

Citizens to benefit from long-term utility assistance program - FROM receives \$35,000 grant from Michigan Public Service Commission

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Lowell Light & Power subscribers may have noticed that they have been paying an extra 99 cents to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). Their goal is to make life better for people in Michigan and as of last week the people of Lowell are among the many who will benefit from a Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) grant from MPSC.

"Basically that 99 cents is coming back to the community through this grant," Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) director Tamela Spicer said.

Spicer was surprised when she found out that the non-profit qualified for the grant. Many of the grants given out by MPSC are for amounts of \$500,000 or more and are given to

large organizations like the Salvation Army, which can be found statewide.

FROM qualified for a \$35,000 grant that will allow them to help their clients in ways they've never been able to afford. Previously, FROM was able to work with clients for up to 12 months with a \$400 cap on financing. With this grant, the term of service will be extended and clients will be given an average of \$1200 in utility assistance.

First and foremost, those involved in the new FROM program will have help with their immediate utility needs. In other words, funding will be provided to keep the utility service from being shut off. The next step of this program is to work with a coach in order to budget for utilities.

Included with this step is a full professional energy audit. Finally, clients will be hooked up with Neighbor 2 Neighbor and other resources for long-term maintenance.

While \$35,000 doesn't sound like a small amount to many, it is in terms of the MEAP grant. Spicer requested this small amount for two reasons: FROM does not have the capacity to

assist more than 25 families in this way at the current time and those involved wanted to make certain that the \$35,000 investment was

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Judge rules Detroit eligible for bankruptcy

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes has ruled that the city of Detroit has met the legal criteria required to receive protection from its creditors. With that the city of Detroit has become the largest municipality in the United States to enter into Chapter 9 bankruptcy. The verbal ruling will be followed by a 140-page written opinion.

According to reports the judge said, "The court finds that Detroit was and is insolvent," he said. "The court finds that the city was generally not paying its debts as they became due."

After more than four months of uncertainty over how to solve approximately \$18 billion in debt Judge Rhodes exclaimed "It is indeed a momentous day." Rhodes will allow pension cuts and emphasized that he won't necessarily agree to those pension cuts in the city's final reorganization plan unless the entire plan is fair and equitable. The ruling followed a nine-day bankruptcy eligibility trial that ended on November 8.

The following is part of a joint statement issued on behalf of the Boards of the

General Retirement System, the City of Detroit and the Police and Fire Retirement System of the City of Detroit.

"We respectfully disagree with the Court's ruling and intend to appeal the decision in order to uphold the Pensions Clause of the State Constitution under Tenth Amendment principles. The Pensions Clause of the Michigan Constitution absolutely bars any attempt by the City to cut or impair accrued pensions, no matter the reason. The State Constitution represents the people's will. That will cannot be ignored or subverted because it's financially convenient to do so, or because slashing pensions allows for a city to escape from its constitutionally protected pension benefit obligations. "The General Retirement System Board and the Police and Fire Retirement System Board have and will continue to work in good faith with all stakeholders to find the best outcomes to benefit Detroit, our members, retirees and beneficiaries."

Community Thanksgiving table welcomes over 100 guests

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

More than 150 community members enjoyed a free, hearty meal on their day of thanks at The Lowell Community Thanksgiving Dinner which was held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ (FCUCC) this past Thursday.

Celebrating its fifth year, this event is organized by the hosting FCUCC, the Lowell First United Methodist Church and is also assisted



Families volunteered together at the community minded event.



Dinner guests of all denominations lined up for the full service Thanksgiving dinner.



Nancy and Ron Wood stirring up some dinner.

by several other local churches and ministries.

This year an amazing 85 volunteers took on roles cooking, serving, greeting and table servicing to make the event a success.

Guests sat at festively decorated tables covered in linen tablecloths and dined from glass dishes offering the comfort and ambiance of an at-home holiday. The extensive menu included the traditional fare: turkey, stuffing, sweet and mashed potatoes and green bean casserole. Delicious dessert options included cookies and both pumpkin and apple pies.

Event coordinator Shannon Hanley, who worked busily throughout the event, reported the dinner served a total of 14 turkeys, 75 pounds of potatoes and nearly 15 pies. She expressed hope for the event's growth in the future stating, "We want it to be bigger next year!"

50 CENTS



Utility assistance, continued

a success before they asked for more.

“If we do this well, we can go back and apply for more funding,” Spicer said.

The goal of this first phase is to assist these 25 families in such a way that they will be beyond the need for future assistance at the

end of their tenure with the program.

For a family to qualify for this program they must be within 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Income guidelines. In 2013, a family of four will qualify assuming they have a total annual income of \$35,325.

In order to get a sense of how many people fall within this statistic in Lowell, 35 percent of children in Lowell Area Schools qualify for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. After adding seniors and families without children of school age into

the mix, the amount of people in need in the Lowell community is staggering.

FROM signed the agreement in the past week for the MEAP grant and the assistance program will launch in early December.



along main street

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Nov. 29 through Dec. 22, Mon.-Fri., 9 am – 7 pm, Sat. 9 am – 6 pm, and Sun. 12 pm – 5 pm at 677 Lincoln Lake SE, Lincoln Lake Business Park. All proceeds donated to American Cancer Society, Lowell Area Relay For Life.

ROGUE RIVER ARTISANS

The 31st annual Rogue River Artisans juried fine art and crafts holiday sale will be at Lowell High School from 9 am to 4 pm on Sat., Dec. 7 including 120 of the area’s finest artisans and craftsman.

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Come meet and have a cup of coffee with our city councilmembers on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS

The Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) will be hosting a special open house before the Christmas parade on Dec. 7 from 2 to 5 pm. Civil War historian, Bruce Butgergeit will be present to present “A Civil War Christmas.” Traditional Christmas decorations, civil war era clothing and exhibits and children will have an opportunity to create a Victorian Christmas card for a Veteran at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Holiday treats like those served in the 1860s will be served. Contact LAHM at 897-7688 for more information. Admission is free.

MOOSE KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come see Santa at the Moose Rec. Hall on Dec. 7, from 11 am to 1 pm and get your picture taken. There will be arts and crafts and snacks. Open to the public, all ages welcome.

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.

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Michigan retailers applaud U.S. Supreme Court action on Main Street Fairness

The Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) today cheered the U.S. Supreme Court’s refusal to hear two major online merchants’ challenge to New York state legislation forcing them to collect state sales tax and said the action gives a “green light” to current efforts to enact similar Michigan Main Street Fairness legislation.

“Retailers all across Michigan applauded the action by the U.S. Supreme Court because it removes an excuse that critics have used to hold up passage of legislation to remove the six percent price advantage Michigan government gives to out-of-state online retailers,” said James P. Hallan, president and CEO.

“The action gives a green light to our legislative efforts in Michigan. It’s critically important and timely news for Cyber Monday.”

The Court declined to get involved in petitions from Amazon and Overstock.com to review a decision by New York’s highest court to uphold that state’s 2008 Main Street Fairness law requiring sales tax collections on merchandise sold to New York residents. Amazon has no distribution centers or employees in New York but sells to residents through third-party affiliates, which the 2008 law said constitutes a physical presence.

Similar legislation pushed by MRA was introduced in the Michigan House in 2011 and again this year. House Bills 4202 and 4303, sponsored by Rep. Eileen Kowall (R-White Lake) and Rob VerHeulen (R-Walker), cleared the House Tax Policy Committee in September and await action by the entire House. Similar bills were introduced in the Senate (SB 658 and 659) by Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Flint) last month and await consideration by the Senate Economic Development Committee.

Michigan Retailers Association represents nearly 5,000 members and their more than 15,000 stores and websites in Michigan. Retailers provide more than 850,000 jobs in Michigan.

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Never hold discussions with the monkey when the organ grinder is in the room.

~ Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

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Deposit for recycle bins to increase 150 percent

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The deposit citizens pay for recycle bins will be increasing from \$10 to \$25 according to a motion passed at the city council meeting Monday, Dec. 2.

“We ask for a \$10 deposit on the bins and they’re really pretty nice bins and you probably can’t go out and buy one for \$10,” said city manager Mark Howe. “You may have some people who are coming in and just giving us \$10 for the bin and not recycling and using it for totes and storage and that kind of stuff. So the thought was maybe we ought to increase the deposit.”

Howe said the city does not expect a decrease in the number of residents who recycle.

“We don’t think it’ll have an impact on people that want to recycle,” Howe said.

Howe said that brand new bins cost the city about \$8.

“The \$25 recommendation is more based on, you can’t really go out and

buy one of these for \$25 and they really are meant for a single purpose,” Howe said.

The motion to increase the deposit passed four to one, with councilperson Jeff Altoft the sole dissenting vote. It was not stated when the increase will take effect.

About 20 residents attended the otherwise uneventful meeting. Also in attendance were several boy scouts from Troop 102 in Lowell. They were at the meeting working their way toward earning citizenship and community badges.

Lowell applied for a S.A.W. (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater Program) grant.

“The S.A.W. grant was filed today,” Howe said. “Today was the first day it could be filed. They have 180 days to review and make recommendations.”

If Lowell is one of the towns selected for the grant it would pay a portion of the city’s costs for creating an asset management plan, something Lowell is required to do anyway.

There are currently vacancies on the light and power board, the downtown historic commission, the planning commission and the arbor board.

“We’ll be looking to citizens to apply and/or communicate with the city clerk or myself if you’d be interested in serving the community in any of those positions,” said mayor Jim Hodges.

The National Parks Service rejected the city’s bid to lease them an office in “the old cable television building.”

“It was indicated to us that we would need to lower our proposed rental rate by as much as 75 percent,” Howe said. “You’ll recall we did some work to try to figure out what our rehab costs would be on the building in order to meet the federal government’s specifications and then we were only guaranteed a five-year rental period. It was a 10-year lease, but it was five years guaranteed with




Councilperson Sharon Ellison and mayor Jim Hodges discuss a 150 percent increase in the deposit for recycle bins.

a five-year renewal option on the federal government’s part.”

The monthly rent was designed to recoup the city’s costs involved in remodeling the building.

“We wanted to make sure we were able to recover our rehab costs during that five year guaranteed period which was why we had to set a very high rental rate,” Howe said. “That was rejected by them.”

The next city council meeting will be at city hall on Monday, Dec. 16 at 7 pm.



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Kent County commissioner leaves Lowell without representation

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Gary Rolls, the Kent County commissioner accused of sexually molesting a Muskegon woman for years, has not been attending the commission’s meetings. Rolls represents Lowell on the commission. He is also responsible for Cannon, Grattan, Oakfield and Vergennes townships. This body is responsible for the county’s budget, taxes, selection of judges, as well as decisions about property and buildings owned by the county. With Rolls absent, Lowell does not have a voice in these meetings.

“In the short term, Mr. Rolls’ absence from the county commission should not have much effect on the representation of the city of Lowell,” said mayor Jim Hodges.

Lowell city manager Mark Howe declined to comment, stating it was “a political issue.”

“If there is a lengthy no-show period, more than

perhaps six months, then perhaps adequate changes may need to take place,” Hodges said. “He is entitled to his day in court.”



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~ Jef Mallett

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Time to check your progress toward your retirement goals

Now that another year is ending, it's a good time to take stock of where you are on your journey toward financial security. Of course, you could find many different "measuring sticks" to assess your progress, but you can certainly gain considerable information just by asking yourself some basic questions.

Here are a few to consider:

- *How close am I to my retirement goals?* Your comprehensive investment strategy should include a reasonably good estimate of how much money you will eventually need to sustain the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. At least once a year, you should evaluate how much closer you've gotten to your goals than the year before.

- *Am I making sufficient progress toward my goals?* When assessing your progress, try to determine if your portfolio is properly allocated between stocks, stock-based vehicles, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit and other investments. If you're "overweighted" in a particular asset class,

such as cash, you may be impeding your ability to move toward your goals.

- *Am I adhering to my investment strategy?* To stick with your investment strategy, you need to invest at regular intervals and meet regularly with your financial professional to review your progress and make adjustments — such as rebalancing your portfolio — when necessary. Of course, even with regular progress reviews and portfolio rebalancing, it can be challenging, psychologically and emotionally, to stick with a strategy. For example, during any given year the financial markets could be down, and your results might be disappointing. Nonetheless, if you have built a diversified portfolio containing quality investments, and your portfolio is well suited to your own risk tolerance and time horizon, you don't necessarily need to make changes following a down year in the markets.

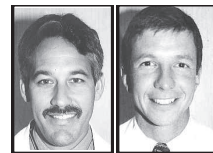
- *What aspects of my life have changed in the past year?* Your investment strategy should be based

entirely on your individual needs and circumstances — so if these have changed during the past year, you may also have to adjust the way you invest. Consider any and all changes in your life — marriage, new children, divorce, remarriage, new job, new home, etc. — and then try to determine what impact these changes might have on your long-term financial strategy and if you need to adjust that strategy in response.

- *Have I changed my thinking on my retirement goals?* Over time, you might undergo some changes in your thinking about retirement. For example, perhaps you've decided that you no longer want to retire early and travel the world; instead, you've discovered a growing desire to open a small business or do some consulting. Any significant changes you make to your retirement plans will likely have a big effect on your savings and investment strategies, so you'll want to incorporate these changes into your planning as soon as possible.

By asking, and answering, these questions at the end of each year, you should always have a good sense of where you are in pursuit of your long-term goals — and what you need to do to bring the realization of those goals closer to reality.

health



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

psa test

For the last several years, it has been the standard of care to perform a simple blood test called

PSA — prostate specific antigen, to screen yearly for prostate cancer in men at average risk over the age of 50 or in men age 40 with a family history of prostate cancer.

Recently, this practice has been questioned due to concerns regarding the actual benefit of annual screening.

The American College of Physicians (ACP), in a recent statement, has said that all men should be informed about the possible risk of prostate cancer screening with the PSA test. In the new guidelines, the ACP states that about 1,000 men would have to be screened to save one life but potential harm from this test is far more common. False

positive rates are high, which can lead to unnecessary invasive testing that could result in bleeding, infection and hospitalization. Men that are diagnosed with prostate cancer often undergo surgery which has been associated with a 37 percent increased risk of sexual dysfunction and 11 percent increased risk of incontinence.

PSA screening has been shown to decrease the risk of death from prostate cancer in recent long-term studies. The American College of Physicians and the American Cancer society advise screening for men age 50-69 but only after discussion of the real risks and benefits. The American Academy of Family Physicians and the US Preventive Service task force recommended against PSA screening in all men regardless of age.

So, PSA screening has become somewhat controversial. We recommend you discuss this test with your personal physician during your physical exam to see if it is appropriate for you.



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viewpoint

to the editor

reporting the news

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter to thank the Ledger for being a great small-town paper. For many years Roger Brown owned and operated this paper. We bought it and read it because he lived here and reported about Lowell; it was local and it was us. As he got older and started retirement interests our paper got more generic. Then he sold the paper (perfectly understandable) and we got reporting that was not "all that" about Lowell. The paper covered a lot about Lowell sports in our schools (we have many great teams), but the paper didn't really address the actual day-to-day business of the city.

Letters to the editor had to be nice. Actual disagreements had to be softened or they weren't printed.

I think that has now changed and it's for the better. Thank you Ledger for printing actual news as it happens. I know some have written to criticize the paper because they disagreed with some of the things that were reported, but facts are facts. Newspapers need to report everything, not just one side. I admit sometimes the event doesn't go as I'd like, but I still need to know the truth.

Thank you,
Bif Altoft
Lowell

communication needed

Dear Editor,

It was noted in an Oct. 23 Lowell Ledger that a standing room only crowd attended a contentious city council meeting on Monday, Oct. 21, that ended in a mass walk-out when the council refused to respond directly to comments or questions.

Then an article in the Nov. 20 Lowell Ledger noted that Lowell resident Alan Teelander questioned the board about the LL&P. The council didn't respond to any of Mr. Teelander's questions or comments either.

The way it is now, the city is being run more like a dictatorship than a democracy. The council and the manager set the agenda and then they reserve the right not to comment on anything that's not on their agenda. For two years the

council has failed to inform the community about the contract negotiations that have been going on between the city and the employees of the Department of Public Works and the Lowell Light and Power.

For two years the council has refused to answer questions pertaining to the contract negotiations. The Lowell Light and Power board has failed to justify why it lavishes its general manager and six administrators and then denies its only two line-men a (just contract).

The city council has failed to explain why it can give the Lowell Police Department a (just contract) and not the employees of the DPW and LL&P. Those are just a (few) of the many questions that the council has failed to answer.

Now the city council wants to join the Greater Lowell Community Vision Alliance. Mayor Jim Hodges said in a Nov. 20 Lowell Ledger article that, "Having been at those meetings it is a very good communicative way of working with our neighbors and uniting this community as one." As usual Mr. Hodges has it wrong. Mr. Hodges is putting the cart before the horse.

I think Mr. Hodges should learn how to communicate with the constituents of Lowell first. Threatening to remove citizens from a council meeting because all they wanted is some answers is not my idea of leadership. Denying the constituents of Lowell the facts is reprehensible.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

outdoors



wildlife therapy

Dave Stegehuis

Studies have shown that the animals have a calming effect on people. Dogs are employed at nursing facilities to motivate residents to become mentally and physically active and to raise their spirits. Horses are often used as therapy for autistic children.

Wild animals don't provide companionship, but just being around them as an observer is a pleasant as well as educational experience. It is remarkable that these creatures, regardless of species, survive handily on their own in a natural setting. They all have special skills which make it possible to find food, water, and cover throughout the changing seasons. Avoiding predators is another challenge for residents of the field and forest. Being familiar with wildlife behavior creates a sense of wonder for those who encounter the creatures on their own turf.

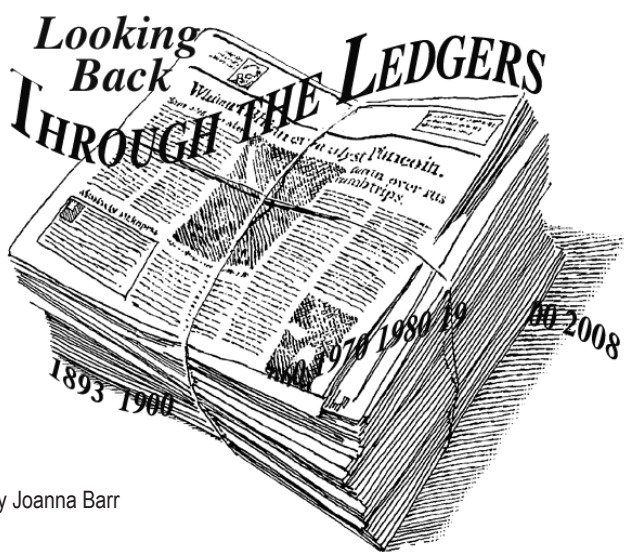
Because the animals live in natural areas, observing them requires spending time there ourselves. We then become part of that ecosystem. Hunters and gatherers are active participants in the cycle of life in the woods. I am writing this at deer camp and so far that wary buck has made sure that I am not a direct participant,

but I enjoy watching a large number of birds and animals go about their daily routines.

Just observing wildlife is not the total experience because all of our senses are affected. There is the unique form of a burled oak, the smell of decaying vegetation and damp earth, the sound of a drumming grouse, and wind blowing through pine boughs. A calm clear morning in the silent woods creates a feeling of solitude as the sun slowly paints the eastern sky with shades of pink and red.

We can't ignore the challenges and responsibilities of daily living or the strife and chaos occurring around the world, but in order to maintain a balanced perspective on life it could be helpful to seek out our wild friends and visit them where they live.

The squirrel is not concerned about economic downturns, nor is the fawn dismayed by political unrest, or the loon stressed by job pressures. Relating to these and other wild creatures in their natural habitat can reveal the very basics of life. There is another world out there to get acquainted with, and maybe it will provide some peace and joy in unsettled times as we enter the holiday season.



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Journal December 3, 1873

Thanksgiving Day in Lowell was observed. In the morning our citizens were seen on the streets with cheeks aglow and shirts freshly perfumed with hot irons. The boys and girls wore their Sunday clothes. House wives looked at the clock and wondered if they could attend Thanksgiving services and get back in time to put the turkey on the table at two o'clock pm. Sleigh bells jingled merrily, many of our business men backing their sleighs out of the barn for the first time this season and taking a Thanksgiving ride to wear the rust off the runners. Clerks took an extra cigar and sat by the stove in Sunday costume, anticipating and making smoke rings.

Little children must not slide down hill on the side walks any more. The marshal said so. We know it is a great temptation to little boys to place the buttons of their roundabouts on their sleds, throw their heels up and run into somebody, but it isn't right and if they don't stop it the marshal will.

A young man named Dikeman recently stole nine sheep of Mr. Charles Beckwith of Vergennes and took them to Ada and had them sheltered on the premises of one Beach.

A Greenville boy's unpretty conduct toward two

pretty girls explains why he was jerked out of bed the other night to take a flogging.

125 years ago Lowell Journal November 30, 1888

Electric Light. Lowell can have it if she will take it. The Lowell Water Company has a project in view for lighting Lowell with the electric light if the people will take hold and use it to an extent sufficient to warrant them in putting in a plant. Their plan is to place a dynamo at the pump house and use their present power for driving it. A canvas is now being made of the business places to ascertain the probable number of customers. It would be a step befitting our lively town if electric light could be enumerated among its modern improvements and if a reasonable rate of service can be agreed upon, there is not much doubt but that a very short time will suffice to have a plant established. Let there be (electric) light.

State Game Warden Smith has secured the conviction of 900 game law violators during the eighteen months he has been in office.

That this is an apple growing country is fully shown by the great number bought here the past season, which is 24,000 barrels. This also shows that Lowell has wide awake buyers.

Scott Fisher, who has been very low with typhoid fever, is gaining slightly and his friends have strong hopes of his recovery.

Charles Rickard was struck by a falling tree Friday afternoon while cutting wood three miles from Stanton and instantly killed. He was 45 years old and unmarried.

Looking Back, continued, page 14

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. Opinions expressed in in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line), dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

engagements

anniversaries

Blough/Pirog



Brian Pirog and Katherine Blough

Michael and Toni Blough of Loveland, Ohio, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Elise Blough, to Brian Stephen Pirog, son of Stephen and Kathy Pirog of Traverse City, Michigan. The bride-to-be received her undergraduate degree from Hope College and graduate degree from Grand Valley State University, and works in Public Relations for Amway. The groom-elect graduated from Calvin College and works in finance for Amway. A January 25, 2014 wedding is planned.

Ketchum



Al & Phyllis Ketchum

Al and Phyllis Ketchum of Lowell will be celebrating 54 years of marriage on Dec. 5, 2013. They will be celebrating with a trip to Florida to go on a cruise. They have four children: Sue and Don Sherwood of Ionia, the deceased Scott Ketchum of Lowell, Mike and Dawn Ketchum of Ionia, and Brenda Schullo of Lowell; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

Having high self-esteem is the most valuable possession one can have. Research shows that people with high self-esteem will persist at a task longer than someone with low self-esteem. This probably has to do with establishing positive work patterns from previous goal setting that has been effective. As one successfully achieves a goal, it becomes easier and easier each subsequent time to set and achieve goals. Like anything else "practice makes perfect." One of the qualities of persistence is trusting one's self to overcome obstacles that are challenging and by so doing, achieve the goals set. This has to do with self-acceptance.

What is self-acceptance? It is important to remember that accepting one's self does not necessarily mean that you like all the different aspects of yourself. Accepting yourself means that you have embraced both the good and bad parts of yourself, in other words, your total self. If one hasn't done this, they are either in the state of denial or self-condemnation. Both of these are the biggest obstacles to growth.

Self-acceptance is being your own best friend. Let's suppose that you've done something bad. It is important not to deny it. One needs to become aware of what they have done and then assess how they can do it better next time. When this is done, the chances of it happening again are greatly reduced. Being compassionate and generous with yourself is essential for high self-esteem. If we judge ourselves harshly, we have low self-esteem. Being gentle and self-understanding indicates high self-esteem.

Finally, when we first become aware of our weaknesses and dwell on them, we choose to deny the strengths that we do have. An important part of self-acceptance is accepting all of yourself, both the good qualities and the bad. When we do this, it is more likely that we will manage the darker side of ourselves.

It is important to remember that we can even be as frightened by our assets as we are of our shortcomings. When we deny or discount our strengths and feel unworthy to "let our light shine," we are not being our own best friend. We need to accept the responsibility of being good at something.

Next month, the importance of living purposely will be discussed. If you have any questions about this article or mental health issues in general, please feel free to email me at kathryndenhouter@gmail.com

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| DECEMBER 6
Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Phil Seese, Maria Blough, Christopher DeBold, Marc Wernet. | DECEMBER 10
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Company helps to shed more light on biodigester project

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

More details are now available about a proposed biodigester that will take over the building at 625 Chatham in Lowell.

"These are the two options that are being proposed," said Greg Northrup, 'principal' of Spart, a.k.a. Sustainable Partners, LLC. "A 20-year power purchase agreement. If you want to stick with that and you choose not to purchase [the biodigester] after five years then it's about 6.3 cents [per kilowatt hour]. If you do want to buy the facility at the end of five years, then 4.1 [cents per kilowatt hour] is your approximately the price over 20 years."

There is no fixed time line for the project at this point, only a goal of spending some money on it before the end of the year.

"We're still in the proposal stage so I can't tell you what's going to happen when," Northrup said. "What we have to do is, by the end of this year we have to be spending at least five percent or more of the construction budget. The construction budget's about \$6 million approximately, so at five percent we'd have to be spending \$300,000 before Dec. 31. You then have up to two years to finish the project and still qualify for what's called the 'investment tax credit.' This allows you to take 30 percent of the cost of the construction as a tax deduction. That's about \$1.7 million."

The complicated project involves approvals

from both the city and its utility.

"We've got a power purchase agreement that's being reviewed by Lowell Light & Power," Northrup said. "We're developing a purchase option agreement that will be considered by the city and we just got a copy of a lease agreement from the city. This is a city building that we would be leasing. We'll end up with an operational maintenance agreement with a third party, somebody that will actually run the facility."

A biodigester works by converting into energy what would normally be discarded, starting with manure.

"Manure is about 15 percent," Northrup said. "You don't get that much energy out of manure but you need manure because it's got the microbes in it that cause the creation of methane gas. It's from a dairy called Swisslane; they're located just south of Lowell [in Alto]. They're a very successful dairy operation, really good group there. They're a fourth-generation Dutch family with over 3,000 head of cattle. We're going to take a little less than 20 percent of the manure they generate annually."

The town will not start stinking like a big pile of manure, though.

"The way the facility is designed, the truck will pull inside the building and it'll dump the manure into a container," Northrup said, "so none of this is exposed to the outside. The truck will actually have a cover

over the top of the container. And this is about 25 percent dry matter. A lot of times people see manure and it's real sloshy because it's been washed down, but this is really dry. It's almost like a peat moss, compost-type stuff."

When asked who will cover the cost of hauling the manure from the farm to the biodigester, Matt Oesch of Swisslane Dairy Farms said, "I think Spart is paying for that. We're not!"

Most of the biodigester's fuel will come from used cooking oil.

"The big piece is F.O.G., which stands for 'fats, oils and greases,'" Northrup said.

"This is being collected from restaurants and other organizations across West Michigan. Most of it currently goes into landfills. So rather than put it in a landfill, why don't we extract energy from it? So about 80 percent of the energy comes from fats, oils and greases.

The smallest portion of waste will be from the Lighthouse factory.

"The balance of the energy comes from Lighthouse," Northrup said.

"We're going to take Lighthouse's waste stream. Most of it's water, but there's some value. So we're going to pull the oils off of the water and put those into our facility as well."

This will require the construction of an underground pipe.

"It will come out the front of Lighthouse's operation to Foreman Street," Northrup said. "It'll follow the public right-of-way along Foreman. When it crosses the creek it'll then run south kind of parallel to the creek through an easement that we have to get from the school. And then from the school it goes right into the back of the property that's owned by Lowell Light & Power."

Taxpayers will not be stuck with the bill for this construction project.

"Lighthouse is paying for it through the rates that they pay for us," Northrup said. "We have a separate contract with Lighthouse to process their water."

Once all of the material is in the biodigester, a chemical reaction creates energy.

"The materials will process in these tanks and create methane gas. We take the gas that's created and we put it into an engine. It's called a C.H.P. engine, which stands for 'combined heat and power.' The 'power' part is what's producing the electricity."

Northrup sees the biodigester as a chance to educate Lowell's youth.

"Because we sit right by the school we could take the waste stream from the cafeterias," Northrup said. "We could put the food waste into our system. It's not enough volume to do anything from a production standpoint, but it would help us produce electricity and we could do some educational programs for the kids."

Biodigesters are relatively new to the United States, but have been common in Europe for decades.

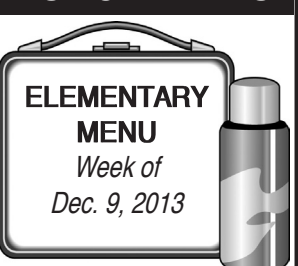
"It's across Europe,"

Northrup said. "I think there's 8,000 of these units in Germany. There's approximately 200 systems in the U.S. right now."

Northrup is confident the biodigester will be a cost-effective, ecologically-friendly solution to Lowell's energy needs.

"We're doing this because it's the right thing to do," Northrup said. "We don't have waste streams going into landfills, we're trying to reduce vehicle traffic and at the same time we're trying to generate electricity in a way that's responsive. We're trying to help Lighthouse become more competitive by reducing their cost structure. We're taking all of these assets and integrating them in a way that makes good sense for the community, for Lowell."

LUNCH MENU



MON: Sloppy joe scoops, baked beans (served at Cherry Creek, Alto & Murray Lake), mini soft pretzel w/string cheese & yogurt, baked beans (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, chilled mixed fruit, fresh grapes, milk.

TUES: Roasted turkey & gravy over noodles, seasoned greens beans (served at Cherry Creek, Alto & Murray Lake), hot dog on WG bun, seasoned green beans (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, green pepper strips, applesauce, banana, milk.

WED: Scrambled eggs w/ sausage & WG biscuit, hashbrowns, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, peaches, orange wedges, milk.

THURS: Homemade macaroni & cheese, seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, fruit goop, chilled pears, milk.

FRI: Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, green pepper strips, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mandarin oranges, juice, milk.

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

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Questions & Answers About Our Environment



Dear EarthTalk: Is there a way to get local communities involved in cleaning up waterways, like rivers, lakes, streams and creeks? - Rebecca, via e-mail

Indeed, many of our local waterways have seen better days, thanks to decades of pollution. And cleaning them up and preventing further damage can be challenging, since much of the contamination has accumulated over time and results from what is known as “non-point source” pollution, which accounts for as much as 60 percent of the water pollution in the U.S.

“When it rains, fertilizer from lawns, oil from driveways, paint and solvent residues from walls and decks and even pet waste are all washed into storm sewers or nearby lakes, rivers and streams—the same lakes, rivers and streams we rely on for drinking water supply, boating, swimming and fishing,” reports the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). “Also, improper handling of materials around the house can lead to pollution.”

According to NRDC, each of us can do our part to reduce this run-off pollution and thus help protect local waterways. For one, we can replace concrete and other hard surfaces around our homes with porous materials, so that rainwater drains naturally into the ground and not into pathways that lead it into waterways. We can landscape with native plants and natural fertilizers, and refrain from over-watering our lawns and gardens. And we can properly dispose of hazardous products (that is, not right down the drain), wash our cars at professional carwashes (where there are proper wastewater treatment procedures), recycle used motor oil, and use non-toxic alternatives for household chemicals whenever possible.

Of course, there is only so much that individuals can do on their own. While preventing pollution at the source is important, many waterways have so much legacy pollution in them already that they need to be cleaned up directly—no small job and typically way beyond the scope of a few individuals. Some municipal, county or state governments might be inclined to help, but getting friends and neighbors involved first is a good way to demonstrate community support. Also, local businesses, non-profit groups, youth centers and schools are often looking for ways to get people involved in community service projects, so asking around town might be the best way to enlist dozens or more volunteers.

Another way to get the ball rolling is to sign up with American Rivers’ National River Cleanup program. Individuals, organizations and anyone interested in conducting a cleanup on their local river can register with the program and get free trash bags as well as assistance with media coverage, volunteer promotion and technical support. The program has helped more than a million

volunteers participate in thousands of cleanups covering more than 244,500 miles of waterways across the U.S. since it began in 1991.

“These cleanups have removed more than 16.5 million pounds of litter and debris from America’s rivers and streams,” reports American Rivers. 2012 was the most successful year to date in the history of the program, with 400+ registered cleanups, 92,500 volunteers nationwide, 3.5 million pounds of trash removed from American waterways, and 39,000 miles of waterway cleaned. The group is hoping 2013 will turn out to be another record year for the program.

CONTACTS: NRDC’s “How to Clean Up Our Water,” www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/gsteps.asp; American Rivers’ National River Cleanup, www.americanrivers.org/take-action/cleanup.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Michigan seat belt use holds steady in 2013

For the second year in a row, 93 percent of Michigan drivers and front seat passengers are buckling up, according to statewide observation surveys conducted this summer by the Wayne State University Transportation Research Group. Federal traffic safety funds support the annual survey.

According to the findings, there was an overall marginal decrease of .6 percent from 2012 in the statewide seat belt use rate. Other things remained consistent: males, younger occupants and those in pickup trucks continue to exhibit lower belt use rates.

“Seat belt enforcement remains a priority in our

state because seat belts save lives,” said Michael L. Prince, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. “The state’s traffic safety community will continue to stress the importance of buckling up, day and night, and ensure children are in the correct car seat, booster or seat belt for their size.”

Among the findings, sport utility vehicle occupants had the highest belt use at 94.3 percent and pickup truck occupants the lowest at 90 percent. Women buckled up 94.8 percent of the time compared to 92.1 percent for men. Seat belt use was highest for those 60 and older at 95.7 percent

and lowest for those 0 to 15 at 91.2 percent.

Last year, the most recent year for national seat belt use data, only four states had a seat belt use rate higher than Michigan:

- Washington: 96.9 percent.
- Oregon: 96.8 percent.
- California: 95.5 percent.

• Texas: 94 percent.

The state’s highest rate was 97.9 percent in 2009, at that time making it No. 1 in the country. While the state’s seat belt use rate has declined since 2009, it is far higher than the 2012 national belt use rate of 86 percent.



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Sparrow Yoga studio is a 'journey of education'

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

As a young girl Rebecca Grummet had a favorite song that she listened to often on her parent's record player. A beloved rendition of "His Eye is on the Sparrow" by jazz and gospel vocalist Ethel Waters. Many years of life later, when the song had all but escaped her memory, it sang to her once again while on a physical and spiritual journey in a southern Mexican village. The song renewed her spirit. Explained Grummet, "You could not imagine how it changed the way I felt. Someone cares and is always caring and watching. When I came home I was at peace."

Grummet says her life and her path in it began to shift after the song's resurgence and her new direction eventually led her to 100 W. Main St. in Lowell where her sparrow once again soars on the doors of her newly opened yoga studio, Sparrow Yoga.

After several years of practicing yoga and feeling the restorative power that it had on her own body, Grummet began teaching the ancient art of yoga to others in 2005 while maintaining her regular full-time job as a bus driver for the Forest Hills school district. During her time instructing in several local venues, including both Power House Gym and Endurance Fitness in Cascade and Oakhill Place here in Lowell, Grummet started to pursue her goal of

becoming a registered yoga trainer.

"This began a six-year journey of education," she says, "I completed my 200-plus hours in the fall of 2011. The education journey for me will never be done though as there is always more to learn."

Grummet has also been certified in therapy and is a "Pure Movement" specialist. Pure Movement breaks yoga down into small movements in an effort to begin building flexibility and strength. "This is a great way to begin with yoga if you are completely new or are dealing with pain or lack of mobility. It is an amazing practice. I am always excited to see the growth and the relief from pain in participants," said Grummet.

Sparrow Yoga came to pass after Grummet made the decision to retire in 2012 to focus full time on what had become her passion: teaching.

"I happened to find out about a little room for rent in Lowell. I called the owner of the place and went to check it out. I walked down the dark dirty hallway and into the room. Walked over to the window, leaned my forehead against it and said, 'I love this space'."

Despite the lackluster appearance of the now transformed room, Grummet said the light and the soothing sounds of water from the nearby Flat River kept drawing her back to

the location she now calls home.

"So, I signed a contract with no idea how I was ever going to make that room look like a yoga studio," she said smiling.

As it turned out the transformation would be hard work, but would not be short of supporters, from



both her family and very dear friends, especially Tom Burger.

"Tom is a jack-of-all-trades and masters them all. I always say he was the brain and I was the brawn. He totally recreated the room and we had a great time in the process," Grummet said of Burger and their efforts.

The room now offers a relaxing, warm and inviting atmosphere that is as conducive to the practice of yoga as the spirit of the owner. Grummet's deep knowledge and passion for her craft are apparent. Whether clients choose to participate in a private or group class at Sparrow Yoga, they are guaranteed

an experience which is individualized to them and their strengths and limitations.

Grummet, who is a Lowell native, has been married to her husband Bob for 37 years and they share four sons together that she describes as wonderful.



Rebecca Grummet, owner of Sparrow Yoga, inside her recently opened and renovated studio.

"Raising my sons was one of the most important things I have done in this life; they have brought me much excitement and love," she said adding proudly that she also has, "four amazing daughters-in-law and 17 adorable grandchildren."

Sparrow opened for business in May of this year and has been off to a busy start.

"It is amazing to me how God opens windows;

we just need the faith and courage to fly through that open window. I know that as long as I am meant to be here I will be here. I had written way back in the beginning of my yoga journey that "someday I will become a certified therapy yoga instructor" and here I am!" she exclaimed adding quite poetically, "his eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me."

Lowell Community

CHRISTMAS

Hymn Sing

This year the community of Lowell will be celebrating Christmas. Join us on December 22nd 7:30 p.m. at Calvary Church in Lowell to enjoy Holiday treats, hearty snacks, community fun and great community singing.

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Dropping the hammer: Thor returns and fails

by Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

Thor has returned to screen, flashier than ever.

With his flying hammer in hand, Marvel's

god of thunder set out to vanquish his foes and dazzle moviegoers with this year's sequel to the comic-based

franchise of superhero flicks.

What viewers were subjected to in this movie was a clear reflection of how Hollywood producers view their customer base: slaphappy and stupid.

Installing a constant retreat into comic relief, "Thor: The Dark World" capitalized on past fanfare for Marvel's successful "Avengers" saga, now under the control of Disney. Thor was easily reduced to a goofy, sarcastic jock.

With a high-powered cast featuring Anthony Hopkins and Natalie Portman in supporting roles,

the film could have been a gripping sequel. Instead, the movie passes off with very little substance and a brain-melting script.

Initially crafting a unique, Norse-futurism in 2011's initial outing, filmmakers built upon the bizarre setting with more spaceships and futuristic, but rustic, weaponry.

Unfortunately, any innovation in cinematography is painfully overshadowed by the barrage of silly jokes.

The villain Loki, played by Tom Hiddleston, gives up much of the sneer that won him the 2013 MTV movie award for best villain. In "Avengers" Loki had a new edge to him. He was frighteningly ominous.

Instead Hiddleston opts for comedy, eagerly pausing during several action sequences to crack a joke — derailing the film from its earlier momentum.

Director Alan Taylor set to make what should be considered serious film into a joke, asking fans to shell out nearly 10 bucks a piece for his twisted experiment. But maybe this is what happens when a movie series gets remade by Disney.

With several Marvel films planned well into 2018, it is clear that these movies do sell. Hopefully Captain America's sequel will be more serious, as it should be.



Rating: 2 out of 5 stars
Theater rating: PG-13
Running time: 112 minutes
Genre: action / adventure

Social Security Questions and Answers

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Answer: If you need proof you get Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Medicare, you can request a benefit verification letter online through your my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. This letter is sometimes called a "budget letter," a "benefits letter," a "proof of income letter," or a "proof of award letter." You even can select the information you want included in your online benefit verification letter.

Question: I'm getting married soon. How can I get my name changed on my Social Security card?

Answer: After the wedding, gather your marriage document and other papers proving your identity; and United States (if you have not yet established your citizenship with us) or immigration status (including Department of Homeland Security permission to work in the United States).

Then, complete an application for a Social Security card, which you can find at www.socialsecurity.gov. Finally, mail your completed application and documents or take this information to your local Social Security office. You can find your nearest Social Security office at www.socialsecurity.gov/locator.

Remember: Your documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. Any documents you mail to us will be returned to you along with a receipt.

Question: Is it true that ten thousand people are retiring each day? What is the best way for me to apply and avoid long lines in my Social Security office?

Answer: Yes. The best way is to use our online retirement application at www.socialsecurity.gov. You can complete it in as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy. You can apply from the comfort of your home or office at a time most convenient for you. Once you've electronically submitted your application,

you're done. In most cases, there's no need to submit any documents. There's also no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative.

Question: Does Social Security offer tools for retirement planning?

Answer: Yes. Social Security offers several retirement planning tools to help you better understand your Social Security protection as you plan for your financial future. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/planners to get started. Then choose a benefit calculator to estimate your monthly benefit amounts.

Question: I have a 38-year-old son who has been disabled by cerebral palsy since birth. I plan to apply for retirement benefits.

Will he be eligible for benefits as my disabled child?

Answer: Yes. In general, an adult disabled before age 22 may be eligible for child's benefits if a parent is deceased or starts receiving retirement or disability benefits. We consider this a "child's" benefit because we pay it on the parent's Social Security earnings record. The "adult child"—including an adopted child, or, in some cases, a stepchild, grandchild, or step grandchild—must be unmarried, age 18 or older, and have a disability that started before age 22.

Question: I just received my first disability payment. How long will I continue to get them?

Answer: In most cases, you will continue to receive benefits as long as you are disabled. However, there are certain circumstances that may change your continuing eligibility for disability benefits. For example, your health may improve to the point where you are no longer disabled; or like many people, you would like to go back to work rather than depend on your disability benefits and you are successful in your attempt.

Also, the law requires that we review your case from time to time to verify you are still disabled. We tell you if it is time to review your case and we also keep you informed about your benefit status. You also should be aware that you are responsible for letting us know if your health improves or you go back to work.

Question: Who is eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Answer: People who receive SSI are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled with limited income and resources. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov for income and resource limits. The general fund of the United States Treasury makes SSI payments. They do not come out of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Question: What's the best way to find out if I might be eligible for SSI?

Answer: Our online Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool (BEST) will help you find out if you could get benefits that Social Security administers. Based on your answers to questions, this tool will list benefits for which you might be eligible and tell you more information about how to qualify and apply. Find BEST at www.benefits.gov/ssa

Question: How can I get a new Medicare card?

Answer: If your red, white and blue Medicare card is lost, stolen or damaged, you can request a new one at www.socialsecurity.gov. However, you can use our online application only to request a Medicare card. If you need a Medicaid card, please contact your state Medicaid office.

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Player Spotlight

Our Spotlight Athletes This Week:

Justin Everitt

Team: Bowling
Grade: Junior

&

Derek Krajewski

Team: Wrestling
Grade: Senior

Justin Everitt



How long have you been bowling?
I have been bowling for about seven years.

What othersports do you play?
I also do track and field.

How long have you been doing that?
For four years.

What is your favorite sport?
Bowling is my favorite sport.

Have you received any awards for any of them? If so, what?
I was all-conference last year for bowling.

Have you broken any records?
Not yet.

Do you have siblings?
I have a sister, Nicole, who graduated in 2010.

What do you like to do for fun?
Hang out with friends, play football, and bowling

What got you into bowling in the first place?
Seven years ago, one of my friends asked me if I wanted to try a bowling league with him and I've loved the sport ever since.

What do you like best about participating in sports?
I like how competitive sports are.

What was your personal best during any of your sports?
My personal best score in bowling is a 279.

What kind of grades do you get?
I get mostly Bs.

Do you plan on playingany sport in college?
I'm hoping to either bowl at Davenport or throw shot-put at Grand Valley State University.

Derek Krajewski

How long have you been wrestling?
I have been wrestling since I was about five years old.

What other sports do you play?
I played football up until two years ago when I had a shoulder injury in wrestling that I had to have surgery for.

How long have you been playing football?
I have played football since I was about seven or eight.

What is your favorite sport?
My favorite sport is wrestling.

Have you received any awards for any of them? If so, what?
Last year, I placed seventh at individual states.

Have you broken any records?
No, I haven't.

Do you have siblings?
I have a sister, Danielle, who is a junior at Lowell High School.

What do you like to do for fun?
I like to play games up at wrestling practice, like ultimate Frisbee or sideline football.

What got you into wrestling in the first place?
I think my dad just need to put me some place where I could blow off some energy.

What do you like best about participating in sports?
Probably the team aspect of it, being with a bunch of people I like and suffering with them. I would much rather suffer with a bunch of my friends than suffer alone.

What was your personal best during any of your sports?
Placing seventh at individual states.

What kind of grades do you get?
I have a 3.6 GPA.

Do you plan on playing any sport in college? If so, which one?
I am hopefully going to wrestle in college. I am undecided at the moment.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities
tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, December 12, 2013, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about

the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000

adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.



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105 N. Broadway • 897-9261
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 - 5; Fri. 8-noon

obituaries

FREUND

Naomi Jean Freund, 75, of Lowell, died Saturday, November 30, 2013, at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids after a courageous battle with a brief illness. Jean was born in Rose Township, Michigan, on July 24, 1938, the second daughter of Russell & Larene Munger. She graduated from Ionia High School in 1956 & continued her studies at Lansing Business School. She worked for the State of Michigan before receiving her real estate license. She enjoyed a long & successful career in the Novi area before deciding to follow a dream: to buy a bakery in Colorado. Jean spent 8 years in Colorado before returning to the Novi area to pick up her real estate career once more. She retired to Lowell in 2000. Jean made an impact everywhere she went & touched the lives of so many in her path. Her sparkling eyes, bright smile & infectious laugh lit up any room. She enjoyed traveling, weaving, knitting & gardening but most of all, spending time with her family. Jean will be greatly missed by her dear friend & love, Frank Ruggiero; sisters Wanda (Bill) Shurlow and Betsy (Carl) Koehnlein; nieces & nephews Deb (John) Parsons, Scott (Amy) Shurlow, Cindy (Brad) Masse, Roz (Chad) Clemens, Carrie (Gerry) Koehnlein-Alden, Kelly (Jeff) Sandborn and Brian Opfer; eight great-nieces & nephews; many close friends & acquaintances. Funeral Service will be held Thursday, December 5th 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, with visitation 9:30-11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to be made to the Franciscan Process Center, 11650 Downes Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331.



HENTSCHEL

Margaret Ann 'Meg' Hentschel, nee Malcolm, died on December 1, 2013. Meg was a registered nurse for over 50 years and worked at the Grand Valley Blood Program, as well as at area hospitals. Meg is survived by her devoted husband of 59 1/2 years, Gene, and their children: James, Stephan (Lucynda), Mary Clare (Thierry) Lach and Lisbeth (Dale) Johnson. She is the grandmother of 15: Gladys, Nicole, Tanya, Amanda, Richard, Karolynn, Andrea, Clarissa, Seth, Erik, Mark, Alex, Laura, Andrew, and Nicholas. She is the great grandmother of 13: Anthony, Isaac, Aaron, Amaya, Amani, Andre, Jonathan, Matthew, Dante, Kaden, Liam, Amelia and Julian. Meg enjoyed Bible study and prayer, travel, especially to Ireland, knitting, reading, the Detroit Lions, and doting on her family. Mass of Christian burial will be offered Wednesday, 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell. Visitation at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, on Tuesday 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday one hour prior to service at church. Rosary recited 6 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Grand Rapids. Memorial contributions in Meg's name to the Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, Michigan 49221.



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194773-DE

Estate of EDWARD R.
SALVIN. Date of birth:
6/19/1923.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

J. Salvin or Susan M. DeBaar, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 27, 2013

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Edward R. Salvin, who lived at 1901 West Fulton St., Grand Rapids, Michigan died 11/08/2013.

John D. Mitus (P31244)
410 Bridge St., NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Timothy J. Salvin
513 Macomb, NW
Walker, MI 49534

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Timothy

Susan M. DeBaar
1558 Laughlin Dr., NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

...
The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking.

~ A. A. Milne (1882 - 1956)

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

S	P	L	A	T	F	E	B	K	E	G	S	
H	O	O	C	H	L	E	A	U	N	D	U	E
H	O	N	E	Y	A	L	L	S	E	D	A	N
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K	I	R	S	E	T	A	C	U	L	T	I	C
E	N	I	D	M	A	R	S	L	E	A	S	H
V	A	N	E	A	L	P	H	A	A	X	L	E
I	N	S	E	T	L	A	M	P	K	I	E	V
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M	I	R	A	C	L	E	F	L	A	U	N	T
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S	M	E	W	T	E	D	E	R	A	S	E	

CITY OF LOWELL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The December Board of Review will meet as follows:
Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 11:00 am

ACT 14 OF 1985, being Section 211.53(b) of the General Property Tax Laws, provides for corrections of clerical errors or a mutual mistakes of fact relative to the correct assessment figures, and the corrections of Principle Residence Exemptions, these shall be verified by the local assessing officer and approved by the board of review at a meeting held for that purpose, to be held on any day of the week of the 2nd Monday in December.

On December 10, 2013, a meeting will be called for this purpose at 11:00 am in the City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331, to conduct business as provided for in Section 211.53(b), Michigan Compiled Laws.

City of Lowell Clerk
Betty Morlock

CITY OF LOWELL

SALE OF CITY PROPERTY ADVERTISEMENT OF BID

The City of Lowell is accepting sealed bids for the sale of a portion of parcel 41-20-02-259-002 described as the East 8.30 feet of Lots 1 and 10, all in Block 28 of the Plat of the Village of Dansville (also known as Avery's Plat), Government Lots 2 and 3 and part of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 2, Town 6 North, Range 9 West, Kent County Michigan. A drawing of the property is available for review at City Hall, 301 East Main Street during regular business hours.

Prospective bidders must describe their proposed use of the property in which they are bidding on.

Sealed bids and proposed uses must be returned to the office of City Manager, 301 East Main Street, Lowell Michigan 49331 no later than Friday, December 6, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

The City has the right to accept or reject any or all bids and that it may award conveyance to someone other than the highest monetary bidder and also the right to waive any formal defects in bids when deemed in the best interest of the City.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

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

ELIMINATE RISING FUEL COSTS - Clean, safe & efficient wood heat. Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace. Heats multiple buildings. **BIG SALE**, call for details, SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI. 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

GENERATOR BRIGGS & STRATTON - 5500 watt run 8550 watt peak, 110/220V, 10hp OHV B&S Motor. Low hours, \$500 firm, 616-901-8515.

SHOPLOWELL - Little Shop In The Middle, 104 E. Main. Art, antiques, books, collectibles. Wed. - Sat., 11 to 5 p.m.

BOB'S 16TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRDHOUSE SALE - Great gifts! Blue bird, wren & bat houses, bird feeders, squirrel feeders, wood duck nesting boxes. Top quality cedar construction, best prices anywhere. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto. 868-6633.

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.^{TFN}

SHADOWLAND CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE - Fine quality, fresh cut Christmas trees will once again be sold at The Community Church, 7239 Thornapple River Dr., Ada. Shadowland has serviced the Ada area for the past six years with trees at The Community and Grand River Grocery/Ninth Ridge. A portion of all sales will be donated to The Community. Delivery available. \$20 & up. Cut out & redeem for 10% off purchase of your tree. Additional coupons available at The Community. Shadowland, 231-414-0044.

PIANO - Mason Hamlin, \$500; album collection; Fisher Paykel washer & dryer, \$350; misc. newer furniture. 616-644-8332.

SEMI LOADS 10 CORDS OF 8 FT. LOGS - 10 in. average diameter. See pictures at www.coxx.com, movies on YouTube (alanj-cox) or call Al at 231-846-0346 anytime.

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.^{TFN}

for sale

FEDEX NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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.^{TFN}

EDEN PURE INFRARED HEATER - Gen 3 model 1000 with remote. Used 1 season, \$250 obo. Call Linda 897-7633.

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

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. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

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

MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS IS LISTED - in the 2014 Lowell City Directory! Please call Tammy at 897-9560 or email: citydirectory@att.net for further info or to place your order. Deadline for all advertising is Dec. 31, 2013.

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.^{TFN}

DRIVER WANTED - once a week to chiropractor in Grandville. Also occasional cleaning help. Call Linda, 897-9202.

HELP WANTED - receptionist, full and part-time opening. H & R Block of Lowell. Call 616-897-8947 for details. Pay based upon experience.

DRIVERS: CDL-A. Dedicated lanes! Company Drivers & Owner Operators. Teams & Singles. \$1,000 sign on bonus for O/O! Fuel discount, safety bonus program, excellent fuel surcharge, 6 mos verifiable exp. Call 800-599-0087.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.^{TFN}

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. In the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing, in the provision of real estate brokerage services and in the appraisal of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

FOR RENT 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT - No smoking, \$600 per month \$400 deposit. Call 616-443-6082.

LOWELL APARTMENT FOR RENT - 2 bedroom, 1 bath, storage area, laundry hookups & trash removal, \$650/mo. + utilities, \$350 deposit, no pets, no smoking, references required. Call 897-4829.

for rent

ASSISTED LIVING - Beautiful modern country home in Alto, excellent care. Cathy, 616-891-1840. Email: AssistedLivingAlto@charter.net

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.^{TFN}

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

card of thanks

THANK YOU for the cards and calls from my friends and family, and for the surprise 80th Birthday party.
 Lu Green

services

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

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

SNOWPLOWING - Proseal Asphalt still has some openings for 2013-2014 snowplow season in & around the city of Lowell. Residential & commercial plowing as well as sidewalk clearing. Call 293-9363 for estimate.

SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!! - Call us for a price comparison. We will need: weight, zip code & dimensions of the box. No Hazardous materials or firearms accepted at this location. Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway.

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.^{TFN}

misc.

3rd ANNUAL BUSHNELL-CHERRY CREEK HOLIDAY BAZAAR - Thurs., Dec. 5 from 5-8 p.m. Kids crafts, storytime with Mrs. Claus, Craft/Vendor Show & please come vote for your favorite student art project at our first ever Art Show. Location: Cherry Creek Elementary, 12675 Foreman, Lowell.

NOTICE - Due to the increasing cost of utilities (especially water) we find it necessary to increase the cost of washers & dryers to \$1.25 per load. Sorry we have no choice. H. Ball.

TOTS/CHAMBER RUDOLPH'S CRAFT WORKSHOP - Sat., Dec. 7, 2-4:30 p.m. at the Chamber office. FREE crafts for ages 2-5, older siblings welcome. Questions, call Lori at TOTS, 987-2532.

TOTS PRESCHOOL FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY - Tues., Dec. 10, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Bushnell Elementary Gym, 700 Elizabeth, Lowell. Bring your own riding toys to ride in the gym! For children up to age 5, older siblings welcome. Questions, call Lori at TOTS, 987-2532.

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:

TODDLER THURSDAY - Every Thursday 11-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes & learning. Ages 18 mo. - 36 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. Beltline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716.

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 - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m., A committed group for those diagnosed with cancer.

Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH - Community Crisis Fund meeting at 7 p.m. at Poppa C's in Clarksville.

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

FOOD PANTRY - First Friday of month at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. Registration 1 p.m., distribution 4 p.m. Bring own containers. 868-6402.

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

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.

LOWELL - Varsity sporting events, concerts, school board meetings, city council meetings, DDA meetings & planning commission meetings can be viewed on the 'local' Comcast public access channel

(25) within a day or two of when they were held. Many athletic contests & concerts can be heard 'live' from the www.wlhrsradio.org internet radio website.

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

FREE SENIOR PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Every third Wed. from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St. RSVP 897-8473.

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

VERGENNES CLUB MEETS - at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month March thru Nov. Meeting at Schneider Manor Community Room. Program & refreshments. Guests welcome.

CARVING CLUB - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at LowellArts! New members welcomed. Call for information, 616-752-0096.

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.

FRIDAY FUN - Every Friday, 11-11:45 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, games & a simple craft. For 3-5 year olds. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

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.

SARANAC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR - Now thru Fri., Dec. 13, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Saranac Elementary School library, visitors must stop by the office first to re-

ceive a visitor's pass. Extended hours on Dec. 9 from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Book fair is also available online: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/saranac-elementaryschool>. Books ordered online will be sent to the school library for you to pick up.

NAMEETING - Mondays, 6p.m. at Lowell Serenity Club.

NEW STORY TIME AT FROM - first Wed. of every month, 6-7 p.m. at FROM, 11535 E. Fulton, Lowell.

LEGOS AT THE LIBRARY - Second Sat. of each month, 10 a.m. - noon. Bring your imagination & be ready to build. Legos provided. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450.

LEGO DAYS - first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. - noon. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

STORYTIME - Wednesdays, 11 a.m., children 0-18 mos.; Fridays, 10 a.m., children 18-36 mos.; Fridays, 11 a.m., children 3-5 years. Books, rhymes, songs & crafts at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450. www.belding.michlibrary.org

FAMILY BUILDING BLOCKS BRICKS PARTY - Tues., Dec. 31, 1 p.m. Design, build & bond w/the whole family w/building blocks. For all ages. Englehardt branch library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

FREE HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING SERVICES - at the Belding Masonic Lodge on Dec. 6 from 4-7 p.m. & Dec. 7 from 1-5 p.m.

BEYBLADES - Thurs., Jan. 2, 1 p.m. Train and compete w/your own Beyblades or the library's. Alto Branch Library, 6071 Linfield Ave. SE, Alto, 616-784-2007. www.kdl.org

Looking Back, continued

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 4, 1913

Headline: Pere M. smash up cost brakeman Holmes' life. Freights collide at Elmdale. A misunderstanding of orders, it is supposed, cost the life of brakeman Thos. Holmes of Grand Rapids near Pratt Lake in a headon collision between two Pere Marquette freight trains at 1.20 Monday morning. Holmes was climbing over the tender when the engines crashed into each other and was crushed. The engine crews saw their danger in time to jump. Extra No. 294, in charge of Conductor Larabell and Engineer Thomas, received orders saying that regular No. 62 between Elmdale and Saginaw "for November 30" was annulled. The train men took this to mean that regular No. 62 had been discontinued for Sunday night and thus were running under orders 24 hours old. The regular, No. 62, in charge of Conductor Abbott and Engineer Kintz, had the right of way. As soon as word could be sent to headquarters a wrecker was brought from Grand Rapids. The tracks were blockaded with wreckage of the engines and of several cars that left the track but the wrecking crew opened up the line within a few hours, although one or two trains had to be routed through Lowell on the Grand Trunk.

The Michigan Bent Rim company is rafting logs down Grand river from Saranac for the Lowell factory.

Another lot will be rafted down the river from Allendale to Grand Haven and from thence to factory by rail. River rafting sounds like old times.

The seven weeks' deadlock on the Board of Supervisors closed Saturday. The city pays one half of per cent more of the state and county tax than ever before. Lowell's assessed valuation was boosted some along with the other townships. Both state and county taxes will be higher than last year.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 1, 1938

The highway department spread a lot of gravel on Hudson Street a week or so ago. It ain't there now! Gone with the wind—onto the porches and into the homes of the people living along the street.

Headline: Escape death as car overturns. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Daudert, of Lowell, have occasion to remember this year's Thanksgiving Day, when they miraculously escaped with their lives Thursday evening about 7 o'clock when returning home from South Haven. Mr. Daudert is proprietor of a local shoe repair shop.

Indians to slay devil at Cross Village. Cross Village in Emmet county is preparing for formal execution of the Jiminydo December 31. No tears will be shed for

the culprit, says a Federal Writers' Project research worker, for the Jiminydo is a devil and his extinction is merely a detail of winding up the old year's business. Annual shooting of the Jiminydo is a chore of the Indian population of Cross Village designed to make better times. The purpose is to frighten the Jiminydo into proving less troublesome in the new year.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 5, 1963

The Christmas season is here! With the light falling snow and the crisp weather that has prevailed over Lowell for the past several days, is only a slight indication that the Christmas holiday season has arrived. Residents driving through town can see that the merchants have been busy decorating their business establishments for the holiday rush.

Gets first deer in 25 years. Twenty-five years is a long time to wait for your luck to pan out during deer hunting season, but Luther Sterzick, age 73, of rural Alto, did just that. Hunting in Branch Township during the 1963 season, Mr. Sterzick shot a large spikehorn.

No shooting in city limits; complaints force law. Avery Block, Lowell Chief of Police, issued a reminder this week warning against carrying loaded fire arms or firing them inside of the city limits. The city ordinance prohibits both. There have been several complaints of hunters near the west city limits. Any person or persons found violating this ordinance will lose possession of their fire arms and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

Wendell Christoff was probably [the] only Lowell person in Washington, D. C. over the week end of President Kennedy's death. Christoff and several of his friends from Western Michigan University drove to the capitol early Sunday morning and waited until 2:30 am on Monday to pass the bier of the president in the capitol rotunda. At noon, they stood across the street from the cathedral, where the president's funeral service was held and watched the Kennedy family and distinguished guests enter the church and leave.

Mrs. Leona Borgerson, Lowell Antique Importer revealed this week that she has received several cards of condolence from business acquaintances in England and France on the death of President John F. Kennedy. The cards revealed the deep feeling that struck not only at all America, but at citizens of Europe as well.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 30, 1988

Headline: Sliding hill ready for area's youth. Every December and January Reservoir Hill (Jefferson Street) and the hill on Gee Drive were descended upon by the youth of Lowell for the high adventure of sledding. Sledding wasn't a problem, but the sleds failing to stop until they reached the street pavement was a problem. So much so that roughly two years ago Lowell's Park and Recreation Commission decided to try to take the danger out of sledding for the community's youth. With the allocation of \$7,500 from the Look Memorial Fund, Bieri Construction was hired to do the excavating and Fishbach, Thompson, Can and Hubert came up with the design for a sledder's delight. On N. Washington behind the Boy Scout cabin lies a 1,000 foot hill that has been designed and excavated strictly for sledding.

Perry named "A.D. of the Year." Over 300 people were on hand Monday at the Adrian's Ramona Terrace to honor Lowell's Athletic director Bob Perry for his 37 years of dedicated service in education and 20 years as the school's A.D. Perry was presented a plaque by John Velthouse, a representative of the West Michigan Officials Association. "It's a real honor for Lowell, the district and for Bob Perry," Lowell High School principal Bob Perry, Lowell's athletic director for the past 31 years, was named Athletic Director of the Year by the Western Michigan Officials Association. Dick Korb said, "The award is well deserved." The Lowell A.D. came to Lowell in 1951 as a teacher and a coach. In those 37 years he coached varsity football, track, cross country, tennis, [and] junior varsity basketball. In 1967-68 Perry was named assistant principal and athletic director. While he has been A.D. for the past 20 years. He served as assistant principal from 1967-1970.

LAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS' VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

- * Denotes a game at East Kentwood Ice Arena
- 12/6 at 8 p.m. Northview*
- 12/7 at 4 p.m. Union*
- 12/13 at 8 p.m. Jenison High School*
- 12/14 at 5 p.m. West Ottawa*

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

- * Denotes a game at Lowell High School main gym
- 12/6 at 7 p.m. at Ionia
- 12/10 at 6 p.m. at Forest Hills Eastern
- 12/14 at 4 p.m. at Traverse City West
- 12/17 at 6 p.m. Northview*

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

- * Denotes a game at Lowell High School main gym
- 12/10 at 7:45 p.m. at Forest Hills Eastern
- 12/17 at 7:45 p.m. Northview *
- 12/20 at 7:45 p.m. at Greenville

BOYS' VARSITY WRESTLING

- * Denotes a game at Lowell HS
- 12/7 at 9:30 a.m. Allegan Tournament
- 12/13 at 7 p.m. at Marist High School
- 12/14 time TBA at Mount Carmel High School

GIRLS' VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER

- * Denotes a game at Lowell High School
- 12/21 at 11 a.m. Reeths Puffer Invitational
- 1/11 time TBA Gull Lake Invitational

GIRLS' VARSITY GYMNASTICS

- * Denotes a game at Lowell High School Auxiliary Gym
- 12/30 at 6 p.m. Kenowa Hills*
- 1/4 at 9:30 a.m. Rockford Flip-Flop Invitational

**THEME:
HOLIDAY MOVIES**

ACROSS

1. Bug hitting windshield, e.g.
6. Presidents' Day month
9. Party barrels
13. Moonshine
14. Grassland
15. Beyond normal limits
16. ____ Boo Boo
17. Opposite of nothing
18. It has front and rear seats
19. *Misfit elf dentist
21. **"It's a Wonderful Life" star
23. Unopened tulip
24. Oliver Twist, e.g.
25. White wine and cassis
28. ____ good example
30. Sect follower
35. "National Velvet" author Bagnold
37. Earth's neighbor
39. Some are on a shorter one than others
40. Windmill blade
41. Top dog
43. Attached to a wheel
44. Magazine's special feature
46. **"A Christmas Story" leg ____
47. Capital on the Dnieper
48. Vital
50. Cleopatra's necklace
52. Chester White's home
53. Strip of wood
55. **"Be Home For Christmas"
57. *It happened on 34th Street
61. Show off
64. Acid in proteins
65. Ides month

CROSSWORD

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DOWN

67. Holy See loyalist practicing different rites
69. Closely watched on Black Friday
70. Before prefix
71. ____ Domingo
72. Old World duck
73. *Astaire's character in "Holiday Inn"
74. Clear the blackboard
1. "Be quiet!"
2. **"Winnie the ____ and Christmas Too"
3. Like a famous Ranger
4. Tart
5. Immune system organ
6. Strip the skin off
7. Slippery reef dweller
8. Model-building wood
9. Acknowledged or recognized
10. Tropical tuberous root
11. Its seed yields gum used as thickener
12. Email folder
15. Utilitarian
20. Swelling from accumulation of fluid
22. Clinical twitching
24. "On the ____" or in a belligerent mood
25. *He was left home alone
26. Silly
27. Between shampoo and repeat
29. ____ tale
31. Pipe problem
32. Yellow rides
33. Speck in the ocean
34. *Famous lampooner on Christmas vacation
36. Owner's acquisition
38. Idiot, Yiddish
42. Patriots' Day month
45. Phone companies
49. Indian dish
51. *Agreement to assume Santa's identity
54. Dangle a carrot
56. Relating to the moon
57. Physics calculation
58. Mosque V.I.P.
59. Agitate
60. All over again
61. *Santa's bitter old brother
62. Columbus' vessel
63. Makes lace
66. Exist
68. Corn site

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12

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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.

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the lowell ledger

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NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3

- The first day after a major overhaul HealthCare.gov appears to be on the mend. More than a million new visitors have used the website with 13,000 visitors opting to get an email to return when there was less traffic.
- A private memorial was held at the site of the crash that killed actor Paul Walker and his business partner Roger Rodas. Walker was killed Nov. 30, 2013, in a car accident.
- Britney Spears celebrated her 32nd birthday on Monday.
- The city of Detroit is eligible for Chapter 9 according to a ruling on Tuesday by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes.
- In North Korea, leader Kim Jong Un has dismissed his uncle Jang Song Thaek.
- There have reportedly been 13 shark attacks this year, off the Hawaiian island of Maui. The latest killing a kayak fisherman. That compares with an average of four a year during the last 20 years.

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?

Yes I've started25%

No, not yet 62%

I'm all done with shopping13%

TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL go to WWW.thelowelledger.com

Riverwalk extention project ribbon cutting celebration set for December 13

It started with a conversation about taking advantage of the Flat River that runs through the middle of town and finding new uses for older properties. On Friday, Dec. 13, at 5:15 pm, a ribbon cutting ceremony will officially open the Riverwalk Extension project.

Community leaders were talking about the wonderful events along the Riverwalk. The big question

was how the city can support more activity along our beautiful riverfront and in our businesses. The most obvious site was the old amphitheatre that needed much repair just to be used. The site was very limited in use due to the hard structure that was in place.

“We have this wonderful resource in the river and a very large section that was unusable,” said mayor Jim Hodges. “With

the community events, fishing, canoeing and other activities happening in the limited space along the Riverwalk, we decided it was time to improve the amphitheatre.”

Businesses and community organizations have been looking for ways to make better use of our river and the amphitheatre was a barrier. Also, by improving the riverfront, the hope is that the old school

building will become more interesting to those looking for downtown property. The buildings have been for sale for some time.

The challenge for the project was funding such an activity in a down economy with no extra room in the budget. This is where everyone began serious collaboration and got creative.

“Grants fund the entire project. When the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund approved a grant for \$300,000, we began to really believe it could happen,” said city manger Mark Howe. “We asked Williams & Works to manage the project and collaborate with members of the community to have it reflect our city.”

A landscape architect with a passion for natural resources and community development, Cornelisse

Design Associates, submitted four designs. After input and discussions with several board and commission members and input from community partners, a blend of the four options was selected.

Additional grants came from the Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF), the Lowell Cable Television fund (LCTV), the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Arbor Board. Grants totaling \$458,400 were earmarked for the project. At this point, the project is expected to come in at or below budget.

The kayak launch is the last piece to fund and will go out for bids this winter. The launch is included in the total budget.

The benches and rails are currently being installed and Katerberg VerHage plan to have it completed in time for the ribbon cutting.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, mayor Hodges and others will gather to celebrate the opening of the Riverwalk Extension project. Representatives from the LACF, LCTV fund, the DDA, the Arbor Board, the city and the consultants will be there to mark this event.

The event is only just the beginning of activities and events expanding along the riverbank. In the spring, the grass will come in full, additional plantings will be finalized and the kayak launch will be constructed.

“We don’t know how we are going to use this space yet. Ideas are just beginning now that we can see the actual space,” said Liz Baker, director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. “It will be fun to work with local organizations, hear their ideas and help make them happen. It’s exciting to think about the possibilities.”

The public is welcome to join the ceremony and then stay downtown to enjoy “A Nite of Christmas Cheer” presented by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and funded by the city of Lowell DDA.

Santa Visits on the Historic Lowell Showboat

Come and experience the magic of Lowell this holiday season. Visit with Santa in the Santa room on the magical Lowell Showboat. Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies in the Cookie Room. The Showboat will be decorated to enchant and delight young and old. A memory will be waiting for you this holiday season in *Lowell - the Next Place to Be!*





Wednesdays - 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

December 11 - adopted by Lowell YMCA
December 18 - adopted by Addorio Technologies and Arrowhead Golf Course

Free digital photos by Modern Photographics with Santa

Saturdays - 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

December 14 - adopted by Lowell Rotary Club
December 21 - adopted by Flat River Outreach Ministries

Free digital picture by River Valley Credit Union with Santa.

Friday A Nite of Christmas Cheer!

• Ribbon cutting ceremony
at 5:15 pm for the new Riverwalk
December 13 - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Warm up your holiday traditions on the Riverwalk Plaza,
Historic Lowell!

- Visit with Santa and get a free digital picture by Modern Photographics
- Hot dogs sponsored by Arctic Heating and Cooling
- Hot cocoa and cookies in the Cookie Room
- Horse and carriage rides
- Warming fires

• Ice sculpture carving • Roasted chestnuts sponsored by Lowell Area Historical Museum • Live Entertainment

Suggested donation for Holiday activities and pictures \$1

Please note that the line to see Santa on the Lowell Showboat is outdoors, dress accordingly for the weather.

Check the website at www.discoverlowell.org for complete schedule or call the chamber at (616) 897-9161.



LOWELL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Presented by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and funded by the City of Lowell DDA.