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Successful Small Business Saturday jump starts shopping in Lowell for the holidays

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

Downtown Lowell was full of shoppers ready to spend money at local shops this weekend. Small Business Saturday, held November 24, sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday was aimed at getting people to shop at small stores to boost the local economy. Overall, local businesses were pleased with sales and hope buying local extends throughout the holiday season.

Mike Sprenger, owner of Springrove Variety, said business was booming Saturday. "People actually came in saying they were here shopping because of Small Business Saturday." As a thank you, Springrove offered double punches on their cards, free popcorn and bottled water. Sprenger said the comments he received were all positive.

Down the street, Cousins' Hallmark had an uptick in sales as well. They said the foot traffic was "pretty good."

For Cliff Yankovich, owner of Chimera Design, support from the community year-round is essential. And

lucky for him, support has been steady. Over the years, his business has shifted from an art gallery to jewelry store and is celebrating its 10th year in



Artist Leara Glinzak's paintings on sale at local coffee shop.

business. He supports the idea of Small Business Saturday because that is what Lowell is built on.

Ella's Coffee and Cuisine (Ella's) was full of shoppers grabbing a bite to eat and a coffee to stay warm. Their cozy atmosphere makes it a perfect location to relax. Randall St. Germain, co-owner of Ella's said, "It's not hard to be a small business in Lowell.

There is a great deal of community support." He is not the only one with this sentiment. Springrove Variety, Chimera Design and Cousins' Hallmark, to name a few, say business is great because Lowell understands their importance and shops at their stores year-round.

By supporting local businesses, the money you spend stays in Lowell. Owners and workers pay taxes

in the city, pay rent and often buy their goods from other local businesses. For example, Ella's buys their meat from Gary's Country Meat. Workers from Gary's meat market can then spend money at a dinner at Flat River Grill, buy jewelry at Chimera Design or grab a coffee at Ella's on their break.

Yankovich reiterated, "If you want a thriving community, small business is the way to go."

Coat drive continues through end of the week

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Curtis Cleaners' employee Dawn Brooks celebrated the fifth year of the Coats 4 Kids & Vets coat drive by wearing her best smile to work today. Of course, as the regulars at Curtis Cleaners will

attest, this is how Brooks celebrates every day in which the sun rises.

"I love being able to help the veterans," Brooks said. This is her second successful coat drive.

This year's drive began Oct. 15 and will end this Friday, Dec. 1.

The head of the Coats 4 Kids & Vets program, Andy Curtis, said that he was inspired by trade magazine stories about similar coat drives in other states. At first, donations went down the road to Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), but in subsequent years the increased donation numbers required a few more partners. Mel Trotter Ministries and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans joined FROM in the effort to distribute the coats to Grand Rapids' children and veterans.

Curtis Cleaners stands out among other coat drive sponsors by offering an additional service. All donated coats are cleaned on location before they are given to partner organizations.

"One of the things that always amazes me is the



Curtis Cleaners' employee Dawn Brooks basking beside the fruits of a successful coat drive.

amount of brand new coats that we get in," Curtis said. "Over the last two years we have had some amazing people step up and donate hundreds of new coats."

Curtis Cleaners has taken in 600 coats so far this year. While this is a significant decrease from last year's 1,600 coat donations, the employees of Curtis Cleaners remain positive.

The five year running total stands at 5,000 coats and rising.

Those interested in donating new and used coats can do so at the Lowell Curtis Cleaners through the end of the week. Mel Trotter Ministries, Flat River Outreach Ministries and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans continue to accept donations year-round.

Keeping the pantry full at FROM

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

While its largest drive -- Food Fight - takes place in the summer, food programs director Sylvia Taylor said that local schools and churches are stepping up their giving during the holidays. Last Tuesday, Taylor took donations nonstop from 9 am to 5 pm.

About 100 families in the Lowell area receive assistance from the Food Pantry each month, but that

is only possible through the continuing support of local sponsors.

Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) is currently collecting food items for its Christmas distribution drive which begins Dec. 15.

Taylor said the following items are needed, boxed stuffing, boxed potatoes, boxed desserts, gravy, sweet

FROM pantry,
continued, page 3

50 CENTS





along main street

RELAY FOR LIFE

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Tree sale runs Nov. 23 through Dec. 18, 677 Lincoln Lake SE, Lincoln Lake Business Park. Mon.-Fri., 9 am – 7 pm, Sat., 9 am – 6 pm, and Sun., 12 pm – 5 pm. Tree netted free for easy transport. Scotch pine, Fraser, Douglas and spruce; also wreaths, centerpieces and tree bags. All proceeds donated to ACS, Lowell Area Relay For Life.

MERRY MAKERS CRAFT SHOW

The 8th annual Merry Makers Craft Show at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson, Sat., Dec. 1, 9 am – 4 pm.

RUDOLPH CARTOON AT LAHM

The museum will open from 1-4 pm on Dec. 1 with the famous cartoon, “Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer.” It will play every 45 minutes starting at 1 pm, call to reserve your seat, 897-7688.

ROGUE RIVER ARTISANS

The Rogue River Artisans will hold their 30th anniversary show at Lowell High School on Dec. 1 from 9 am to 4 pm. Lunch will be served. The entry fee is \$1 and proceeds from that and the lunch will go toward area causes. For more information contact Robin or Rick White at 691-7443.

BLOOD DRIVE

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 10305 Bluewater Hwy. (M-21 halfway between Lowell and Saranac) will be hosting a blood drive on Tues., Dec. 4 from 3-6pm.

CLAY ART CLASS

Artist Janet Krueger will teach “Clay Art – Buttons & Pendants” at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson, Wed., Dec. 5 and 12, from 5-7 pm. For more information, call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

FREE COMMODITIES

Commodities food order for low income families, Thurs., Dec. 6, 9 am – 4 pm has been moved to Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), 11535 E. Fulton. Bring proof of income and Social Security numbers for each member of household. Please bring bags. Call Virginia, 897-8754 with questions.

GILDA'S CLUB EVENTS

Lowell Santa Parade, Sat., Dec. 1, join your friends at Gilda's Club to walk in the Lowell Santa Parade. We will be meeting at the Lowell clubhouse at 4:30 pm and the parade begins at 6 pm sharp. Wear warm clothes, walking shoes and some form of red clothing. RSVP with Lindsay at 616-453-8300; **Holiday Card Making Extravaganza**, Tues., Dec. 4, 4-5 pm. Make holiday cards with Kim Taylor; **“What Happens Between the World of Grief and Loss,”** Tues., Dec. 4, 6:30-7:15 pm, join Luann Arnsen, MSW, for an interactive presentation that addresses issues encompassing both cancer and grief surrounding the holiday season; **Cancer – New Member Meeting**, Tues., Dec. 11, 2:30-3:30 pm and 7:15-8 pm; **“Look Good, Feel Better,”** Tues., Dec. 11, 1-3 pm, this program, presented by the American Cancer Society, will help women in treatment for cancer with appearance-related side effects. Sign up required; **Book Club**, Tues., Dec. 18, 4:30-5:30 pm, join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club, pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk; **Woodcarving**, Tues., Dec. 18, 4-5 pm, Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

LUMINARY HIKE

Luminary Hike at Wittenbach - Wege Center on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. Meander through the forest on a candle-lit path. Afterwards, warm up inside with some hot chocolate while you make holiday crafts. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 616-987- 2565 or email mjohnson@lowellschools.com.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

Fountain View of Lowell, a local organization whose mission is to provide high quality senior lifestyle services that promote the value and dignity of every person, is currently accepting applications for a variety of volunteer positions. Opportunities are available for students and adults who are interested in helping us fulfill our mission on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Examples of service roles include leading or assisting with a variety of activities such as games, crafts, spa days, building projects, music, socializing, participating in landscaping projects or other outdoor activities like gardening, contributing to the monthly newsletter, and being involved in the planning, decorating, and/or facilitating for special events like holiday and family parties and outings. If you have a few extra hours each week or month, please consider offering your time, talents and love to the senior residents here at Fountain View of Lowell. You may contact Elisa White, the Life Enrichment director of Fountain View of Lowell, at 616-897-8413 ext. 111 or e-mail her at fv1.active@leisure-living.com

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FROM pantry, continued

potatoes, and other holiday dinner items.

The Food Pantry always needs fresh fruits and produce and a couple of items that people don't normally think to bring to their local outreach, toilet paper, toothpaste and other toiletries.

"You can pick up a pop and a bag of chips with your Bridge Card, but you can't purchase a roll of toilet paper," Taylor said.

Taylor added that she loves to see the looks on the faces of people who are able to generously give pre-purchased food items, but sometimes it is more beneficial to simply write a check to FROM. With ready money, outreach

coordinators can purchase food according to current needs and sales.

"People like to buy jars of peanut butter because of the high protein content, but I can buy items like that at a much better discount from other nonprofits and charities."

Money may go further than food donations, but FROM encourages generosity in any form. Taylor recounted a story of generosity from a recent visit to a local middle school where she spoke on the topic of hunger.

"We challenged a classroom of 25 children to donate 75 items for the Food Pantry," she said. "One student asked his teacher what would happen if they

were able to raise twice as many items and the teacher promised a pizza lunch. By the end of the drive, the students had raised 230 items for the hungry in Lowell."

Anyone interested in making a donation may drop off perishables during normal Food Pantry hours and non-perishables any time at the 24-hour donation room on the northwest corner of the building. Cash donations can be made at the FROM website. Families in need of food assistance can sign up at the Food Pantry during regular hours. Applicants must either live in a Lowell school district or have children attending a Lowell area school.



For the hungry of Lowell, the shelves at the Flat River Outreach Ministries Food Pantry can make a big difference.

Christmas tree sale benefits Relay for Life

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

When you buy your tree this Christmas, you have an opportunity to fight cancer at the same time. A1 Laser Die and Engineering, Inc. (A1 Laser) is donating the net proceeds of their Christmas

tree sale to the American Cancer Society through their team in Lowell's Relay for Life. Now in its third year, the sale draws multitudes of people from all over West Michigan, from Rockford to

Hastings. The sale runs until December 18th, unless they run out of trees first. Last year their sales grew and Rudy Smith, owner of A1 Laser, is hoping for another increase in sales this year.

Smith, looking for a way to raise money for his Relay for Life team (Relay), realized selling Christmas trees was the perfect fundraiser. After several discussions with a tree farm, his dream was realized. Smith said profits from this endeavor are "between six and seven thousand dollars."

The tree sale is a collaboration between many local businesses. A1 Laser puts up the money until proceeds from the trees come in, the tree lot is manned by volunteers, Ferrell Gas heats the trailer where volunteers sit and Fisk Trucking delivers the trees throughout the sale. Smith stated, "100 percent of net proceeds are able to be donated to Relay. We are very lucky to have a

lot of services donated to our cause."

They offer an assortment of trees in various heights as well as wreaths and garland. They are selling Fraser fir, Scotch pine, Douglas fir and blue spruce. The Fraser fir is the most popular because of its ability to retain its soft needles. The trees are grown in Stanton, just 45 minutes north of Lowell at Korson's Tree Farm.

Last year, over 300 trees were sold. A1 Laser also supplies the city with garland and wreaths for the Christmas season.

Now you can buy a tree in the giving spirit of Christmas and know you are buying

local and the money is going to a great cause.

The Relay tree sale is located at 677 Lincoln Lake SE in the Lincoln Lake Business Park. Their hours are Monday thru Friday 9-7, Saturdays 9-6 and Sundays 12-5. Trees range in price from \$19.50 to \$110.



Fraser firs, the most popular Christmas tree are available at the Relay for Life tree sale.



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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Don't take a "holiday" from working toward financial goals

We're well into the holiday season now. And while the holidays are joyous, they can also be expensive. In fact, at this time of year, many people make spending decisions they end up regretting. But you can enjoy the holidays and still stay on track toward your financial goals by following a few simple guidelines, including the following:

- Set a budget — and stick to it. Whether you're buying gifts or hosting holiday parties, you need to establish a budget and not exceed it. The people to whom you're giving gifts and entertaining do not expect you to dig yourself into a financial ditch on their account — and they wouldn't want you to do so, either.
- Compare prices. With some searching, you can almost always find less expensive versions of those gifts you're considering. But a word of caution: The earlier you start hunting for

bargains, the better your chances of finding good prices.

• Watch for "after-holiday" sales. The best bargains typically appear when the holidays are over. While these sales may not benefit you this year, they can prove quite valuable if you decide to "stock up" on gifts for the next holiday season.

• Don't over-use your credit cards. Try to limit your credit card purchases over the holidays. If you must use a card, at least pick the one with the lowest interest rate — and do the best you can to pay off the card quickly. Over the last few years, Americans have actually done a pretty good job of lowering their household debt levels — and that's definitely a movement in which you'll want to participate. Keep in mind that the higher your debts, the less money you'll have available each month to invest for retirement, college for your children or any of your other financial goals.

• Avoid dipping into long-term investments. If you find yourself coming

up short when dealing with holiday expenses, you may be tempted to cash out at least a portion of your long-term investments. But this should be avoided, for at least two reasons. First, depending on the account you're tapping into, you may face penalties, fees and taxes. Second, and perhaps even more importantly, you'll be depriving yourself of resources you had earmarked for your key goals, such as a comfortable retirement. Of course, you may eventually be able to replace the funds you've withdrawn. But in the meantime, you've lost out on the growth potential these investments may have provided — and that period of lost opportunity typically cannot be regained.

• Build a "holiday fund." It might be too late for this year but, once the holidays are over, set up a special account for next holiday season. Even if you put in only a small amount each month, you'll be pleased with how much you can accumulate in a year. Keep the money in a liquid, low-risk account — one that's separate from any money you use for your normal day-to-day expenses.

By following these suggestions, you may be able to take some of the stress out of this holiday season — and possibly even brighten all the other seasons of the year, too.

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At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

Gingerbread Lane –

Stroll down Gingerbread Lane and enjoy tasty gingerbread stories. Each child will make a simple gingerbread house. Preregistration is required and participant spots are limited. For families. Thurs., Dec. 6, 10:30 am.

Drop-in Craft Time -

Drop in at the library for some creative fun with this self-directed, holiday-themed activity. For families. Thurs., Dec. 13, 10:30 am.

Bookworms Adult Book Discussion -

Join us for a friendly, informal discussion and good company. For adults. Tues., Dec. 11, 10 am – *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London.



viewpoint

to the editor

To The Editor,
Dear Citizens of the city of Lowell,
Please comply with picking up leaves that you have blown or moved into the city street(s) bordering your property. Our great city is not bringing in the tax revenue to support what East Grand Rapids' citizens can do. Our city's public works department has contracted

a private street cleaning service to clean our streets, maybe three-four times per year.
Furthermore, if you do not want leaves plowed back onto your property, I suggest you attend to your leaves before it is too late.

Thanks,
Mike Lessens
Lowell



fire safety 411

by Captain Roger Reed

are you fire safe?

Do you have working smoke alarms? Do you have two ways out? Do you store combustible items too close to heat sources? These are all good questions to ask yourself, heading into the heating season.

One of the things the fire department stresses to children during station tours and school visits is having a good working smoke alarm.

Statistics show that a home structure fire is reported every 85 seconds and that most fatal fires kill one or two people. In 2010, fire departments in the United States responded to 369,500 home structure fires, resulting in 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths and \$6.9 billion in damages.

Having a working smoke alarm is essential to surviving a home fire. A recent Baltimore house fire claimed five lives. Investigators determined that combustible materials stored too close to a furnace burst into flames and caused the fire.

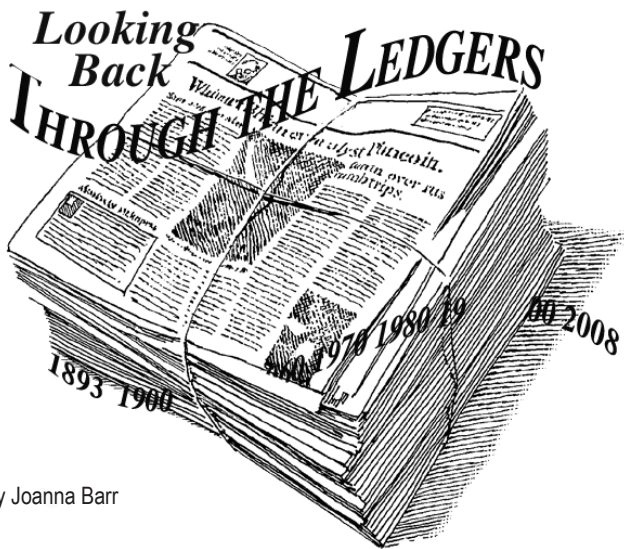
The fire began in the basement and spread quickly through the two-story brick home. The

chilly evening may have prompted the family to turn on the furnace. The Lowell Area Fire Department urges you to check your heating appliances to make sure combustibles materials, such as paint, paper, household cleaners and rags are at least three feet away.

Heating appliances include, but are not limited to, furnaces, water heaters, space heaters, and stoves. You should never store gasoline and other flammable materials in a home. Baltimore fire investigators found no evidence of smoke alarms in the home.

Have two ways out of every room in your home and practice your fire drill at least twice per year.

For those who can't afford a smoke alarm, need assistance installing one, or have other fire safety questions, please call the Lowell Area Fire Department.



By Joanna Barr

110 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 27, 1902

Headline: Sudden Death - James Abram of Parnell stricken with apoplexy. James Abram, aged about 71 years, while driving to Parnell Saturday, at 4 p.m. was stricken with apoplexy. A friend met him on the road and finding him in an unconscious condition took him to the home of Rev. Fr. Byrne, where he died in about ten minutes.

The dividend of 37 1/2 per cent which will be paid to creditors of the C. A. Church estate, will be turned over as soon as the accounts are allowed by the Probate court. Myron H. Walker, attorney for the creditors, announces himself as well pleased with the work of the Michigan Trust company, which has saved 57 1/2 per cent to the creditors out of what appeared a hopeless wreck. Later, creditors are now receiving their checks as per above.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 28, 1912

With over a score of cases of chicken pox of an unusual variety already reported in Muskegon Heights, an epidemic which will close the schools and perhaps even lead to the running through of all trains without stops, is feared.

More women wanted at the canning factory, 4 1/2 cents per pail for trimming. Apples good. Some make \$2 per day. - adv.

We will be in the market for large quantities of feather dressed poultry each week on Tuesday forenoon beginning Dec. 3d. Will pay as follows: Chicks 12c, fowls 11c, ducks 14c, geese 12c, turkeys 18c, for first shipment. E. B. Clemenz. - adv.

Peter Fineis has bought of Ed. Flynn his house, lot and barn on West Main street. He is making some alterations and will move his family into their new home about the middle of December.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo December 2, 1937

The centuries-old slogan of the theatre, "The play must go on" was lived according to tradition here last Sunday by the Strand theatre in spite of an automobile accident which all but completely wrecked the Strand car and in which the driver miraculously escaped death. The accident occurred on US-16 near Eagle as Emory Freisner was returning from Detroit with films for the afternoon and evening performances. A near-blizzard was in progress at this point and the pavement was a glare of ice, causing the car to get out of control and skid across the pavement into a bank of earth. It is reported that the car turned end for end and rolled over two or three times before coming to a stop. How Mr. Freisner escaped with only a scratch or two is a cause for wonder and congratulations. Frank VanDusen and Carl Havens left immediately for the scene of the accident and were back in Lowell with the films in time to start the matinee at 4 p.m.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 29, 1962

Lowell Light & Power crews took delivery on Monday of its new \$14,300 "Pole-Cat" line truck which will give them a safe and fast method of repairing and servicing lines and fixtures on the system. The truck, with its 40-ft. extension boom, pole auger and other specialized equipment, is expected to be a great help in improving the efficiency of the line crews.

The annual Fruit Cake Sale put on by the Lowell Area School bands have proved very satisfactory and nearly all of the cakes have been sold. If you have not as yet purchased one or want one before Christmas, you must get your order in before Tuesday, December 4 to one of the band members or call TW 7-7366 and you will be assured of a cake.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 2, 1987

Lowell received its first significant snowfall on Dec. 1 and as coincidence would have it the city was stringing Christmas lights. December and snowfall both serve as little reminders to help you realize that the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce lighting and decorating contest will be taking place on the week of Dec. 14. This year's contest will have two divisions: residential and commercial. All homes in the Lowell city limits, Eastgate and on Vergennes east of Lincoln Lake Road will be judged. Criteria for judging both the residents and commercial contests will be based on creativity, originality, design and overall effect. Judges will be chosen from Lowell citizens.

the lowell ledger

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Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

Baker named Staff Member of the Month

Karen (Ruby) Baker was named Murray Lake's Staff Member of the Month for October. Baker has worked for Lowell Area Schools for several years. She has been the head cook at Murray Lake for the past three years.

"Ruby is awesome. She is well organized and lunch goes off each and everyday without any glitches. Ruby is very friendly to our kids. The kitchen is an inviting place," commented principal Brent Noskey.

Baker has two adult daughters (Andrea Demsich, Courtney Krebill) and three adult sons (Jake, Adam and Caleb Baker) who all attended Lowell schools. She has also been blessed with four granddaughters and two grandsons.

"I couldn't be any more fortunate. The staff and students make each



day at Murray Lake a great experience and a wonderful place to be. They are all

amazing. I love seeing all their smiling faces," said Baker.

In her spare time Baker enjoys doing things with her children and grandchildren.

Archives of Michigan offers free, searchable 1884-1894 Michigan census data

The Archives of Michigan today announced that more than 62,000 Michigan state census records from 1884 and 1894 are now available to search and print for free at www.seekingmichigan.org.

"These records will help family history researchers track important data, such as more extensive information about women and children," said

Jessica Miller, archivist at the Archives of Michigan. "In Michigan prior to 1884, only numerical data about women and children was collected."

The state of Michigan conducted its own regular and special censuses at various times throughout history. Between 1854 and 1904, they were conducted every 10 years. Until 1884, census takers recorded

names and occupations only for men over the age of 21. They collected only numerical data about women and children.

In 1884, however, the information collected expanded considerably to include, among other statistics, the names of all residents, their ages and the number of years they had lived in Michigan. The 1884 and 1894 state census

records fill in gaps created when the 1890 federal census was destroyed in a 1921 fire.

Miller noted the collection of state census records is incomplete because many of the documents have been lost over time. She said two stories are told about why

Archives, continued, page 12

health



With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

reflux

Reflux or "GERD" is a digestive disorder that happens when acid from your stomach flows back into your esophagus. The acid irritates this area and causes symptoms. These symptoms could include chest pain, burning behind the sternum, difficulty swallowing, chronic dry cough, voice changes, feeling a lump in your throat, or having food or liquid come back up into your throat. Chest pain from reflux can often mimic pain that occurs from the heart.

A small band of muscle at the bottom of the esophagus should prevent acid from coming up. If it abnormally relaxes or becomes weak, the acid can come back up the esophagus. This causes inflammation and can lead to bleeding or

ulceratives. These are painful conditions. It can also cause narrowing of the esophagus and pre-cancerous changes.

Smoking, diabetes and obesity are common risk factors that increase the risk of developing GERD.

Sometimes an esophagoscopy gastroscopy duodenoscopy (EGD) is done to evaluate the problem. This is a tube with a camera on the tip that is passed down the esophagus. There is also an acid monitoring test that can be done called a pH probe.

Medications that either reduce the amount of acid or block the production of acid are used to treat this condition. Rarely, surgery is used if medications fail to cure the problem.



happy birthday!

NOVEMBER 28
Shelly Hildenbrand, Lee Miller.

DECEMBER 2
Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Karly Batt, Olivia Starkweather.

NOVEMBER 29
Gail Thomet, Kelly Sauber, Scott Swanson, Tara Propst, Ethan Pearson.

DECEMBER 3
Chris Chambers, Christine Gillies, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline, Jennifer Kovacs.

NOVEMBER 30
Jason Craig, Todd Ryder, Joe Kiczenski, April McClure.

DECEMBER 4
Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.

DECEMBER 1
Travis Briggs, Nate Schoen, Deb Anchors, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous.



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Celebrating laughter for the health of it!

Gilda's LaughFest announces 2013 festival

The nation's first-ever, community-wide festival of laughter, Gilda's LaughFest, announced its first round of key talent and shows lined up for the third year of the festival to be held March 7-17, 2013. Also made public during the morning announcement was a "\$50,000 Challenge" by the Wege Foundation to raise funds for Gilda's Club Grand Rapids Children's Grief Program.

LaughFest 2013 will include 200 plus free and ticketed shows that feature over 60 artists at 40-plus venues in Grand Rapids, Lowell and Holland during the 10 days of the festival. Ticketed shows will range

in price from \$7 to \$55.50, excluding the signature fundraising event.

Festival ticket packages will be available to the public beginning Friday, Nov. 30 at 9 am online at laughfestgr.org or by phone at (616) 735-HAHA (4242).

Among the entertainers announced are Grammy award winning comedian, Lewis Black; Saturday Night Live alum, Jim Breuer; Breaking Bad actor and comedian, Bill Burr; E! network host and actor on NBC's comedy series Community, Joel McHale; and one of the country's premier comedians, Brian Regan. Other acts include

L.A.-based comedy duo, Garfunkel and Oates; actor and comedian, Gary Valentine; and Food Network host and magician, Justin Willman. This year's signature event

an Emmy for his role on the improv comedy show, Whose Line Is It Anyway?

Officials announced that the Shaquille O'Neal All-Star Comedy Jam,

a touring comedy show which features O'Neal's favorite comedians, will be included in this year's lineup.

Comedians D.L. Hughley, Bruce Bruce, Finesse Mitchell and Gary Owen will all be a part of the Jam at LaughFest 2013.

Two additional shows also included in this year's festival are a live taping of popular podcast The Nerdist, hosted by Chris Hardwick. The weekly podcast is consistently in the iTunes' top ten list and mixes humor and nerd-related topics. Fortune & Friends will feature Fortune Feimster, a full-time writer and roundtable regular on E!'s popular late night talk show and Chelsea Lately who got her start in famed comedy improve troupe The Groundlings.

Rounding out today's announcements included a live stage show for kids. Strawberry Shortcake: Follow Your Berry Own Beat, with special guests The Doodlebops! will perform their show filled with music, dance and more. It is sure to get little

ones moving and grooving in their seats.

"We are excited about the continued growth of LaughFest and are extremely pleased to bring to West Michigan a third year of seriously funny talent and events," said Wendy Wigger, vice president of communications, Gilda's Club Grand Rapids. "We will continue to feature stand-up comedy, improv, music, dance, speakers, pets, children's shows, free professional and amateur showcases and a variety of other acts to give everyone the opportunity to laugh together." Wigger also noted that more announcements of talent and details will be made in the coming days.

An increased portion of this year's festival proceeds will go towards the growing grief programs and services for children, adults and families. These comprehensive programs include education, structured sharing times, networking, lectures, workshops and social activities.

"As part of our effort to raise additional funds specifically for grieving children and their families, we are launching a "High Five" campaign," shared Wigger. "The funds generated from this campaign will go directly to grow our Children's Grief Program."



will feature Wayne Brady. Brady currently appears as the host of CBS' Let's Make a Deal and previously won

USS Detroit Is Important to a City and a Nation



Sen. Carl Levin

In early November, I traveled to Marinette, Wis., just across the state line from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, to attend a ceremony that marked a very big day for me, for my wife, Barbara, for Michigan and for the country: the ceremonial "laying of the keel" of the new USS Detroit.

The ceremony is a revered naval tradition, marking the official beginning of the construction of a new ship. It was an honor to attend for many reasons, beginning with the fact that Barbara will serve as this ship's sponsor. Under Navy tradition, a sponsor is considered a permanent member of a ship's crew and expected to advocate for the well-being of both ship and crew. Barbara will be a tremendous sponsor for the USS Detroit and a great supporter of her crew.

It's also deeply significant to me that this ship will carry the name of Detroit. Barb and I have lived in Detroit all our lives. When Detroit hurts, so do we, and when it celebrates, it brings us great joy. Detroit is a proud, hard-working, tough, determined, resilient city, one that refuses to surrender, one unwilling to accept defeat. That's a pretty good role model for a combat vessel.

It's also meaningful that this ship will be the product of workers from two great states. While the USS Detroit will be built in Wisconsin, just across the Menominee River from our state, hundreds of Michigan workers at the Marinette Marine shipyard will help carry on Michigan's great legacy as an arsenal of democracy, a legacy earned during World War II.

This will be the sixth USS Detroit in the history of our Navy. Ships bearing that name have protected America and its interests in the waters off Brazil and off the coasts of China and Korea; shot down enemy planes attacking Pearl Harbor and witnessed the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay; and served in the Persian Gulf. All of us who call Detroit home are proud that once again, a USS Detroit will join her sister ships in flying America's flag on the oceans of the world.

As important as these personal connections are to me, far more important is the significance of this new ship for our nation and for the Navy's ability to defend us as we move through a turbulent era.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, I spend much of my time thinking about the national security challenges we face today, the myriad of threats and, especially in the current fiscal environment, the limited resources we have to meet them.

As global commerce grows, as more and more nations join the world marketplace, and as terrorists, criminals and rogue nations seek to create chaos and crisis, global security will increasingly depend on what happens in the world's littoral zones – the meeting place of land and ocean that surrounds the continents. Our military planners see conflict in coastal zones as a contingency for which we must prepare, especially in light of the increasing importance of Asia to global commerce and to U.S. national security.

Potential adversaries know that too. They also know that they can exploit

Levin, continued, page 9

Grand Rapids based Wege Foundation will match the funds raised through the "High Five" campaign. "Our goal is to secure \$50,000 worth of five dollar gifts from the community and the Wege Foundation will match every \$5 gift with \$5 of their own, up to \$50,000 in matching funds. We have the opportunity to generate \$100,000 for our Children's Grief Program, five dollars at a time," shared Wigger. Individuals interested in donating a "High Five" may do so by purchasing a button at a participating restaurant or business in the greater Grand Rapids area, by texting "LAUGH" to 20222 or by donating at laughfestgr.org.



LUNCH MENU



MON: Pancakes served w/ yogurt cup for dipping, warm cinnamon apples. Fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, peaches, fresh apples, milk.

TUES: Homemade cheese pizza, seasoned corn, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, grapes, pears, milk.

WED: Hot ham & cheese on a WG bun (WG mini corn dogs offered at Bushnell), steamed carrots, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, watermelon slices, mandarin oranges, peaches, milk.

THURS: Sloppy joe scoops, baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: red pepper strips, broccoli florets, applesauce, orange smiles, milk.

FRI: Chicken alfredo, steamed broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, cucumber slices, peaches, pineapple, milk.

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History Mystery ???

Do you know what this is?

Periodically, the Ledger with the help of Lowell Area Historical Museum, publishes a picture of something in the museum's collection. The following week the museum will supply a brief explanation and history of the artifact. At right, is this week's mystery.

Feel free to email the Ledger at ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com with your thoughts on this week's picture, then read the Ledger to see if you were correct.



Nonprofits and attorney general partner to help Michigan citizens give wisely

The Michigan Nonprofit Association, Council of Michigan Foundations, Michigan Association of United Ways and Attorney General Bill Schuette have partnered to give Michigan donors tips on how to give wisely to charity this holiday season.

The brochure, entitled "Giving Wisely," gives the

public tips on how to avoid scams and what questions to ask to ensure their gift will go towards programming instead of administrative costs.

"We are excited to be working with Attorney General Schuette on Giving Wisely," said Kyle Caldwell, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of

the Michigan Nonprofit Association.

"Giving Wisely is the commitment of Michigan nonprofits to work with government to educate and protect our donors from fraud, waste and abuse," said Caldwell.

With the end of the year fundraising appeals beginning for many

charities in addition to traditional holiday giving taking place, the free Giving Wisely brochure provides timely and critical advice to anyone making a donation.

"Michigan citizens have generous hearts, but before giving to charity,

Give wisely,
continued, page 9



Exciting New Format for 2012

2012 Holiday Gift Guide

Dec. 2 & 16 in Buyers Guide
Dec. 5 & 19 in The Lowell Ledger

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With purchase of an ad, feel free to submit an article with photo, highlighting a new product that you will be selling this holiday season.

Look for our New Years section in the Dec. 30 edition of the Buyers Guide, where you can thank your customers.

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Smith selected as Kent District Library's Volunteer of the Year

Kent District Library (KDL) was recently named a Star Library by Library Journal, thanks in part to its star volunteers. One of KDL's shining volunteers is Joy Smith, longtime president of the Friends of the Englehardt Library branch and current president of the KDL Alliance of Friends.

Smith recently received the Patricia Kaiser Volunteer of the Year award at a volunteer event at the Kentwood branch of KDL. The accolade is named in honor of Patricia Kaiser, a longtime volunteer at the Krause Memorial branch who passed away in March 2012 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Although she is very humble about her accomplishments, winning awards is nothing new to Smith. In 2009 she was selected as Woman of the Year by the Women's Club and in 2011 she was named Lowell Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year.

Smith serves KDL in countless capacities, predominately at the Englehardt branch in Lowell. She developed the popular book basket fundraiser, organizes the book sales, coordinates the Christmas through Lowell efforts, schedules adult programming and attends KDL events throughout the community, including parades, expos and the Farmers' Market.

"The patrons and staff of the Englehardt Branch have benefited in countless ways from Joy's creativity, energy and dedication over the last 19 years," said Kristin Meyer, branch manager of the Englehardt branch. "We are humbled and so thankful for her efforts. It is truly a joy to have a volunteer like Joy!"

In addition to her many volunteer projects at the library, Smith also volunteers at the Lowell Area Historical Museum and leads a book discussion at a local nursing home. "My

mother volunteered a lot so I come by this naturally," Smith said. "I always knew I would be a volunteer."

Smith joined the Friends of the Englehardt Branch in the early 1990s when her neighbor invited her to attend a meeting. She was a subdued member for a couple years, but that changed in 1994 when Smith retired. "I couldn't sit there quietly any longer," said Smith. "The group was becoming stagnant and had only seven members and I wanted that to change." Smith soon became the president of the group and has filled that role ever since.

The Friends group now has close to 50 members. Among other things, they do fundraising efforts for the Englehardt branch and have provided new furniture and a new book drop for the branch and have funded countless adult programs.

"I love the library and I love what we do," said Smith.



Joy Smith

Give wisely, continued

it's important to do your homework," said Schuette. "The tips in Giving Wisely will help citizens avoid scams and ensure their hard-earned dollars make a real difference in our communities."

"We hope this brochure will be a helpful tool for Michigan citizens to make a smart decision about where to donate their time and money" said Rob Collier, president and CEO of the Council of Michigan Foundations.

"Michigan charities need support from donors now more than ever; Giving Wisely equips Michiganders with the right questions and resources to make that gift count," said Scott Dzurka, president and CEO of the Michigan Association of United Ways.

Giving Wisely provides resources on where to gather information about Michigan charities and tips on how to donate your time and talents

to an organization. Giving Wisely is available through the attorney general's website is http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ag/MI_NonProfit_Assn_GiveWisely_369594_7.pdf, the Michigan Nonprofit Association's website is www.mnaonline.org and the Council of Michigan Foundations website is www.michiganfoundations.org

Levin, continued

the importance, and the vulnerability, of these important geopolitical intersections by trying to turn them into chokepoints where they can disrupt the flow of goods and people.

A crucial part of our answer to those challenges is a new class of ships, called Littoral Combat Ships, including the new USS Detroit. These ships are the flexible, adaptable multi-


taskers of the seas. Whether the mission is combatting pirates, clearing mines, supporting troops on land, or bringing aid at times of natural disaster, they can be quickly reconfigured to the task. And thanks to the innovative acquisition strategy recommended by the Navy and approved by the Congress late last year, America's taxpayers will get

more of these ships, in less time, and for less money.

So the USS Detroit will carry a great deal across the world's oceans: The labor of workers from two great states. The spirit of a great city. A great nation's beacon of liberty. May she serve long and well, and may her crews always come home to the embrace of a grateful nation.

I think we ought always to entertain our opinions with some measure of doubt. I shouldn't wish people dogmatically to believe any philosophy, not even mine.

~ Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)



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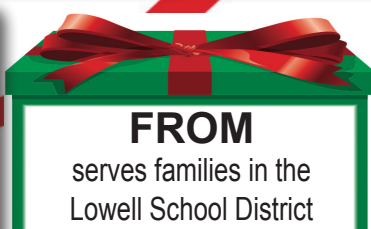
Christmas Distribution on Dec.15

Sign-Up for Christmas Distribution during Pantry Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 2-4:30 pm; Wednesday 5-7 pm and Friday 10 am - noon.

FOOD, TOYS & MONETARY DONATIONS

can be dropped off at the **FROM Food Pantry, 11535 Fulton St. E.** on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 13 and 14, between 10 am and 4 pm.

If we can be of assistance to your family with food and/or toys, please come to the Food Pantry to sign up.



FROM
serves families in the Lowell School District



Celebrating the

Sandwich

FAMILY FEATURES

Sandwiches are a delicious, easy and affordable way to enjoy a healthy meal any time of day. From satisfying meat-and-cheese combos, to sandwiches piled high with savory vegetables, to the many “PB and” combinations, the possibilities for outstanding sandwiches are limitless. But all the deliciousness starts with one key, wholesome ingredient — bread.

The complex carbohydrates in bread provide lasting energy that busy adults and youngsters need on a daily basis. A big key to maximizing your energy and health is taking a look at how you fill your plate in a balanced way. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA MyPlate program recommend eating six one-ounce servings of grain foods each day, half of which should come from whole grain sources.

To help you and your family get your “daily fix of six,” The Grain Foods Foundation has partnered with celebrity chef and sandwich aficionado Bryan Voltaggio to create these sensational sandwiches. To find more great sandwich recipes, visit www.gowiththegrain.org or GoWithTheGrain on Facebook and Twitter.



Bryan Voltaggio, chef
Photo courtesy of Under A Bushel Photography



The Banana, PB and Honey

Makes 6 sandwiches

- 12 slices enriched white bread
- 6 bananas, sliced
- 1 cup spiced peanut butter (see recipe)
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 ounces butter, at room temperature

Lay out two slices of enriched white bread on a cutting board.

Spread both slices of bread with peanut butter. Set one aside.

Take one slice and top with sliced bananas, then drizzle with honey. Place the reserved slice of bread on top.

Brush top and bottom of sandwich with room temperature butter.

If you own an electric sandwich maker or Panini press, place sandwich inside for 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 minutes. If you do not have a sandwich

press, place sandwich in a sauté pan on top of your stove, set at medium heat; and cook for 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 minutes on each side.

While cooking, combine cinnamon and the sugar in small bowl.

Remove sandwich and while still hot, season liberally with cinnamon and sugar.

Cut in half and serve while hot.

Spiced Peanut Butter

Yield 1 cup

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 3/4 teaspoons honey
- 1/8 teaspoon ginger powder
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon, ground

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl until well blended.

Place the peanut butter in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator for 6 to 8 weeks.

The Pastrami Reuben

Makes 6 sandwiches

- 12 slices rye bread
- 24 ounces sliced beef pastrami
- 12 slices Muenster cheese, thin
- 1 1/2 cups sauerkraut, prepared and drained
- 1/2 cup Thousand Island dressing
- 2 ounces butter, at room temperature

Lay out two slices of rye bread on a cutting board.

Top first piece of bread with one slice of Muenster cheese, then about 2 ounces of sauerkraut, 4 ounces (or roughly three to four thin slices) of pastrami, and a second slice of Muenster cheese. Set aside.

Spread second piece of bread with Thousand Island dressing, then place on top of the other half of the sandwich.

Brush top and bottom of sandwich with butter.

If you own an electric sandwich maker or Panini press, place sandwich inside for 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 minutes. If you don't have a sandwich press, simply place sandwich in a sauté pan on top of your stove, set at medium heat. Cook for 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 minutes on each side.

Remove sandwich and while still hot; cut in half and serve.

The Pilgrim

Makes 6 sandwiches

- 12 slices seven-grain bread
- 24 ounces turkey, sliced
- Orange Cranberry Compote, as needed (see recipe)
- Sage Cream Cheese, as needed (see recipe)
- 4 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
- Seasoning salt, to taste (see recipe)

Lay out two slices of seven grain bread on a cutting board.

Spread Orange Cranberry Compote evenly across one slice of bread. Set aside.

Spread Sage Cream Cheese evenly across second slice of bread, then top with about four ounces of turkey.

Place slice of bread with the Orange Cranberry Compote on top of turkey.

Brush top and bottom of sandwich with room temperature butter.

If you own an electric sandwich maker or Panini press, place the sandwich inside for 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 minutes. If you do not have a sandwich press, simply place the sandwich in a sauté pan on top of your stove, set at medium heat, and cook the sandwich for 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 minutes on each side.

Remove sandwich and while still hot, season liberally with seasoning salt. Cut in half and serve while hot.

Orange Cranberry Compote

Yield 1 cup

- 1/2 pound cranberries
- 1 orange, quartered
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Pepper, to taste

In medium sauce pot, cook cranberries, orange and sugar for approximately 20 minutes at a low simmer, then stir in a pinch of salt.

Remove pieces of orange, and pour into blender or food processor. Puree until smooth, then lightly season with pepper.

Sage Cream Cheese

Yield 2 cups

- 2 cups cream cheese, at room temperature
- 15 sage leaves, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

In bowl, combine cream cheese and sage using a rubber spatula, mixing well. Grate (or very finely chop) garlic, adding to bowl. Season to taste with salt.

Seasoning Salt

Yield 1 cup

- 1/4 cup sea salt
- 3 juniper berries, toasted and ground
- 1 orange, zested

Lightly toast juniper berries in a pan, then place in a spice grinder and blend.

Combine juniper, salt and orange zest in a mortar and pestle, and combine all evenly.



EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What was Proposition 37 in California that concerns the labeling of genetically modified foods and that was just voted down in that state? -- Peter Tremaine, Euclid, OH

Many healthy food advocates were disheartened on Election Day when Californians rejected Proposition 37, which would have required the labeling of genetically modified (GM) foods across the state. GM foods have had genes from other plants or animals inserted into their genetic code to optimize for one or another trait, such as resistance to pests, better taste or longer shelf life, and are controversial because scientists don't know the ramifications of mixing genetic codes on such a widespread scale.

While it was close, those against the so-called "California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act" prevailed, with 53.1 percent of the vote. The proposition called on food manufacturers to label foods containing GM ingredients on the front or back of the packaging with the phrase "partially produced with genetic engineering"—and not to label or advertise such foods as "natural." Proponents developed the proposition in lieu of federal action requiring labeling of GM foods...as exists in 50 other countries.

Proponents of the bill raised some \$9 million and garnered some 46.9 percent of the vote, indicating that upwards of four million Californians fear the potential effects of GM foods and are in favor of greater transparency on the part of the food industry. But such efforts weren't enough to overcome aggressive marketing by so-called Big Food companies including Monsanto, Coca-Cola, ConAgra, Nestle and Kraft, who poured some \$45 million into the "No on 37" campaign.

Backers of the proposition are crying foul. Public health lawyer Michele Simon reports that some of the companies involved in defeating the bill engaged in lying, scare tactics, misrepresentation and various dirty tricks "to protect their profits and keep California voters uninformed about their food choices."

"The No campaign listed four organizations in the official state document mailed to voters as concluding that 'biotech foods are safe,'" she says. "One of them, the

high food costs, "shakedown lawsuits" and "special interest exemptions" if the law passed: "While each of these claims is easily debunked, being outspent on ad dollars makes it hard to compete, especially when all you can really say is, 'that's not true'."

The battle over GM labeling in California may be over for now, but the war rages on nationally. Just Label It, a nonprofit started by Stonyfield Farm magnate Gary Hirshberg, is trying to persuade the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to require GM food labeling nationally. Readers can help by signing the campaign's online petition. Beyond that, Just Label It recommends eating more fresh vegetables and unprocessed foods (the vast majority of processed foods in the U.S. contain either GM corn or soy) and looking for the USDA Organic label, which precludes any foods containing GM ingredients.

CONTACTS: Yes on 37, www.carighttoknow.org; Just Label It, www.justlabelit.org.



Dear EarthTalk: What are "Clean Energy Victory Bonds?" -- Max Blanchard, Wilmington, DE

Green America, a non-profit membership organization that promotes ethical consumerism, created the "Clean Energy Victory Bonds" concept as a way to give everyday Americans the opportunity to invest in clean energy and related fields in a fashion similar to how the federal government raised billions of dollars for the war effort during World War II over a half century ago. At that time, four out of five American households purchased the original Victory Bonds, raising \$185 billion (over \$2 trillion in today's dollars) to support the war effort.

Green America first offered up the new spin on the Victory Bond idea in 2009 as something people on both sides of the political spectrum could get behind. The group has been lobbying federal officials and legislators to consider the benefits ever since. New legislation, the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act of 2012, introduced into the House of Representatives this past August by California Democrat Bob Filner and 10 other co-sponsors, gets Green America a step closer to turning their vision into a reality. More than 40 other non-profit and advocacy groups and green investment institutions have allied with Green America in supporting the legislation as well.

If the bill becomes law, the new Victory Bond program would generate some 1.7 million new jobs in and around the renewable energy sector across the United States, and would extend the imperiled Production Tax Credit and other federal renewable energy incentives for as long as a decade. The beauty of the plan is that it allows everyday Americans

to encourage cleaner, greener energy with a minimum investment and a guaranteed return—without requiring any direct budgetary allocations or expenditures by the federal government. Purchasers will be able to get in on the action for as little as \$25, and will get the purchase price back plus interest in 10 years. Furthermore, projects supported through Clean Energy Victory Bonds will create jobs and business revenues that will bring in federal tax dollars while simultaneously reducing health and environmental costs nationwide.

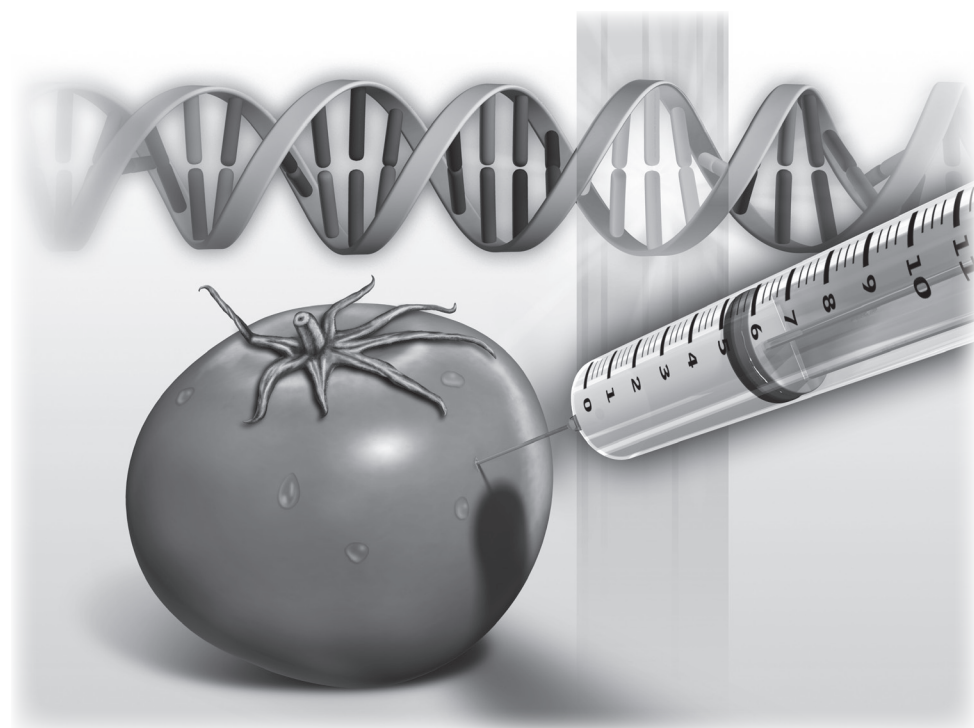
The bill was referred to committee and could potentially come up for a floor vote before year end. Green America is encouraging everyday Americans to call their Congressional representatives and ask them to support H.R. 6275. Another way to get behind the effort now is to pledge to buy the bonds (via cleanenergyvictorybonds.org) after the legislation passes.

Yet another way to help is by spreading awareness about the bill and the good that can come from its passage.

"Everyone who hears about this strategy loves it, because the bonds advance goals that both Republicans and Democrats can get behind," reports Green America, urging everyday folks to tweet, blog and talk about the campaign and legislation—and to post a link to cleanenergyvictorybonds.org on their Facebook pages—so more conscientious Americans will find out about and get behind the concept.

CONTACTS: Green America Clean Energy Victory Bonds, www.greenamerica.org/programs/climate/CEVB/; H.R. 6275, www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr6275ih/pdf/BILLS-112hr6275ih.pdf.

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American Council on Science and Health, is a notorious industry front group that only sounds legit. Another, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, actually has no position and complained about being listed..." The other two groups, the National Academy of Sciences and the World Health Organization, have more nuanced positions... than just "safe."

Simon also criticizes Big Food for its claims about

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obituaries

MAIER

Stephen Maier, age 21, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, November 25 in Denver, Colorado. He is survived by his parents, Beth Maier and Fred and Chris Maier; grandmother, Doris Maier; and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Steve was a 2009 graduate of Lowell High School. He had a love of music and of all things adventurous. He will be remembered by all who knew him as a wild and energetic spirit that brought life and laughter for the years we had him. Funeral services are pending at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home in Lowell.



THORNBURG

Helen C. Thornburg, age 83, of Grandville, peacefully went to be with the Lord, Friday, November 23, 2012. She was preceded in death by her former husband, Harry; infant daughter; son, Arville Lee Thornburg, Jr.; grandsons, Freddie and Joseph Oesch; granddaughter, Angela Thornburg. She is survived by her children, Leah (Gary) Monroe, Janet (Russ) Pickens-Meyers, Allen (Carol) Thornburg, Donna (Fred) Oesch, Lois (Les) Staunton, Harry Thornburg; daughter-in-law, Mary Thornburg-Osborn; brother, Richard (Santa) Potts; sisters, Eunice and Betty Swoger and Lucille Kirk; 28 grandchildren, 67 great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Monday, November 26 at the Apostolic Christian Church, Alto. Mr. Ted Steffen officiated. Interment at the Bowne Mennonite Cemetery, Alto. Memorial contributions may be made to the Apostolic Christian Church.



Social Security helps people with HIV/AIDS

December 1 is World AIDS Day. If you have HIV/AIDS and cannot work, you may qualify for disability benefits from Social Security. Your medical condition must be serious enough to prevent you from working for at least 12 months or expected to result in death.

We pay disability benefits under two programs: the Social Security disability insurance program for people who paid Social Security taxes; and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for people who

have little income and few resources. You may qualify for one or both of these programs.

The easiest and most convenient way to apply for disability benefits is online, at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

We can pay you SSI benefits right away for up to six months before we make a final decision on your claim if:

- You are not working;
- You meet the SSI rules about income and resources; and

Your doctor or other medical source certifies that your HIV infection is severe enough to meet our medical eligibility rules.

You can help speed up the processing of your claim by having certain information when you apply. This includes information about:

- The names and addresses of any doctors, hospitals, or clinics you have been to for treatment;
- How HIV/AIDS has affected your daily activities, such as cleaning, shopping,

cooking, taking public transportation, etc.; and

The kinds of jobs you have had during the past 15 years.

Social Security joins the President and government leaders, agencies, and organizations around the world in raising awareness of HIV infection and AIDS.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

Archives, continued

the state's copies of the schedules no longer exist -- they may have been donated to a paper drive during

World War II or destroyed in a 1951 state office building fire. A complete list of the counties and years available

online can be found at www.seekingmichigan.org under "Discover."

The Archives of Michigan is grateful to the Library of Michigan and the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library for their help in making these records available.

Among the organizations housed at the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, is the Michigan Historical Center, which includes the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Historical Museum. For online research assistance, please visit the archives site www.seekingmichigan.org and the Michigan e-Library, www.mel.org.

seekingmichigan.org and the Michigan e-Library, www.mel.org.

Seeking Michigan is administered by the Archives of Michigan through the support of the Michigan History Foundation.

The Michigan Historical Center is part of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its museum and archival programs help people discover, enjoy and find inspiration in their heritage. It includes the Michigan Historical Museum, 11 regional museums and the Archives of Michigan. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/michiganhistory.

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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Board held on November 19, 2012, Ordinance No. 03-2012 – amendments to the AG-1, AG-2 and R-1 zoning districts of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance were adopted, a summary of which follows:

These ordinance amendments will expand and clarify the land uses permitted in the AG1, AG2, and R-1 zoning districts; Add new definitions for certain uses; Add requirements and definitions for bio fuel production facilities in the AG-1 and AG-2 zones; Add requirements to allow the use of farm buildings for the temporary storage of vehicles; Amend Section 4.02 being the Schedule of Bulk Regulations to add and delete certain uses and amend the minimum lot size and setbacks for certain uses.

This Ordinance shall become effective December 5, 2012. A copy of the complete text of the ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI, 49331 during regular office hours or viewed on our website: www.twp.lowell.mi.us

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
 Lowell Charter Township

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

BOB'S 15TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRDHOUSE SALE - Great gifts, great selection, great prices. Bluebird, wren & bat houses, wood duck nesting boxes, bird & squirrel feeders. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

FREE HEAT - Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

FOR SALE - Lot on Bliss Rd., Saranac, taxed at \$14,000, make offer, possible land contract; 1/2 carat diamond, never worn, \$1,000; Savage shotgun, 20 gauge, over & under \$350; British 308/scope, 10-shot clip, \$250; Rem. model 66, nylon, 22, auto., \$150; Call 616-291-9116.

A BED - A brand new queen pillowtop mattress set in plastic, w/warranty, sacrifice, \$135. Call 989-584-6818.

2001 DODGE DAKOTA - 3.9L, good shape, runs good, asking \$3,200. OBO. 616-260-3977.

TWIN BED - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy), \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS IS LISTED - in the 2013 Lowell City Directory! If you run a business out of your home & do not have a business phone number in the Grand Rapids phone book, there is a charge to put your phone number in the Lowell City Directory. The cost is \$15. Your business name & phone number will be listed in the red pages & under 1 category in the yellow pages. Please call Tammy at 897-9560 or email: citydirectory@att.net for further info or to place your order. All orders must be paid by Dec. 31, 2012 to be included in the book.

for sale

ABED - New queen pillowtop mattress, \$100. Still in the plastic, must sell! 616-805-9282.

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

ATTENTION DEER HUNTERS - Signature Deluxe 23 cu. ft. chest freezer for sale. \$150. 616-676-0760.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

help wanted

NOW HIRING - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.

DRIVER WANTED - to chiropractor in Grandville, once a week. Call Linda at 897-9202.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.

NEEDED NOW! - Working single mom needs 3 bdrm house to rent. Have small pets. Call after 1:30 p.m. 616-255-6716.

for rent

A SPECIAL DEAL ON RENT AND \$99 SECURITY DEPOSIT! - Wooded View Apartments, 630 Johnson St., Ionia. **Pay only \$337-1 BR*, \$379-2 BR***. Section 8 vouchers welcome! Easy access to M-66. Plenty of storage. Rent based on income. TDD: 800-649-3777. EHO/Barrier free. *Limitations apply. **Call TODAY before we're full! 616-527-6266.**

ROOM FOR RENT IN LOWELL - \$50/wk, 616-634-7525.

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. **FREE All Vets Coffee Hour** at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

misc.

8TH ANNUAL MERRY MAKERS CRAFT SHOW - at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson, Lowell. Sat., Dec. 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CONCEALED CARRY CLASS - is being offered by Pfaller Firearms LLC in cooperation with Tri Town Conservation Club over two days on Dec. 5 and Dec. 8. Cost is \$100. For more information or to register for class e-mail jamespfaller@gmail.com

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Dec. 6, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Over 25 crafters/vendors to shop. Free kids crafts. Have a picture taken w/Santa. Enter to win over 25 door prizes donated by vendors. Sponsored by Bushnell-CCE Family Links PTO. Info: bushnell.cce.familylinks@gmail.com

services

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

services

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

B&T CONSTRUCTION - all of your remodeling needs: basements, kitchens, baths, decks, additions, garages, dry wall repair, textured ceilings, laminate floors. Competitive prices. 616-437-5162.

THOUGHTFUL THREADS - offering, but not limited to, mending, alterations & tailoring services. "Like" Thoughtful Threads on Facebook. Brandi, 616-987-4402.

LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY ADVOCATE - Call today for a free consultation, no fees unless you win. Life Transitions Therapy 238-2116.

GOT STRESS? GET A YOGA FIX! - Classes: 901 W. Main, \$8 walk-in. Mornings: Mon. 7:30, Sat. 9. Evenings: Tues. & Thurs., 6:30. Specials: thehammockllc.com; 893-5661.

services

ASSISTED LIVING - Email for brochure & pictures: AssistedLivingAlto@charter.net SE corner Kent County. Modern country home. Cathy 616-891-1840.

KID ZONE DAYCARE - has full-time openings starting Nov. 26, 2012. Located in Whispering Hills and offering large indoor and outdoor play areas. 616-889-8384 for interview.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS - for drums, guitar & trumpet. 10 years exp. Affordable. 1st hour lesson is a free trial. Your home or mine. Jake, 881-1535.

NEW BUSINESS RELOCATING FROM NE MICHIGAN - Anderson Painting Co. We offer: interior/exterior painting, commercial, remodels & new homes, wood stripping & refinishing, sandblasting, power washing. Neat, clean, very dependable, professional. References, portfolio available. Licensed & insured. Lowell, 616-260-3977.

services

ATTENTION SENIORS AMERICAN OUTLAW LIMOS - is now running a senior discount on casino trips and more. Call today for details, 616-706-4562.

found

FOUND DOG - (Terrier mix) at M50/Thompson Rd. Call 616-693-2490 w/detailed description to claim.

card of thanks

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all our relatives, friends and neighbors for the kindness and sympathy shown us during our recent loss. Thank you for the prayers, flowers and memorial contributions. A special thank you to Pastor Ken Ford for his comforting words and the Gerst Funeral Home and the Alton Bible Church for the delicious luncheon following the service.

The family of
Virginia Wingeier

Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & **ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN**. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

ALTO LIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.

COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL - Come meet & have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers. First Saturday of each month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, Lowell. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/adult programs available, Call Shawna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://mi222.miwg-cap.org

ADULT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - Every Tues., 6-7:15 p.m., for adults diagnosed with cancer. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

FREE SENIOR COFFEE - Every fourth Friday, 8-9 a.m., sponsored by Laurels of Kent, Lowell McDonalds, 1300 W. Main St.

MOMS IN TOUCH GROUP - forming for Alto Elementary. Call Suzanne for more info, 868-7337.

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES - offered at Lowell Family Medical Center. Call 616-446-7058 to register. The class runs for 8 weeks. Evening & weekend sessions are available. Time & dates will be determined by those registered.

LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB - Meets the second Wed. of each month, Sept. - May, 11:45 a.m., Schneider Manor. For more information call Jan at 897-2533.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A Christ centered program to help overcome life's hurts, habits, hangups. Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, www.impact-church.org or www.celebraterrecovery.com

KID CRAFT SATURDAY - Third Saturday of each month. Drop in anytime between 9 a.m. - noon. Make a craft & take it home. All ages are welcome. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS - Fun at Calvary for boys & girls preschool - 8th grade. Cadets for boys 1st - 8th; GEMS for girls 3rd - 8th; Kingdom Kids for boys & girls preschool - 2nd grade. 1125 W. Main, Lowell. Ph. 897-7060, email: lowellcalvarycyrcc@yahoo.com

LOWELL - Varsity sporting events, concerts, school board meetings, city council meetings, etc., can be downloaded for viewing from the www.wlhistv.org website. Many athletic contests & concerts can also be heard 'live' from the www.wlhrsradio.org website.

FIT CLUB - Every Tues. at 9 a.m., Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

LOWELL ROTARY CLUB - meets each Wednesday at noon at Lowell City Hall. New members welcome.

CARVING CLUB - Thursdays from 6:30-8 p.m. New members welcomed. Call for information, 616-752-0096.

OVEREATER ANONYMOUS - Thursdays, 9 a.m., 101 E. Main St. For information call 745-8520.

KNITTING 101 - Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - noon. Beginners to advanced welcome at Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

KNITTING 101 - Every Tues., 10 a.m. - noon, learning knitters to advanced at Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main St., Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

OUT OF THIS WORLD PARTY - Thurs., Nov. 29, 10:30 a.m. Galactic games, stellar stories & alien activities for all ages. Come dressed as an astronaut or space creature & enjoy the fun at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, 784-2007.

FOOD FOR FINES - Nov. 1 until Dec. 15. For every food item donated, Clarksville Area Library will waive \$1 of library fines up to \$10. See library staff for details at Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main St., Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

OPEN AA MEETING - Children welcome. Supervision provided by club. 10 a.m. Tues. Serenity Club.

GINGERBREAD LANE - Thurs., Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m. Gingerbread stories for all ages. Each child will make a simple gingerbread house at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Pre-registration required, call 784-2007.

WEE WEDNESDAYS - Every Wednesday, 11-11:20. Rhymes, stories, songs & fun for adult & baby. Babies birth to 17 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

GRIEF - ADULT GROUP - Each Tuesday, 6-7:15 p.m. A committed group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

GRIEF - KIDS GROUP - Second & fourth Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. A committed group for children in first - fourth grade on a grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR - Third Thursday of each month at the Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Bring a friend. Call 868-7426 or 897-8303 for more information.

GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEETING - Call the clubhouse to schedule your introductory meeting for grief support groups. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

TEEN GROUP - CANCER AND GRIEF - First & third Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. A committed group for teens in ninth - twelfth grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities & discussion. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

NOOGIELAND - Tuesdays 6-7:15 p.m. Supervised play for children kindergarten or younger on a cancer or grief journey. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

LAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS Main Gym

12/4 at 7:30 p.m. Byron Center*
 12/7 at 7:30 p.m. Union*
 12/11 at 7:45 p.m. Northview
 12/14 at 7:45 p.m. Greenville*
 12/18 at 7:45 p.m. FH Northern
 12/21 at 7:45 p.m. FH Eastern*
 1/4 at 7:30 p.m. Lakewood
 1/11 at 7:45 p.m. Kenowa Hills
 1/14 at 7:45 p.m. Jenison
 1/18 at 7:45 p.m. FH Central*
 1/22 at 7:30 p.m. East Kentwood
 1/25 at 7:45 p.m. East GR*
 1/29 at 7:45 p.m. Caledonia
 2/1 at 7:45 p.m. GR Christian
 2/5 at 7:45 p.m. Jenison*
 2/8 at 7:45 p.m. FH Central
 2/15 at 7:45 p.m. East GR
 2/19 at 7:45 p.m. Caledonia*
 2/22 at 7:45 p.m. GR Christian*

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS Main Gym

12/11 at 6 p.m. Northview
 12/14 at 6 p.m. Greenville*
 12/18 at 6 p.m. FH Northern
 12/21 at 6 p.m. FH Eastern*
 12/27 & 12/28 time TBD GR Catholic Central Tournament
 1/4 at 7:30 p.m. Lakewood*
 1/11 at 6 p.m. Kenowa Hills
 1/15 at 6 p.m. Jenison
 1/18 at 6 p.m. FH Central*
 1/25 at 6 p.m. East GR*
 1/29 at 6 p.m. Caledonia
 2/1 at 6 p.m. GR Christian
 2/5 at 6 p.m. Jenison*
 2/8 at 6 p.m. FH Central
 2/12 at 7:30 p.m. Cedar Springs
 2/15 at 6 p.m. East GR
 2/19 at 6 p.m. Caledonia*
 2/22 at 6 p.m. GR Christian*
 2/26 at 7:30 p.m. Union

BOYS' VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

* Denotes a home meet at E. Kentwood Ice Arena

12/1 at 6 p.m. GR Christian
 12/8 at 7 p.m. Bay Area Thunder at Essexville-Garber HS
 12/14 at 8:20 p.m. Kettering Tournament at Waterford Kettering HS
 12/21 at 8 p.m. Jenison*
 12/22 at 3 p.m. West Ottawa
 1/5 at 4 p.m. Jenison
 1/12 at 5 p.m. Portage Northern
 1/18 at 8 p.m. Creston*
 1/19 at 7 p.m. Northview
 1/26 at 2 p.m. Bay Area Thunder*
 2/1 at 8 p.m. Mattawan*
 2/2 at 4 p.m. Manistee*
 2/6 at 8 p.m. Creston
 2/8 at 7 p.m. GR Christian*
 2/9 at 2 p.m. Wayland Union*
 2/13 at 8 p.m. West Catholic
 2/15 at 8 p.m. Lanse Creuse*
 2/16 at 2 p.m. West Catholic*
 2/22 at 8 p.m. Northview*

GIRLS' VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a home meet in Auxiliary Gym

1/2 at 6 p.m. Triangular Friendship Meet*
 1/9 at 7 p.m. FH Northern*
 1/14 at 7 p.m. Rockford
 1/16 at 6 p.m. East Kentwood
 1/19 at 10 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
 1/21 at 7 p.m. Kenowa Hills*
 1/28 at 7 p.m. FH Northern
 2/4 at 7 p.m. Rockford*
 2/6 at 7 p.m. East Kentwood*
 2/13 at 7 p.m. Kenowa Hills

BOYS' VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a home meet at LHS Main Gym

12/5 at 7 p.m. Cedar Springs*
 12/15 at 9:30 a.m. Wilmington Quad
 12/19 at 7 p.m. Jenison
 12/29 at 10 a.m. Lowell Super Duals*
 1/9 at 7 p.m. GR Christian/East GR
 1/12 at 9 a.m. Gary Rivers Memorial Tournament*
 1/18 at 5 p.m. Triangular at Cherry Creek Elementary
 1/20 at 11 a.m. Detroit CC at MSU
 1/23 at 7 p.m. Caledonia
 1/25 at 5 p.m. Triangular at Middle School Gym

BOYS' & GIRLS' VARSITY SKIING

* Denotes event held at Cannonsburg Ski Area

1/8 at 4 p.m. Tournament*
 1/15 at 4 p.m. Tournament*
 1/22 at 4 p.m. Tournament*
 1/25 Caberfae
 1/29 at 4 p.m. Tournament*
 2/5 at 4 p.m. Tournament*
 2/14 Regionals*

GIRLS' VARSITY COMPETITION CHEER

* Denotes a home meet at LHS

12/22 Gobels Invitational
 1/5 Belding Invitational
 1/12 at noon Gull Lake Invitational
 1/16 at 6:30 p.m. Jamboree at GR Christian
 1/19 Allendale Invitational
 1/23 at 6:30 p.m. Jamboree at Northview
 1/30 at 6:30 p.m. Jamboree*
 2/2 at 10 a.m. Kenowa Hills Invitational
 2/4 Thornapple Kellogg Invitational
 2/6 at 6:30 p.m. Conference at Cedar Springs

For More Information please visit
www.lowellschools.com
 Be sure to read the Lowell Ledger for
 coverage of the LAS Varsity Winter Sports.

**THEME:
REALITY TV**

ACROSS

1. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
6. Christian minister, abbr.
9. "Jersey Shore" stars jump in and out of them
13. Popeye's gal
14. "... ___ he drove out of sight"
15. Cuba Gooding, Jr. 2003 role
16. Calculus calculation
17. "Lend me your ___"
18. Furnish with a fund
19. "Bravo" cook
21. *TV's largest family
23. Toni Morrison's "___ Baby"
24. It's everywhere you want to be?
25. Y, so to say
28. Places
30. Curved, as in foot
35. Argonauts' propellers
37. Shakespearean "does"
39. Type of TV show
40. Actress ___ Perlman
41. Erasable programmable read-only memory
43. Echoed by the flock
44. John ___ of The Age of the Enlightenment
46. Fodder holder
47. Painter ___ Chagall
48. Like an adoring mom
50. Carbon monoxide

CROSSWORD														
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NOVEMBER 21 - NOVEMBER 27

- Police in Toronto, Canada, say a man has been charged in the alleged theft of thousands of toys and donations from the Salvation Army. It is alleged that up to 100,000 items, worth \$2 million, were stolen from the Salvation Army's facility. The items will be returned once officials have taken an inventory.
- Conservative lobbyist Grover Norquist vowed to drive Republicans out of office if they didn't pledge to oppose tax increases. Many lawmakers signed on. Not any more. Several senior Republicans are breaking ranks, willing to consider raising more money through taxes as part of a deal with Democrats to avoid a budget meltdown.
- Governor Chris Christie, of New Jersey, announced Monday that he will seek reelection so he can continue helping his state through a recovery effort after hurricane Sandy.
- The actor best known for playing J.R. Ewing on "Dallas" and Major Tony Nelson on "I Dream of Jeannie" died Friday of cancer. Larry Hagman was 81.
- A condemned man trying to delay his execution because of his extreme weight hasn't raised enough new issues to warrant the legal challenge, a federal judge ruled Monday. Death row inmate Ronald Post, 53, is asking the courts to stop his January execution on the grounds his weight could cause him to suffer severe pain during the procedure. He weighs in excess of 400 lbs. The state is opposing Post's requests to delay his execution. His execution is scheduled for Jan. 16.
- Actor Angus T. Jones, the child star who has made millions on the TV show "Two and a Half Men", has found religion. He is now telling viewers to stop watching the show saying it is "filth."

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| lacks this | 68. Pool problem | 24. Venomous talk |
| 52. Heavy-duty cleaner | 69. Faulkner's "As I Lay ___" | 25. *MTV's "The Real ___" |
| 53. D in DINK | 70. Yes move | 26. Cowboy's cry of joy |
| 55. Blue | 71. Writer behind a writer | 27. Not slouching |
| 57. *Like a certain TV race | 72. Cold ___ | 29. *Entering its 25th season |
| 61. Exposes | 73. Gloppy stuff | 31. Pull an all-nighter |
| 65. Actor Matt ___ | 74. *John and Kate plus how many? | 32. Middle Eastern porter |
| 66. Rocks in a bar | | 33. Salon file |
| | | 34. *So you think you can do this? |
| | | 36. Goes well with sushi |
| | | 38. Phone button |
| | | 42. Natasha Fatale's enemy |
| | | 45. Concluding or finishing |
| | | 49. *It's often bought on "Pawn Stars" |
| | | 51. What pirates do |
| | | 54. Wine ripening |
| | | 56. Indian metropolis |
| | | 57. Contributes |
| | | 58. Waldorf salad ingredient |
| | | 59. Arabian chieftain |
| | | 60. Type of defense |
| | | 61. Word processor command |
| | | 62. Bug-eyed |
| | | 63. Mascara site |
| | | 64. Badger's den |
| | | 67. Bird word |

DOWN

1. Electrical unit
2. Hodgepodge
3. Like one who lacks confidence
4. Put out on a curb
5. "___ Weapon"
6. Great Barrier ___
7. E in BCE
8. "Rigoletto" composer
9. "The Big ___ Theory"
10. Primary source for Scandinavian mythology
11. Late designer Christian ___
12. Girl hogs
15. Perceive or think about in a particular way
20. Grind down
22. *Future home network for "Partners in Crime"

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4			7					

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 12

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Community Thanksgiving dinner serves over 150

Ellen Mork
Contributing Reporter

Thanksgiving got a little cozier this year as more than 150 people gathered to share their meals together. In its fourth year, the Lowell Community Thanksgiving dinner has continued to grow. The dinner was hosted at the First Congregational Church (FCC) and sponsored by Lowell area churches as well as several other local organizations.

The idea for Thanksgiving dinner was conceived over four years ago by members of the FCC as a way to address several pertinent issues. This one event brings the community together, offers a free meal, and gives many a simpler solution to cooking Thanksgiving dinner.

Members of the FCC and the United Methodist Church planned the dinner,

secured donations, and advertised. Lori Ingraham, a planning committee member, said she loves "the opportunity to work with people from other churches."

None of this would have been possible without the community's support. More than fifty volunteers helped over a period of three days, from the cooking to the serving.

The food was purchased through donations from individuals throughout the Lowell community. Several local businesses, including Heidi's Farm Market and Flat River Outreach Ministries also donated food. Any money that was not used will be donated back to FROM.

Three meals were served on the hour from noon to two. In addition,

meals were prepared for shut-ins and delivered for free by volunteers.

Shannon Hanley, a member of the planning committee said, "this is a great way for our community to come together and celebrate everything we have to be grateful for."

For the Mitchell family, this was an opportunity to give back to their community while spending time together. The children eagerly cleared plates as diners finished eating and their Dad was glad to give them the chance to help others.

Diane Barnes, a member of the United Methodist Church, was pleased with the turnout and overall atmosphere. She is happy that this opportunity exists for "people who have nowhere else to go."

Barnes echoed Ingraham's sentiment saying, "this event shows wonderful cooperation between churches."

Dinner was the largest this year, both in amount

of volunteers and meals provided. They hope to continue to grow next year by involving more churches, local organizations, and families.

The beauty of this dinner is that the entire community is invited, and nobody is turned away.



Volunteers serve food at the dinner.

Lowell Area Schools' energy savings nets national award

Faculty and staff at Lowell Area Schools have consistently paved the energy conservation pathway for other organizations while achieving significant savings with energy-efficient behavior — and now those good habits are earning the organization national recognition.

Lowell Area Schools has achieved a 44 percent energy cost savings totaling \$4,813,199 in a 105 month program since forming a strategic alliance with Cenergistic. The national energy conservation company will present superintendent Greg Pratt with its Chairman's Sustainability award at the board meeting November 12. The award lauds the organization's success in implementing the company's Cenergistic energy management

program—a comprehensive organizational behavior-based approach to energy conservation at all levels of the organization.

"Sustaining this level of energy conservation is a significant achievement. Through the years, Lowell Area Schools has done an excellent job of implementing Cenergistic's energy management program. The superintendent and board, along with other administration, faculty and staff members are to be commended for clearly fulfilling their commitment to being good stewards of the taxpayers' money and the environment," said Dr. William S. Spears, CEO and founder of Energy Education, Inc. "Strong support from superintendent Pratt and the board have created a system-wide culture of conservation and cooperation that will ensure

even greater success well into the future," Spears said. "I am extremely pleased to present Lowell Area Schools with our Chairman's Sustainability award. The system joins a very committed, elite group of organizations across the country working hard to conserve energy so that dollars saved can be reserved for educational needs," said Spears. Pratt said "Every dollar we don't spend on energy is available to us to improve our facilities and add to our instructional programs. The challenge is that saving significant energy dollars requires the consistent execution of hundreds of energy saving actions by hundreds of staff members and educators every minute of every day. Yet every day our people are doing what most people struggle to do for even one day in their own homes."

A key benefit of the Cenergistic program is that it is self-funded and guaranteed. All program costs come out of the existing utility budget. The program's savings pay for the program, as they have for Lowell Area Schools. Additional savings can be reserved for other parts of the budget. Many organizations credit the program with helping fund personnel and programs that would otherwise have fallen victim to budget cuts — a very real concern with today's economic crisis.

Part of the Cenergistic energy management program involves Jim White working with Cenergistic to analyze every energy-use point in the organization, resulting in a plan to use energy wisely while eliminating waste. As energy specialist, he continually reviews energy use,

updating plans as programs and seasons change and performs frequent energy audits to ensure that proper conservation practices are used consistently throughout the system. "We encourage, educate and motivate our people to be part of the solution, not part of the problem," says superintendent Pratt.

To measure and verify program success, the energy specialist tracks energy consumption — including electricity, water, sewer, and natural gas— using energy-accounting software. He compares current energy use to a baseline period and calculates the amount of energy that would have been used had conservation and management practices not been implemented. Tracking consumption and analyzing energy use meter-by-meter, he can quickly identify and correct areas that need

attention. Cenergistic's innovative energy management program trains client personnel to implement behavioral and organizational change that substantially reduces energy consumption without the purchase of new equipment. The program is funded solely and rapidly by the savings it generates, allowing clients to redirect saved energy dollars to other priorities. In 26 years, Cenergistic has worked with more than 1,250 educational, ministry and health care organizations, helping clients save over \$3.0 billion in utility costs. Cenergistic earned the 2011 and 2012 Energy Star Sustained Excellence Award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and was named Energy Star Partner of the Year for 2009 and 2010.

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