

giving warmth for the holidays



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Santa Claus makes an appearance on Main Street

Annual nighttime parade well attended

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Santa Claus did indeed come to town last weekend.

Santa made his first appearance of the day, alongside Mrs. Claus, aboard the historic Robert E. Lee Showboat. Little believers lined up with their families outside in the mild weather waiting their turn to take a place on Santa's lap.

After relaying their Christmas wishes to jolly old St. Nick, guests received a complimentary photo as well as free cookies and hot cocoa, provided by Laurels of Kent, in the whimsically decorated "Cookie Room."

Just across the way at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, children between the ages of 2-6

Santa Claus comes to Lowell, continued, page 9



Photo by Bruce Doll

Main Street was lined with visitors waiting for the parade to start.

FROM provides free student lunches over break

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) is reaching out to Lowell families this winter break in an effort to feed children who might otherwise go without.

Holiday break can

add stress to a budget already stretched thin by everyday living expenses. FROM's winter lunch program is designed to ease that financial burden by providing free lunches to area students.

The program is



available to any family living in the Lowell school district with school age children. Those interested in participating can register by visiting the FROM food pantry located at 11535 Fulton Street by Dec. 19. Pantry hours are Monday and Tuesday from 2-4:30

pm, Wednesday from 5-7 pm, Thursday from 2-4:30 pm and Friday from 10-12 pm.

Food distribution will occur the Tuesday following the beginning of break, Dec. 23, from 1-7 pm at the pantry.

A little Christmas cheer brought to you by the LPD

In the Nov. 26 issue of the Ledger, we reported that Rob Bliss had approached the Lowell chief of police, Steve Bukala, about doing a 'Secret Santa' type operation on Main Street.

Lowell officers pulled citizens over for minor offenses, then in conversation, asked if they had their Christmas shopping done and what they were looking for, etc.

Well, the heartwarming results can be seen by going to this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlnxajQrL8w> to watch a short video courtesy of YouTube, Rob Bliss and the LPD.



Officer Scott VanSolkema receives a hug from a unsuspecting driver when he surprises her with a gift in this clip from a YouTube video by Rob Bliss, entitled "Christmas Surprise Traffic Stop with Lowell Police."

DNR finds 2014 firearm deer harvest down from last year

The 2014 firearm deer season wrapped up Nov. 30, and challenging conditions and lower deer numbers in some areas likely have led to fewer deer being taken this year. Each year the Department of Natural Resources generates preliminary estimates of the firearm deer harvest shortly after the season closes. Those estimates are later replaced by a rigorous assessment of harvest and participation over all deer seasons using an annual hunter mail survey.

The 2014 firearm deer season harvest appears to have decreased in all regions this year, but particularly in the Upper Peninsula. Experiences can differ widely within regions. DNR biologists estimate that, compared to 2013, the harvest was down approximately 30 to 40 percent across the Upper Peninsula, decreased perhaps as much as 10 percent in the northern Lower Peninsula, and was down about five percent

in the southern Lower Peninsula.

Deer populations in the Upper Peninsula are down after two severe past winters. The DNR significantly reduced antlerless quotas prior to this season and has invested in habitat improvement and research assessing the role of predators, habitat and weather conditions in driving U.P. deer abundance. The 2014 deer season forecast indicated hunters should expect to see fewer deer in the region, and some locations also saw more than 40 inches of snow accumulation before the firearm season opened, making hunting access challenging and driving deer to migrate out of such areas earlier than normal.

“The number of deer brought to our check stations declined as much as 60 percent in some locations, though hunter success was somewhat better in areas with higher deer densities,” noted Upper Peninsula



Regional Supervisor Terry Minzey. “Winter severity has moderated since then, but we’ll continue to monitor conditions and regional deer populations through the months to come.”

Deer harvest did not decline so dramatically in the Lower Peninsula. “The tough winter last year did not impact deer populations below the bridge as it did in the Upper Peninsula,” noted Ashley Autenrieth, Wildlife Division deer biologist for the northern regions. “But reduced antler size this season indicated deer condition was affected.”

Concentrations of standing corn that provide secure cover for deer contributed to adverse hunting conditions in some locations. Brent Rudolph, Wildlife Division research specialist, also shared that “department research in one southern Michigan study area indicates deer numbers are still only slowly rebounding following an extensive

outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease several summers ago.” The research project is being conducted in collaboration with Michigan State University, with assistance from many hunter volunteers, and also has received financial support from Safari Club International.

Rudolph also stressed the importance of cooperation with Michigan’s hunter harvest survey, what he called “a vital tool for Michigan’s deer program, and another important way in which data provided by hunters contributes to our information base.”

Hunters who do not receive a survey in the mail but who wish to provide their hunting and harvest information may visit www.michigan.gov/deer and select the “Complete a Deer Harvest Survey Online” link. Hunters should only provide this information once they have completed all of their 2014 deer hunting activities.



along main street

CHRISTMAS IN FALLASBURG

Christmas in Fallasburg will be held at the Fallasburg Schoolhouse, 13944 Covered Bridge Road on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 6 to 8 pm. This is a benefit for the continued preservation of the historic village sponsored by the Fallasburg Historical Society. Traditional holiday music by the Hawks & Owls band, wine, cheese, cider, coffee and lots of Christmas goodies plus a roaring bonfire in adjacent Fallas Field to cap off the evening. For more information go to www.fallasburg.org or call 616-682-0785.

FLAT RIVER GALLERY & FRAMING

Watercolorist Debra Hoover will be the featured artist at Flat River Gallery & Framing for the month of December. Reception Dec. 18, 5-7. Public invited.

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thurs., Dec. 18 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

LIVESTRONG CLASS AT THE YMCA

A cancer survivor exercise class to regain your strength, balance, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance will be held Mondays and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm, Jan. 2 through April 2, 2015 at the Lowell YMCA. Class is free, call 616-855-9570.

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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Rogue River Artisans 32nd annual sale features 104 booths

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell High School hosted The Rogue River Artisans 32nd annual juried Fine Art and Craft Holiday Sale this past Saturday from 9-4.

Both gymnasiums and the main hallway of the school were filled with goods from more than 125 artists featured in 104 uniquely different artisan booths.

The first sale started quietly inside a private home and evolved over time into a

massive show that supports the students at Lowell High School who volunteer yearly at the event.

Foot traffic was high for the event as mild weather welcomed customers to eclectic booths, such as Paper Shells owned by Ada artist Michelle Johnson, "We have faced ice storms and bitterly cold weather and people have still come out, but today is probably the busiest I have ever seen it."

Johnson has been

participating in the show for more than a decade showcasing her paper crafting. Her booth carries items such as cards, jewelry and ornaments. This year she featured a special project, driftwood with found items to create fish wall hangings. The pieces made Johnson's booth one of the most popular at the event, sparking conversations of creativity among customers.

Other popular booths included Sunset Dunes Studio whose

unconventional stained glass work stopped shopper after shopper in their tracks. "These pieces are absolutely breathtaking," said out-of-town patron Lindsay Simmons, who said she has visited the show countless times. The booth also featured copper art by artist and owner Janet Groth who revealed that the company accepts custom orders.

Much attention was also given to the classic wooden toys featured at the Dick's Collectibles booth.

Artist Dick Robinson of Grand Rapids chatted with customers who admired his quality wooden cars, trucks, planes and puzzles that reminded them of Christmas' past.

Visitors also swarmed into Sarah's Quirks of Art booth which featured womens' accessories, such as bib necklaces, scarves and on-trend jewelry like steampunk rings. Customer April McCallum from Belding said she loved the selection of the booth and the entire show, saying it is the main reason she makes the show a part of her holiday shopping routine, "No matter your taste there is always something amazing, creative and unique at this show. It is definitely the place to find the perfect gift or to find a treasure for yourself."

Food booths offered up delicious samples for shoppers, such as dip and soup mixes, salsas and jams from Frozen Creek Farms and homemade jerky

from Uncle Jim's Famous Jerky out of Allendale. Artwork featuring natural elements, such as stones, sticks and dried leaves and flowers were available from Stonemedicine owned by Debra Upright, Get Stoned by Gayle Holmquist and The Garden Gate featuring works by Dorr artist Nancy Sluiter.

Homemade creams, lotions, soaps and lip balms were available from Lowell artist Victoria Schreur of Victoria Kay Designs and Carmen's Gardens owned by Carmen Smith.

The list of vendors also featured One Man's Junk, who featured crafts constructed of license plates; bird feeders made of coffee and tea pots by Marcia's Crafts; and local landscape photography prints and canvases from Tonya Rye, owner of Pure-T Photography.

Next year's event is already scheduled for the same time and location on December 5, 2015.



Visitors saw and shopped the work of over 125 local artists in 104 booths inside the gymnasiums at Lowell High School.

How to send gifts to faraway friends and family

The holiday season is a time to share happy experiences with friends and family. But reconnecting with loved ones come the holidays is not always possible, especially when family and friends are spread out across the country, if not the globe. Even though these people may not be close geographically, they're still close in our hearts and, therefore, still on our holiday shopping lists.

Some issues arise when sending gifts to faraway friends and family. Distance necessitates shipping gifts or making travel arrangements. To make that process less complicated, consider these suggestions.

• Package gifts wisely. When shipping gifts,

exercise caution to ensure the item arrives on time and in one piece. The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year for the shipping industry, and packages may endure a few bumps along the way. For fragile items, use extra packing peanuts, newspaper or other protective wrapping material. Choose the right size package so the gift does not move around much inside of the box. If the gift is expensive, insure the package in the event it gets lost or damaged. Also, you may want to spend a little more money to have the shipment tracked and a confirmation sent when the package is delivered. This can offer some peace of mind during a hectic time of year.

• Take advantage of free shipping offers. Many retailers offer discounts on shipping rates during the holiday season. Shop at retailers that offer such discounts, as shipping costs can be exorbitant depending on the sizes of the packages

being sent. In addition, online retailers may allow you to ship the gift directly to its recipient, which can help you ensure the gift gets to its destination on time.

• Give gift cards and certificates. Gift cards are an easy item to ship, and can be sent within the regular mail for the cost of a stamp. Certain retailers may have digital gift cards or certificates that allow buyers to email a special code to the gift recipient, who can then redeem the code for a purchase credit. This is a convenient, fast and inexpensive way to send holiday wishes.

• Don't forget about inspections and customs procedures. Items shipped out of the country may be delayed by customs inspectors at their ultimate destination. Assume that



certain packages may be opened or detained, and ship such packages early so the gifts still arrive on time. Packages that look unusual or like they're hiding something may be prone to inspection more so than others. Be honest about declarations of value and what is contained in the package. Also, realize certain items, like fruits, vegetables, plants, or seeds, may be prohibited. Learn the international shipping rules for your gift's destination prior to sending anything.

Distant family members and friends may be out of sight but certainly not out of mind come the holidays. When it comes to sending gifts, ship smart.

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

What Can You Learn from the "Oracle of Omaha"?

Warren Buffet, the "Oracle from Omaha," is considered one of the most successful investors in history. Yet while the investment world may seem complex, Mr. Buffet's advice is actually pretty simple. Here are a few Buffet quotes, along with some suggestions on putting them to use:

"Whether we're talking about socks or stocks, I like buying quality merchandise when it is marked down."

Essentially, this means you should look for good investment vehicles whose price may have dropped. A "bear" market tends to drag down many stocks — even those with strong fundamentals and favorable prospects. These stocks might then be considered "bargains." One way to determine whether a stock is "expensive" or "cheap" is by looking at its price-to-earnings ratio (P/E). For example, if Company "A" has a share price of \$20 and earnings per share of \$4, then it has a P/E of 5. On the other hand, if Company "B" has the same share price of \$20, but has earnings per share of \$2,

its P/E would be 10. So it would be considered more expensive than Company "A." Be aware, though, that the P/E ratio works better as a measure of cost when you are comparing two companies in the same industry.

"Time is the friend of the wonderful business, the enemy of the mediocre."

Be prepared to own quality stocks for the long term; over time, your confidence may be rewarded. On the other hand, if an investment is not of high quality, its flaws will be revealed over the years.

"If investors insist on trying to time their participation in equities, they should try to be fearful when others are greedy and greedy only when others are fearful."

Trying to "time" the market — that is, attempting to buy when prices are low and sell when prices are high — is a difficult task. Too many people do just the opposite: They try to "cut their losses" by selling when the market is down and then go after the "hot" investment whose price may already be as high as it's going to go.

Mr. Buffet clearly is not in favor of a market timing approach, and those who try to do it, he says, are probably better off by going against the crowd. Keep in mind, though, that even when holding investments rather than trying to time the market, investing in equities does involve risk, including potential loss of principal.

"When we own portions of outstanding businesses with outstanding managements, our favorite holding period is forever."

When should you sell good investments? Never, according to Mr. Buffet. And while this endless holding period may not be possible for all of us, you get the idea: the longer you keep a good investment, the better off you may be when you do sell.

"The line separating investment and speculation, which is never bright and clear, becomes blurred still further when most market participants have recently enjoyed triumphs. Nothing sedates rationality like large doses of effortless money."

The lesson here? Be an investor, not a speculator. A long run-up in the market can increase your wealth, but it may also make you prone to risky behavior if you think that all your investments will rise indefinitely.

As an investor, you may well want to consider Mr. Buffet's ideas — after all, they've sure worked well for him.

kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

Lowell's 2014 Christmas parade was a huge success. I enjoyed the

lights and festivities but I think that the parade is more than just pretty lights and colors. It's about celebrating the spirit of the season with your family. It is great to see so many people come out and support our community this way. Though it might be better if there was candy (as

I heard from many kids in the crowd). I understand that they don't want kids getting hurt by flying Smarties, but I think kids would gladly get a black eye for candy! It's also fun to watch little kids worm their way through the crowd to get to the front to see Santa. My family makes it an evening out with dinner, the parade and fun all around. I noticed as I was enjoying my dinner at Larkin's, that many other families do the same. This is the first time I'd been to Larkin's for as long as I could remember and I think the experience was very good. The kitchen was a little backed up but the food was worth the wait. In the end, the parade in Lowell is a crazy affair, but it's family fun and that is what I like about it.

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viewpoint

to the editor

council reporting

To the Editor:

After reading the recent letter regarding the manner in which the Lowell City Council meetings are reported, I wanted to add that I too am concerned.

While I'm not sure I'd say the Ledger reporter is biased, I do think his articles are unclear. They are written as almost a transcript of the meeting discussions. Maybe this is being done to avoid the appearance of taking sides, but it makes for confusing articles with zero context.

For example, a recent article stated a councilmember requested "purchase and funding of purchase of fire truck" be added to the agenda. The article then went on to say the councilmember asked a series of questions about the recent fire truck purchase.

But what does that mean? Was the councilmember angry about the purchase of the fire truck? Did the councilmember want to know if another truck would be purchased in the future? Was he unhappy the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services

Authority recommended the purchase? Or was he upset that the Lowell City Council approved it?

It appears there is some back story to the confrontational exchange, but I have no idea what that could be because of the way the article is written.

For those who aren't aware, I was a resident of Lowell for approximately 15 years and served on various commissions and boards until I moved to Vergennes Township last year. In addition, I spent three years on the city council from January 2009 to December 2011.

I have very fond memories of my time working with my Lowell neighbors on these boards and on the council. I will also add that perhaps the best vote I ever made on the council was the one to hire Mark Howe as our city manager.

Looking back at that time, it was distressing to learn our previous city manager, Dave Pasquale, would be leaving us. Dave was a man of utmost

integrity and also a wealth of knowledge, particularly in the area of zoning and planning.

With Dave's retirement, we knew we needed to find someone not only capable of filling those big shoes but also someone with the financial experience to deal with what were, quite frankly, some scary deficit numbers staring at us from the budget forecasts. At the time, there were serious concerns about whether we'd need to raise taxes significantly or slash services drastically (such as our excellent police department) in order to balance the books in the aftermath of the great recession.

When it came time to conduct final interviews for the city manager position, Mark was clearly the top candidate. He had the budget expertise we needed and, even better, he was a lifetime resident of the greater Lowell community. The city council was unanimous in its decision.

And Mark hasn't failed to live up to his promise. Among other things, the budget was balanced without any

drastic measures; the long-discussed Riverwalk project was finally completed; and a community dialogue was initiated with the neighboring townships, businesses and other stakeholders.

Unfortunately, as I've read the Ledger over the last few years, I feel as though I should send Mark an apology for hiring him into such a mess.

What happened Lowell?

Since when did taking pot shots and making personal attacks become okay? It's particularly baffling that the city manager is in the crosshairs since the manager works under the direction of the city council. He's only doing what he's told to do by the majority of your elected council.

I cringe every time I read a nasty letter to the editor or a quote in the Ledger about the city manager. That type of mudslinging is an embarrassment to our community.

My hope for 2015 is [that] we can all make a New Year's resolution to disagree without being disagreeable.

Sincerely,
Maryalene LaPonsie

Editors note: Our intention is to report what was said at the council meetings - period. That is the context. Why a person is saying something is not within our purview.

took seven stitches to close the wound. For any one but a horseman it would be considered a pretty close call.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 10, 1914

Headline: New school house, a further statement about the proposed building. There are a few facts which may be misunderstood and which will be explained in detail at the mass meeting Friday night. The Board of Education will not take the West ward over as long as the majority of the people on the west side prefer that it be in operation. While a saving of a few hundred dollars could be made, they feel that the people's wishes should be respected.

An old resident of Vergennes has passed away. Lurea P. Bates was born in Brantford, Ontario, July 21,

Attorney-General Fellows has ruled that churches do not need to furnish individual drinking cups for communication services. The opinion was asked by Rev. Chalker, of Fowlerville.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 14, 1939

Headline: Main St. beautiful sight on annual window night, biggest crowd since Showboat. One more successful event added to the long list of such

Looking Back, continued, page 12

in my opinion

Fred Jacobs, vice president J-Ad Graphics

There's something going on in Lansing and it may not be good

The Michigan Legislature is in its final days of what's called the 'lame-duck' session during which legislators are busy rifling through a pile of bills and enacting new laws before the end of the 2014 legislative session and before many of them who did not get re-elected in November or who have reached their term limits retire.

During these few days left in 2014, legislators work diligently to get bills passed because any proposals not acted on before the end of the year will end up in the wastebasket or be re-introduced in the next session.

The problem with this environment is that legislators, especially those who are not returning, come alive in these last days trying to get their 'pet projects' passed. As all of us know, though, whenever you rush something through government mistakes are possible.

The bigger tragedy is that the action they take in these last few days could impact Michigan residents for years to come.

Under consideration in the lame duck session are bills to allow bars to sell alcohol until 4 am. Another proposal deals with religious freedom and expression and yet another centers on faith-based adoption agencies and their ability to refuse to perform abortions.

There are also bills on the burning of tires, reform of court sentences, a certificate of need for a large hospital network, and ride-sharing permits. There's even a bill that would require drug testing for welfare recipients and more that I've not listed.

Shouldn't taxpayers be asking their elected officials, "Are these issues even on our radar screen?" Shouldn't legislators be ending the session with

issues that are important to us rather than mere trophies for term-limited legislators?

First of all, voters just re-elected their governor in what appeared a tight race. During Gov. Snyder's first term and during his re-election campaign, he consistently voiced his concerns over the decaying condition of the state's roads and bridges and appealed to the legislators for a solution. Finally, the Senate passed a bill that imposed a new wholesale tax that would ultimately raise about \$1.2 billion. According to Snyder, the state needs over a billion dollars a year for up to 10 years to get Michigan's roads and bridges up to standards again.

But last week the House, under the leadership of term-limited Speaker Jase Bolger pushed through a plan that contained three different pieces of legislation. The bills would phase-out the sales tax on gasoline over six years and would increase a new wholesale gasoline tax from 7.5 to 13.5 percent over six years to counterbalance the loss of sales tax on gas.

One of the consequences to Bolger's proposal is that it could divert money away from schools and cities adding more pressure to their financial stability. So, rather than work with the Senate to get an acceptable bill that both bodies could agree on, the House threw a monkey wrench into the process that may make it impossible to get a bill to the governor's desk by the end of the session.

I think this is outrageous. The governor made the case that roads are one of Michigan's biggest challenges, yet his own party couldn't come to a consensus on how to get the job done.

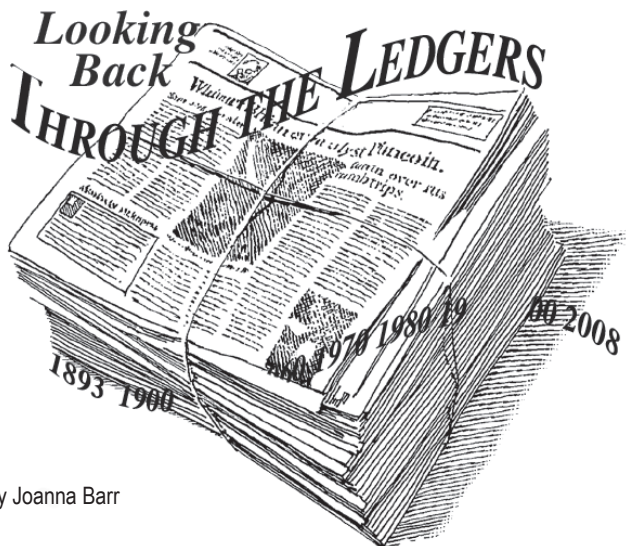
"Crumbling roads and bridges have a significant

In My Opinion, continued, page 7

We love to hear from you!

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



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal December 11, 1889

Here has been altogether too many drunk men on the streets of late. Sunday evening there were five drunken men on Main Street, shouting and cursing. It wouldn't be a bad idea to run them in. It is time to call a halt and we would call the attention of the Marshal to this matter.

The Michigan Cutter Co. has received several inquiries from different towns as to the probability of inducing them to locate there.

R. P. Watters was kicked and seriously hurt by a horse last Thursday. The toe calk splintered his jaw. It

area births

Swift



Keaton Sawyer Swift

Keaton Sawyer Swift was born November 8, 2014, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches to proud parents, Jacob and Lindsay Swift.

Keaton was born in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Jacob is a corporal

in the United States Marine Corp and is currently stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC.

Proud grandparents are Rich and Toni Anderson and Nathan and Peggy Swift, all of Lowell.

health

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



high-altitude illness

Every year people travel to the mountains for skiing, snowboarding, backpacking and other activities. When you travel to an altitude of 8,000 feet or higher, you're at risk of developing high-altitude illness. High-altitude illness is divided

into three categories: acute mountain sickness, high-altitude pulmonary edema and high-altitude cerebral edema.

The low amount of oxygen in the air at high altitudes can cause high-altitude illness. The amount

of oxygen in the air goes down as you climb higher above sea level. When people travel too quickly to altitudes above 8,000 feet, they are at risk of high-altitude illness. Some of the first signs of illness are headache, lightheadedness, weakness, trouble sleeping and upset stomach. If these symptoms occur you should go down to a lower altitude until you feel better. More severe symptoms include difficulty breathing at rest, coughing, confusion and trouble walking. If these symptoms occur, you should see a doctor right away and then get to a lower altitude.

High-altitude illness can be prevented by taking your time to travel to higher elevations. For example, try to spend a night or two at a slightly lower altitude before reaching your destination. Your body will

begin to adjust to the lower amounts of oxygen in the air, but it will take several days to adjust completely. You should also avoid alcohol, stay well-hydrated and avoid strenuous activity for the first few days. A prescription medication called Diamox can be used to prevent and treat the symptoms of high-altitude illness.

If you're planning a trip to the high mountains, talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you are healthy enough to travel. People with chronic medical problems, such as severe COPD, severe emphysema, severe heart disease, as well as sickle cell anemia should not travel to high altitudes. You can also find out if you would benefit from taking prescription Diamox to prevent high-altitude illness.

happy birthday!

DECEMBER 10

Bill Fluger, Barbara Decker.

DECEMBER 14

Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth, Perry Beachum.

DECEMBER 11

Dave Rhodes, Kathryn Zalewski, Amber Waldron, Mike Kline, Billie Fallstrom.

DECEMBER 15

Karen Latva, Tammy Baird, Roger Brown, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin Ellis, Danielle Brenk, Marea Borg, Kimberly Kline, Kelly Potter, Tom Kehoe.

DECEMBER 12

Brad Briggs, Matt Newhouse, Sally Hacker, Charlie Young.

DECEMBER 16

Timmy Buechler.

DECEMBER 13

Chrys Thaler, Jeff Bowne, Michelle Fyan.

One easy decision on "Make Up Your Mind Day"

On December 31, the nation celebrates National Make Up Your Mind Day. The timing is perfect to coincide with those pesky New Year's resolutions. Some decisions are big and you might need time to plan before you make up your mind. Other decisions are small, but they matter all the same.

You might say to yourself, "Someday... I'll dust behind the television. But getting back there is a pain and have you seen the spaghetti of power cords?" We all have our own personal *somedays*. Just out of reach. Just over the horizon. But you don't have to wait for someday to plan for your retirement or make up your mind to sign up for your own personal *my Social Security* account. Planning for your retirement is one of the most important things you will do in your life.

When signing up for *my Social Security*, you can see whether you've earned enough credits to apply for Social Security benefits and

verify that your earnings history is correct. It's very important that you verify your earnings, because we base your future Social Security retirement benefits on your lifetime earnings. You can also estimate how much money you will receive when you start collecting cash benefits. If you're already receiving Social Security, you can instantly get a benefit verification letter when you need it. Most importantly, you can relax because you will have the ability to securely control, plan, and manage your receipt of Social Security benefits throughout your life.

Don't wait for *someday* to create a *my Social Security* account, make up your mind and do it now at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

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

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LHS Students of the Month for December

Lowell High School has announced that Kennedy Coxon, 12th grade; and Michael (Cam) Bonney, 12th grade; are the Lowell High School December Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite

an accomplishment for Coxon and Bonney. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Heather DeJonge nominated Coxon and she writes, "Kennedy Coxon is highly deserving of the Student of the Month recognition because of her work ethic and drive for success. Kennedy has maintained an excellent grade in AP biology this trimester, her detail in the laboratories completed is outstanding and she always maintains a positive attitude, along with

showing great leadership while collaborating with her lab partners. Kennedy continually works hard both in and out of the classroom and she is a great role model for her peers both socially and academically."

Bonney was nominated by Ingrid Baird and she writes, "Michael Bonney is a student in my French 4 class. Having had him as a student for several years, I feel I can be a fair judge of his character and academic ability. Michael is deserving of this award because in all four years of his high school

career, he has consistently exemplified all of the characteristics that we value

for Student of the Month. He puts forth his best effort in everything, both in the

classroom and on the hockey rink. In all of his interactions with others he is polite, articulate, considerate and helpful. Although he is not student council president or the most popular kid in the school, he is a quiet leader, modeling his fine personal qualities on a daily basis."

This program is made possible by the support of the LHS Academic Boosters, who support the high school in many ways. If you are interested in helping support the LHS Academic Boosters you may contact the office at 987-2900.



Michael Bonney



Kennedy Coxon

In My Opinion, continued

impact on the state," states a 2012 analysis by the Road Information Program. "An estimated 100 lives can be saved each year if Michigan improves its infrastructure. In addition, one in nine bridges across Michigan are rated as 'structurally deficient,' which means their conditions show deterioration."

Why can't our legislators agree on a plan that would not hurt the economy, that would not put a financial burden on taxpayers and that still would get the job done?

Why not raise the gas tax a few cents? Why not increase the license fee on large trucks that put the strain on the roads? Why not collect sales tax on all Internet purchases? These are simple fixes that could add up to over a billion dollars without changing the entire tax system and jeopardizing the funding for schools and local units of government.

Another issue, that to some might not seem serious but ultimately affects every citizen's right to be informed, is House Bill 5560. This proposed legislation would allow local units of government to phase out the publishing

of public notices in newspapers by 2025 -- just 10 years from now. The bill would allow notices to be placed on websites run by municipalities, which I call out-of-sight-out-of-mind communication that would be detrimental to taxpayers. On the surface, this may not seem like a big issue but, for those of us that have dedicated their life to the publishing business, we feel it would reduce the transparency of government.

I appeared before committees in the House and in the Senate when this bill came up for discussion. I told legislators about how newspapers have always been the watchdogs over local government and how important it is to maintain the requirement to post public notices in print.

"We've filled township halls, county commissions and school board meetings over issues that were made public due to details released in legal notices," I testified before those committees.

Presently, newspapers are required to print, verify and keep on file as a historic document the notices published in our papers.

House Bill 5560 is co-sponsored by Amanda Price

(R-Holland) who heads the House Committee on Local Government where the bill was debated several times. When I appeared before that committee to stress the importance of keeping our readers informed and of their right to know, Price and many of her fellow committee members seemed predisposed to pass the bill, regardless of the testimony that called into question assumptions that newspapers are a better vehicle to post the notices as opposed to a government-run website.

In my comments, I asked legislators what the likelihood would be of my readers going to a government website. When notices are published in our local newspapers, not only do our readers have the opportunity to see what's going on in their area, but my news staff is also looking for important issues that might impact our readers.

The most egregious issue of HB 5560, though, is the ability it would give to unscrupulous -- or just sloppy or even incompetent -- local elected officials

to conduct the public's business without public oversight and input.

In an opinion column that appeared in a Lapeer County newspaper, the publisher addressed this very issue with a question for his readers.

"If a notice about a public meeting for a special assessment or other critical matter were posted only on the website for your city, village or township," wrote the publisher, "would you see it? If you said 'yes,' good for you and for your commitment to stay connected to your local government.

"We think a good many more may have said, 'I'm not sure' or 'no.' Out of sight, out of mind is human nature. If the public notices disappear from newspapers, many people -- most people, we think -- simply won't be aware of the meetings, bids and other local government activities that are now made public through the mandated publication of notices in local papers."

House Bill 5560 now moves to the state Senate where it will go to

committee and debated or be moved directly to the floor where it would be voted on during the lame-duck session. Contact Sen. Dave Hildenbrand to let him know how you feel about openness, accountability and transparency in government.

In recent weeks, I've seen some video clips in which reporters have asked young and old people alike questions about when the Civil War happened, why we participated in World War II and who is the current vice president

of the United States. As a citizen of this great country, I found it deplorable in that so many couldn't answer those questions. National polls verify what's obvious: politics and government issues have fallen to an all-time low with voters.

In the high-tech, constantly-connected society that we've become, sometimes the simple, time-tested methods still work the best. Stand up and be heard, say no to HB 5560.

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100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Middle school variety show highlights talented teens

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell Middle School (LMS) hosted their 10th annual Variety Show featuring song, dance and acrobatics last Wednesday evening at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

Students in grades sixth through eighth, and a special guest, took to the stage to perform their own entertainment selections.

The show was conceived by the guidance counselors at LMS and the school's diversity council.

"It's a great opportunity for students to share their wonderful gifts and talents and to be proud of who they are," said Sheila Dubbink, who helped to coordinate this year's event along with counseling counterpart Katie Erickson.

Typically a spring event for the school, the show made the move to fall this year. Eighth-grade student and emcee Teagan Folk kicked off the event by welcoming the audience and introducing their first vocal performer Hannah Foster.

Foster graced the stage three times during the show singing country hits "Born to Fly" and "God Made Girls" in solo performances and later collaborating with the show's final act, "The Unteachables."

Sixth-grade students Isabelle Duhr and Caroline Cooper brought their high energy dance routine to the

stage after Foster, dancing to "Me and My Girls." Fellow sixth-grader Cassidy Stormzand followed their upbeat performance with a rendition of the popular hit song "Cool Kids."

Olivia Ettinger wowed audiences next with her cover of "Love the Way You Lie" while playing the piano. Seventh-grade dancers Samantha Beckhorn and Hannah Birthrong added their dance stylings and Kayla McCaul offered up a strong vocal performance before the night's special guest arrived.

Queen Elsa, from the Disney smash "Frozen,"



Seventh-grade student Karissa Mansfield performs an upbeat and crowd-pleasing hip hop dance performance.



First-time LMS Variety Show performer Devin Nelson sings "Want You Gone" from the movie soundtrack of Portal 2.



Vocalist Hannah Foster took to the stage three times during the show, twice in solo performances.

made her way to the stage with her blond locks and ice blue dress for a sing-a-long of "Let It Go." The audience sang along and later posed for pictures with the queen, played by dean of students Erin Walters, after the close of the show.

Ruthie Anderson and Maloryn Mrozinski performed the show's only duet, a version of the song "Say Something."

Athletes Isis Lett and Kaylee Diamond shared their gymnastic skills for the audience, followed by a vocal performance from sixth-grade student Devin Nelson.

Eighth-grade student Karissa Mansfield took to the stage next with an enthusiastic hip hop routine.

Variety show,
continued, page 10

House bill critical for citizens' need to be informed

Rather than doing something useful like fix our crumbling roads, the lame duck session in Lansing has busied itself on such profound business as a bill that would bar state university athletes from unionizing.

Another bill passed in the lame duck House

on Thursday approved suspicion-based drug testing of welfare recipients. In spite of studies that show similar programs in other states to be woefully inefficient, the state senate passed a version of the same bill earlier in the year and with the house passage it will become law if Gov. Rick Snyder signs it.

One interesting bill is HB 5560. The bill was debated in the House Committee on Local Government several times before being moved out of the committee two weeks ago. It passed in the House 62-47 on Thurs., Dec. 5. Lowell's representative Lisa

Lyons voted in favor of the bill. HB 5560 would phase out publication of public notices in newspapers by 2025. Instead, those critical public notices would be moved to websites operated by municipalities posting the notices. The bill provides no mechanisms or funding for third-party verification of publication, protection against power outages or hackers, or equipment and training for the municipal workers who would be charged with posting and archiving the notices.

There are many reasons HB 5560 is a bad idea. The publication of government public notices is a minuscule part of the overall budgets of municipalities such as Lowell. Many of Michigan's townships and villages don't

have websites. One of the reasons the print editions of community newspapers remain so popular in an age when supposedly "everyone" is online is because not everyone is online. Newspapers are the number one source for local and community news. Many areas are still without a practical means to connect to the internet. Some citizens choose not to connect. The bill would allow local elected officials to conduct the public's business without public oversight and input.

If a notice about a public meeting for a new tax or other critical matter were posted only on the city's website, would you see it? If public notices disappear from newspapers, many

people won't be aware of their local government's activities. Community newspapers like this one continue to be the go-to source for local news and information.

HB 5560 will next move to the state senate. It will go to committee, could be debated and possibly moved quickly to a vote on the senate floor during the last two weeks of this lame duck session. Before that vote happen, we urge you to contact Senator Dave Hildenbrand at 515-373-1801 or SenDHildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov and tell him that only a "No" vote on HB 5560 is acceptable to voters who demand openness, accountability and transparency of their local government.

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Santa Claus comes to Lowell, continued

were invited to take part in Rudolph's craft workshop. The free play-time craft featured a variety of Christmas themed art opportunities. The annual event is sponsored by the Lowell Area Schools TOTS program.

The next step was the pancake supper held at the King Memorial Center located on the fairgrounds. The fundraising dinner featured pancakes, eggs,

sausage, applesauce and a choice of beverages. Santa made a special guest appearance at the meal taking the time to meet with children. Proceeds benefit the Kent County Youth Fair.

Santa dashed from dinner to his sleigh to take part in the official closing ceremonies of the yearly community Christmas party, the Nighttime Santa parade. The theme this year was "Christmas

Around the World." The nearly 40-minute parade featured local businesses, such as Creation Kingdom, King Milling, Noah's Pet Cemetery and Red Barn Market who were joined by the organizations: Gilda's Club, Lowell cheerleaders, Alto Boy Scout Pack 3180 and LowellArts! Also appearing were the traditional brigade of emergency response vehicles.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus make their grand entrance atop their sleigh.



Members of the Kent County Youth Fair royal court welcomed guests to the fundraising Pancake Supper at the fairgrounds.



Santa listens carefully to the wishes of this young believer.



Kent District Library mascot Katie L. in the parade.



The Lowell High School marching band adorned in Christmas lights provided part of the soundtrack for the parade.



A tropical holiday was celebrated by this spotted pup who represented Noah's Pet Cemetery.

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Dear EarthTalk: Do you have any tips for helping me get my kids involved in environmental protection advocacy? - *Jeanine Black, Charlotte, NC*

There's no time like the present to teach kids to respect their environment and be willing to stand up

to protect it. Of course, any good environmental education starts at home: parents should always keep in mind that they are role models for their kids, and should act responsibly. And most schools today incorporate issues of sustainability into their curricula. But kids who want to do more can sync up with one of any number of nonprofits focused on getting young people involved with volunteering and advocacy on behalf of the environment.

One of the best places to start is Youth for Environmental Sanity (YES!), a nonprofit that runs a national speakers' and workshop tour around the U.S. and beyond as well as summer camps devoted to teaching kids how to take action on behalf of the environment. The group also runs JAMs, bringing together "young changemakers" from local communities to brainstorm ideas for solutions to local, national and international environmental problems. The YES! website features information on a wide range of environmental topics as



well as videos focusing on organizing and coalition building around shared environmental goals.

Another great resource is the Center for Biological Diversity's Generation Wild program, designed to help kids learn about and help protect local wildlife. The program's website offers kids tips on things like how to write an effective and compelling "letter to the editor" for publication in a local newspaper, creating a backyard wildlife sanctuary, encouraging teachers and schools to undertake projects that help local wildlife, and spreading the word via social media.

Meanwhile, Earthforce, Inc. helps kids ages 10-14 develop citizenship skills and address both local and national environmental problems. Participants get hands-on, real-world

opportunities to learn about the issues and develop skills that can help them become lifelong leaders in addressing them. Another leading youth environmental group is Tree Musketeers, which empowers kids to use innovative approaches in launching their own environmental campaigns where they live. Through its Young Executive program, the group provides resources to help kids learn the practical, logistical and personal skills to lead environmental actions and spread the word about the need to live more sustainable lifestyles.

Yet another nonprofit vehicle that helps kids get active is SustainUS, which focuses on sustainable development. Its Agents of Change program sends youth delegations to United

Nations conferences on climate change, sustainable development, women's issues and biological diversity—and its Lead Now Fellowship trains and supports young people in becoming leaders in advancing sustainable development.

Last but not least, TakingItGlobal is an international network of young people working to tackle global environmental challenges. Its Digital Youth Engagement, Global Education and Social Innovation programs focus on creating the next generation of environmental leaders around the world.

Young people can also get involved in environmental protection efforts right in their own backyards even without the support of a nonprofit. Examples include

organizing a local e-waste recycling drive, asking schools and businesses in the area to refrain from using noxious chemicals for landscaping, and coordinating carpools to reduce traffic-related greenhouse gas emissions. Likewise, kids can learn a lot by finding a local green group and volunteering to help canvass for funds, clean-up a beach or waterway, or lobby local officials to take sustainability into account. Indeed, our common future may well depend on it.

CONTACTS: YES!, www.yesworld.org; Generation Wild, www.biologicaldiversity.org/youth; Earthforce, www.earthforce.org; Tree Musketeers, www.treemusketeers.org; SustainUS, www.sustainus.org; TakingItGlobal, www.tigweb.org.

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Variety show, continued

Dubbink called the student's performances spectacular pointing to the amazing pool of talented singers from the sixth grade as one of the standouts of the event.

The show closed with the performance of the student and teacher band led by Kris Kropf.

The band, dubbed "The Unteachables," is built each year by Kropf and features fun and talented musicians and vocalists. This year the band performed two songs and featured fellow teachers Jenny Cole and James Grulke, who are new to the staff at LMS this year. Student musicians Patrick

Kargl, Eric Mooney, Emily Larson and Nathan Roest, along with vocalist Foster also took part in this fun performance.

Dubbink said that Kropf has been a great supporter of the event and has performed at all ten shows.

"Each year he is original, entertaining and works hard at forming his groups," said Dubbink.

The proceeds from entry fees will be used to support programs at LMS, including STARS, fifth- and sixth-grade orientation programs, small group and classroom guidance lessons and future editions of the variety show.

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Red Arrow - BASKETBALL SPORTS

Girls basketball wins home opener 43-27

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell girls varsity basketball came out triumphant in their home and season opener last Thursday evening against nonconference competitors the Ionia Bulldogs.

Lowell started slow allowing five points before their first basket and only scoring four in the quarter. A couple of missed free throws, lost balls and several missed three-point attempts by the Arrow squad left them trailing at the close of the first 4-11.

Stronger play from Lowell began in the second when Catherine Stump nailed a three-pointer to begin a scoring streak to take over the lead. "Catherine is the spark of our team. She has great energy and

is getting better every day. She has the ability to knock down the outside three and has a quick first step to get to the basket," said head coach Jake Strotheide of the senior player.

Junior Ally Frederickson added two and senior Tara McQueen threw in a clean three-point shot to put the Arrows in the lead for the first time in the game 12-11. Kate Montgomery, Bailey Reitsma and Katie Holzhuetter, the game's overall scoring leaders with eight each, added enough points to the board as the half began to wind down to keep the Bulldogs at bay despite several personal fouls committed by the Arrows allowing for free scoring opportunities for their opposition. The half ended with Lowell in the lead 22-16.

McQueen started off scoring in the third with an early two-point shot, but Ionia went on a bit of a scoring tear as the Arrows began to lag in the third.

"Our first and third quarters weren't very strong," said Strotheide, "We liked the shots we were getting, but we didn't finish around the basket strong enough in those quarters."

While Lowell did not shoot Ionia in the third, neither team shined offensively and the quarter ended 27-22 with both teams earning only 11 points combined.

Fighting to extend their lead in the fourth and final quarter of the game, the Arrows stepped up to the challenge outscoring Ionia 16-5 to claim their first victory of the season with a 43-27 win.

Two-year starter McQueen grabbed six of the team's 33 total rebounds and also added two assists and four steals. The point

guard also played solid defense against Ionia's star player Jaylynn Williams, containing her to only ten points in the game. According to Strotheide, McQueen is a great all-around athlete who he expects to have big games for the team, "Tara is a great defender who takes pride in defending the other team's best player."

As they move into the rest of their season, Strotheide expects continued growth for the mostly veteran team, "We are trying to get better every day in all aspects. We take things one day at a time and will continue to challenge each other. If we are able to stay together and work as one, we can have a well-balanced attack on both ends of the floor."

The lady netters will face Forest Hills Eastern at home on Tuesday in their first OK White conference match up of the season and will take on Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills Friday on the road.



Ally Frederickson searches for her shot.



Tara McQueen collides with an Ionia defender and goes airborne toward the basket.



Katie Holzhuetter advances toward the basket during the first period of play.

LAS
Elementary
Lunch Menus
week of 12/15

MONDAY: Cheeseburger on bun, baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mandarin oranges, apple.

TUESDAY: Lunchable fun lunch (ham, cheese, crackers, fruit snack), seasoned corn, (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), green beans (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, mixed fruit, pear.

WEDNESDAY: French toast sticks served w/sausage (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), w/eggs (served at Bushnell), warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, orange slices.

THURSDAY: Rotini w/meat-sauce, dinner roll & seasoned broccoli (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG breaded chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes & gravy (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, peaches, grapes.

FRIDAY: Tony's pepperoni pizza on WG crust, side salad, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, applesauce, juice.

obituaries

EVANS



Retired MSGT Richard 'Dick' D. Evans, age 82 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Monday, December 1, 2014, one day short of his 83rd birthday. He was preceded in death by his son, David Evans. He is survived by his wife, Pamela; children Richard (Dana) Evans, Steven (Tanya) Evans, Lawrence (Bonnie) Evans; mother-in-law Lois Luxford; 7 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Dick loved the outdoors, camping and gardening. He also loved dogs, of which, he rescued and owned many. Interment Fort Custer National Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of West Michigan, 2944 Fuller Ave NE #101, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 or the Humane Society of West Michigan, 3077 Wilson NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534.



RAIMER

John Arthur Raimer, aged 81, of Saranac, passed away December 7, 2014. He was born January 15, 1933, in Ionia, the son of Garry and Marguerite (Scott) Raimer. He graduated from Saranac High School class of 1952. John married Margy Renwick in 1976 in Saranac. He worked for Columbian Storage and Transfer Company until retiring in 1993 after 26 years of service. John farmed all his life and raised Angus cattle. He loved to go to tractor pulls, farm auctions and enjoyed antique tractors and camping. John is survived by his loving wife, Margy Raimer of Saranac; children, Rhonda (Bill) Palmer of Orleans, Renee (Ronald) Goff of Saranac, Scott Raimer of Saranac, Mike Raimer of Saranac, Mark (Cathy) Raimer of Lake Odessa; stepchildren, Steven Estes of Saranac, Terri Sue (Andrew) Fonger of Lowell, Roger Estes of Belding and Mark (Tina) Estes of Belding; sisters, Lois (Clinton) Sprague of Bitely and Marla (Bruce) Hinzman of Tennessee; sister-in-law, Patricia Raimer of Lowell; special friend, Liz Balcer of Belding; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, George Raimer. Funeral Services will be held Thursday, December 11, 2014, 11 am at the Easton United Methodist Church with Pastor Donna Sperry officiating. Interment Easton Cemetery. Visitation will be on Wednesday 2-4 and 6-8 pm at Lake Funeral Home in Ionia. Anyone wishing may make memorial contributions to Saranac Fire Dept. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

Looking Back, continued

undertakings sponsored by the Lowell Board of Trade. One of the very largest crowds seen in Lowell at any one time this year, equaled only at Showboat time, was present last Saturday evening for the annual Christmas Window Night and lighting of the street decorations. Our Main Street is truly a beautiful and breath-taking sight, not to be excelled anywhere in Michigan by any town of its size or even larger. The green garlands with colored lights and a silver star in the center which are stretched across Main St. at regular intervals present a lovely spectacle. The decorations were extended one block further at each end of Main St. this year. The children were especially interested in the arrival of Santa Claus, looking true to form, who made his entrance through Main Street preceded by Marshal Fred Gramer. Santa stopped at the municipal garage long enough to distribute about 1500 bags of peanuts and candy to children from Lowell and surrounding communities.

The dedication last Monday of Lowell's new post office brought to light the interesting fact that nearly 90 years have elapsed since the appointment of the first postmaster here.

Two men and a woman were taken to the County jail last night by Officers Fred Gramer and A. H. Stormzand where they are being held for investigation in connection with the passing of a \$15 check at the Central Garage. The check was drawn on a Fowler bank and bore a signature difficult to make out. The party may also have issued other checks while in town. It is a wise precaution not to cash checks for strangers unable to identify themselves properly. Fingerprint 'em too!

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 11, 1964

Santa will be in Lowell at his shop, 100 Main St., across from Christensen's Friday and Saturday evening from 7 to 9 pm. Old St. Nick, dressed in a new suit, will be taking Christmas orders from the kiddies.

Now is the time to "wrap up" your gift shopping. Selections are at their peak in Lowell stores. Lowell stores began staying open every evening 'til Christmas this week.

Carey's Store, West Main St., again this year boosts the biggest evergreen wreath in the area. The giant size decoration measures over 8 feet high and weighs over 100 lbs. Be sure to stop in and admire this aromatic as well as colorful decoration.

New traffic lanes are open at the intersection of Lincoln Lake Avenue and Main Street. Police warn that there is no parking on Lincoln Lake for 200 feet from the corner on both sides of the street.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 13, 1989

Police warn residents of statewide scam. The Lowell City Police chief, Barry Emmons, notified the Ledger Monday of a statewide or possibly nationwide telephone scam now going on in the area. A caller will ask if you have any friends on the Lowell police force. Then will tell you about a film or other fundraiser going on for the Lowell Police Department, soliciting donations from \$50 to \$500. They will also tell you that a police officer will not pick up the money, but a representative of the department will pick it up. Chief Emmons advises that the Lowell Police Department is not at this time running any fundraisers or like activities. If you are contacted by these people, call the Lowell Police Department immediately.

A perfect 29 – Josephine (Jo) Willard, of Alden Nash, had that rare, perfect cribbage game while playing on Sunday, Dec. 3 with her daughters-in-law, Linda Willard and Connie Willard. Jo dealt herself the Jack of spades and the five of diamonds, hearts and clubs. Connie cut the cards and Jo turned up the five of spades, which matched her Jack. And there it was – a perfect 29.



WE SHIP UPS

The Buyers Guide

105 N. Broadway
Lowell • 897-9555

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

C	A	T	C	H		D	O	C		A	S	A	P	
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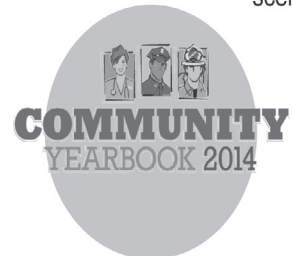
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Dear Family, Friends and Neighbors,
Many thanks for all of your good deeds and kindness shown during Dick's illness and passing. Please know that your prayers, cards, notes, prepared foods, fresh garden vegetables, treats and assistance in and around his home were, and always will be, greatly appreciated. His cancer journey was arduous, but days were brighter and the load lighter due to your generous efforts, thoughtfulness and caring. We feel blessed to have you in our lives and wish those blessings on you and yours as the Holiday Season approaches.
~ The family of Richard J. Rutherford



GET A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON OUR COMMUNITY

From community developments to a look at rising stars on the local business, dining, sports and entertainment scenes, The Lowell Ledger has it all!



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

classifieds

for sale

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.

COLD WEATHER IS HERE! - & along with it, comes chapped hands! Try something different this year - homemade, all natural hand lotion. Lasts a long time & leaves your skin super soft! Many scents & unscented available. Check out my store at www.etsy.com, search for Nana-Hannahs. For local pickup, use coupon code LOCAL15 & we can arrange a pickup in Lowell.

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

A CLASSIC OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE - gives you an independent & self-sufficient lifestyle but only if you buy before EPA rule on or about April 2015. Call today to learn more & for special pricing, SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

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

TRUCK/PLOW - 1989 Chevy 1/2 ton, 4WD, Western hydro turn, poly blade plow, good tires from update, rusty around tire wells, good box, works good, \$2,100. Craig, 616-881-1356.

LAND CONTRACT - Do you live in a trailer park that has high lot rent, ordinances, etc. and want to get out and own your own home? I have a 2 bedroom mobile home that you can buy today on a land contract in the country. This home boasts washer and dryer hookup, 1 large bathroom, newer well and septic, central air, deck, small shed with a lean-to. Get all this for only \$4,500 down and \$600 per month. Ron, 616-291-1413.

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

LAND CONTRACT - Do you own your own mobile home but are paying a huge lot rent in a park? I have a lot in the country that has a well, septic and a mobile home pad already in that you can buy on a land contract south of Saranac near the expressway. Buy this now on a land contract for only \$24,000 with only 10% down or \$20,000 cash. Ron, 616-291-1413.

2002 DODGERAM3/4 TON CARGO VAN - 115,000 miles, runs great, needs brakes & exhaust. \$2,200. Call Jon at 897-9555.

for rent

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.

BOB'S 17TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRDHOUSE SALE - great gifts! Bluebird, wren, & bat houses, feeders, wood duck & screech owl boxes. Great prices & top quality. New this year, creches (manger) for your Nativity set. 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.

help wanted

RN/LPN - Green Acres of Lowell Retirement Community is seeking a part-time RN/LPN. The ideal candidate must have strong managerial & communication skills & a love for seniors. Previous experience in geriatrics is a must. We offer the right candidate a generous compensation package, benefits & the opportunity to join a winning team. For consideration, please apply in person at Green Acres of Lowell, 11530 Fulton SE.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - needed one day per week to receive, record & deposit all funds received by congregation in a timely, thorough & confidential manner. Candidate will work w/the treasurer on finance issues and procedures so that funds can be made available to support the ministry of the congregation. Candidate should be proficient with QuickBooks. Send resume to: info@ourbigchurch.org

RESIDENT CAREGIVERS - Provide comfort, safety & general supervision to residents by assisting them w/activities of daily living & tending to their individual care needs while learning their unique preferences & personalities to assure a safe, protected, clean & orderly environment. Second & third shifts available. Please apply in person, Fountain View of Lowell, 11537 E. Fulton St., Lowell. Ph. 897-8413, fax 897-7839, email: fvlowell@baruchsls.org

HOME HEALTH AIDE/NURSE AIDE - Health Care Associates is a home care business with over 33 years of experience helping people remain in their homes w/good care. We need aides in the Lowell area for a new case we are opening. 12 hour shifts, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. & 7 p.m. - 7 a.m. Rehab experience helpful. Please apply on our website at www.healthcareassociates.net or call 616-531-9973 for more information. We are located in Grandville, MI.

help wanted

OFFICE/HOUSE CLEANER NEEDED - Duties include: Cleaning: toilets, floors, windows, general cleanup/pickup; running errands, salting ice, shovel snow, laundry (wash, clean, fold), etc. Approx. 20 hours per week. Background check required. Please email resume to: scott@awswest.com

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.

SELL AVON - Only \$15 to get started. Call 616-897-5086 or sign up now at www.startAvon.com and use ref code SGRIMM

card of thanks

THANK YOU
 Our family wants to thank each and everyone for your words of encouragement and support during the loss of Garbutt Keith Graham; for those that came to the service, sent a card, flower or a memorial and the hundreds of facebook messages. It's hard for us to imagine that he really has left us. Garbutt was an extremely talented and smart individual...many of you spoke about his kindness, his athletic abilities, the one-of-a-kind person he was. We will continue to cherish your beautiful tributes and words. Your kindness is greatly and truly appreciated.

Kyle & Kenna Graham,
 Mike & Liz Baker,
 Jake & Jen Baker,
 Nick & Erica Baker

sales

ESTATE SALE - Christmas collectibles, antiques including grandfather clock, dishes & cookware, furniture & much more. Check craigslist for more details. Dec. 12 & 13, 9-5 p.m. at 210 S. Elizabeth St., Lyons, MI 48851.

wanted

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

services

FAX SERVICE - We send or receive a fax for you! Great Rate - \$1 for the first page & 50¢ for each additional page. Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9555.

services

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

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

MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS IS LISTED - in the 2015 Lowell City Directory! If you run a business out of your home or have a cell phone number for your business, there is a charge to put your phone number in the Lowell City Directory. The cost is only \$15. Please call Tammy at 897-9560 or email: citydirectory@att.net for further info or to place your order. All orders must be paid by Dec. 31, 2015 to be included in the book.

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. 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).

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

services

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.

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, 897-9261.

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

Coming Events

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

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

FLAT RIVER WATERSHED GROUP - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. Our purpose is to protect, enhance & maintain land & water quality & other natural resources surrounding the Flat River Watershed. For more information, call Lloyd at 676-1812. Also, "Like" us on Facebook at the Flat River Watershed Council.

KNITTING - Tuesdays 6- 7:15 p.m. Cathie Richter will be here to offer an instructional knitting class. Bring your projects & come & knit together. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

THE WONDERFUL WATER-COLORBOT - Dec. 30, 4 p.m. Watch with amazement while an image you create is recreated by our robot using watercolors, paper and a paintbrush. For all ages. Alto Public Library, 6071 Linfield Ave, Alto. Ph. 784-2007.

LADIES SEWING CLOTHES TO DONATE - First Friday of the month, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Items are made from donated material & fabrics, clothes from newborn to 12 years old. Items are donated to Blodgett Children's Home & St. John's Home. Join us to cut out patterns, Christian Life Center, Lowell.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051

84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/ Alden Nash.

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Don Aversano at 847-571-8373 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Key Heights, 11335 Fulton, Lowell.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS - Wed. & Fri. 10-8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m.; Sat., 10

a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Food Pantry, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

STORYTIME - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. with Ms. Allison. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-3 p.m.; Tues. 12-8 p.m.; Wed. 10-3 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available. www.alphaclowell.org

WINTER SNOW PARTY - Dec. 29, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate winter wonderland indoors with crafts, games & activities! For ages 6 & younger. Alto Public Library, 6071 Linfield Ave, Alto. Ph. 784-2007.

AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF ADA - 7144 Headley, is open every Friday & Saturday 1 - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 784-2007.

LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS - Mon.-Fri., 10-6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

GINGERBREAD LANE - Dec. 11, 10 a.m. Stroll down Gingerbread Lane and enjoy tasty gingerbread stories. Each child will make a simple gingerbread house. Pre-registration is required & participant spots are limited. For all ages. Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/ infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

SPICES AND HERBS

Bring Out the Best of Summer Vegetables

FAMILY FEATURES

We all want to eat more vegetables — and in the summer, when farmers markets and grocery stores are filled with fresh, colorful produce, it's easier than ever. From juicy red tomatoes and yellow sweet corn to vibrant green broccoli, seasonal produce can be even more enjoyable with the addition of spices and herbs.

"I'm always thinking about ways to make vegetables taste great and be more healthful and exciting — other than just adding butter and salt," said registered dietitian Wendy Bazilian. "Adding spices and herbs is easy to do, and they only cost pennies per serving. Plus, they're already in your kitchen."

To add flavor to everyday vegetable favorites like zucchini and carrots, Bazilian recommends an easy rule of thumb: start with 1/4 teaspoon of spices and herbs, such as basil and oregano, per cup of veggies, along with a splash of citrus juice or olive oil.

"You can also dial up the flavor depending on the cooking method," Bazilian said. "Roasting vegetables like broccoli and tomatoes creates a caramelized flavor that pairs deliciously with garlic, basil, oregano, honey and white vinegar. Grilling vegetables gives a smoky, charred flavor. Or, let the natural flavor of green beans shine by steaming them with rosemary and thyme."

Try these simple flavor tips to season your favorite vegetables and visit www.McCormick.com for more ideas you can use all year long.



Mixed Vegetable Grill

Servings: 6

- 1 tablespoon light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick Basil Leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/8 teaspoon McCormick Ground Black Pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 6 cups assorted cut-up vegetables, such as asparagus, bell peppers, zucchini, yellow squash, red onion and small sweet potato

Mix brown sugar, basil, salt, garlic powder, and pepper in small bowl.

In large bowl, drizzle oil over vegetables; toss to coat well. Add seasoning mixture; toss to coat well.

Place vegetables in grill basket or rack, or thread onto skewers.

Grill over medium heat 10–12 minutes or until vegetables are tender, turning occasionally.

Kitchen tip: If using sweet potatoes, pierce them with fork and microwave two to three minutes on high or until tender.

Roasted Broccoli & Tomatoes

Servings: 4

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Coarse Ground Black Pepper
- 12 ounces broccoli florets
- 1 cup cherry or grape tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Basil Leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Oregano Leaves

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Mix oil, garlic powder and pepper in large bowl. Add broccoli and tomatoes; toss to coat well. Spread in single layer on foil-lined 15-by-10-by-1-inch baking pan.

Roast in oven 13–15 minutes or until broccoli is lightly browned.

Meanwhile, mix vinegar, honey, basil and oregano in small bowl. Drizzle over roasted vegetables after removing from oven; toss to coat well. Serve immediately.



Vegetable	Try Adding	Also Works With
 asparagus	 lemon juice	 rosemary
		 black pepper
 zucchini	 olive oil	 basil
		 oregano
 carrots	 honey	 ground cinnamon
		 ground ginger
 tomatoes	 balsamic vinegar	 garlic powder
		 oregano

Herbed Green Beans

Servings: 4

- 1 pound trimmed green beans
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon finely crushed McCormick Rosemary Leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Thyme Leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon Sea Salt from McCormick Sea Salt Grinder
- 1/8 teaspoon McCormick Ground Black Pepper

Place beans in medium saucepan. Add enough water to cover beans. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer four to six minutes or until tender-crisp. Drain. Return beans to saucepan.

Toss with vinegar, oil, rosemary, thyme, sea salt and pepper. Cook and stir over medium heat one to two minutes or until heated through.

**THEME:
THE HOLIDAYS**

ACROSS

- 1. It's played with a ball
- 6. "What's Up, ___?" starring Barbra Streisand
- 9. Hurry up!
- 13. D-Day beach
- 14. Greek R
- 15. Swap meet deal?
- 16. Thai restaurant chicken staple
- 17. Down Under runner
- 18. Make reference to
- 19. *Disgruntled TV elf
- 21. *It's under the tree?
- 23. PÈrignon's honorific
- 24. Swarm
- 25. De Niro's 1976 ride
- 28. *Kind of Holiday list
- 30. "___", farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good night"
- 35. In bed
- 37. "Cinema Paradiso" roll
- 39. The relative magnitudes of two quantities
- 40. Intense anger
- 41. Material used by one of three little pigs
- 43. Hahn or von Bismark
- 44. Eyes or optics
- 46. Used in hunting
- 47. Series of reps, pl.
- 48. To make lame
- 50. "Moonlight Sonata," e.g.
- 52. Bread type
- 53. Sleep in a convenient place
- 55. French lake
- 57. *Used during Hanukkah
- 61. *Season of four Sundays before Christmas
- 64. Legal excuse
- 65. Shoemaker's tool

CROSSWORD														
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72						73				74				



DECEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 9

- The "royals" Prince William and Kate Middleton visited New York city for the first time. Among other things, they went to a Brooklyn Nets-Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game and met LaBron James.



- President Obama made an appearance on the Colbert Report, taking over Colbert's role for a bit.

- A funeral for former Washington D.C. mayor Marion Barry was attended by thousands. Barry died Nov. 23 at the age of 78.



- In report of CIA practices, senate investigators accused the Central Intelligence Agency of inflicting pain and suffering on al-Qaida prisoners far beyond its legal boundaries and then lying and saying that important information was gained from the torture when it was not.

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- 67. "The _____" by Dostoyevsky
- 69. Capital of Tunisia
- 70. Pied Piper follower
- 71. Mother-of-pearl
- 72. Strip of wood
- 73. Head ___ at a country club
- 74. *Color of most Christmas trees

- DOWN**
- 1. Trigonometry abbr.
 - 2. Nanjing nanny
 - 3. London art museum
 - 4. Swiss leafy green
 - 5. Barn loft
 - 6. Squirrel's nest
 - 7. Unit of electrical resistance
 - 8. Two-door car
 - 9. Bellicose deity, Greek
 - 10. Goes with sound?
 - 11. Yemeni port
 - 12. Lively
 - 15. Seismic shake
 - 20. Middle Eastern V.I.P.'s
 - 22. Hi-___
 - 24. Winter flask
 - 25. **A Christmas _____
 - 26. Manila hemp
 - 27. Muslim woman of high rank
 - 29. "___ good example"
 - 31. Vientiane location
 - 32. Weasel's aquatic cousin
 - 33. _____gritty

- 34. *A traditional holiday main course
- 36. Sub station
- 38. *Kitschy prop in "A Christmas Story"
- 42. Expressing a desire
- 45. Madagascar lemurs
- 49. India's smallest state
- 51. "_____ Private Ryan"
- 54. Like a cheddar variety
- 56. An aromatic wood
- 57. Welcome ____, pl.
- 58. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
- 59. Fashion house founder Ricci
- 60. One's final notice
- 61. The lowest female voice
- 62. *Elf on the Shelf's report
- 63. Ripped
- 66. "What is it good for? Absolutely nothin!"
- 68. Face cards are counted as this in Blackjack

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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	2							3
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4			9					
		5			2			1

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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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Local knitters donate their wares to Santa Claus Girls

A few of the ladies living at Schneider Manor have been busy knitting hats, booties and scarves.

They donate all of their creations to the Santa Claus Girls to distribute for Christmas.

Pictured, left to right, are: Eva Cain, Mary Ann Geldersma and Arlene Fansher; each made 50 hats a piece for the holidays.



DNR receives \$1.2 million grant to expand Hunting Access Program

Grant provides more youth hunting opportunities with a focus on land conservation

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced that it has been awarded a \$1.2 million Voluntary Public Access-Hunting Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) federal grant to enhance the state's Hunting Access Program with an emphasis on Conservation Reserve

Enhancement Program land, habitat restoration and more opportunities for youth and apprentice hunting.

"This is great news for hunters who may not currently have access to hunting land," said Mike Parker, coordinator of the DNR's Hunting Access Program. "This grant will

allow us to increase hunting opportunities in areas of Michigan where access is limited, restore wildlife habitat, and further our priorities of preserving our state's rich hunting heritage."

Michigan's Hunting Access Program provides financial incentive to

landowners in southern Michigan and a portion of the eastern Upper Peninsula who are willing to allow hunters to hunt on their lands. Hunting Access Program lands must be at least 40 acres in size, and payments to landowners increase with better habitat

quality and the variety of hunting allowed.

The VPA-HIP grant will allow the DNR Wildlife Division to use a multifaceted approach to expand the Hunting Access Program with a goal of increasing the acres and number of sites enrolled

in the program. Currently, there are 15,710 acres on 135 properties. The DNR seeks to expand to more than 24,000 acres on 180 properties by 2017, placing an emphasis on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program land and increasing youth and apprentice hunter opportunities.

Funding also will be used to enhance wildlife habitat on 600 enrolled acres. Likely habitat restoration activities include grassland enhancement, food plots and invasive species control. The DNR will promote the Hunting Access Program to landowners through conservation districts and other conservation partners.

For more information about the Hunting Access Program, visit www.michigan.gov/hap. To learn more about the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, visit www.michigan.gov/mda, click on farming, and then environment.

As part of the grant process, the DNR and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking public comment on an environmental assessment related to the use of grant funds for habitat restoration activities. The public notice with details of the environmental assessment and public comment process is available in Word and PDF formats on the U.S. Department of Agriculture website.

Public comment will be accepted until Jan. 7, 2015.

Holiday Hours

Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger
Office Hours during the Holidays

Week of Dec. 22

Mon. & Tues., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Wed. & Thurs.

Fri., 8 a.m. - noon

Week of Dec. 29

Mon. & Tues., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Wed. & Thurs.

Fri., 8 a.m. - noon



EARLY DEADLINES FOR THE BUYERS GUIDE

Dec. 28 paper - Tues., Dec. 23 at 5 p.m. • Jan. 4 paper - Tues., Dec. 30 at 5 p.m.