; in a Constitutional Republic, even just one person can.

■■■

A HUGE SHOUT out to the super honest person who decided to keep my wrongly delivered FedEx package at their gated driveway. Another perfect example of what's becoming increasing the norm in this de-evolving society. Enjoy my \$250 in merchandise.

■■■



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Times

Holly Academy teacher is semifinalist

■ Five finalists for Michigan Charter School Teacher of the Year to be announced soon

By Sharon Stone

Holly Academy teacher Tina Craven has been selected to be one of the 10 semifinalists for the 2022 Michigan Charter School Teacher of the Year award.

The Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) recently announced the 10 semifinalists for the 2022 Michigan Charter School Teacher and Administrator of the Year awards. This is the first step in the awards process. The five finalists for each award will be announced at the end of March, and the winners of each award will be named in May, during National Charter Schools Week.

This is the most prestigious honor a charter school educator in Michigan can receive. There are about 10,000 charter school teachers and 1,500 administrators in the state, so it's truly a prestigious honor to be named a semifinalist.

Holly Academy Director Julie Kildee said, "Our Holly Academy family is so proud that Tina Craven has been selected as a top 10 finalist for MAPSA's Michigan Charter School Teacher of the Year award."

Kildee said as their Academic Coach, Craven impacts all students at Holly Academy. Craven serves as a support to tier II students within



Holly Academy teacher Tina Craven is a semifinalist for the 2022 Michigan Charter School Teacher of the Year award from the Michigan Association of Public School Academies.

Submitted photo

many classrooms, teaches her own middle school class, and serves as a coach and mentor to teachers.

"It would be difficult to find a teacher that has more influence on student growth and achievement than Tina," Kildee said. "Staff, students, and parents at Holly Academy wish Tina the best as she enters a select group of educators vying for this prestigious award."

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NOCFA

Continued from Front Page

unanimously to join the North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) Firefighters Association and their letter indicating a unanimous vote of no confidence of the appointed citizen-at-large, Peter Stouffer, of the NOCFA Board. In addition to the vote of no confidence in Stouffer, the firefighters association and now Holly Township called for his resignation.

On Tuesday, March 15, Stouffer submitted his resignation. See below for the full letter.

Approximately 100 people from Rose and Holly townships attended the special meeting held at the Karl Richter Campus.

Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis said by a show of hands, three-quarters of those in the audience were Rose Township residents.

There has been much discussion with the NOCFA Board and its relationship with Holly and Rose townships. Determining the way in which the fire department is funded and the admission from the Rose Township Supervisor Dianne Scheib-Snyder that she and Stouffer sought legal counsel on their own to pursue firing NOCFA Fire Chief Jeremy Lintz have brought much attention to the townships.

The NOCFA Board oversees NOCFA. This governing board is comprised of two Holly Township elected officials, two Rose Township elected officials and one citizen-at-large that is appointed by the NOCFA Board. Representing Rose Township is Supervisor Dianne Scheib-Snyder and Treasurer Paul Gambka. Representing Holly Township is Supervisor George Kullis and Clerk

Karin Winchester. The citizen-at-large and chair of the Board is Paul Stouffer of Rose Township.

Rose and Holly townships contribute equally to fund NOCFA through millages. Holly Township residents are assessed a 4-mill millage. Rose Township residents are currently paying 2.1 mills through two millages, however, those millages expire at the end of this year and the Rose Township Board of Trustees is asking residents to approve a 3.5-mill millage in the August election.

Several concerned residents spoke Monday and expressed their disappointment with the Rose Township board. Residents commented that they did not want to see NOCFA be dissolved because of the conflicts between the boards. A few residents said they would research the possibility of recalling most of the Rose Township board. More information on this will be published as it becomes available.

UPDATE

On Tuesday, March 15, Stouffer submitted his resignation letter to the NOCFA Board of Directors. His letter stated:

"Please accept this letter as formal notification of my resignation from the position of chairman and member-at-large on the Board of Directors of the North Oakland County Fire Authority.

"I must thank you for the opportunity to work in this role for the past three years. During my tenure, I had the chance to work closely with members of the Holly and Rose Township governments, the NOCFA fire Chief, many highly skilled members of NOCFA, as well as citizens of the community. I appreciate the lessons provided to me for growth and development as a member and chairman.

I am hopeful that our achievements on the board will have a lasting impact on the organizational health of NOCFA.

"I have completed any and all pending tasks, and I am willing to assist in the transition in any manner requested.

"I wish each of you and NOCFA more success and hope to keep in touch."

The NOCFA Board was to meet at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 15 for a regular meeting. An article of what happened and what actions were taken during this meeting will be published in this weekend's Times.

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Site Grass Mowing and Clean-Up Rose Township
Beebe Cemetery
Brookins Cemetery
Rose Center Cemetery

Sealed proposals will be received by the Township of Rose, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, Michigan 48442 **until 3:00 p.m. Thursday March 24, 2022** at which time, the bids from holders of Record for Cemetery Site Grass Mowing and Clean-Up will be publicly opened and read aloud and the different items noted, for the site grass mowing and clean-up for Rose Township cemeteries.

Beebe Cemetery	S.W. corner of Fish Lake Road and West Rose Center Rd.
Brookins Cemetery	S. Fenton Road ¼ mile West of Fish Lake Road
Rose Center Cemetery	Milford Road ½ mile South of Rose Center

Site Grass Mowing, Spring Clean Up, Fall Clean Up, removal of leaves, debris, grave blankets and wreaths, sticks, and branches of Rose Township cemeteries.

The plans and specifications are on file and may be examined and picked-up **on or after 8:30 a.m. on Monday March 14, 2022** at the Township Offices, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, MI 48442.

Bidders must supply the telephone and fax number, street address, and the name of the individual or firm whom Addenda, if any, can be directed.

All correspondence or directives must go through Clerk Debbie Miller, (248) 634-8701 or clerk@rosetownship.com.

Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

The right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals, and to waive defects in the proposals is reserved by the Owner.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II
Rose Township Clerk
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Holly, Michigan 48442

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CEMETERY

Continued from Front Page

pick up after them.

This is one of the new cemetery rules that Linden City Council approved during the Monday, March 14 meeting. For months, residents have complained to council about poor maintenance at the park, including crumbling headstones, invasive plants, trash and more.

"These new rules will provide the City the opportunity to address many of the unsightly conditions currently diminishing the appearance of Fairview Cemetery. Additionally, these rules should help eliminate the continuation of practices that create ongoing maintenance issues," according to a letter from City Manager Ellen Glass and Public Works Director Don Grice.

The new rules prohibit the planting of woody, deciduous trees, hedges,

and conifers. Herbaceous planting material, which is soft and nonwoody is permitted, and any plant classified as invasive is prohibited and will be removed.

Visitors planting trees or shrubs without permission can become a maintenance problem over time.

"No shrub, deciduous or coniferous tree, hedge, or any other woody plant material shall be placed or planted within the boundaries of the cemetery and shall be removed, without notice at the discretion of the Sexton," according to the ordinance.

At an earlier meeting, Grice showed a photo of the invasive species of Japanese knotweed disturbing gravesites. Councilor Pam Howd, a biologist with the state of Michigan, said these plants are strong enough to grow through cement. "They're getting into the burial vaults," she said.

Decorations, plants and flowers can be placed up to 18 inches out from the front of the stone and a width no greater than the stone.

Other new rules include: "The use of glass jars, bottles, or other fragile receptacles for cut flowers is strictly prohibited. The placement of toys, stuffed, plastic, or otherwise manufactured, personal items and/or other unsightly objects is strictly prohibited. Sculptured animals, statues, or statuettes manufactured from durable materials such as concrete, stone, or granite will be allowed in the approved decorative area within 18 inches from the front of the marker.

"Sculptured animals, statues, or statuettes made from fragile materials such as glass or ceramic are prohibited."

The previous rules discourage the placement of these items while the new ones prohibit them.

Grice stated at an earlier meeting that they're going to use discretion and these are not issues they will seek out. They will take action when decorations become unsightly due to weather and other circumstances.

"I have experience with people putting shot glasses, full six packs, empty beer bottles (on the graves) because they drink one for them, you know? We're just trying to get away from all of that and create a nice, clean, organized environment," Grice said at the Feb. 28 meeting.

During that meeting, multiple councilors indicated they were comfortable banning animals except for service animals. Grice said dogs occasionally urinate on gravestones, and Glass said they've had numerous complaints

about dogs in the cemetery.

At the March 14 meeting, a few of their opinions changed after speaking with their neighbors and hearing from residents.

Howd said many of her neighbors were not in favor of the no-dog rule. One elderly neighbor told her the pathway in the cemetery is the one safe space in the city he can take his dog and that it's not uneven like some sidewalks by his house. He said people should at least be able to walk their dogs on a paved pathway.

Councilor Aaron Wiens agreed with Howd. "People walking their dogs through the cemetery are not doing nefarious things," he said.

Multiple residents spoke in favor of allowing dogs in the cemetery.

"In the winter months, the cemetery and the city property are among the only sidewalks that you can count on being clear," one resident said. "I walk my dog daily and about half the city doesn't do their sidewalks. The cemetery is a place we can walk, and I think that's important for us."

Another resident said his dogs are more comfortable away from traffic so they walk in the cemetery. He added that people are friendly and they look after each other's property in the area.

The updated rules state that dogs must be leashed, they must stay on the path and owners must pick up after them.

Also in the new rules is only allowing one flag holder on each grave, implementing a time frame for winter decorations and stipulations for donated benches. See the full list at lindenmi.us.

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ROSE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OPTICAL SCAN VOTING DEVICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., the Rose Township Election Commission will administer a public accuracy test of the voting devices to be used to conduct the May 3, 2022 Special Election. The test will be performed in the Rose Township Offices, 9080 Mason Street in Rose Township, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is performed to demonstrate that the program and computers that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II
Rose Township Clerk

HOMICIDE

Continued from Front Page

Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, which amended the charges to homicide. The MSP Fugitive Team quickly located the suspect and arrested her. Bond was denied and she will be lodged at Oakland County Jail pending court proceedings.

Originally, MSP troopers were dispatched Friday, Oct. 1, 2021 to Ascension Genesys in Grand Blanc Township for a chemical burn victim from Groveland Township. He arrived at the hospital covered with chemical burns

on the head, torso and extremities.

The troopers responded to the victim's Groveland Township home and found evidence that Lye drain cleaner had been strewn about the couch where the victim was found by EMS.

Further investigation revealed that the victim's 18-year-old daughter was home when the incident began. MSP determined that Imirowicz allegedly threw the Lye powder on her father with water in order to catalyze the chemical reaction and cause the burns.

According to MSP, she left her unconscious father alone at the residence, who was later discovered by a neighbor.



Agriculture TODAY

INSIDE

HOW TO INVOLVE MORE
YOUNG PEOPLE IN AGRICULTURE

THE BASICS OF
VERTICAL FARMING

A NEARLY ENDLESS
SUPPLY OF PARTS

Michigan food and agricultural systems

A look at tri-county areas

By Sharon Stone

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development has broken down all components of agriculture in the state. Here's a look at what our closest counties have to offer.

GENESEE COUNTY

Area: 636.98 square miles

Population: 424,969

Largest city: Flint

Watershed(s): Saginaw

Top commodities by volume of sales

- Grains, oilseeds, dry beans and dry peas
- Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod
- Milk and other dairy products from cows
- Cattle and calves
- Other crops and hay
- Fruits, tree nuts and berries
- Vegetables, melons, potatoes and sweet potatoes

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Agriculture TODAY

How to involve more young people in agriculture

A sizable rural population and future challenges underscores importance in coming decades

The agricultural industry will undergo exciting changes as it looks to overcome developing challenges in the decades ahead. Technology will continue to play a pivotal role in the agricultural sector, making agriculture an evolving and exciting career path for young professionals.

Much has been made of projections that suggest the world population is increasingly looking to urban areas to call home. Though data from the United Nations indicates urban areas could grow by 2.5 billion people by 2050, more recent UN data indicates that 90 percent of that increase will take place in Asia and Africa. All told, estimates indicate that rural areas will remain home to 3.1 billion people by 2050.

A sizable rural population and the challenges population growth will present underscores how important the agricultural sector will be in the coming decades. That means there should be plenty of opportunities for young people to make an impact, especially if more efforts are made to encourage them to consider careers in agriculture.

• **Encourage agriculture-based curriculum.** After recognizing that the majority of Kenyan students had no access to farming training and education, the organization Farm Africa initiated a program



Young people looking for rewarding careers in an exciting, ever-evolving field can be encouraged to consider the agricultural sector.

to make agriculture more accessible to students. Students who participated learned about everything from keeping livestock to marketing produce for global markets. Similar programs can be encouraged in developed countries where opportunities in the field of agriculture figure to increase in the years to come.

• **Emphasize technological advancements in the field.** Modern young people are growing up with technology all around them, but few may be aware of the vital role technology plays in the agricultural sector. Young people's ears may perk up upon hearing terms like "robotics." Technologies are now a big part of life

on the farm. Recognition of that may compel more young people to pursue careers in agriculture.

• **Highlight the challenges ahead and how agricultural professionals can help overcome them.** UN projections indicate the global population will grow by more than two billion people by 2050. Finding a way to feed all of those people in the face of climate change will be no small task, but it's a task that will require dedicated agricultural professionals. Educators and parents can emphasize these challenges when speaking to young people about a career in the agricultural sector, noting that such careers will present real opportunities to make a difference.

Did you know?

Need for agricultural and food scientists to grow by 9% between 2020 and 2030

Projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate the need for agricultural and food scientists will grow by 9% between 2020 and 2030. Agricultural and food scientists can work in laboratories, offices and even in the field as they research ways to improve the efficiency and safety of agricultural establishments and products. Projected job openings in the field could be as high as 4,400 opportunities per year, making a career as an agricultural and food scientist one of the more enticing professions in the agriculture industry.



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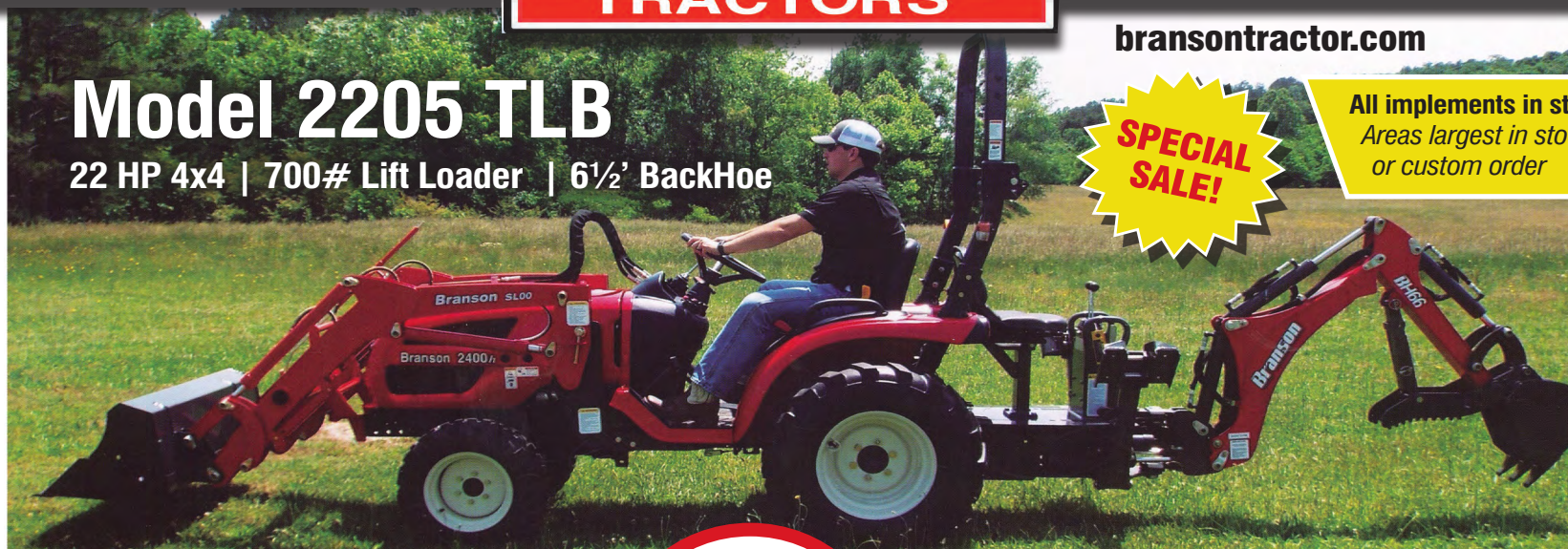
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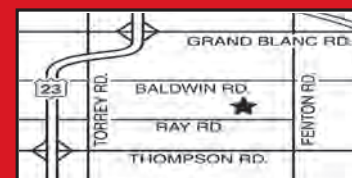
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Agriculture TODAY

The basics of vertical farming

Could be vital to meeting the demands for healthy foods by 2050



Farms often inspire awe thanks to their beauty and the serenity of the areas that surround them. Though no farms may inspire such feelings as strongly as those in the heart of the countryside, another type of farm can induce a sense of awe as well.

Vertical farms vary in size, but the largest ones mimic the appearance of skyscrapers if the skyscrapers were made from plants. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, increasing production of fresh greens and vegetables near urban populations will be a necessity in the decades to come. That's because estimates from the United Nations indicate the global population will exceed nine billion persons by 2050, by which time two-thirds of the world's people will live in urban settings. Vertical farming could be vital to meeting the demands for healthy foods by 2050, making it worth anyone's while to gain a basic understanding of this unique way to grow fresh fruits and vegetables.

WHAT IS VERTICAL FARMING?

Vertical farming is a type of controlled environment agriculture (CEA). CEA combines engineering, plant science and computer-managed greenhouse control technologies to optimize plant growing systems. CEA systems enable stable control of the plant environment, making it possible for growers to control temperature, light and CO2 during the growing process.

Vertical farms grow foods in stacked layers, which gives large vertical farms their skyscraper-like

See **VERTICAL** on 18

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Agriculture TODAY



SYSTEMS

Continued from Page 11

- Other animals and other animal products
 - Horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys
 - Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops
 - Hogs and pigs
 - Poultry and eggs
 - Sheep, goats and their products
 - Aquaculture
- Top commodities by acreage**
- Soybeans
 - Corn
 - Cattle

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Area: 565.25 square miles

Population: 180,999

Largest city: Howell

Watershed(s): Saginaw, Huron, Grand

Top commodities by volume of sales

- Grains, oilseeds, dry beans and dry peas
- Milk and other dairy products from cows
- Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod
- Cattle and calves

- Horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys
- Other animals and other animal products
- Fruits, tree nuts and berries
- Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops
- Sheep, goats and their products
- Poultry and eggs

Top Commodities by Acreage

- Corn
- Soybeans
- Cattle

OAKLAND COUNTY

Area: 867.66 square miles

Population: 1,202,829

Largest city: Sterling Heights, Detroit metropolitan area

Watershed(s): Clinton, Huron, Rouge, Saginaw

Top Commodities by Volume of Sales

- Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod
- Other animals and other animal products
- Grains, oilseeds, dry beans and dry peas
- Horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys
- Fruits, tree nuts and berries
- Other crops and hay
- Vegetables, melons, potatoes and sweet potatoes
- Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops
- Cattle and calves
- Sheep, goats and their products
- Hogs and pigs

Top commodities by acreage

- Forage
- Soybeans
- Horses

Source: Michigan.gov/mdard



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Marlette 7454 Van Dyke Hwy. 810-346-2761	Reese 9952 Saginaw St. 989-868-4165	Rochester Hills 94 W. Auburn Rd. 248-852-4961	Saginaw 6150 Bay Rd. 989-791-1234	Sandusky 989 W. Sanilac Rd. 810-648-2404	

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Agriculture TODAY

Nearly endless supply of parts

J&J AG Parts offers online store with new and old parts for just about every type of equipment

By Sharon Stone

You need a part? J&J AG Parts likely has the part you need.

J&J Ag Equipment, LLC or JJ AG Parts (JJAgparts.com) features a variety of high quality and affordable products, both new and old.

Josh Hicks and his brother-in-law, Johnathan (John) Roberts, are co-owners of the growing business. Their passion for excellence has driven them from the beginning and continues to drive them into the future.

The team at J&J knows that every product counts and they strive to have inventory for those hard to find parts. Check out their online store and get in touch with them with questions or requests. They also have an ebay.com store with the same name.

If you can't find what you are looking for, send them a message. They have dozens of salvage tractors in the yard and hundreds of core engines in stock. They will likely have what you need.

J&J AG Parts has NOS (new old stock), used, OEM (original equipment manufacturer) and aftermarket parts. They carry NOS John Deere parts ranging from the 1930s to current.

Hicks said, "We spent every morning

for months on the phone on our way into work discussing what we could do for opening a business. We would discuss goals, dreams and ambitions every morning; always wanting to do something of value allowing us to grow a future for our families and for many others who would work with us.

"We followed our shared passion for farm and industrial machinery and landed with a dream to build a company which a customer could turn to for engine parts, refurbishment/repair, and everything in between. We have been blessed with locating and sourcing large collections of hard to find John Deere tractor parts and have been surrounded by the best people out there; tractor people.

"You will be hard pressed to find a bad one in the bunch."

Hicks said that he and his brother-in-law had very strong and rewarding careers, but they both recently quit these jobs and have begun chasing their dream.

"We plan to grow without slowing down — never plateauing in growth," Hicks said. "Once we can establish one portion of the business, we will incorporate a new section, a new offering, adding to our business model. This can be seen with the John Deere tractor parts group, engine parts group, injection pump business, and the newest addition of the carburetor, distributor and magneto shop (coming soon). We are growing rapidly and are adding employees to support our growth as we go."

The owners are currently in the process of purchasing a large warehouse building



J&J AG Parts has approximately 8,000 parts currently listed online with approximately 8,000 to 10,000 more NOS and used parts for diesel engines and John Deere tractors onsite.

in the Durand area. They hope to have this site operational in the next two years as heavy restorations are required.

The business has approximately 8,000 parts currently listed online with approximately 8,000 to 10,000 more NOS and used parts for diesel engines and John Deere tractors onsite. Their network for diesel engine parts, as well as John Deere tractor parts, is very large. "We are proud to offer such a great selection within our product set," Hicks said.

The company provides thousands and thousands of John Deere parts, as well as providing rebuilding and parts supply services for almost all makes of diesel engines. This includes cylinder heads, blocks, cranks, rebuild kits, starters and even injection pump rebuilds.

Hicks said, "In addition to continuing to support the classic John Deere tractor community, our mission is to continue to grow as a one-stop shop for off-road diesel engine rebuilds. We will aim to bring all of the services we offer under

one roof. Need an injection pump rebuild and a starter rebuild? We hope to offer that at one place here in the near future. Our focus is and always will be to have world class customer service."

All products are offered through ecommerce format at this moment. Upon special request, they can meet to provide local pickup. If there are ever any parts for either the John Deere parts or the diesel engines that you cannot be found online, they are always close to the phone and are happy to look through the yard. "We ship all over the world daily," Hicks said.

They focus on providing parts for 1920-1980s John Deere tractors known as the two-cylinder and New Gen John Deeres. These are all farm tractors versus lawn and garden. Their engine focus is primarily geared (currently and will continue to grow) toward Deere, Perkins, International and Cummins engines. They do have product support for almost all of the engines used in the industrial and agricultural diesel and gasoline engine fields.

VERTICAL

Continued from Page 15

appearance. Some vertical farms employ techniques similar to greenhouses, utilizing natural light when it's available and augmenting that with artificial lighting to ensure the plants grow regardless of the conditions outside.

WHAT ARE SOME ADVANTAGES TO VERTICAL FARMING?

Perhaps the biggest advantage to vertical farming is the potential for the practice to meet future food demands in a way that the USDA deems environmentally responsible and sustainable. Vertical farming operations in urban areas can offer lower emissions because fresh fruits and vegetables will not need to be transported from rural

areas to urban locales.

The USDA also notes that vertical farming operations reduce water runoff by a considerable margin, helping to conserve water. The Vertical Harvest farm in Jackson, Wyoming, produces 100,000 pounds of vegetables per year and uses a fraction of the water of traditional farms with similar outputs. Utilizing hydroponics and moving carousels, Vertical Harvest consumes

90% less water than traditional farms.

Access to nutrient-rich foods is another benefit to vertical farms. As urban populations grow and climate affects crop yields, city dwellers may struggle to procure healthy, nutrient-rich foods like fruits and vegetables.

Vertical farms can be awe-inspiring and figure to play a vital role in the future of agriculture.

TAMPERING

Continued from Front Page

County official faces felony charges related to the August 2020 primary, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced March 11.

Kathy Funk of Flint faces the following charges in Genesee County's 67th District Court:

- election law — ballot tampering, a five-year felony; and
- misconduct in office, a five-year felony.

Kathy Funk works in vital records and is election supervisor for Genesee County, but the charges date back to 2020 when she was the Flint Township clerk, according to michiganradio.org. Funk narrowly won the August Democratic primary by a vote of 2,698 to 2,619 to hold on to the clerk's job.

Attorney General Dana Nessel, a Democrat, says her department is committed to prosecuting election violations, regardless of the political party of the person charged.

The Department of Attorney General alleges Funk purposely broke a seal on a ballot container so that the votes inside, under Michigan Election Law, could not be counted in an anticipated recount. Funk was running for re-

election, and narrowly prevailed in the unofficial count.

"Election officials must uphold the integrity of their positions. Those who abuse that commitment undermine the very foundation of our democracy," Nessel said. "Our department is committed to prosecuting election violations, regardless of the political party of the perpetrator."

Genesee County Clerk John Gleason said Tuesday that he is just learning of these allegations and charges. He had been out of the country on a trip. He said the county had an opening and Funk applied. He said the human resources department did its own background check and she passed. She was then hired in November 2021.

When asked if Funk has been placed on administrative leave, Gleason said there was no reason to do that. He said he hasn't even seen the exact charges yet. He added that she was removed from the elections division, however, she still works in the vital records division.

She was arraigned Monday, March 14 in Genesee County 67th District Court. She was released on \$25,000 personal bond. A probable cause conference is scheduled for March 24 at 1 p. m.

TRAVELING

Continued from Page 4

all of the wheelchair services to get us to our gate. Both flights were on time and very full with passengers. Our luggage made it to our destinations and flight crews were pleasant. Our guide meeting us in Detroit said he was from Romulus. He was so friendly and he asked all about our trip. We finally got our luggage and Jeff went and got our vehicle and picked us up at the door. A tip – when parking in long-term

parking at Metro, take a photo of your area so that you can find your car when you return several days later.

If you've considered flying with someone who moves a bit slower than you, don't be afraid. Sign up for the services, all of which are free and enjoy a little getaway. We were all exhausted when we got home but it was a well-deserved exhaustion from all of the fun we had. Another bit of advice, have some \$10 or \$20 bills handy to tip your helper who quickly navigates you through the airport. It's well worth it.

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TRUMP HAD TWO things that scared Washington: He wasn't a professional politician; he was a businessman and a patriot.

SO YOU JUST checked Biden's approval rating and it's 45. That's horrible, 45% out of 329 million Americans approve of Biden? He's got to be the worst president in history!

BEING IN MICHIGAN, I love climate change — winter, spring, summer or fall. All ya have to do is call and I'll be there.

WE WOULD LIKE to ask the proud Biden Hot-liner if they are pleased with the way Biden is dealing with Russia, North Korea, China and Iran. And then tell me if they're pleased with the southern border and the price of gasoline and groceries.

REGARDING CUTTING OFF relations with Russia, China, North Korea, etc. Remember there is a reason to keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

TO HOT-LINER ARGUING inflation is 'just supply and demand.' You should sue your econ professor for failure to educate. Inflation is not supply and demand. Inflation is the loss of purchasing power of money reflected in higher prices, which in this case is caused by Biden creating excess disposable income.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Sunday, March 29, 2022 3

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Please email information and military photo to: news@tctimes.com

Times
VIEW
The Tri-County Times Group

KING
FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

ACROSS

1 Taj Mahal city

5 Chatter

8 Pugilist's weapon

12 Regrets

13 Half of bi-

14 Bygone Peruvian

15 Diamond parts

17 Miles away

18 Thai or Korean

19 Oscar contenders

21 Leaves

24 Medit. nation

25 Buckeye State

28 Take five

30 Yoga pad

33 Mafia boss

34 Emulate Lincoln

35 Bedazzle

36 Dict. info

37 Nick and Nora's pet

38 Arm bone

39 Fireplace residue

41 Luminary

43 Charlton Heston film

46 Seraglio

50 Aware of

51 Endless time or space

54 Burning heap

55 Automobile

DOWN

1 Met solo

2 Weaponry

3 Mortgage again, for short

4 Italian cheese

5 Actor Brynner

6 Moreover

7 Galileo's birthplace

8 Decrees

9 Casual planet

10 Cicatrix

11 Old salts

16 Rock's Brian

20 Refer to

22 Messes up

23 Plane assignments

25 Peculiar

26 Garden tool

27 Foot soldiers

29 Sports figure?

31 Bristle

32 Chai, e.g.

34 Diamond Head locale

38 Seventh

40 Loafers, e.g.

42 Sashimi fish

43 Conks on the head

44 "May It Be" singer

45 "Casablanca" cafe owner

47 Teeming

48 Harrow rival

49 Island in a computer game

52 Scot's refusal

53 Saute

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

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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.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Midweek Jumble

JUMBLE

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

JUMBLE PUZZLE

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□□□□□□

□□

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Today's Guest JUMBLER is
JASON CHATFIELD
Artist for GINGER MEGGS

11-16

WHAT'D YA GIVE HIM?

AFTER GINGER GAVE THE KANGAROO A COFFEE, HE WAS ---

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

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Horoscopes

For the week of
March 14, 2022

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

This week you will have an opportunity to see things how they are and not necessarily as you imagine them to be, Aries. This clarity could require some restructuring.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Long-term goals are nearing completion, Taurus. You have gained so much from your pursuits and you have made plenty of friends along the way. Take time to appreciate that.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Communication difficulties arise this week, Gemini. Someone can coach you into getting your point across with sufficient finesse. Seek a communication mentor.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, there may be some passionate discussions coming up this week with family members. Everyone wants his or her point of view to be heard.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you need to be flexible, especially over the next few days. People may put you to the test with a perceived unwillingness to compromise, but cooperate when possible.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, in order to reach a destination you have in mind, you may have to rethink the route you're taking. A direct course just may not be the way to go in this instance.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Always be honest with yourself and others, Libra. That means being true to you and never putting on masks just to hide others from how you are truly feeling.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you want to do things for others out of the goodness of your heart, and you will not need anything in return. Good deeds are their own reward.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, dining out too many days in a row may leave you feeling sluggish. Reassess your eating habits and commit to making more meals at home for a bit.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, recognize that not everyone has your best interests at heart. Others' intentions may not be sinister, but your own interest and the interest of others may not align.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Sometimes you are a bit proud and do not like asking for or accepting others' help, Aquarius. You deserve the breaks that others are willing to offer you, though.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

This is a good time of the month to nurture loved ones, Pisces. Play with your kids or sit and chat with an elderly relative who needs you.



Blue Devils' season ends in district title game

By David Troppens

Lake Fenton — In front of a large home crowd, while facing off against its rival, Goodrich, the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team couldn't have asked for a better start to a Division 2 district championship game.

Lake Fenton started the game on fire, hitting on 7-of-11 first-quarter shots with three of those shots being treys. Sopho-

more Ashton Hunter was particularly hot, netting 10 first-quarter points (and two of the treys) leading the Blue Devils' offense.

Tied at 10-all, the Blue Devils finished the quarter on an 8-3 run, with Max Muenzer assisting a Francis Senter three-pointer to start it. Hunter hit a driving layup and Muenzer hit a post layin as well. The run ended with a Senter free

throw, giving Lake Fenton an 18-13 lead after one quarter.

However, basketball is a four-quarter sport and the Goodrich Martians earned a Flint Metro League Stars Division championship this winter for a reason, and they showed why over the last three quarters.

In what was an entertaining game, See **BLUE DEVILS'** on 22

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022 | PAGE 21 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

Lake Fenton's Francis Senter (left) drives to the bucket in the Blue Devils' loss to Goodrich.
Photo: Christopher Summers

Sports Times

Fenton swimmers cap outstanding season at state meet

■ Strong taper, strong senior class helps lead Tigers to ninth-place finish at event

By David Troppens

Auburn Hills — Times were seriously dropping for the Fenton varsity boys swim team while competing at the MH-SAA's Division D2 Swimming and Diving Championships at Oakland University on Friday.

By Saturday, those time drops had helped the Tigers to a ninth-place team finish at the state event.

Fenton finished the state meet with athletes competing in six second-day swims. And minus one DQ, the Tigers had some strong efforts which included four All-State placings in the finals.

Max Haney had the strongest individual showing, taking second in the 100 butterfly (49.55 seconds) and a fifth in the 200 individual medley (1:56.60), but Jack Fries also came home with a finals finish as did the 400 freestyle relay.

The Tigers finished with 92 team points, earning a pretty solid ninth place. The Tigers could credit an outstanding taper (a period of time the team

rests from intense training so to gain energy from that training) for their strong performances. That taper really showed during Friday's preliminary round.

Haney saw a time drop to 1:51.77 from a seeded time of 1:56.62 during the preliminary round, earning a second-place seeding into the finals. He also was seeded second in the 100 butterfly after seeing a time cut from 50.92 seconds to 50.26 in the 100 butterfly.

Once there, he was the state runner-up in the 100 butterfly (49.55) and finished fifth in the 200 individual medley (1:56.60). Another story detailing Haney's individual performances can be found elsewhere in this publication.

Fries enjoyed a tremendous cut as well. He saw his seeded time of 1:47.04 drop to a 1:44.58 during Friday's prelims, earning him a spot in Saturday's final. While there, he earned sixth place (1:45.62).

"Dropping time like that always feels great, especially at

See **NINTH** on 23



(Top) Fenton's Max Haney took second in the 200-yard butterfly at the state meet on Saturday. Jack Fries (left) and Evan Koch (below) were both on the Tigers' relay teams that advanced to the second day.

Photos: David Troppens



■ Fenton's Haney finally competes at state meet, earns a runner-up finish

By David Troppens

Auburn Hills — Max Haney is a junior and had never competed in a D2 state swim meet until last weekend.

He's been one of the state's stronger swimmers since entering a pool his freshman year at Fenton High School, but never had a chance to compete because of one issue — COVID.

During his freshman season, the state finals were canceled due to COVID. Last season, he was qualified and expected to do well at the state meet until he was contact traced and forced out due to COVID again, despite the fact he had never contacted the virus.

So, his junior season was the time to shine, and he did.

Haney earned a state runner-up finish in the 200 butterfly during Saturday's MHSAA D2 Swimming and Diving State Championships held at Oakland University.

See **HANEY** on 24



Lake Fenton senior David Rampy competed at the D2 state swim meet in the 100-yard breaststroke, placing 22nd during Friday's preliminary event at Oakland University. He was a member of the Kearsley/Lake Fenton co-op varsity boys swimming and diving team.

Photo: David Troppens

LF's Rampy competes at D2 state swim meet

By David Troppens

Auburn Hills — The Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving team wasn't the only representation the tri-county area had at the MHSAA Division 2 State Swimming and Diving Championships at Oakland University last weekend.

Lake Fenton student David Rampy also competed.

As a member of the Kearsley/Lake Fenton varsity boys co-op swim team, Rampy qualified to compete in the 100-yard breaststroke.

He competed in Friday's preliminary round, posting a 22nd-place time of 1:01.66. The senior en-

tered the meet as the No. 26 seed, so he improved upon his initial placing by four positions. He also improved upon his seeded time of 1:01.98. Rampy posted that state-qualifying time while at the Flint Metro League Meet. He won the 100 breaststroke league title with that time by more than five seconds.

Rampy also placed fifth at the league meet in the 100 butterfly (59.44).

Rampy was one of two athletes from the co-op squad who qualified for the D2 state meet. The other was diver Tabitha Cunningham, who ended up scratching from the meet. The squad scored no team points.

BLUE DEVILS'

Continued from Page 21

Goodrich eventually imposed its will into the district championship contest, earning the Martians (18-4) a 50-39 district championship victory at Lake Fenton High School Friday night.

"Intensity-wise on defense, we didn't bring it enough for the whole game," Lake Fenton senior Max Muenzer said. "We just kind of got outplayed on the defensive end."

"At the end of the night, it just wasn't our night," Lake Fenton senior Francis Senter said.

Goodrich definitely turned up their defense after the first quarter. The rest of the contest, nothing came easy for the Blue Devils, as they hit on just 6-of-37 shots. Goodrich rode that defensive effort, and a strong offensive third quarter, to earn the victory.

The Blue Devils' offense went dry in the second quarter, netting just one field goal the entire quarter. Meanwhile, Goodrich got just enough offense to eventually take the lead. That lead came at 22-21 with 1:16 left in the half on a three-pointer by Josh Waun. It didn't last long as Lake Fenton's Dylan Hammis converted a free throw, tying the game at 22-all at the half.

Lake Fenton enjoyed the lead in the second half just twice. The second time came at 26-24 on a three-pointer by Brandon Bossert, but the Martians eventually took a little bit of a lead as the third quarter went on.

Goodrich took the lead for good at 30-28 on a layin by Jack Locey. And by the end of the third quarter, the Martians led 42-36, with the final two points coming on converted free throws by Waun. In between, freshman Parker LePla started to establish his dominance inside with nine of his game-high 19 points in the third quarter.



(Top) Lake Fenton's Max Muenzer prepares to attempt a shot in the Blue Devils' loss to Goodrich on Friday. (Left) Lake Fenton's Jake Helms drives to the hoop in the same district championship contest. Photos: Christopher Summers

In the fourth quarter, the closest the Blue Devils got was 42-38 after a hoop by Senter with 6:50 left in the game. However, Goodrich went on the game-deciding 7-0 run at that point. It started with a putback hoop by Caeden Rossell and ended with a converted free throw by Waun. The Martians led 49-38 with just 1:02 left and were on their way to the district crown.

"They played really solid defense and packed it in the paint a bit," Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tyler Szczepanski said. "We forced some shots. The last month we've been taking really good shots, but when a team plays really tight defense, it causes

you to force shots. When we forced too many shots in a row and didn't see the ball go in (Goodrich) gained some confidence on the other side.

"Goodrich is a heck of a team. We are still trying to knock them off the top of the mountain. There's a reason they are there and how they played tonight demonstrated it."

The Blue Devils (15-7) had a solid season. They finished second in the Flint Metro League Stars Division at 8-2, earning a regular-season split of games with the Martians. They also earned road victories against area rivals Linden and Fenton, kind of winning the unofficial "tri-county" championship.

NINTH

Continued from Page 21

the end of the year,” Fries said. “It shows how much you have progressed and gives you a sense of accomplishment.

“I was really happy with the sixth-place finishes. I entered the meet seeded at ninth, so getting three places higher than expected of me felt great.”

Finally, two of Fenton’s second-day relays also enjoyed strong preliminary time drops. The 200 medley relay team of Fries, Kaz Sieja, Haney and Evan Koch began the trend by posting a time of 1:37.70 in the meet’s first event of Friday’s preliminary round. That was a significant drop from the squad’s 1:39.41 seeded time, earning them a spot on the consolation finals. The meet also ended with a huge drop in the 400 freestyle relay. The team of Haney, Sieja, Koch and Fries entered with a seeded time of 3:17.91 and was the ninth seed coming in. They ended up qualifying for the finals with a 3:13.38, and eventually took sixth in the finals with another time drop to 3:12.90 in Saturday’s final.

“Honestly, going into the week of the state meet I was concerned that we may not have enough time to taper,” Koch said. “I just kind of trusted that everything would turn out fine and it did. Obviously, going into big meets in the best shape possible is ideal, but the amount of adrenaline that comes with putting on your tech suit and just simply being there adds so much to your performance, and I think that helped.”

“It felt incredible to swim on that relay (the 400 freestyle relay) with those guys with all of us performing so well,” Sieja said. “I knew we would drop some time, but I didn’t expect such a big drop. I was hoping to make the ‘A’ final in that event, so when I saw we made it, I was so happy.

“This year I didn’t taper as much for the Metros which helped me spend more time get-

ting stronger and focusing on my stroke. We also had really good practice sets where (Fenton varsity boys swim coach Brad) Jones also helped by telling us times that he wanted us to go, and what we had to do in practice to get where we wanted.”

Jones was equally thrilled by all of the tremendous time drops throughout the meet.

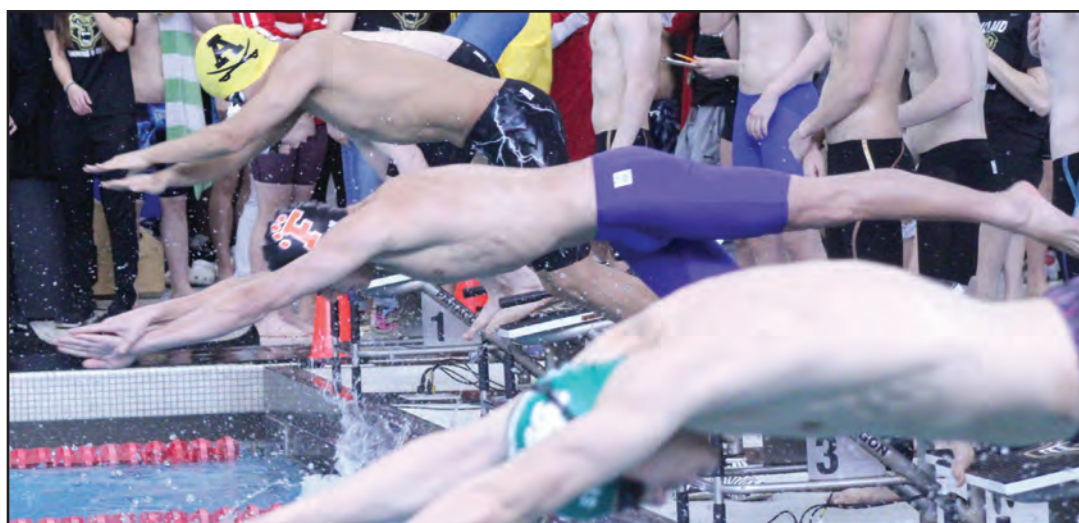
“It’s always fun when it works,” Jones said. “The goal for those four (athletes) specifically was not to rest for the Metro League meet, and our focus was for this weekend. We didn’t bring any yards down (for practice) as a result and we didn’t see any real time drops at Metro. ... The boys believed in what we were doing, went after it and swam outstandingly all day. Top to bottom — everyone swam great.

“We expected that the 200 medley relay would drop time (during Friday’s preliminary round), but then Jack went after it in the 200 freestyle and that just set the tone for the rest of the day. It was a great day for all of those guys. Everybody swam fast.”

Fries did have one down moment. He qualified for the consolation finals in the 100 backstroke by cutting his seeded time of 53.87 to 53.03 during Friday’s preliminary. However, he had a flinch at the start of Saturday’s race and was disqualified. That DQ came just minutes before the 400 freestyle relay happened, so he was able to forget the DQ and help make one more memorable moment anyway.

“I flinch a lot so I’ve almost become desensitized to it,” Fries said. “I just let it go because there’s nothing I can do afterward. So it helps just to focus on my future races.”

Others competed at the meet but were unable to compete in the final. Freshman diver Owen Cox made his state debut at the state meet and missed making the semifinal round, finishing



Fenton’s Jacob Shanahan (top) dives into the pool during the 200-yard freestyle relay. Another senior on the Fenton squad was Kaz Sieja (left). He was a part of two Fenton relay teams to advance to the second day of the D2 state swim meet. The Fenton state team (below) pose for a photo during the state meet. **Top two photos: David Troppens**



21st up through the preliminary round (156.10). The 200 freestyle relay team of Sieja, Koch, Jacob Shanahan and Braden Falvo also competed during the preliminaries and placed 27th with a time of 1:33.02. They entered as the 25th seed.

For seniors Sieja, Koch, Shanahan and Fries, it was their final swim for the Fenton

program.

“I will remember my high school swim team as some of the very best experiences I’ve had in swimming,” Sieja said. “The last state meet was the best way to end my career, and we did even better than I thought we would. I have many great memories on the Fenton swim team and have made

great friends over the past four years. I will miss swimming with my friends and the atmosphere the team created. I have seen so many great guys on the team, and to be able to break some of the records I have seen so many people try for felt unreal. This team has taught me and gave me so much, it is hard to say goodbye.”

HANEY

Continued from Page 21

He did a little more than that. He also was the second seed in both of his individual finals events on Saturday after finishing runner-up in both of his Friday individual preliminary events — the 200 butterfly and the 200 individual medley. He ended up taking fifth in the 200 individual medley.

His individual performances helped the Fenton Tigers finish ninth overall at the D2 state meet. For more details about the entire team's performance read another story located elsewhere in this publication.

"It felt good swimming at the state meet," the Fenton junior said. "Taking second (in the 200 butterfly) felt really good. After not swimming for two years (in the state meet) it felt better.

"My finish (in the 200 individual medley) was a bit disappointing, but the prelims was very good. I was very happy."

Haney's primary competition in the 100 butterfly was Ann Arbor Skyline's Ben Kurinawan, who entered the meet with the best seeded time (49.50) and posted the top time in the preliminary round (50.13), besting Haney by just .13 seconds.

In the final, the top four swimmers bettered 50 seconds and the top three earned All-American Consideration status in what was a close race. At the half-way point, Kurninawan (23.03) owned the lead by .11 seconds ahead of Haney. Haney (23.14) was just .13 seconds ahead of Birmingham Seaholm's Cami Wilson. The race remained close, but Kurniawawn was able to stretch out his lead a tiny bit more to earn the victory in 49.31 seconds. Haney posted a time of 49.55 seconds, taking second.

Haney entered the state meet with only the ninth-best time in the 200 individual medley, so he probably popped up some people's heads when he improved upon his 1:56.62 seeded time to



Fenton's Max Haney dives into the pool during one of his state meet events. He was a two-time individual All-State performer at the meet. Photo: David Troppens

post a 1:51.77 in Friday's prelims. The only one able to better that was the University of Detroit Jesuit's Drew Collins who posted a time of 1:51.28, a drop of more than four seconds of his own from his seeded time.

However, Haney wasn't able to match his time he posted in the prelim and recorded a still-impressive and All-State

fifth-place time of 1:53.60 in the finals. Haney had the early lead, finishing the first 50 yards in 23.93, just .02 ahead of Grosse Pointe South's Drew Vandeputte. However, by the 100-yard mark, He was in second by about a half-second. His third 50-yard stretch saw him move back to fourth about 3.4 seconds behind eventual state

champion Collins.

"Max is an elite swimmer and with the exception of the backstroke, he owns all of our records on the board," Fenton varsity boys swim coach Brad Jones said. "He will have them all by the time he graduates, just like Gracie Olsen (from the Fenton varsity girls swim team). He's a special athlete."



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Auctions

Times

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Times

Ronnie J. Slieff 1952 – 2022



Ronnie J. Slieff - age 69, of Holly, died Friday, March 11, 2022. Funeral services will be held at 10 AM Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. Military honors and burial will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Visitation will be from 2 - 9 PM Tuesday, March 15. Ron was born in Flint on June 5, 1952 to Berton and Beth (Weeks) Slieff. He was a US Army veteran, serving in the US Army. He retired from GM after 30 years of service. His lifelong hobby was fishing, and he loved feeding and watching birds. Surviving are three children, Kelly (Kevin) Leach, Raymond (Jenny) Slieff, and Andy Slieff; five grandchildren, Ellen McPherson, Abby Leach, Kyler, Slieff, Kerrigan Slieff, and Casey Slieff; great-grandson, Elijah Slieff; three siblings, Terry Slieff, Danny Slieff, and Sue Slieff Sutton. He was preceded in death by his father and his wife, Dona. Memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.

Nabiha Sefa 1936 – 2022



Nabiha Sefa- age 85, of Fenton, died Friday, March 11, 2022. Funeral services will be held 1:30 PM Saturday, March 19, 2022 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton, (A live stream of the service will be available on Nabiha's obituary page at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.) Sheikh Imad Kamel Sefa officiating. Burial in Sunset Hills Cemetery, Flint. Visitation will be held at the funeral home Saturday from 11 AM until the time of the service. Those desiring may make contributions to the Druze Orphanage. Nabiha was born August 9, 1936 in Beirut, Lebanon, the daughter of Daoud Hamze and Wasila Safa. She married Nasib "Sam" Sefa November 17, 1952 in Lebanon and he preceded her in death March 7, 1991. She had resided in Fenton, for the past 45 years, coming from Davison and Goodrich. She owned

and operated Park Avenue Real Estate for many years. Nabiha was a member of the Goodrich Order of Eastern Stars. Surviving are five children, Lawrence Adell Sefa of Fenton, Marc Sefa of Fenton, Terry Sefa (Janine Howard) of Flint, Dr. Mone'e Merriweather (John Csenar) of Duluth, GA, and Michelle Sefa of Fenton; granddaughter, Madison Merriweather of FL; sisters, Samia (Aref) Gharzeddine of Sterling Heights, and Leyla (Adel) Hamady of Fenton; several nieces and nephews; and her four legged best friend, Cody Alexander. She was also preceded in death by her parents; and brothers, Kamal and David Hamze. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



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Obituaries

Times

Dennis M. Schmedlen

1946 – 2022

Dennis M. Schmedlen - age 75, entered into eternal life Saturday morning, March 12, 2022, at his home, lovingly surrounded by family. Dennis was born November 1, 1946, in Holly, the son of Earl Eugene Schmedlen and Rhoda Taylor. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1964,



the disease with the most amazing grace, bravery and strength. He lived every day with positivity and determination not to let the disease keep him from doing the things he loved. However, ultimately it would be cancer that brought him to the end of his life on this earth. Everyone who was blessed to

where he was a member of the varsity football team. He attended Oakland University, graduated with a liberal arts degree, and moved to Toledo, Ohio in August 1970, where he lived until his death. Dennis took his first job with Owens Corning Fiberglass, hired as one of their first programmers, and worked his way up the ladder from programmer to analyst to senior project manager and ultimately, Director of Systems Development. In 1990, Dennis left Owens Corning Fiberglass and co-founded the Technology Group International, a business software company, where he served as Senior Vice President until he retired in 2010. He was an intelligent, generous, family-oriented, Christian man who loved fishing and hunting, taking his family on vacations, spending time with his grandchildren, rooting for the Detroit Tigers, playing fantasy football, and eating out at restaurants, but also enjoying his daughter Renee's gourmet cooking. An avid University of Michigan football fan, he held season tickets for over 20 years, sharing many Michigan victories with his daughter, Rachael, always eager to discuss the state of the team with his family and friends, and exhibited a youthful exuberance while high-fiving everyone around him after every UM touchdown. Dennis lived with Parkinson's disease for the last twelve years of his life. He battled

know Dennis experienced what an extremely kind, loving, and gentle, but playful and jovial person he was, who loved his family very much. He is proceeded to our Lord by his parents; brother, Doug Schmedlen; brother-in-law, Thomas Thrasher; and nephew, Nathan Schmedlen. He leaves behind his daughters, Dr. Rachael Schmedlen, Renee (Justin) Hires; sister, Mary Lee Thrasher; sister-in-law, Rose Schmedlen; former wife, Louise Munich; grandchildren, Grace Hires, Catessa Hires, Maddock Hires, Jacob Hires, and several nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Visitation will be held from 10 AM – 12PM on Friday, March 18th at Dryer Funeral Home, 101 S. 1st St, Holly, followed by a funeral service and graveside burial at Lakeside Memorial Cemetery, 860 Thomas St, Holly, MI 48442. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, April 2nd at the Waterville United Methodist Church, 7125 Waterville Monclova Rd. Waterville, Ohio 43566 followed by a private reception. In lieu of flowers, the family requests considering a donation to one of Dennis' favorite charities: Waterville United Methodist Church: <https://www.watervilleumc.org/stewardship>. The Billy Graham Evangelical Association: <https://billygraham.org/>. **www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.**

Marlene J. Eichelberg

1941 – 2022

Marlene J. Eichelberg – age 80, of Linden, formerly of Streeter, North Dakota, died peacefully on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at her home. Funeral service will be held at 1 PM Thursday, March 17, 2022, at First Flint



baker, it was one of her favorite hobbies. People will remember her breads and cookies from Eichelberg farm market, as well as many church and social events. She canned vegetables produced on their farm and also made

7th Day Adventist Church, G-4285 Beecher Road, Flint, Pastor Malcolm Douglas officiating. Cremation will take place following the service. A Memorial service in North Dakota will follow at a later date. Those desiring may make contributions to Maranatha Volunteers International. Visitation 1 – 3 PM and 5 - 8 PM Wednesday, March 16 at the Swartz Funeral Home, 1225 West Hill Road. Mrs. Eichelberg will be at the church from 12 PM Thursday until the time of the service. Marlene was born in Jamestown, North Dakota on September 13, 1941, the daughter of the late Adam and Mary (Miller) Hoffman. On August 22, 1965, she married Dwight Eichelberg in Lehr, North Dakota. Marlene was a registered nurse and instructor at Hurley School of Nursing. She was very active in the First Flint Seventh Day Adventist Church and Church School, serving as organist, kindergarten teacher, school librarian, and home and school leader. She faithfully played piano for the Halsey United Methodist Church, the Hill Road Baptist Church, and the South Mundy United Methodist Church (32 years). She was an amazing cook and

freezer jam for her home as well as the farm market. She baked wedding cakes for a number of years. She and Dwight hosted Latvian foreign exchange students on their farm for eight summers through a program sponsored by the MSU Agricultural Department. Marlene and Dwight sponsored church and well construction projects through Maranatha Volunteers International as well as sponsoring overseas missionaries. Her four grandchildren were the highlight of her life and she dedicated much of her time in these last years helping to raise and support them. She was a remarkable woman who touched many people's lives. She was much loved and will be terribly missed. Marlene was also co-owner of Eichelberg Farms. Surviving are husband of 56 years, Dwight; three children, Brent Eichelberg, Annmarie (Blaine) Walker and Carey Eichelberg; grandchildren, Eden and Elle, Evia and Hawke Walker; brother, Donald Hoffman; many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sister, Delores. Your condolences may be shared with the family at **www.swartzfuneralhomeinc.com.**



High-Yield Checking Account

Boost Checking is a simple, convenient, high-yield dividend rate checking account that pays 5% monthly on balances up to \$10,000 when all required qualifications are met. With Boost, there are no monthly service or per-check fees, no minimum balance requirements, and you can instantly receive your debit card.



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