

santa arrives



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council meeting



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artisans



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Motions passed at joint meeting of LL&P and city council to flush failed biodigester project

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

After a nearly three hour joint meeting at 7 pm on Thursday, Dec. 1, Lowell city council and the board of Lowell Light & Power passed three motions that will close the LEAD biodigester. The first motion revoked the LEAD's wastewater discharge permit, making it impossible for the biodigester to operate; the second motion terminated LEAD's lease with the city for their use of the Chatham St. property; and the third terminated Lowell Light & Power's power purchase agreement with LEAD. The company has until Jan. 16, 2017, to clean the facility and get out of town.



Local resident Mike Kooistra said that he has lost faith in Lowell Light & Power and the Lowell city council because of the way they handled the biodigester.

Over 30 citizens attended the meeting. The Light & Power board, the city council, city attorney Dick Wendt, Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot, police chief Steve Bukala and city manager Michael Burns spent over an hour discussing the problem with each other and with local residents.

No representative from LEAD was in attendance and LEAD principal Greg Northrup refused to comment for this story.

"We have no additional comments at this point," Northrup said in an email to the Ledger.

"We let you down and I apologize," said Light &

Power board member Tina Cadwallader.

"It's not the way it was presented to us," said city councilor Jim Hodges. "It's been a huge disappointment and, humbly, I apologize."

"I don't think it's going to end well," said city councilor Greg Canfield. "I understand there is going to be litigation involved and it's going to cost us some money. I think that's something that's going to happen and we might as well embark down that path sooner rather than later."

"I, along with everyone else, have no confidence in anything that LEAD

Failed biodigester, continued, page 3

Gas leak and broken water line repaired on Broadway

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

A gas leak in front of the Lowell post office led to a broken water line and a huge crater on Broadway St. on Thursday, Dec. 1. The situation was irritating, but not catastrophic, for daily operations at the post office.

"A customer came in yesterday [Wednesday, Nov. 30] and said they smelled gas," said postmaster Alex Sereseroz. "We called Consumers Power and they came out promptly and detected a gas leak. When they dug into the concrete they broke a water line. We have had no heat for 18 hours, but the water is on now and we should have heat in a couple hours. It hasn't been too bad. It has affected us a little bit because of the loss of parking out front. We're still getting a lot of



A crew from Consumers Energy fixing a gas leak on Broadway last Thursday.

customers in, but it has been kind of slow."

A crew from Consumers Energy spent two days tearing up the street and replacing the gas line, the gas meter and a water line.

"There was a gas leak, nothing big," said Randy Southern, who was the supervisor in charge of the Consumers Energy crew. "Because of the gas leak there was a water shutoff. On the commercial building [the post office] they have a bigger line and a bigger meter, so we had to run a whole new service. All of our pipes are located underground. We don't do a repair, we do one that's totally new. Instead of using the old stuff, which we could have done, we put brand new so we don't have to come again. These pipes can last over 100 years."

Vote recount underway in Michigan

The Michigan Secretary of State has provided this summary of what has happened regarding the statewide recount of the Nov. 8 presidential election requested by Green Party candidate Jill Stein:

- The State Board of Canvassers did not accept an objection from representatives of Donald J. Trump regarding the presidential election recount that was requested by Stein.

- Under Michigan law, the recount will now start after the second business day following the board's decision. That's likely going to be Wednesday, Dec. 7. A schedule will be provided when it is available.

- Secretary of State Ruth Johnson asked the State Board of Canvassers to use optical scanner tabulators to conduct the recount. Board members did not change their policy to conduct a recount by hand.

- The Board of State Canvassers meeting, scheduled for noon Saturday, Dec. 3 in room 426 of the State Capitol in Lansing, was cancelled.

- A Board of State Canvassers meeting was scheduled for 9:30 am Tuesday, Dec. 6, in room 426 of the State Capitol.

- On Tuesday, the Bureau of Elections was scheduled to continue its training for county clerks on recount procedures.

According to the city clerk Sue Ullery, "All of Lowell's [1,658] ballots are at the police department in the city of Wyoming," Lowell city clerk Sue Ullery said. "The whole Kent County recount is being done together all at once, city by city, township by township starting today [Monday, Dec. 5]. Inspectors expect to work from 8 am until 6 pm every day through Monday [Dec. 12], including Saturday and Sunday."

50 CENTS



Nominations being accepted for All Weather Seal's annual December house full of windows donation

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

All Weather Seal, 319 E. Main, is a window and roofing company that has been in business over 30 years. The company is well known locally for their annual donation of a houseful of windows to a family in need and they're doing it again this December.

"Every year we donate a whole house of windows worth about \$15,000 to a family in need here

in Lowell," said Megan McGuire, All Weather Seal's director of marketing. "A family that could benefit from some energy savings or a family who currently has old or original windows in the house."

In order to nominate somebody you should contact All Weather Seal.

"People send in a letter or an email," McGuire said. "We accept nominations from now all the way up until we vote on those

nominations in December at the company party. There haven't been a ton of nominations yet, so the chances of winning are pretty good at this point. We would like to see some local nominations from Lowell.

McGuire said that All Weather Seal plans to continue assisting local residents. They do this to help out struggling families and to show their appreciation to the community.

"Lowell has been very good to us," McGuire said. "We always try to help out wherever we can. People try

to keep their business local so we try to do the same thing by giving back. We want to thank everybody

who gave us their business over the last year so we can continue to do this."

Friends of the Englehardt Library looking ahead to spring

Spring may be several months away, but that has not stopped the Friends of the Englehardt Library from thinking ahead to May

2017. That month, the group plans to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the current library building and hopes to unveil a new reading garden outside the front entrance. "We have been eager to create a space for people to read, play chess and just enjoy the beauty of the library's riverside location for several years now and the 20th anniversary seems like an

ideal time to make this dream come to fruition," said Joy Smith, president of the Friends of the Englehardt Library. The Friends is seeking additional community support. The Friends of the Englehardt Library is seeking people to contribute toward the project to help the dream of having the reading garden ready for the 20th



anniversary celebration in May 2017. Branch manager Heather Wood-Gramza says "the reading garden will certainly be a welcome addition to the library. We are grateful to the Friends of the Englehardt Library, the city of Lowell and to the entire community for being so supportive of the public library." For more information on the reading garden, please visit the KDL-Englehardt Branch at 200 N. Monroe St. in Lowell.

The group has been raising funds toward this project and other library enhancements for the past five years through used book sales and is currently receiving support from the Lowell Middle School chess club, the city of Lowell and individual donors who have come forward to honor loved ones. Now, the



along main street

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Food distribution will take place on Dec. 8 from 9-11 am and 1-3 pm at FROM, 11535 E. Fulton. Frozen, refrigerated and dry goods will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring proof of Kent County residence.

A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Christmas in Fallsburg will be held Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Fallsburg Schoolhouse, 13944 Covered Bridge Road, North of Lowell from 6 to 8 pm. Suggested donation: Adults, \$20. For more information go to www.fallsburg.org or call 616-682-0785.

GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Holiday Social-Let It Snow - Tues., Dec. 13, 5:30-7:30 pm. Join us for this special evening of holiday fun and surprises. We will have dinner, a visit from Santa and more. The location is at the American Legion, 3124 Alden Nash Ave. SE, Lowell. Everyone is welcome.

Chitchat Readers Book Club - Tues., Dec. 20, 4:15-5:15 pm.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

MAKE AND TAKE WORKSHOPS

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday two weeks into December at the Franciscan Life Process Center we're bringing in artists and crafters to teach you a skill and help you bring home a Christmas gift. These are mini workshops teaching wreath decorating, fabric skills, felting, children's rocker painting, making rings and earrings, crocheting, and many more things in a half day or whole day setting. Go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on the Services tab, then the Art Program tab and then the Art Workshops tab; or call 897-7842, ext. 352. Leave a message if you do not get a response.

LOWELLARTS! HOLIDAY MARKET

The annual LowellArts! Holiday Artists Market, featuring artwork by over 50 area artists, will be through Dec. 24. Artwork and other handmade items by Michigan artists will be available for purchase during the gift-giving season. This will be the first showing held in the new LowellArts! gallery at 223 West Main St. Gallery hours are Tues.-Sat., 10 am - 6 pm.

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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Failed biodigester, continued

says or does, or any of their actions,” said city councilor Mike DeVore. “I think they’ve had more than enough chances.”

“It’s nasty, it’s flat out nasty,” said local resident Ryan Mitchell. “There is nothing wrong with forward thinking, forward progress and trying to be innovative, but don’t do it in the backyards of our kids. [...] It’s time to stand up and do the right thing. I think you guys know what that is. Anything short of that is sad.”

“I want this to work, I think biogas is the way of the future,” said local resident Annette Ritzema. “We all had our hearts in the right place, but the thing is we’ve been lied to for so long. We’ve all lost confidence. And the arrogant disregard for the health of the community and the children is stunning.”

“To me this sounds like a big cover-up,” said local resident Mike Kooistra. “I have no faith in Lowell Light & Power; I have no faith in the city council. We hear a lot of talk but we see no action.”

“Clearly the company that is responsible for this thing is failing terrible,” said local resident Steve Browning. “No more talk about working it out because that’s stupid. This whole idea was stupid.”

After everybody had their say, the meeting went into a closed session for over an hour. At one point during the closed session



The Lowell Light & Power board of directors and the Lowell city council passed three motions at a joint meeting on Dec. 1 that will close the biodigester.

wastewater treatment plant superintendent Mark Mundt was summoned into the locked room while nearly the entire audience waited in the hall for the action to resume. When the meeting was called back to order city manager Burns announced the three motions that should close the biodigester for good. Each motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

“Their operations are stopped now; we are going to be discharging their wastewater treatment permit,” Lowell city

manager Burns said in an interview after the meeting. “They are not operating now. They can’t send their discharge to the wastewater treatment plant, which means they can’t operate. We want to work with [LEAD] to try and see if we can come to a mutual agreement for them to dismantle the site before we would have to take action to terminate the leases. We are in the process right now of trying to terminate those agreements. We’d like to do it mutually before there is any litigation needed. We’ve given them that opportunity

[to end the odor problem] and we believe we’re at an impasse.”

The city council held their regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 5. See separate story starting on page 7 for complete details.

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But all endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at the time.

~ Mitch Albom

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LHS Students of the month for December

Kenzie McLarty, 12th grade; and Maria DeCator, 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 McLarty and DeCator. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.



Kenzie McLarty



Maria DeCator

McLarty was nominated by Tammy Coleman and she writes, "Kenzie does her very best in class every day. Despite having many things to juggle and working many hours, she always reads ahead, does her work

completely and with the highest quality. She recently went 'over and above' to conduct, analyze and write up our class research with the intention of furthering her experiences in the field of science by publishing a scientific paper."

She comes to class every day with a smile which spreads a sense of kindness to the rest of the students. Maria has done well in pre-calculus due to her strong knowledge of math concepts and, more importantly, a tremendous work ethic. Maria is helpful to others and contributes daily to class discussion. She is an awesome individual."

Jim Fleet nominated DeCator and he writes, "Maria is an enthusiastic, bright and positive person.

Social Security's gift to children is security

This is the season of caring. No matter your religion or belief, December is also considered a time to focus on the children we love. Whether we are wrapping Santa's gifts, buying Hanukkah treats, decorating the house in celebration of Kwanzaa, or volunteering for a toy drive, children add joy to the holiday season and we at Social Security definitely know a thing or two about helping children.



Often overlooked in the paperwork that prospective parents fill out in preparation for a child's birth is an application for a Social Security number and card. Typically, the hospital will ask if you want to apply for a Social Security number for your newborn as part of the birth registration process. This is the easiest and fastest way to apply. The Social Security card typically arrives about a week to ten days after that little bundle of joy! You can learn about Social Security numbers for children by reading our publication, Social Security Numbers for Children, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

have medical coverage, or if the child will receive government services. You will also need a Social Security number for a child to claim him or her on your tax returns.

Remember, a child age 12 or older requesting an original Social Security number must appear in person for the interview, even though a parent or guardian will sign the application on the child's behalf.

If you wait to apply, you will have to visit a Social Security office and you will need to:

- Complete an Application For a Social Security Card (Form SS-5);
- Show us original documents proving your child's U.S. citizenship, age, and identity; and
- Show us documents proving your identity.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids to learn more about all we do to care for children. Caring for the next generation is a central part of securing today and tomorrow, during the holidays and all year long.

A child needs a Social Security number if he or she is going to have a bank account, if a relative is buying savings bonds for the child, if the child will

viewpoint

to the editor

biodigester questions

Dear Editor,
 'Despite halting operations, odorous, biodigester continues to smell and have leakage problems' was the headline in the Nov. 30 Lowell Ledger. Lowell's odor problem has also been on TV and has gone nationwide over the Internet. People working and living near the biodigester in Lowell were concerned about a possible odor problem before it was built but a biodigester was built anyway.
 Was the biodigester purposely built where it is so a pipeline could be run between the biodigester and the company that supplies the biodigester with a small amount of discharge to

help run the biodigester? Because of their purposed need to build the biodigester in that location, did they override any thought of a possible odor problem, an odor problem that has existed now for well over a year? I've read where 60 percent of failures arise in the design and construction phase of biodigesters and approximately 40 percent of failures occur after the system is completed. Which is it? Is it one or both when it comes to Lowell's biodigester? You would think after better than a year that they could come up with an answer. Did the planning – citizens advisory commission board jump through the hoop

to bring the biodigester about and in doing so made some rash decisions? If the constituents of Lowell would have been thoroughly informed about biodigesters and the processes they go through where just one miscalculation could cause an odor problem would they have been hesitant to agree to the building of a biodigester in the city of Lowell?
 The city is going to obtain a court order to shut the biodigester down, the same biodigester that they brought about. But the company that owns the biodigester has a right to an appeal. There are a lot of questions to be answered and I believe the truth will be a long time coming. I don't see the biodigester being shut down very long.
 I believe that the people living and working near the biodigester will continue

to be burdened with the odor from the biodigester from time to time long into the future. Maybe Lowell should start to think about renaming itself Smellyville. Is this just another of Lowell's costly follies?

Lowell just went through five years of aggravation and a cost of well over a hundred thousand dollars of lawyer fees because the public was denied information and not allowed to be involved

in contract negotiations that ended up denying the employees of the Department of Public Works a just contract.
 Sincerely,
 Jim Howard
 Lowell

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor.

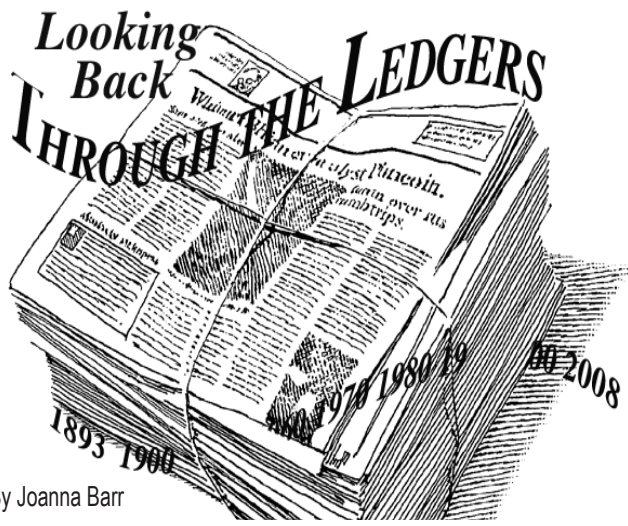


Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher; duplicate comments/authors within a short period may be dismissed. Opinions expressed in "To The Editor" are not the views

of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. 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) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

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Your Hometown News Source



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal Dec. 9, 1891

It matters not whether your purse be great or small, your wants in holiday goods can be supplied to your satisfaction at McPherson's Bazaar.
 There was quite a heavy fall of snow Sunday and Monday morning the small boy was out in full force, taking advantage of it.
 A Newaygo county farmer claims to have successfully grafted a tomato vine on to a potato vine and raised a double crop, one from the tops and one from the roots.
 There were upwards of 200 chickens shown at the chicken show last week, some of them being exceptionally fine ones. In fact when the Lowell Poultry Club makes an exhibit it is in condition to carry off most of the prizes in its classes.
 Foreman & Aldrich have added another stallion to their stud. He is a grandson of the celebrated Nutwood and his sire has a record of 3:10. They now have three of the choicest strains of trotting blood.
 Col. John Gaebelin, of Jackson, who started out to eat thirty quail in thirty consecutive days, has unconditionally surrendered and quit his business. Restauranter Bender, his companion, has eaten his eleventh bird and grows fonder of his diet every day.

Every boy and girl in the State who wishes a pair of American Club Skates (nickel plated) should write the Detroit Times, which proposes to give away 5000 pairs for new subscribers.
 The ladies of Adrian are beginning to remove their hats at the opera and a few of the bald heads who sit in the draft near the footlights are putting on silk caps. They claim this is done to conceal their identity, because if their wives have no hats to look at they may discover their location.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Dec. 7, 1916

A news story of the farm girl who planted half a bushel of beans and tended and harvested the crop, receiving therefore \$216.91, which will start her on a college career, reminds us that it really pays to know beans.
 Fine weather still prevails notwithstanding the prediction of calamity howlers that we were going to have blizzards and winter long ago. Today, the 4th of December, we had lightning and thunder which according to the old proverb means warmer weather again.
 So many people said "nixie" to 36c turkeys, with head, feet and "innards" weighed in, that city dealers report light sales and will put the left overs into cold storage for the Christmas trade. With life's necessities soaring in price, it is well for common people to call a halt when luxuries go beyond reason. Let the "egg king" keep his eggs until the government inspector seizes them under the pure food law. Next time, perhaps, he and his kind may be content with something like a reasonable profit.
 The Ledger has been pleased to note the generally excellent class of picture plays given by Mr. Wright of the Family theatre and now mentions in evidence the announcement of Shakespear's "Romeo and Juliet" for Friday, Dec. 15. People who really desire to approve good features should show it by their patronage.
 Who will have the Mysterious Key and take away the \$200 Harmonola Talking Machine

Absolutely Free. One key with every dollar in trade. John O. Clark. Phone 195. Groceries. "And if you get it at Clark's, it's clean."
 Joe Quist of Grand Rapids, who has traveled through this community for the past twenty-two years as an oil peddler, died at his home last Wednesday. He has always, through his honesty, held the respect of his many patrons.
 The enticement of two Belding girls of fourteen and seventeen by a Chicago white slaver posing as an evangelist and promising "more pay and less work" should be a warning to parents and girls everywhere. Our country towns are no longer safe.
 Merrifield & Company. Actual Growers of fruit trees, not just dealers, have land and help at Lowell for a branch nursery, so that farmers may see trees growing and get them at first cost. A \$5 order of trees of a middleman at 40 per cent \$2 commission, but 2c postage usually gets the same at \$2 direct from Goleville nurseries. Be your own agent. adv 26p

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Dec. 11, 1941

The war against the United States in the Pacific is causing deep concern to people everywhere and Lowell is no exception. Mrs. L. E. Johnson and Mrs. Don Niles are feeling some anxiety for the safety of their sister, Mrs. M. P. Brindle, who with her husband and son, is living at Pago Pago, Samoa in the South Pacific, where Mr. Brindle is chief radio operator at the U. S. Navy station. Lowell readers will doubtless remember reading a very interesting letter from Mrs. Brindle published in the Ledger earlier this year. A letter was received by the family last Friday from Mrs. Brindle stating that she was sending a Christmas package which Mrs. Johnson received on Wednesday. It contained some very interesting gifts, including a model Pao Pao (native boat), three wooden ashtrays, two native war clubs, two tapa cloth mats which are colored with tree dyes, eight small woven mats and

Baker recognized by Lowell Rotary with Paul Harris Fellowship award



Pictured, left to right: Jim White and Liz Baker with her husband Mike.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, the Lowell Rotary Club presented chamber of commerce executive director Liz Baker with a coveted Paul Harris Fellowship award. This award was given on behalf of Baker's many years of service to the Lowell community.

"For many years Liz has exemplified the Rotary motto of 'Service Above Self' through her many initiatives and good works designed to enhance and promote our community," said Rotarian Jim White who presented Baker with the award.

"I have worked side by side with Liz so many times

on chamber projects that I can't begin to count them all. Every time the chamber is involved with something Liz is there, going way above and beyond the call of duty," said Rotarian Betsy Davidson.

The Paul Harris Fellowship is named for the founder of Rotary International. Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer, along with three business associates, founded Rotary International in 1905. The fellowship was provided by a donation from Lowell Rotary Club of \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation in Baker's name. The foundation is the arm of Rotary International

that provides grants for humanitarian projects all over the world. Baker joins a list of many Lowell Rotarians who are also Paul Harris Fellows.

business matters

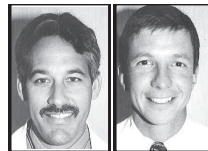
Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Hesche received Sales Associate of the Month in November.

This award recognizes Hesche for his outstanding success and achievements.



Ryan Hesche

health



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

febrile seizures in children

Febrile "fever" seizures are the most common type of seizures in children. They most commonly occur in children under the age of five. While they may appear very frightening to the observer or parent, they generally are harmless to the child. They do not cause brain damage or put the child at risk of swallowing their tongue. Febrile seizures usually last only a couple minutes and then go away on their own. Having a febrile seizure does not mean the child necessarily needs to be hospitalized, but they should be seen by their doctor the same day to determine the need for further testing or treatment.

A fever is the body's natural defense mechanism to fight off an infection. By raising its internal temperature, the body creates an inhospitable environment for the virus or bacteria infecting it. Having a fever less than 101 degrees Fahrenheit is probably beneficial and may not necessarily need to be

aggressively treated with fever-reducing medicines. Fevers above 101 should be treated with acetaminophen (Tylenol) and/or ibuprofen (Motrin). If a fever ever gets above 104 degrees or will not get below 101 degrees with medicines, then you should contact your doctor. There is no set temperature that will trigger a seizure in children, but in general, the higher the temperature, the greater the risk.

If you happen to witness a child having a seizure you should:

- Put the child on their side so that they won't choke on their saliva.
- Do not put anything in their mouth.
- Do not restrain their movements.
- Remain calm and monitor a clock (most seizures last only a minute or two).
- Call 911 if the seizure lasts longer than five minutes.
- Contact their doctor for further instructions.

happy birthday



DECEMBER 7
Jennifer Berry, Jeni Buck.

DECEMBER 8
Mike Cummings, Ellen Miller.

DECEMBER 9
Allen Metternick, Sara Triplett, Deb Schuitema, Alison Nugent, Ben Nugent, Noah VanLaan.

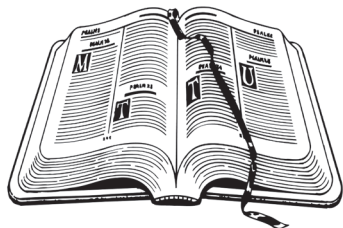
DECEMBER 10
Bill Fluger, Barbara Decker.

DECEMBER 11
Dave Rhodes, Kathryn Zaleski, Amber Waldron, Mike Kline, Billie Fallstrom.

DECEMBER 12
Brad Briggs, Matt Newhouse, Sally Hacker, Charlie Young.

DECEMBER 13
Chrys Thaler, Jeff Bowne, Michelle Fyan.

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Pastor Phil Severn • Youth Pastor
Christi Swain, Director of Children's Ministries

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SUNDAY School..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**
Middle & High School - Mon-school year*Wed,summer, 7 PM

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Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
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Council swears in new councilmember; appoints LL&P board chair and Fire Authority board member

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council made an appointment to the Light & Power board at their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Dec. 5. The meeting lasted 26 minutes and was attended by 15 citizens, none of whom spoke during public comment.

At the beginning of the meeting local businessman Greg Canfield was sworn in. He then officially took over recalled mayor Jeff Altoft's seat on the council.

"Glad to be on the council, look forward to working with a great group of people," Canfield said.

The next order of business was a brief update about the biodigester, although there was little new information available at the time of the meeting.

"We have notified [LEAD] regarding the action the city council took on Thursday," city manager Michael Burns said. "The city attorney has been out of the office today, so I did not hear from him today, but I know we are going to be talking with him this week about the action that we need to take."

The council appointed Marty Chambers to the

Lowell Light & Power board and city councilor Jim Hodges to the Fire Authority board. Accountant Doug Vredevelde delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the city's budget, which he said was "in good shape." The council voted to participate in the "MERS 457" program, which will benefit city of Lowell retirees.

"Recently Lowell Light & Power entered into a participation agreement with MERS, the Michigan Municipal Employee Retirement System, for them to allow employees to create 457 deferred compensation plans," Burns said. "These are tax-deferred voluntary retirement supplement programs that employees can establish for themselves to assist them with retirement. There was interest for city employees to be allowed to participate in this program. Recently we had a representative from MERS on-site to discuss the program with employees. There was significant positive interest from employees to participate. [...] This involves no investment from city funds. In addition, there may be nominal employee staff time

for payroll purposes, so this is at little or no cost to the city to participate."

The council approved a bid of \$69,000 from Grand Rapids engineering firm Prein & Newhoff, who will do design and engineering for a major infrastructure project that includes construction of a water main on S. Broadway south of E. Main and Bowes; construction of a sanitary sewer in the alley south of E. Main and a sanitary sewer along N. Broadway and S. Broadway to S. Water and east along S. Water; construction of a water main along S. Broadway from S. Water to Bowes and west on Bowes to Maple; and construction of a water main on N. Broadway across E. Main.

"[Prein & Newhoff] submitted a proposal with a cost not to exceed \$69,000, which basically is the design and engineering aspects of the project up to the construction phase," Burns said.

The council's next regular meeting will be at city hall on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017. The meeting that was scheduled for Monday, Dec. 19 has been canceled.



Lowell clerk Sue Ullery swearing in Greg Canfield, now officially a city councilor.

Holiday travel tips for wheelchair users

The stress of holiday travel can impact anyone, but add in the need to find wheelchair-accessible transportation, hotel rooms or restaurants, and that stress is amplified considerably.

The experts at Mobility Ventures, maker of the MV-1

-- the only mobility vehicle built with wheelchair users in mind -- are offering tips and an interactive map that highlights cities with MV-1 vehicles in their taxi and rental car fleets, to make accessible travel easier for wheelchair users and their

friends and families this holiday season.

"Mobility and accessibility can improve the quality of life, independence and mobility of all wheelchair users," says Pat Kemp, executive vice president, Mobility

Ventures. "Tips and resources can help lessen travel stress for people who use wheelchairs and their loved ones."

Air

- Be sure to allow at least 90 minutes between flights to allow time to

deplane -- wheelchair users are always the first to board and the last to deplane.

- Protect mobility devices from damage while in flight with a cover (e.g., sleeves for wheelchair frames).

- If you use a removable wheelchair cushion, bring it with you on board the airplane to be sure it is not lost or damaged.

- If you need special assistance, inform the airline gate agent upon check-in.

Train

- Accessible space and seats are available on coach, business class and first class train cars. On Amtrak for example, there are two different onboard seating options for passengers traveling with wheeled mobility devices, depending on the type of device.

- Amtrak also has "accessible rooms" passengers with disabilities. These rooms are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and should be booked 14 days in advance.

- If you require a companion or an attendant while traveling, check

for companion fare or discounted tickets.

- Passengers who use oxygen equipment can bring the equipment onboard trains with certain restrictions.

Hotels

- Look for a "guaranteed ADA" room when booking.

- Check the room for any barriers at check-in. A room can be ADA compliant but that does not mean that there will not be any mobility barriers.

- If you have difficulty pushing a manual chair, request a room near the elevators or on the first floor.

Ground Transportation

- Search for taxi or rental companies with wheelchair accessible vehicles. Visit mv-1.us/mv-1s-for-hire for an interactive map that highlights cities with MV-1 vehicles in their taxi and rental car fleets.

Don't let mobility or accessibility concerns inhibit holiday cheer. With some preparation, travel can be comfortable and stress-free. (StatePoint)



No snow for Lowell's sparkling nighttime Christmas parade - just lots of holiday enthusiasm

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Santa Claus did, in fact, come to town last Saturday traveling through the Lowell community with his red suit and good cheer signaling the official start of the holiday season in Lowell.

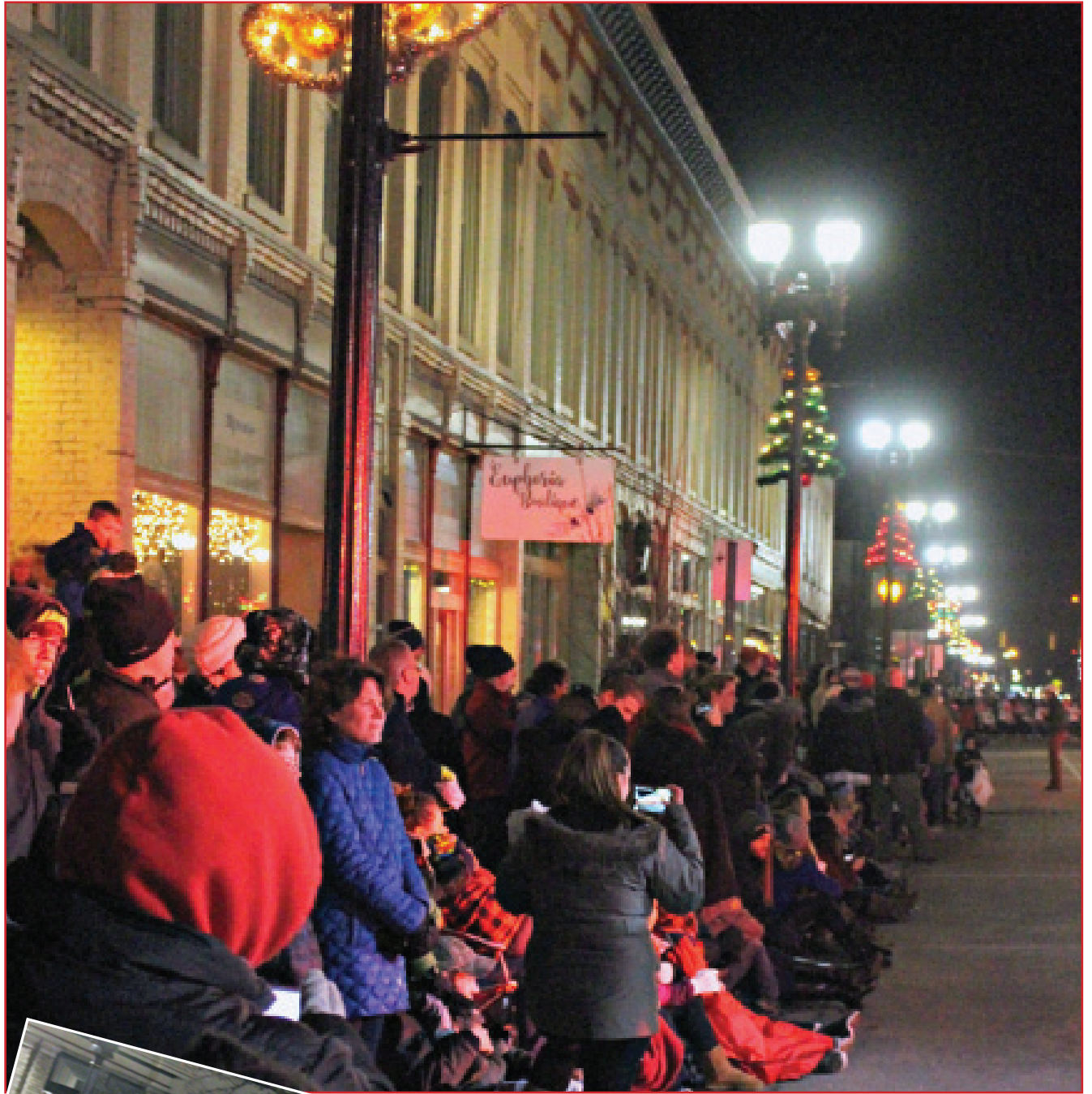
Presented by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (LACC) and funded by the Downtown Development Authority, this year the theme of the nighttime parade was "The Magic of Santa." The parade and sparkling Christmas festivities drew crowds from Lowell and surrounding areas.

The fun began in the morning when the doors of the Englehardt Library opened for their all-day Giftable Book Sale sponsored by Friends of the Englehardt Library. Outside the building along the Riverwalk several hours later enthusiastic families began lining up in the chilly weather to visit with Santa on the Showboat.

After divulging their Christmas lists, the kids were treated to cookies and cocoa and received a complimentary photo with Santa from River Valley Credit Union. Mr. Claus will return for more visits on Saturday, Dec. 10 and 17 from 10:30 to 1:00 pm and Wednesday, Dec. 7 and 14 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

Along the Riverwalk, music students from Luc James Music Studio added their rock-and-roll, holiday style, to classic Christmas carols and inside the LACC building Lowell schools' early education program TOTS presented Rudolph's craft workshop which offered crafts for young attendees.

At 4 pm traffic shifted to the Kent County Fairgrounds where the youth fair board and volunteers presented their annual pancake supper inside the King Building. According to organizer and board member Jessica Marks, 352 people attended



Girl Scouts wave at the crowds.



Gilda's Club mascot Sparkle.



Litehouse Foods Inc. with their bedazzled big rig.



More than 350 people attended the annual pancake supper.



Lowell Light & Power with their top ten North Pole Public Works float.



Luc James Music Studio

Nighttime parade, continued

and helped go through 65 pounds of pancake mix. After expenses the fundraiser earned \$1,100.

"Funds from the pancake supper donations go into our premium account and go directly back to the youth exhibitors at the 2017 fair for their award premiums," explained Marks.

The meal is a much looked forward to event that features a one-hour onsite visit from Santa and the smiling faces of the Kent County Youth Fair royal court.

"The supper provides a convenient meeting spot to have a great meal for a good cause and warm up before walking up to Main Street to watch the parade," added Marks.

Just prior to the 6 pm parade Walgreen's presented the Sweet Tooth Jubilee on Main Street as the sidewalks began to fill. The Lowell Police Department led the parade which was temporarily stalled due to a car along the parade route but was quickly ushered out by the department.

The Lowell Police led the parade which was temporarily stalled due to a car along the parade route which was quickly and safely evacuated by the department according to Chief Steve Bukala.

"The stray car was coming from Ionia and trying to get to Grand Rapids. They did not follow



Santa arrives. Photo by Bruce Doll

the parade detour signs and came off of a side street," he explained adding that it was a common occurrence during parades due to the large number of side streets and driveways along the route.

Bukala said the department is proud to lead all the parades but admitted there is something special

about the holiday event. "What makes this parade unique is the nighttime atmosphere. It really helps it feel much more like a Christmas parade."

More than 40 groups with local business, church, organization or school affiliation participated in the procession. Ten floats were selected by a panel of



Above, members of Lowell Little League aboard their first-place float and at left LHS boys and girls lacrosse teams on their float.



judges as the best entries with Lowell Little League winning first place honors. Other top entrants included Luc James Music Studio, City of Lowell, Girl Scouts, J&K Roadside Service, Kent District Library, King Milling, Lowell Lacrosse, Noah's Pet Cemetery, and

River Valley Credit Union. Wrapping up the parade was J&K Roadside Service whose last entry featured Santa Claus in a surprise ending sans horse and carriage with Mrs. Claus. Santa waved and smiled as children and parents alike

heralded the spirit of the holiday. Next year's Christmas festivities are scheduled for December 2, 2017. The LACC will next present A Nite of Christmas Cheer on Friday, December 9, along the Riverwalk.



EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Early deadlines for The Lowell Ledger - **NOON ON FRIDAY, DEC. 23** for the Dec. 28th edition and **NOON ON FRIDAY, DEC. 30** for the January 4th edition

Thanks & Happy Holidays!

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Driving around and around city blocks looking for parking seems like a colossal waste of fuel (and time). Is anyone working on ways to reduce this extra traffic and emissions burden? -- *Bernice Mickelson, New York, NY*

It's true that we waste lots of gas and time—and create lots of stress for ourselves—in the constant search for parking spaces. UCLA urban planning professor Donald Shoup and his students observed hundreds of cars driving around four sites in Los Angeles's bustling Westwood Village, a commercial district next to the UCLA campus, and found about one in three drivers was "cruising" in search of a spot. On average, each cruising driver spent only 3.3 minutes on the hunt over about a half-mile in distance — but the numbers add up quickly, given that some 8,000 cars park in Westwood Village each day.

"Over a year, cruising in Westwood Village creates 950,000 excess VMT [vehicle miles traveled]—equivalent to 38 trips around the earth, or four trips to the moon," says



Shoup. This excess mileage in just one small business district waste some 47,000 gallons of gasoline while producing 730 tons of CO2 emissions annually. Shoup thinks crowded metro areas should increase the price of street parking to make it cost as much or more than commercial or private parking garages so as to discourage all this wasteful cruising and force drivers into dedicated parking facilities where they won't slow down other motorists.

Luckily there's a slew of new services that make it easier than ever to park responsibly. BestParking, Parking Panda, Parker, ParkWhiz and ParkMe each provide users with access to hundreds of garages and lots in major cities across the U.S. through easy-to-use Smartphone interfaces. SpotHero works on a similar model but also offers up its own dedicated discounted spots in select parking facilities.

Meanwhile, SpotOn Parking is using San Francisco as a testing ground for its new service connecting drivers with property owners looking to monetize under-utilized parking spots. Users of the free SpotOn app can search for available spaces nearby—and reserve and pay with the click of a virtual button.

Of course, another way to reduce the need to park is to embrace public transit and ridesharing. If you ride the bus or train—or walk or bike—you won't have to waste time or fuel looking to park. Another way to avoid parking

hassles is by using Uber or Lyft, or by joining a car-share service like Zipcar which provides dedicated parking spots all around town for its vehicles.

At the meta level, American cities could follow the lead of some of their forward-thinking European counterparts like Antwerp and Zurich which have significantly reduced the overall number of (private and public) parking spaces available, in turn leading to a measurable downturn in vehicle miles travelled within city limits. If people have nowhere to park, they won't bother driving their own car into the city.

While encouraging people to use public transit, car sharing or at least parking apps is a step in the right direction, policy changes that reduce the number of spots altogether might be our best bet in reducing gas consumption, carbon emissions and the waste of time we all experience hunting for that next parking spot.

CONTACTS: BestParking, www.bestparking.com; ParkWhiz, www.parkwhiz.com; Parker, www.theparkerapp.com; Panda Parking, www.parkingpanda.com; ParkMe, www.parkme.com; SpotHero, www.spothero.com; SpotOn Parking, www.spotonparking.com; "Europe's Parking U-Turn: From Accommodation to Regulation," www.itdp.org/europes-parking-u-turn-from-accommodation-to-regulation/; Donald Shoup's "Cruising for Parking," <http://shoup.bol.ucla.edu/CruisingForParkingAccess.pdf>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of the nonprofit Earth Action Network. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

SpotOn Parking is trying to help parking spot owners and drivers connect to reduce "cruising" and ease congestion on the crowded streets of San Francisco. Credit: Chris Chabot, FlickrCC.

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Local response warrants EPA hearing on fracking well

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is withholding a permit for a proposed Class II deep-injection well in Johnstown Township until a public hearing is held later this winter.

According to Jefferey Wawczak of the EPA, sufficient numbers of Barry

County residents submitted formal comments and objections to the well to postpone a permit allowing construction until a public hearing can be conducted in Hastings later in the winter of 2017.

Earlier in the year, Arbor Operating of Traverse City petitioned the EPA for

a permit to begin utilizing the Swanson 4-7 well in Johnstown Township for deep-injection waste storage. Arbor Operating would use the proposed well to store waste liquids from well-drilling operations. Concerns have been raised over the safety of deep-injection wells, many people fearing the unknown chemicals and waste liquids stored deep underground may leach into aquifers and cause other significant environmental problems.

The EPA opened public comment on the well, inviting the public to share thoughts, concerns and questions. Public comment for the initial draft proposal ended Oct. 24.

Jackie Schmitz, coordinator for the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, reported that approximately 100 people contacted the EPA during the comment period for the Swanson well. Evidently, the EPA has taken notice, since it has chosen to withhold the permit for the Swanson well until a public hearing can be conducted.

“The EPA holds hearings for such cases in the closest large town near the well, which is Hastings,” Wawczak said.

Wawczak works for the EPA, overseeing well permits and related hearings for several states, including Michigan.

“We received enough public comments to merit a public hearing and a possible redrafting of the permit,” he said.

The public hearing will allow anyone to take a look at the draft permit and ask questions.

“All comments at the hearing will be on public record,” Wawczak said. “Hearings start with a reading of the draft proposal, questions and answers, and a reading of statements explaining the process of how the permit will work and how the well will be implemented.”

Comments and objections voiced at the hearing will be taken into

account when the EPA considers a new draft proposal for the Swanson 4-7 well.

“A final draft can be heavily influenced by the community,” Wawczak said.

No date for the hearing has been set, due in part to the holidays. However, Wawczak expects a hearing date by late December or January. The EPA will post a public notice 30 days prior to the hearing. A copy of the draft proposal will be available for public viewing at the Hastings Public Library as the hearing draws near. More information is available by calling the Region 5 EPA office, 800-621-8431

Red Arrow SPORTS

Sports Summaries

HOCKEY

Lowell’s hockey players and their co-op teammates have hit the ice hard already this winter taking on a busy early season schedule that has five competitions already in the books. After falling short in their opener 6-0 against Forest Hills Central on the road at the Patterson Ice Arena, the team picked up a big 10-1 win in tournament play against Warren Mott and a tight 3-2 loss against Birmingham Unified in their first week of action. Last week Wednesday the team met West Catholic High School adding a 3-2 win to their tally with goals from Mitch Brennan, Daniel Huver and Ian Milton. Friday the team made their season record 2-3 when they lost 5-2 to East Grand Rapids with Huver and Nate Regan finding the back of the net.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Senior Bridget Garter led the Red Arrow varsity girls basketball on the hardwood last Friday night as the team played their season opener at Covenant Christian High School falling 41-40 in a hard fought non-conference battle. Garter scored 11 points for the Arrows while Emily DePew netted nine.

GIRLS BOWLING

Lowell Red Arrow varsity girls bowlers hit the lanes last Saturday morning for the Wyoming Invitational coming together for their first tournament of the season and landing in eighth place. Bowler Laura Lachowski earned a seventh-place finish overall to lead the lady Arrows coached by former Lowell Lanes’ owner Chris Clark.

BOYS BOWLING

After securing a regional championship and a 14th-place finish in the state tournament in the 2015-2016 season, the Lowell boys varsity bowling team hit the lanes for the first time this season last Saturday at Eastbrook Lanes. The Red Arrows picked up a second-place finish in the season opener led by Ben Stewart, who placed third overall in the tournament.

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obituaries

FORD

Robert Ford, age 87 of Lowell, passed away at home on Saturday, December 3, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Morna (Rickert); son Greg Ford; grandson Josh Ford; and brother-in-law Don Anderson. He is survived by his children Doug (Karen) Ford, Jody (Kraig) Haybarker, Beth (Kim) Schwacha, Dave (Joy) Ford; grandchildren Brooke Ford, Bob (Julie) Ford, Doug (Morgan) Ford, Jason (Corrine) Haybarker, Brian Haybarker, Brandy (Andy) Pullen, Michele (Andy) Ostrander, Gerrid and Justin Ball, Mike (Ashley) Ford, Mark Ford; 11 great-grandchildren; brother Jim (Peggy) Ford; sister Virginia Anderson; and brother-in-law Darle (Joan) Rickert. Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing, woodworking and camping. He was the happiest sitting around a campfire and spending time with his great grandchildren. A memorial service was held Tuesday, December 6, at Lowell First United Methodist Church, 621 E Main St, Lowell. Rev. Gordon Barry and Rev. Brad Brillhart officiating. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E., Lowell, MI 49331.



HILASKI

"Betty" M. Beulaine (Miller) Hilaski, age 95, passed away on Saturday, November 26, 2016. Betty was born at the family farm in Fallasburg to the late Wesley and Sarah (Boynton) Miller. She graduated from Lowell High School and had four brothers and a twin sister. She was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, Sylvester Hilaski; her son-in-law, Terry Mc Stamp; her brothers, Ferris (Lucy) Miller, Bernard (Carolyn) Miller; and her sisters-in-law, Joan Miller, Beatrice Brougham, and Florence Molien. She will be sadly missed by her daughters, Fran Mc Stamp, Sue (Jim) Didion; grandchildren, Lisa (Jeff) Niedritis, Mike (Lisa) Mc Stamp, Rick Kunz, Jim (Kay) Kunz, Todd (Maria) Didion, Jodi (Mark) Richhart; great-grandchildren, Brad (Amanda) Wheeler, Matt Mc Stamp, Heather (Eric) Mc Adargh, Karli and Rori Didion, Jake Davidson, Carson Richhart, Maia and Thea Niedritis; great great-grandson, Michael "Little Man" Mc Adargh; her twin sister, Elaine Duggan; brothers, Ward Miller and Dale Miller; and many, many nieces and nephews. Betty was proud to be a lifelong member of the Neal Fonger 179 Ladies Auxiliary and had a 30 year career at General Motors. Betty especially enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She was very happy when she was playing bingo or spending time at the casino. Betty also had lots of fun playing cards, her favorite being Cribbage. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 2 PM at Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home (Grandville) 4145 Chicago Drive SW with Fr. Stephen Dudek Celebrant. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Relatives and friends may meet the family Wednesday from 6-8 PM and Thursday from 1-2 PM prior to service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com



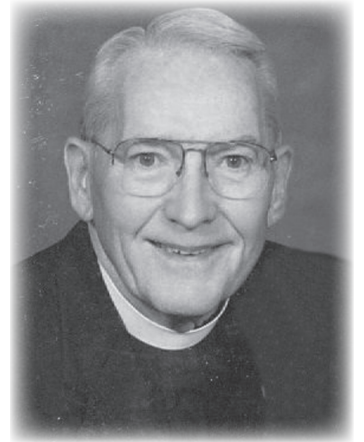
PORRITT

John F. Porritt, of Bingham Township, died at Sunrise Senior Living, Cascade Grand Rapids, on November 16, 2016. The son of Fedora Marguerite Hunt Porritt and John W. Porritt, John was born in Alto, Michigan on December 4, 1932. He graduated from Lowell Public High School in 1952, where he excelled in football and track. In 1955 John married his high school sweetheart Nancy Gee. From 1953 to 1955 he served in the U.S. Army as a cryptographer in Korea. He Graduated from Michigan State University in 1958 and began his career with R.D. Brooks Builders in Grand Rapids and then Traverse City where he purchased a farm and raised his family. John worked in the Grand Traverse area with Garfield Township as building inspector, assessor and zoning administrator and Bingham Township as Supervisor and assessor. John is survived by his wife Nancy; five children, Greg, Ruth, Beth (David Poore), Jann, and Jeanine (Randy Heibel); five grandchildren, Nathan Porritt, Nicholas Porritt, Lindsey Matro, Jacob Heibel and Gabriel Heibel; and one great-grandchild, Madison Matro. He was preceded in death by his sister Beverly Heaven, brother Kendall Porritt, daughter-in-law Joy Porritt and several cousins. A visitation service was held on Saturday November 19 at Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service on Cascade Road and his Funeral Mass was at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Traverse City on Monday November 21.



ROLLINS

Rev. Roger B. Rollins, age 86 of Grand Rapids, passed away Thursday, December 1, 2016. He was born December 16, 1930 in Lowell, Michigan to Ellis and Mary (Courter) Rollins. He was preceded in death by his son Clark Rollins, and his first wife Betty Irene (Weeks) Rollins. He is survived by his second wife Mary; daughter, Julie Fairchild; grandson Philip (Nicole) Orenstein; sister Theresa Posthumus. The family would like to meet with friends and relatives for a celebration of life Saturday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Clark Retirement Community, 1551 Franklin St. S.E., Grand Rapids. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 12/21/2016 at 8:45 am at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose:

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 16-200245-DD
 In the matter of LAURIE VILLEGAS. November 9, 2016
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Lindsay Lewis
 whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
 5281 Clyde Park SW Suite 2 Wyoming, MI 49509 616-719-4263 ext. 541

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 16-200326-DE
Estate of IRENE STEHOUSER. Date of birth: March 20, 1930.
TO ALL CREDITORS: the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Thomas Bernott, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500 Grand Rapids and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
TO ALL CREDITORS: November 28, 2016
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: John D. Mitus (P31244) 410 Bridge Street, NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-774-4001
TO THE DECEDENT, Irene Stehouwer, died October 11, 2016. Thomas Bernott 8276 Fairwood Dr. Jenison, MI 49428
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Looking Back, continued

a wooden fish tray. All these mementoes will be on display at the Johnson sales room on East Main St. for a few days so that those interested may view them.

Main St. takes on Christmas spirit. The Lowell Board of Trade has designated this Saturday evening, Dec. 20 as Santa Claus night for children in this vicinity and surrounding communities. Old St. Nick will be at the Lowell City Hall at 8:30 to greet all boys and girls and will give each a bag of candy. Street decorations consist of garlands across the streets decorated with colored lights and Christmas trees and silver stars have been placed on each lamp post. The garlands are strung at regular intervals across Main St. throughout the business district from Jefferson Ave. on the east to Vergennes Rd. on the west and gives the village a very festive appearance. Lowell stores have taken up the Christmas spirit and are all ready to serve shoppers in this vicinity.

Lowell balloon lands in Canada. About a month ago, instructor Adrian F. Zwemer's class in Physics was discussing the principle of the buoyancy of objects or why they float in air. During the discussion, it was suggested that experiments be tried. Several balloons inflated with hydrogen were sent up. Tags were attached to them requesting that they be returned to

the Physics Class at Lowell. On Nov. 14, Fred Hosley, Chad Lampkin and Gurney Hahn sent up a yellow balloon. On November 15, it was picked up eight miles east of Listowel, Ontario, Canada, by a Mr. Laird Cummings. Mr. Cummings sent the tag and a short note to the Physics class telling them of his discovery. Another interesting coincidence in this connection is the fact that Pvt. Roy Hull, who is in the Royal Canadian artillery stationed at Chatham, Ont., also noticed a clipping in one of the papers there regarding the finding of the balloon. In this clipping it was stated that the balloon had travelled approximately 312 miles and was still inflated with gas when found.

David C. Cox of Grand Rapids, formerly of Lowell, has been issued a patent for a selective timing mechanism for sorting machines.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Dec. 8, 1966

Christmas decorating contest on. Now is the time to begin decorating the outside of your home for Christmas. You just might win a prize for doing it. A Christmas lighting and decorating contest is being held

by the Lowell Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Lowell Light and Power Company. Prizes will be awarded to the person who does the most beautiful and original job of outside decorating. If you have not previously tried your hand at decorating the exterior of your home, this would be a good year to start. Anyone who wishes to enter this contest may do so by sending a post card to the Lowell Chamber of Commerce with their name and address on the back. Watch next week's paper for more contest details.

Attwood Corp. hit by fire. A fire that started shortly before noon on Wednesday in a carton storage area of Attwood Corporation ruined \$4,000 to \$5,000 in cartons and smoked up the plant. The blaze was discovered by employees. It took the Lowell firemen about a half hour to bring the fire under control. The burned cartons were being removed from the building and clean-up of the plant begun shortly after 1 p.m.

The safety valve at the Consumers Power Company control station on East Main Street blew off last Saturday at 8:20 causing a loud noise, and a large quantity of gas blanketed the area. Workmen came from Lansing to repair the valve.

Homemaking test is taken by senior girls. Senior class girls in Lowell high school were among the more than 500,000 throughout the nation who sat in class rooms Tuesday, December 6, and took a written knowledge and attitude test dealing with homemaking. The girls here were among those in approximately 15,000 public, private and parochial schools which participated in the 1987 Betty Crocker Search for the American Homemaker of Tomorrow contest sponsored by General Mills, Inc. The local winner will be presented a specially designed silver charm and will have her test papers entered in state competition. The Betty Crocker Search is on the approved list of national contests and activities of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Science Research Associates, Chicago, prepares the test and also has charge of scoring and judging.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Dec. 11, 1991

Family Dentistry holds Christmas Open House. Local dentists Tom Northway and Ann Wilson created a holiday type atmosphere for its patients at Friday's Holiday Open House. Children came to the office without the usual nervous reservations. Instead of worrying about having a tooth filled, they eagerly anticipated a visit with Santa Claus and shared in the snacks that Northway and Wilson put out on plates. "We've had good luck with this at our other offices," Northway said. "It's a way to ease children's fears about dentists." The open house, for patients, friends and neighbors, took place from 4 until 7 p.m.

Boniface initiates centuries-old tradition. According to legend, St. Boniface started it all in eighth century Germany when he cut down a tree for use in a holy celebration, a practice that has evolved into the modern-day Christmas tree. Michigianians can continue that centuries-old tradition this year at 133 state tree farms, according to AAA Michigan's 1991 guide to cut-your-own sites. There is no shortage of lush trees this year. Approximately 6.5 million Christmas trees will be harvested in Michigan this season. Of this number, 1.5 million will stay in the state and the remainder shipped across the U.S. The most popular Christmas tree variety is the Scotch pine, followed by the blue spruce and fir. This year, Christmas trees will average about \$25. For the fourth year, the Michigan Christmas Tree Association is operating the Michigan Snowfresh program. Trees tagged as "Michigan Snowfresh" must be grown, harvested and stored in a manner that will maximize tree freshness and quality. Christmas tree farms also offer attractions such as horse drawn wagon rides, craft shops, holiday wreaths, refreshments and even the opportunity to meet Santa Claus. Visitors planning to purchase a tree at a cut-your-own tree farm: Check a tree's freshness by grasping a branch between the thumb and forefinger and pulling it lightly toward you. Few needles should come off if the tree is fresh. Also, an excess number of green needles on the ground around the tree indicate the tree is probably not fresh. Bring twine to secure the tree to the car. Bring a saw in case the farm doesn't supply one.



Photo courtesy of Betty Crocker

The Classic Kid-Favorite

When medicine kits and hollies start growing, turn to a classic to keep your kids full and satisfied. Chicken Noodle Soup has always been a favorite among children, so keep tradition alive in your family with this scrumptious recipe. For more delicious chicken recipes, visit www.bettycrocker.com.

Chicken Noodle Soup

Recipe courtesy of National Chicken Council

- 1 chicken (3 pounds), bone discarded
- 2 1/2 quarts cold water
- 4 carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 onions, peeled
- 2 celery stalks with leaves, cut into 4 pieces
- 6 cloves garlic, peeled
- 2 fresh thyme sprigs or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon whole black peppercorns

Soup:

- 1 cup small pasta, cooked
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill, chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped

To prepare broth: In large pot over high heat, bring chicken and all remaining broth ingredients to boil. Reduce heat to low; skim surface of broth to remove foam. Let simmer 1 1/2 hours, skimming occasionally, and turning chicken. Add more water if necessary to keep chicken submerged.

Remove chicken with tongs and cool. Strain broth through fine sieve. Discard celery, herbs and spices. Reserve onions and carrots. Remove any excess fat from top of broth with spoon.

Pull chicken meat from bones and discard skin and bones. Dice chicken and reserve. Quarter cooked onions, if desired.

To prepare soup: In large pot over high heat, return strained chicken broth and bring to rolling boil. Add reserved onions and carrots. Reduce heat to low; stir in reserved chicken meat, peas and frozen peas, cooking until warm. Season with salt and pepper. Ladle soup into bowls and top with dill and parsley.

Creating HEALTHY Eating Habits

When it comes to eating, it can be difficult to find foods that kids can enjoy while also introducing them to valuable nourishment and health principles. Instead of giving in to ice cream for every meal or forcing children to eat something their taste buds don't agree with, there are tasty recipes like Chicken Noodle Soup, Cinnamon-Sprinkled French Toast and Flower Salad that can quench their appetites without giving up nutritional value. These fun recipes can give kids a chance to help in the kitchen, learning important life skills while spending quality time with family.

To find more fun, kid-friendly recipes that include both taste and nourishment, visit culinary.net.

Connect Kids with Food for Healthy Habits

More than nine in 10 millennial moms think it's important for their kids to learn about where their food comes from, and more than three-quarters of these moms actually do things with their kids to help learn just that, according to recent findings.

Building healthy habits is the top reason moms cite for encouraging more learning when it comes to food, according to research conducted by IFSC in behalf of Culico - the most little classmate. Even when the weather is colder outside, recipes like this Flower Salad can help encourage kids to eat healthy for a lifetime.

For more kid-friendly recipe ideas and content exploring where food comes from, visit culinary.net/usa-story.

Flower Salad

Recipe courtesy of Ellie Kringer

Servings: 1

Flowers:

- 1 Cakesi clovestine
- 1/10 thinly sliced strips
- red bell pepper, cut in 1-inch pieces

- 1/2 grape tomato
- 1 celery stick, cut in 1/2 inches
- 2 small leaves romaine lettuce
- 1 piece English cucumber, unpeeled, seeded and cut in 1/2 inches thin slices

Dip:

- 2 tablespoons plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 teaspoon honey
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Peel clovestine and separate sections almost all the way, leaving attached at the base. Place on plate with base down. Place piece of red bell pepper between each citrus section, and half tomato in center to form flower.

Place celery and cucumber leaves underneath to stem and leaves. Arrange cucumber slices below to represent grass.

In small bowl, stir together yogurt, honey and lemon juice.

Serve dip in dish alongside flowers, or in a round underneath cucumber slices.

Nutritional information per serving: 76 calories; 0.5 g total fat; 10.3 g saturated fat; 0.2 g poly fat; 4 g protein; 15 g carbohydrates; 2 g fiber; 2 mg cholesterol; 21 mg sodium.



Photo courtesy of Betty Crocker

A Memorable Morning Meal

Whether it's before school or after sleeping in on a Saturday morning, breakfast is a popular meal for children of all ages. Next time you and your family rise and shine, go with this recipe for Cinnamon-Sprinkled French Toast to keep the whole gang happy. Find more kid-friendly recipes for every meal at nutrition.gov.

Cinnamon-Sprinkled French Toast

Recipe courtesy of the USDA.

- 2 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons fat-free milk
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 slices whole-wheat bread
- 1 teaspoon salt margarine
- 4 teaspoons light pancake syrup

In fat-bottomed bowl, crack eggs. Thoroughly whisk in milk and cinnamon. Dip bread slices, one at a time, into egg mixture, coating both sides. Re-dip, if necessary, until all egg mixture is absorbed into bread.

Meanwhile, heat large, nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add butter. Place dipped bread slices in skillet. Cook 2 1/2-3 minutes per side, or until both sides are golden brown.

Drizzle with syrup. Serve while warm.

Nutritional information per serving: 199 calories; 8 g total fat (2 g saturated fat); 30 g protein; 19 g carbohydrates; 2 g fiber; 215 mg cholesterol; 230 mg sodium.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ACROSS

- 1. Romans' cleansing hangout, pl.
- 6. Bartender's Triple _____
- 9. Legal wrong
- 13. Be in harmony
- 14. *"And to _____ a good night"
- 15. Fraction
- 16. Big dipper
- 17. Flying saucer?
- 18. To stand forth
- 19. *Hanukkah spinning top
- 21. *C.C. Moore's character
- 23. *"_____ the fields we go laughing all the way"
- 24. Actor Wilder, 1933-2016
- 25. Fast-food staple
- 28. Unpleasant road display?
- 30. *How many days of Christmas?
- 35. Pinocchio, e.g.
- 37. *Like Tim Cratchit
- 39. Iron setting
- 40. Like Andersen's duckling
- 41. Many times
- 43. World's longest river
- 44. Bellhop, technically
- 46. Fork prong
- 47. Malaria symptom
- 48. School supplies staple
- 50. Pale gray
- 52. H in HMS
- 53. "_____ there, done that"
- 55. R in rpm
- 57. *Tournament of Roses tradition

| CROSSWORD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6

- Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte turned down an offer from Brazil to drop charges he is facing for falsely reporting that he was robbed during the Olympic games in Rio. They offered to drop the charges for a \$20,000 fine.
- A jury convicted Justin Ross Harris of murder for leaving his 22-month old son in an SUV for more than seven hours in Georgia. He received life without parole and an additional 32 years.
- A deadly warehouse fire in Oakland, CA has killed 36. The warehouse had been converted to artists' studios and living spaces and apparently was rife with dangerous living conditions and broken city codes, poor construction and garbage piled high outside the building.
- A mistrial has been declared in the shooting of Walter Scott. Scott was unarmed when he ran when stopped by Charleston, SC police. Former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager was charged with murder when a video surfaced showing him shooting Scott in the back as he was running away. One juror told the court he was unable to convict the cop.

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- 60. *Burning block
- 64. Lacy neckwear
- 65. Poe's Morgue, e.g.
- 67. Guanaco's cousin
- 68. Mountain ridge
- 69. Retirement plan
- 70. Cowboy movie
- 71. _____ farewell, past tense

- 72. Ensign, for short
- 73. Small songbirds

DOWN

- 1. Shiny on top?
- 2. Lab culture
- 3. "Trade" without one vowel
- 4. Sunny prefix
- 5. Sowing machine
- 6. Author Bellow
- 7. *North Pole worker
- 8. Bring to an end
- 9. De Niro's ride, 1976
- 10. Relating to ear
- 11. Classic board game
- 12. *Marines' giftee
- 15. Checks out again at the library
- 20. Muse of love poetry
- 22. Blast maker
- 24. Herbalist's bitter cure
- 25. *New Year stemware
- 26. _____ mortis
- 27. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meeting spot
- 29. *Stocking stuffer
- 31. Tallest volcano in Europe
- 32. "Gone with the Wind" actress
- 33. Monetary worth
- 34. Mideast V.I.P.
- 36. Whiskey grain, pl.
- 38. Strong desires
- 42. India's first Prime Minister

- 45. Sales lure
- 49. *Prominent Christmas color
- 51. Like directory pages
- 54. Bone-chilling
- 56. Relating to velum
- 57. Legal prefix
- 58. In the sack
- 59. Learning method
- 60. Those voting "yes"
- 61. *A Christmas present given on the 26th
- 62. Black cat, e.g.
- 63. Needlefish, pl.
- 64. Mike Tyson's punch
- 66. Big coffee holder

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Did you discuss politics over Thanksgiving dinner?

- ABSOLUTELY - 12%
- NO WAY - 25%
- A LITTLE - 62%
- I DON'T TALK WITH MY MOUTH FULL 1%

WWW.

thelowelledger.com

Rogue River artisan show draws holiday shoppers

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

In 1983 a group of 25 local crafters and artisans gathered for an art show that has evolved into the Rogue River Artisans Fine Arts & Crafts Sale. The 34th annual event was held at Lowell High School last Saturday.

This year, nearly 100 vendors from across the state and beyond showcased goods that ranged from gourd art to fused glass.

Welcomed by student volunteers, hundreds of Christmas shoppers trailed through the aisles of merchandise.

One vendor in particular found a home inside the high school for years to come. Michigan's Treasures owner Mike Schroeder sold one of his lustrous wood and Petoskey Stone inlaid furniture pieces to the school's media specialist.

Christine Beachler plans to place the table inside the building's library. In their second year at the show, Schroeder and wife Jayne happened upon their lucrative business after he was injured on the job. "I was a UPS driver and got hurt at work and was stuck in a chair for a long time

with a back injury. I was bored to death and decided I was going to carve a Petoskey stone. It just kind of blossomed from there."

What started out as small carvings turned into larger scale pieces and the unique woodwork he now offers. He says they attend 30-35 art shows per year and plan to keep the local show on their schedule in the future.

Other vendors drawing large crowds with their work included American Forging, whose owner Dan Davenport of Millington hand hammers aluminum pieces, including plates, trays and bookmarks; Campbell Custom Woodworking, out of Rockford, owned by Brian Campbell, who fashions functional wooden home accessories; and Paul Mason, of Mason Welding in Kimball, who shares his love of welding through recycled art sculptures for the yard.

"I started welding when I was 16 years old and worked in the field and taught high school welding for a long time. Since I have retired I have been doing



Crowds gathered inside Lowell High School for the 34th annual shopping event.

this full-time but did it as a hobby for about 18 years before that."

Mason said his first work was a metal turtle fashioned from a rim, a tractor disc and a small

automotive tank. He said he put it out in the yard and people really loved it. He gets the same reaction at the Rogue River show each year. "It's a real nice area. It's good to get over here

because the people are really friendly and they buy."

Next year the show is scheduled for Dec. 2. Those interested in vending or attending the show are

encouraged to like them on their Facebook page or website. Proceeds from the door fee benefit the school.



Student volunteers Tyler Greenop and Gabe Hare welcome shoppers to the event.



Michigan's Treasure owner Mike Schroeder talks with a customer at the fine art show.



Pieces from Michigan's Treasure including the forward work which will reside in the LHS library.