



labor of love



page 9



page 7



Lowell city council welcomes citizen comments on medical marijuana; discusses rebuilding the Showboat and new software during regular meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

On Monday, Nov. 20, the Lowell city council had a public forum about medical marijuana followed immediately by their regular meeting where they received updates about the Lowell Showboat and dealt with other topics.

The crowd at the 5:30 pm marijuana forum was overflowing. Every chair was filled, some spectators stood against the walls and gathered in the doorway. A crew from a local TV station was there and WRWW

broadcast the meeting live over the radio.

To kick things off, Lowell police chief Steve Bukala gave a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation that city manager Michael Burns called “the law enforcement response.”

“How do you want Lowell to be viewed,” Bukala said. “When are we going to be done being a guinea pig for everybody’s pet projects? I think it’s time we stopped being a guinea pig.”

The chief then played an eight minute video produced by the Colorado Department of Justice showing the various medical marijuana products that exist including candies, beverages and topical ointments.

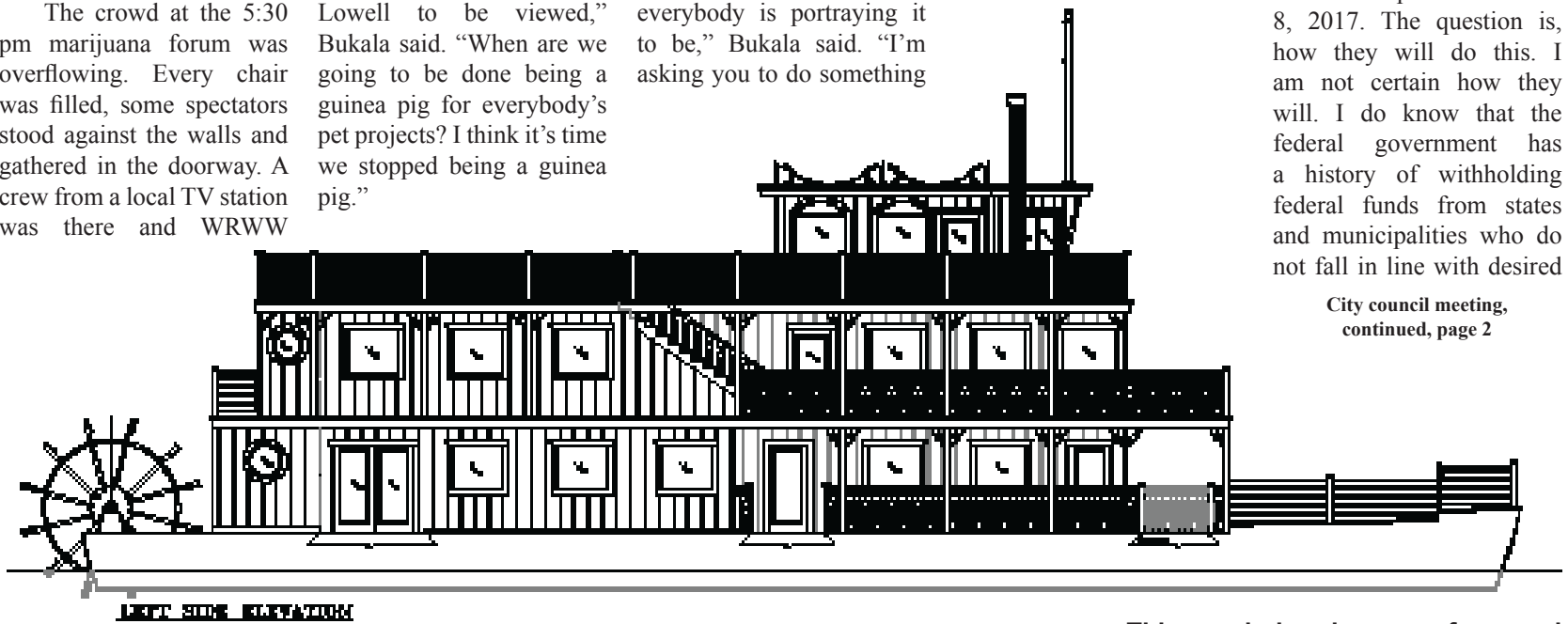
“I just don’t believe that this is the wonder drug that everybody is portraying it to be,” Bukala said. “I’m asking you to do something

by doing nothing and do not opt in to this.”

“The chief of police has shared his position from the law enforcement standpoint and I do support the police chief’s position as it is factually based and

I do not believe it’s fear mongering,” Burns said. “Attorney General Jeff Sessions said last week the federal government is going to enforce the federal laws pertaining to marijuana when enforcement policies established under President Obama expire on Dec. 8, 2017. The question is, how they will do this. I am not certain how they will. I do know that the federal government has a history of withholding federal funds from states and municipalities who do not fall in line with desired

City council meeting, continued, page 2



THE LOWELL SHOWBOAT

This rendering is one of several possible options for the new Lowell Showboat.

Rainy weather fails to discourage crowds of shoppers enjoying Christmas Through Lowell

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Homes and businesses were bustling with holiday shoppers for Christmas

Through Lowell in spite of the cold, rainy weekend.

“So far it’s going pretty

nicely,” said Rockford resident Carolyn Feikema.

“We’ve probably come to

Christmas Through Lowell three or four times. It’s really fun to come to Lowell, it’s a nice place.”

Downtown shops were packed on Friday morning. The LowellArts Holiday Artists Market, which will continue through Dec. 23, featured hundreds of items including paintings, jewelry, sculpture, photography and a lot more.

“It’s going very well, we’re very busy, there are lots of people,” said LowellArts volunteer Diane Kleczynski. “The weather is nice inside. There are 50 different artists here. My husband Bob Kleczynski has his boxes here. They’re keepsake boxes or jewelry boxes. They’re unique, handmade, each one is different.”

“It’s going good, we’ve been busy,” said Marty Chambers, owner of Red Barn Consignments and Antiques. “The weather is better than it was last year, but we’ve got more weather coming. But they’ll still come, it’ll still be a good weekend.”

“It’s going really well,” said Tonia North, owner of North Star Antiques. “Look at the town, it is hopping! Last night we were here preparing until 9:30, 11:30 the night before. We bought Christmas stuff all year for this. We take stuff and fix it up, put time and money into it. We love Christmas Through Lowell.”

Christmas Through Lowell, continued, page 8 and 9



Lowell Women’s Club volunteers Joanne Parker, Kathy Horsch, Mary Sage and Diane Sherlock.

50¢



City council meeting, continued



High Wellness Group LLC owner Connor Baker wants to open a medical marijuana provisioning center in Lowell.

outcomes of the federal government. [...] The last time the city was eager on something with too many unknowns, we ended up with a biodigester.”

After the city made its position known, it was the public’s turn to speak. All together, 18 citizens came to the podium to give their opinions on medical marijuana. The speakers were evenly split

between those for allowing a marijuana business to open in Lowell and those who were against this. Some described their own experiences with medical marijuana or the experiences of close family members, some presented facts and statistics and others simply stated their opinion.

“Aside from the revenue to the city itself via taxes and fees, we will create

many well-paying jobs and provide a consistent, high quality medication to our patients,” said Connor Baker, owner of the High Wellness Group LLC, formerly known as ‘Buzz Solutions,’ the company that wants to open a medical marijuana provisioning center in Lowell. “I am extremely confident that the city of Lowell will do what’s right for its citizens of Lowell, as well as the surrounding communities and opt in and allow us to bring a quality medicine to those in need.”

“When I heard about this I thought to myself, ‘Are you serious,’” said Ace Hardware owner Charlie Bernard. “I think of two or three ways to destroy the public image of Lowell, this has to rank number one.”

“We’re on record here today to say that we would be against having marijuana dispensaries or having the proliferation of marijuana in our community,” said Jim Doyle, senior vice president of King Milling.

“We don’t think this is going to be a good thing for our community or for employers such as ourselves.”

“What if Lowell gets a reputation as being a pot town,” said local resident Maryalene LaPonsie. “Regardless of whether or not medical marijuana has good outcomes, what if, like, in the greater community, that’s what Lowell becomes known for? Does that affect our businesses? Does it affect our property values? Does it affect people wanting to come live here?”

“I believe it’s really the Trojan horse of our times,” said Dr. Jim Reagan. “They intentionally called this ‘medical marijuana’ in 2008 just to get it on the ballot, to give it a good name. Now it’s been around for 10 years. There have been some promising medical uses for it for seizures, for appetite stimulation, but the Federal Drug Administration has not endorsed smoking marijuana as an efficient method of getting the medicine into your system.”



Lou D’Agostino said the new boat’s official name will be simply ‘The Lowell Showboat.’

“From talking with Connor Baker here, I think that the facility that he’s looking to put up in the city would be a huge blessing and not a huge curse,” said a medical marijuana patient from Grand Rapids.

“I’m a Gulf War veteran. I’ve broke my neck. I’ve had eight back operations. 90 milligrams of Oxycontin for seven years,” said a medical marijuana patient and caregiver from Snyder, MI. “Horrible. Horrible. I weaned myself off it with my own oil that I grew myself. I haven’t had an opiate in me in 10 years.”

“I used cannabis oil for him,” said a medical marijuana caregiver who got her license to produce medicine for her husband after he was diagnosed with brain cancer. “I used it basically for palliative care for him. It was something that benefited him greatly in his final days.”

“I used it for two years, which was the length of time for the card,” said Chimera Design owner Cliff Yankovich. “When the two years were up I said, ‘I don’t need this anymore.’ If you look up anti-anxiety drugs, [for] most of them there’s a

weaning process of weeks or months. Same with opioids. One day I had medical marijuana edibles, the next day I didn’t. It didn’t cause a problem. I didn’t miss a lot of work. I carried on.”

The council did not make a decision at the meeting. They plan to gather more information and public comment before making a decision whether or not to allow the business.

“This isn’t going to be the only one, we can’t make a decision off one public hearing,” said mayor Michael DeVore. “Keep coming out and keep coming with your facts and your feelings. We’ll keep listening and try to get as smart as we can.”

After a 15 minute break, the council started their regular meeting. This one lasted about 50 minutes and about 22 people stuck around for it.

Rebuild the Lowell Showboat committee member Lou D’Agostino updated the council about the group’s progress. D’Agostino said the boat’s

City council meeting and Showboat renderings, continued, page 14



King Milling senior vice president Jim Doyle said he was against allowing medical marijuana businesses in Lowell.



along main street

ARTISANS HOLIDAY SALE

Rogue River Artisans 35th annual juried fine art and craft holiday sale at Lowell High School. Dec. 2 from 9 am to 4 pm. Over 120 of the area’s finest juried artisans and craftsman. \$1 admission with proceeds going to Red Arrow special activities. A holiday lunch is available.

ALONG MAIN STREET SUBMISSIONS

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.

HOLIDAY ARTISTS MARKET

The annual LowellArts Holiday Artists Market featuring artwork by over 50 area artists will be held through Dec. 23. Artwork and other handmade items by Michigan artists will be available for purchase during the gift-giving season. Gift items include pottery, paintings, photography, jewelry, textiles, glasswork, handbags, woodwork, metalwork, wreaths, basketry, ornaments, candles, soaps and more. LowellArts is located at 223 W. Main and gallery hours are Tues. – Sat., 10 am to 6 pm. Details can be found at www.lowellartsmi.org

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An old-fashioned country Christmas at Fallasburg Village

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Celebrate an old-fashioned country Christmas at Fallasburg Village, 13944 Covered Bridge Rd., from 6 until 8 pm on Saturday, Dec. 9. The historic little town will be tastefully decorated for the holidays and there will be plenty of food and entertainment.

“We’ll have a live band in the school and we’ll serve wine and cheese, hot cider and that kind of stuff,” said Ken Tamke, president of the Fallasburg Historical Society. “Libations and live music. Hawks and Owls will play vintage variations on classic Christmas songs.”

The party starts at 6 pm, then folks go outside and enjoy the massive bonfire.

“Part of the Christmas party is a bonfire in the field adjacent to our schoolhouse,” Tamke said. “The bonfire actually goes on after the festivities. About 7:30 or so the fire gets lit in the field and everybody starts to filter out there about 8 o’clock. Those

who appreciate seeing flames leaping 50 feet into the air can hang out around the bonfire and shoot the breeze.”

The giant fire is created by a local man who saves and salvages scrap wood all year long.

“There’s a farmer in the neighborhood, Craig Wood, who spends all year long building this fire,” Tamke said. “He is our official fire builder. He gets old pallets and uses those on the bottom row to let oxygen into the bottom of the fire. Then he gathers yard clippings, tree branches and wood from remodeling projects; it all gets tossed into the mix. The thing is about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide and it’s eight to ten feet high. It puts out an intense amount of heat at first but then it becomes quite pleasant.”

Christmas at Fallasburg Village is an opportunity to celebrate Christmas the way they did when the village was first settled back in the 1800s.

“It’s amazing,” Tamke said. “People come and gather ‘round and tell stories and reminisce and

talk to each other. It unifies people, which is what we’re all about. Bringing the community together.”

The suggested donation for this event is \$20. For more information about

Fallasburg Village, check out their website fallasburg.org or call 616-682-0785.



Part of the Christmas at Fallasburg Village celebration is the giant bon fire. File photo

Winter activities abound at Wittenbach/Wege Center

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Wittenbach Wege Agriscience & Environmental Center, 11715 Vergennes, has all sorts of interesting winter activities coming up.

On Friday, Nov. 24, there will be an event called “Black Friday Prairie Seeding” at Saul Lake Bog.

“Anyone who wants to opt outside for the day and volunteer with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan should attend this event,” said WWC director Courtney Cheers. “It happens at the Saul Lake Bog preserve. The bog and prairie are separate, just located on the same preserve. I plan to restore more prairie at the WWC, so I plan[to] attend this to learn some best practices for my prairie restoration.”

For more information about this event, head to naturenearby.org/events

Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife will have “Project F.I.S.H.” at the WWC on Dec. 4, 12 and 14. This is a workshop for educators, instructors and volunteer leaders to learn how to get kids interested in fishing and learning about the ecology of the Great Lakes. Registration for this event is due Dec. 1 and costs \$75. Sign up with the form found at projectfish.org/lowell2017.pdf

The annual Luminary Hike from 5 pm until 9

pm on Saturday, Dec. 9, is always a popular event.

“It’s an opportunity to enjoy the forest at night and calmly experience the beauty of the season,” Cheers said. “Everybody should attend this event! Last year we had over 600 people hike the luminary trail!”

Tiny Trekkers starts Jan. 8, but registration is due Dec. 22.

“Tiny Trekkers is a nature program for children three to six years old and their parent, grandparent or caregiver,” Cheers said. “It includes a series of four 90 minute classes. Each class will have a different nature-related theme and include a story, exploration hike and art project.”

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is on Saturday, Dec. 30.

“The Christmas Bird Count entices families, students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists, to leave the comfort of a warm house during the holiday season and venture out in search of birds,” Cheers said. “Yes, birds! Anyone interested in birding or citizen science should attend this. This annual mission has been conducted for over 100 years by dedicated people with the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature. Audubon and other

organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. You can get involved! Come for all or part of the day! Let’s have a great time gathering data that is useful for tracking bird locations and species abundances. We have a long history of contributing citizen science efforts to support research and birder fellowship.

For more information about this event, contact Tom Leggett with Grand Rapids Audubon at 616-249-3382 or at tomleggett@hotmail.com

For more information about the many other science and outdoor programs at the Wittenbach/

Wege Center check out their Facebook page at facebook.com/wittenbachwegecenter or call 616-987-2565.

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Red Cross offers three ways to make saving lives easier than ever

The holidays are known for the giving spirit and a hectic pace. This holiday season, the American Red Cross is sharing three ways to give the gift of life in less time. At this time of year many regular blood and platelet donors delay giving due to busy schedules—but the need for blood remains. To help donors fit in a donation, the Red Cross offers three easy ways to make helping save lives faster and more convenient:

- **RapidPass®** – Donors can complete their pre-donation reading and health history questions online to save about 15 minutes at their donation. In September, RapidPass became available on mobile devices, giving donors the ability to complete their RapidPass from a smartphone, tablet or computer.
- **Blood Donor App** – Through the Red Cross Blood Donor App, users can

find local blood drives and donation centers, schedule an appointment, receive appointment reminders and keep track of total blood donations – all from the palm of their hand.

- **Online appointment scheduling** – Donors can conveniently schedule an appointment and find tips for a successful blood or platelet donation at redcrossblood.org

“The Red Cross is thankful for the generosity of donors who help keep hospital shelves stocked with lifesaving blood products, but we know that the holiday activities that we cherish most can make it difficult for many regular donors to find a moment to donate this time of year,” said Todd Kulman, external communications manager for the Great Lakes Blood Services Region. “We hope technologies like online appointment scheduling, the Blood Donor App and RapidPass will make it a little easier for donors to give more life for patients this holiday season.”

Patients don’t get a holiday break from needing lifesaving transfusions and all blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply is available. Appointments can be made by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). To learn more about RapidPass, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

In Kent County, there is an opportunity to donate blood in Grand Rapids on Dec. 1 from 10 am to 3:45 pm at the MSU Secchia Campus, 15 Michigan Street NE.

How to donate blood

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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viewpoint

to the editor

environmental concerns

Dear Ledger:

Another week, another sardonic editorial by “Black Jack” Lessenberry in (Detroit) Metro Times. Now it is about a bill altering the state’s requirement for treatment of bilge water in oceanic vessels, which came from the House and apparently sailed through the Senate. New criteria = none. The Republican Party

has come a very long way from Senator Ken Sikkema or Bill Milliken.

Lessenberry did a good job listing the biological horrors but over-looked *Bangia spp.*, no shame for a layman. *Bangia* appeared in the 1970s, facultative fresh/salt filamentous alga on which diatoms have a tough time growing.

This reduction of primary production starves micro/macro-bio “grazers” with effects up the food web.

If I were the federal or Ontario environment minister, I would ask for an audience with Gov. “male version of Granholm” Snyder to express Her Majesty’s displeasure. For those geographically challenged by “no child left behind” curricula, *regardez* a map of the international boundary.

Regardez Lowell

Township’s legislative delegation. How did Sen. Hildenbrand vote, once referred to in the Ledger as “avid” outdoors man; then comes Rep. Albert, in recent picture in “camo” with phallic shotgun. He has the looks of a sportsman, but does that translate to a tinker’s dam about the aquatic environment? Checking his votes is turning into a career, so how’s about the newspaper doing it?

G. M. Ross
Lowell

off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

What a world we live in today, eh folks? Today, just a list of exclamations and questions from me. Skip over this column if you are still capable of shutting out what is going on in our society. No hard feelings would land at my feet. Although, I may feel slightly jealous that I am unable to accomplish the level of meditation that would lift me from this possibly necessary, but ugly, time period.

I have been a working woman most of my life. I have encountered buffoons, insulting and assaulting behavior, as well as wage and job discrimination. It is real and it is important for women to speak up and to have influence.

It is also true that every boorish, bad-mannered action is not of equal weight. This enormous flood of recounting situations that we generally “put up with” is probably the only way to get it all out there so we can discuss it openly. It is the only way to get it out there in the corporate world to scare - for the lack of a better word - those in power into halting their bad behavior. Sadly, many men (and women) who would not personally do these kind of things are frequently caught in the opposite trap. They feel the need to be passive partners (because of their own weaknesses) and laugh along or smile and turn away in fear of their own jobs or status. And sadly, we’re going to lose some pretty good people in the process.

Having said that, more questions.

If we are truly going to vomit up all the nastiness we’ve been consuming all these years...women who have been complaisant must also be “outed.” I have many times been in situations where women have played the game and cozied up

to a boss to gain a certain feeling of superiority. Sure, you can say that they had to play the game in that way to get ahead. But can they now stand up and accuse the rest of the team? What is fair these days? All you “constitution-loving” scholars out there - are we all now guilty until proven innocent? There’s a judge in Alabama who has been thrown off the court twice and now is accused of molesting young girls - is that the same as the actions of clumsy comedians carrying their laughs too far? Is a pat on the behind from an elderly former president even worth mentioning and did it even happen? When you arrest a suspected murderer, do they get the same bail as a shoplifter?

It seems that lumping every offense (and they are all offenses) in the same pot does a disservice to the women and men who were truly harmed. Don’t get me wrong. We need the slap upside the head as a society. But all situations are simply not equal. And if they are equal, why are we still swallowing the vice president’s support of our “grabby” president? And why don’t other assaults on all our freedoms generate the swift public sword of public justice?

Children are being killed by assault weapons, but we will not remove these weapons from the marketplace? Why is it that I feel scared every day because any yahoo can carry a gun in this state and sit next to me at a picnic and no one cares about my rights? Frankly, if the guy was naked, I’d feel safer. There is no ambiguity or misinterpreting of facts when we see the carnage that

Off the Cuff,
continued, page 6



100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 22, 1917

Fred Slamma and Claude Condon returned from their hunting trip to Onata, Alger county, Saturday. Fred was successful in getting his deer, also a black bear which he states he "shot at 111 paces while on a dead run." At the time of their leaving camp Will Post was the only other member of the party to bag a deer; but George Ingersoll had shot a wolf, and the bounty will help out on expenses.

W. S. Winegar returned yesterday from his hunting, refreshed and had a good time but "no luck." Didn't get a blessed thing. Too bad for the many friends usually so generously remembered with venison.

The plan of Fred H. Locke, director of the department of welfare, to obtain a supply of wood from drift wood lying on the river bank and fallen timber in Kent county's woods, was boosted Monday by Elgie Barnard, a farmer residing between Ada and Lowell, one mile east of the Grand river. Mr. Barnard, the first farmer to volunteer to assist in the campaign, says the city may have approximately 60 cords of drift wood on his farm if it will go after it. Director Locke is anxious to obtain similar offers from several farmers and will then ask for volunteers in the city to go for the wood. - Herald.

The North Ada Farmers' club met at the residence of Ed. Collar last Friday evening. Matters of interest in local farm work were discussed and an enjoyable and instructive meeting was highly appreciated by those present. The good that can be done by the farmers' clubs now being organized by Farm Agent H. G. Smith throughout the county, is shown by action of North Ada club, whose members have volunteered upward of 50 days' team work on poor roads in their neighborhood, the township to furnish gravel and shovels.

Superintendent F. J. McMahon reports very satisfactory progress on the new light and power plant. It is expected that the building will be enclosed this week, though the roof may not be finished. Two water wheels and generator are in position and if the weather continues good, it is hoped to begin service during the first week in December.

R. E. Springett was able to get down to his office for a while Monday, for the first time since his operation. He is "coming" good; but is not doing any gymnasium stunts yet.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 26, 1942

125 years ago Lowell Journal November 23, 1892

The schools opened again last Monday, after being closed three weeks on account of the diphtheria scare. So far there has been a total of four cases and one death.

Amiel Gosch escaped from the Ionia Insane Asylum. Amiel Gosch and Alfred Brown escaped from the Ionia prison last (Tuesday) night. In some way they obtained keys to the doors and about five o'clock walked out. Officers from the prison were here and in Grand Rapids looking for them, as they believe they are working this way. Gosch is remembered as being the man who shot Deputy sheriff Sinclair, of Bowne, some three years ago and whose trial furnished food for sensationalists for some time.

G. W. Rouse will make a special business of horse shoeing in all its branches. My prices are not the cheapest, but I guarantee first class work. First door north of Giles' store.

There is a car famine on and it is almost impossible to get cars for any purpose. In the west they are using everything but flat cars for grain and then are unable to handle the immense quantities that are seeking market. Even the jails in Dakota are used for graineries.

The Lowell Water & Light Company are putting up larger cross arms on their main line and will run another feeder from the plant. For its size, Lowell consumes more electricity than any other place in the state, owing to the extreme cheap rate.

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.

MacNaughton Boulevard to perform at BLCC

Bostwick Lake Congregational Church hosts the jazz quartet MacNaughton Boulevard at their annual Vespers Service of music and readings on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Band members, Roger MacNaughton (piano, arranger/composer, and ensemble leader), Charlie Hoats (fretless bass), Jon Montgomery (saxophone), and Eddie Eicher (drums), will bring their special flair to many favorite holiday tunes.

In addition to playing familiar songs, the quartet

will also add a few MacNaughton original tunes. A Lowell favorite, Roger MacNaughton is a four-time recipient of the ArtPrize music award for his compositions "Grand Traverse Bay," "5 Mile Mountain," "Michigan Morn," and "Danse Solemn." His composition "Charlevoix Keepsake" was named Best Composition in the USA by Music Aid International and MacNaughton has been selected Composer of the Year by the Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts.

The community is invited to attend Advent Vespers at Bostwick Lake Church, located at 7979 Belding Road, Rockford. A free-will donation will be accepted. Light refreshments will be served in Davis Hall immediately following. Free parking.

Saxophonist, Jon Montgomery, will be front and center during the performance.



happy birthday



NOVEMBER 22
Lu Green, Carla Briggs, Andrea Richmond, Karrie Borton, Joshua Gerard, Dylan Olin, Arlene Sytsma.

Shawn Ayres Hazel, Megan Hewitt, Lorri Myers.

NOVEMBER 26
John Erickson.

NOVEMBER 23
Trisha Propst, Sherri Vezino, Gregory Duiven, Mike Harding, McKinsie Rice, Dave Thompson.

NOVEMBER 27
Bonnie Vezino, Kim Harding, Marty Chambers, Chad Uzarski, Elizabeth Roudabush, Heather Burrows, Aaron Rittersdorf, Josh Spencer, Aiden Malone.

NOVEMBER 24
Sabra Nicole Kinsley, Ryan Moore, Jenny Decker, Heather French.

NOVEMBER 28
Shelly Hildenbrand, Lee Miller.

NOVEMBER 25
Pat Vezino, Melissa Peterson, Amy Swift,



I think that somehow, we learn who we really are and then live with that decision.

~ Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962)

Off the Cuff, continued

these weapons cause. But, because big money and the NRA run these very same politicians, good people are fooled by the constitution argument.

It seems to me good, strong people are getting harder to find. You can drain the swamp but, if you only do it by jumping in and overfilling it, the slime that spills out is nothing compared to the

weight that sticks to the muck at the bottom.


That may be a little esoteric but to my point, we all have to stop and think. It's not easy. End results must be considered. Honesty and kindness must be the goal. Following the leader is a game we play as children that should have also taught choices and results. Like your mom always said, "If

your friend jumps off a cliff, would you do that too?"

If you are a survivor, that says it all. You made it. You are strong. Use that strength to build, not tear down. Or not. Would it be better to just wreck everything? Questions, questions. There is nothing wrong with standing up for your rights as long as you don't step on someone else's toes in the process.

I know there are a lot of women out there who

understand where I'm going here. Maybe a lot who disagree - but that's okay. How about writing in and sharing your thoughts and/or experiences? Men too. If you feel you've been oppressed, assaulted or have an opinion, it counts - share it. No need to name names (if you must, share those names with authorities, not me). But what happened? How did you or how would you resolve or handle today's current events?



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HEALTH



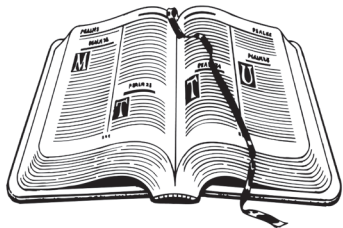





With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

- checking blood pressure at home

area churches



CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
Sunday School.....11:20 AM
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service Sunday - 10:30 AM
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
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Pastor Jon Propper
Worship Service - Sundays 9:30AM
Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 - www.fbclowell.org

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
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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621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

WORSHIP
9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

Checking your blood pressure at home does not replace going to the doctor. But because people are generally more relaxed at home than at the doctor's office, their blood pressure may be lower at home. Therefore, when deciding on treatment options, it may be helpful to have information about both home and office blood pressure measurements available.

Blood pressure monitors with an inflatable cuff that goes over the bicep (upper arm) are more accurate than those that go over the wrist or finger. It is important to use a cuff that is the right size for your arm. Before buying a machine, measure around your upper arm and check to make sure that the measurement you get is included in the range of the cuff. There is no particular brand that is the best.

The best times to check your blood pressure are in the morning after you wake up or in the evening before you go to bed. If you take blood pressure medicine, it is ok to check your blood pressure either before or after you take your medication.

When you check your blood pressure, sit in a chair with both feet flat on the ground and your back straight. It is recommended that you sit for five minutes before measuring your blood pressure. Take your blood pressure according to the instructions on the machine. It can sometimes be helpful to repeat another blood pressure reading one to two minutes later and use the average of the two readings. These blood pressure values at home are very valuable to your doctor in determining if your blood pressure is being adequately controlled.

Local families share adoption stories in celebration of National Adoption Month

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Forty-one years ago, then Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis announced the first Adoption Week intent on promoting awareness of the need for adoptive families in his state. The effort was then promoted by president Ronald Reagan and expanded to the entire month of November by president Bill Clinton.

During November local, state and national agencies promote their mission to pair fostered youth with stable, permanent and loving families. The most recent government statistics gathered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report that nearly half a million

children were part of the foster care system. Of those children 53, 549 were adopted during the same fiscal year, representing just 12.5 percent of those in need. Additionally, according to the U.S. Department of State 5,647 adoptions took place internationally with most children coming from China, Ethiopia, Russia, South Korea and the Ukraine.

Many families in the Lowell community have both given and received the gift of adoption. Though each families' adoption journey differs, two themes re-emerged with each of the three families who shared their story for this article, love and thankfulness.

Sarah Thompson, Kristine Meekhof and Cindy Johnston agreed to share their journeys, gleefully happy to share their own family's creation in the hopes of inspiring others to do so as well.

Thompson of Lowell and husband Brian of Saranac were high school sweethearts who decided early on that they would choose to adopt. "We always knew we wanted to adopt but never knew exactly what that meant or what it would look like. We were nervous and excited to be new parents but overwhelmed by the financial impact of the cost. However, we just trusted that everything would work and it did."

Working with a social worker the couple decided that international adoption was the route for them and began the process of adopting from the African country of Ethiopia. "Ethiopia wasn't really even on our radar but our social worker recommended it and I couldn't imagine our children from anywhere else in the world. Ethiopia is so rich with culture and beauty. It is one of the most beautiful places on earth and the people there have true inner and outer beauty."

When the call came that they had been matched with their children, celebratory calls ensued and photos of their two new daughters

were soon to follow. "They emailed me the saddest little pictures of them along with their profile to see if we would accept. It didn't matter what came in that email, the girls were ours from the moment the phone rang."

They met their girls, Eliana and Bryleigh, in December after flying to the orphanage and falling "in love at first sight," according to Thompson, but had to wait until the following February to officially take custody. "The waiting period was absolute torture and there are so many unknowns with international regulations. At one point we were not sure

when they would be able to come home and we actually booked our flight before we were given official approval."

Now ten and eight, Eliana and Bryleigh are bright, beautiful and well-adjusted to their loving home. "I am so incredibly thankful for adoption. Becoming parents has made us better people and our children have blessed our lives immensely. Many people make the mistake in saying adopted children are the ones who are 'lucky'

Local adoptions,
continued, page 16

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways we can encourage more commuters to ditch their cars in favor of bikes? -Dennis Northrup, Avon, CT

One of the best things we can do as individuals to fight climate change is to reduce the number of miles we drive in our fossil-fuel powered cars. But replacing those car rides with more fuel-efficient options isn't so easy, especially if you don't live near a transit hub. Given all the new bike lane infrastructure across the country and the availability of battery-assisted bicycles to help you around, there's never been a better time to ditch the car in favor of pedal power.

If you've only got a short way to go, your good old bike might work just fine. But if you need to get further than you're comfortable riding under your own power, why not upgrade to something with battery assistance? You can retrofit your current conventional bike with a battery-powered rear wheel, such as Superpedestrian's Copenhagen Wheel (\$1,499), lovingly referred to as the "Two-Wheeled Tesla," given its sleek design, Bluetooth connectivity and biometric monitoring. Or DIYers might prefer to spend their weekend tinkering with Aosom's battery-powered rear-wheel replacement kit (\$219) instead.

If you're ready to buy a new electric-assist bike, there's a lot to choose from. Some top choices include Stromer's ST2 (\$6,500), Elby's 9-Speed (\$3,700), the Espin Sport 350W (\$2,000) or Raleigh's Superbe iE (\$1,700). City slickers might prefer Brooklyness' CMYK 5.0 Folding Electric Bike (\$999), which pedal-assists for 50 miles per charge and can fold up into a neat little 25-pound bundle when you get there. Brooklyness is also getting

ready to release the first production models of its new helmet design, the Classon, which has sensors built in to detect cars approaching your blind spots, motion-activated brake and turn signals to keep drivers and pedestrians in the know about where you're going, and a video camera to document your adventures.

Another way technology is facilitating bicycle commuting is through the release of various apps to help riders optimize their routing. For instance, Lanespotter aims to be the Waze of cycling by providing riders with real-time data to find bike lanes and trails nearby, filtering mapping options based on other cyclists' routing choices and safety recommendations. If you live in Atlanta, Minneapolis, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland (Oregon), San Francisco, St. Louis or Washington DC, you can download and start using Lanespotter (free) today.

And then there's bike sharing, a growing phenomenon from coast-to-coast whereby riders can pick up a bike in one part of town and drop it off in another to speed up their commute. New York-based Motivate has designed and implemented bike share networks in nine U.S. cities to date, with the largest in New York (10,000 bikes) and San Francisco (7,000 bikes). A typical ride on one of Motivate's bikes costs \$3, and many of the systems are integrated with larger transit networks. For instance, Bay Area riders can pay for their "GoBike" using the same refillable Clipper card that gets them onto BART trains and MUNI buses.

CONTACTS: Superpedestrian, superpedestrian.com; Brooklyness, www.brooklyness.com; Lanespotter, beta.lanespotter.bike; Motivate, www.motivateco.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following amendments to the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance:

1. Delete from Article 14 Special Land Uses, Section 14.D5 U. Design Standards for Rear Lot Line Exceptions. This section currently permits that the Planning Commission may allow, as a Special Land Use, a dwelling on a lot less than 40 acres that has a lot depth greater than three times its width, if certain conditions are met.
2. The Planning Commission has recommended to the Bowne Township Board of Trustees that an exception to required width to depth ratios in the R-1 Rural Residential, AG Agricultural, and R-2 Low Density Residential may be granted upon an application as regulated by new Section 3.45.

The amendments may be recommended for approval by the Township Board following the public hearing.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**WHERE: BOWNE TOWNSHIP HALL
8240 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
ALTO, MI 49302**

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan, 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

Christmas Through Lowell, continued

“It’s going well, we’re having a great day,” said Journey’s Time Antiques owner Dave Hogan. “A lot of people are coming in, the crowds are good. We have a lot of new items in inventory. The next two days, the weather is going to go downhill a little, so this might be the big day for turnout, I don’t know. It’s good today, though.”

Businesses that didn’t have any crafts or antiques also benefited with extra foot traffic thanks to the event.

“We’ve had a lot more foot traffic than a normal Friday morning,” said Jack Reedy, owner of Rookies Sportcards Plus. “Anything that brings people to Main St. is good.”

Some of the most interesting and least expensive merchandise in town was at the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Goodies included \$3 prints of a 1952 map of Lowell painted by Jan Johnson, miniature Lowell landmarks, six Christmas cards for \$3, \$1 magnets, fresh chestnuts harvested in Newaygo, ornaments, mugs, books, old fashioned toys like spool knitters and train whistles and lots more.

“It’s been good, we’ve had about 24 people in so far today and it’s only been a couple hours,” said Lowell Area Historical Museum volunteer Denise Barker. “We are selling a lot of the microwave popcorn cobs, they’re great stocking stuffers. The new Showboat calendar is big. It’s \$10 and some of the proceeds go toward the fund to rebuild the Showboat. That calendar is a great gift. Everything in here is at a low enough price point that they make excellent stocking stuffers. The miniature buildings are

new this year. They started this year with the museum and King Milling, then they’re going to add to it every year.”

Also downtown was the annual Lowell Women’s Club luncheon in the chamber of commerce building. The club served a hearty, homemade lunch to dozens of hungry shoppers.

“It’s going wonderful, there was even a line before we started,” said volunteer Diane Sherlock. “The ladies made homemade carrot ginger, white chicken chili, garden chowder, Italian chicken and split pea soups and homemade pies. They made them at the Congregational Church because they have a licensed kitchen. We also have grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, barbecue sandwiches and lots of things to drink.”

It was also busy at the houses around town.

“The weather has had no effect on traffic, not at all,” said Teri Molenkamp of B&T Cottage on Howard

St. “The flow has been tremendous. It’s been a constant flow. We have sold so much it’s unbelievable. We’re having a ball, it’s a lot of fun.”

They had herb gardens, Christmas trees, wine racks, snowmen and other items made out of old pallet wood. They also brought in a ringer from out of state.

“We work together on what we want to create and then Bob does all the woodwork,” Molenkamp said. “I’m the painter and the sander. Bob makes a huge variety of items. It’s a lot of fun. Probably 99 percent of it is made from pallet wood. My sister-in-law Amy DeVrou comes in from Oostburg, WI, to do this with us. She makes all the wooden signage and does all the stitchery.”

This year’s featured artist was Idle Tyme Creations on Fallsburg Park Dr. They were already sold out of many of their most popular items by noon on Friday.

“It’s going really well,” said Idle Tyme’s Sherry Tomalia. “People were sitting out there waiting in their cars at quarter to nine and we’ve been busy all day.”

“I don’t think the weather had any effect,” said Idle Tyme’s Sheila Phenix. “It’s only been three hours but we’ve been very busy. We keep track of our sales on notebook paper and we’ve already been through five sheets.”

“It’s going good,” said Cathy Razmus of Home for the Holidays on Gee

Dr. Razmus is a former Christmas Through Lowell featured artist. “We have a new crafter, Jim Hostler from Lowell, who takes industrial type things like fire extinguishers, chicken feeders, steamers, torches and makes them into lamps. They’re very unusual.”

“It’s down this year, sales-wise, but there is about the same amount of people,” said John Umlauf of Jay Tee Products, also a past featured artist. “We have a lot of repeat customers who come year after year and buy stuff.”



Idle Tyme Creations



North Star Antiques owner Tonia North chatting with a customer.



Wendy Harris with one of the “silly gnomes” she made from a painted wine bottle.



The Lowell Arts Holiday Artists Market will continue through Dec. 23.



The Lowell Area Historical Museum



Bob Molenkamp’s snowmen made from pallet wood were a popular item at B&T Cottage on Howard St.

Pink Arrow quilt is a labor of love and thanks

Theresa Mundt created this quilt for Carol McGregor and presented it to her at Gilda's Club of Lowell. "The quilt puts to good use my t-shirts from the past 10 years of being a part of a fundraiser, sponsored by the Lowell Red Arrow football team for Gilda's Club of Lowell," stated McGregor. She added,

"There are not enough words to thank Theresa for her hours of time and labor in the making [of] this quilt and her devotion to Pink Arrow."



Pictured surrounding the quilt, left to right: Gilda's staff members Julie Petrie, Jan Miller, Judy Strehlau-Ward, Chelsea Weiskerger, Carol McGregor, Lindsay Jousma and Regan Tubbs.

Lowell Middle School students of trimester

Lowell Middle School has announced the students of the 1st trimester. Teachers chose the following students who have been outstanding in the categories of academics, citizenship and attitude. First row: Jacob Spaulding, Olive Compton, Alexander Wenger, Lara Steffens, William Compton, Keegan Cater, Hayden Lowrie, Izzy Garcia, Abby McDonald and Ashley Powell; second row: Kelsey Staley, Emma Bruwer, Alexis Martin, Rosalia Jimenez, Kira Bailey-Waldron, Gabe Helder, Carter Blough, Makayla McCune, Faith Van Duinen and Gwen Hoke; third row: Jacob VanDrie, Kenny Kinyon, Graham Boonstra, Jared Boone, Emma White, Elayna Skibbe, Emma DeGlopper and Katie Camphouse; fourth row: Evan Blazo, Jacob Davidson, Drew Veldman, Jason Korzen, Alex Binns, Karina Peplinski, Zoey Mierendorf, Alexis Hofmann, Ruthie Smith and Maddie Coviak; back row: Aiden Roustan, Will Kolp, Max del Rosario, Tyler Peterson, Alexis Royer, Justin Troost and Aden Folk.

Not pictured: Raven Cilley, Gabryl Shepard, Bryce Balabuch and Courtney Witten.



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Looking Back, continued

The OPA has directed that all restaurants, hotels, boarding houses, and similar institutions are to keep records of all meals served during December. These statistics will be used to determine the needs of public and private group eating places in future rationing programs.

We have heard of dogs for the army—now cats for the war effort is the request. There is a demand for cats weighing over three and one-half pounds to be used in colleges and hospitals for the purpose of teaching men and women who are training to be doctors and nurses. This request is just as urgent as the need for scrap rubber and steel. Cats are absolutely necessary in the teaching of these people. All cats will be killed painlessly and embalmed before being used. Any person having one or more cats weighing over three and one-half pounds that they wish to contribute, should contact some member of the Lowell F. F. A. before December 3. A call to the school or Albert T. Hall will do.

Old jokes about ice men may start popping up again soon. With curtailment of production of mechanical refrigerators, ice cards probably will start making their appearance in windows again. WPB is allowing the manufacture of 300,000 ice boxes next year—boxes which employ a minimum amount of iron and steel.

Price reductions are always good news—and here's a report of them from the Office of Price Administration. The cost of knitted underwear is expected to drop from three to 20 cents per garment under an OPA order requiring that savings in material costs of these garments due to necessary war-time substitutions of less expensive carded yarn for combed yarn be passed on to the consumer.

To prevent a critical heating oil shortage in Lower Michigan and to insure adequate deliveries pending further study into price structures, OPA has just established new ceilings on distillate fuel oil for both tank wagon and refineries in this territory. Generally, the new ceilings are one-half cent higher per gallon.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger November 23, 1967

The threat of sloppy weekend weather failed to discourage local hunters who took the field in large numbers early Saturday morning. Local weather was mild and windy with intermittent light rain and drizzle throughout the day. Hunters who wished for a light tracking snow were disappointed, at least for opening day. Only two local hunters took advantage of the Ledger's invitation to bring their kill to our office. The first successful hunter to report in was Ralph Lawrence, Lowell, who brought in a ten point buck which he shot while hunting on state land northeast of Lowell with his wife, Nellie, at about 7:45 in the morning. This was his first buck in his four years of deer hunting, and it was a big one, weighing about 200 pounds. Second to arrive at the Ledger office was Don Seaman of Lowell. Mr. Seaman didn't have to go far to make his kill, he shot his ten point buck right on his own farm. The buck's rack measured a 15 inch spread.

Gilmore's Sport Shop in Ada who always run a contest during the deer hunting season reported that as of Monday morning five local hunters had brought in their deer to have the points counted and the spread measured for the contest. Jack Knowles, of Lowell, shot his buck up north and his step-son, Danny Kline,

got his in the Lowell area. As chance would have it, both were 9 point bucks with a 16 inch spread. Carl Abel and Harvey Eickhoff, both of Lowell, brought in 8 point bucks. Abel's had a 14 inch spread; Eickhoff's a 10½ inch spread. Don Seaman's buck, mentioned previously in this story, is also entered in the Gilmore contest.

Monday morning found the Alto Food Locker swamped with at least twenty deer to process and being brought in throughout the day. The first deer to arrive at the locker on Saturday was brought in by Carl Huizenga of Saranac. Dean Collins of Lowell and Ted Rhoades of Clarksville also brought in bucks on Saturday. The deer brought in so far are reported to be mostly average in size and in good condition.

Flags flew at half-mast on public buildings Monday and Tuesday as the Lowell Lions Club paid special tribute to a fellow member Jake Callier. The flags displayed on Main Street are erected and maintained by the local club.

The problem of ambulance service for the City of Lowell was discussed by the 3 members of the Council, present at the meeting. Councilman Reynolds, a member of Roth & Sons Funeral Home told the Council that ambulance service problems have been exaggerated in stories circulating in the community. No ambulance run from Grand Rapids to date, Reynolds said, has taken more than 25 minutes to arrive in Lowell. He said that with proper training in first aid by the police department the public would be served adequately.

It has been common knowledge for some time that the Roth Ambulance Service will be terminated as of January 1, 1968. This is due to a law going into effect at that time which requires additional facilities, man-power and other operational costs. The Kent County Board of Supervisors, and more specifically a committee of which I happen to be a member and chairman of the sub-committee, have studied the problem and conducted hearings on various possibilities and alternatives. One large ambulance company has offered to take over—for a supplemental fee of \$190,000 per year—plus charges to be paid by the individuals requiring the service. Another large company now furnishing such service has made a proposal that the three large firms now operating in the county should be permitted to divide the county into three areas and in general each firm would be responsible for one area. Another proposal has been made by a firm in Ionia to provide the necessary service. However, none of these proposals provides for the stationing of an ambulance in Lowell or the immediate area. There is a legal question as to whether one unit of government can charge another unit of government a fixed amount or fee for ambulance service. At least one of the local doctors feels that the ambulance serving the Lowell area should be stationed in the immediate vicinity. About two hundred ambulance calls were made in the local area during the past year. Statistics revealed at one of our meetings reveals that for every 100 calls made, about five or six are of the extreme urgency. I wish to make it clear that I am not blaming the Roth Funeral Home for discontinuing the service as of January 1. The additional requirements and added overall expenses to be met by the operator of an ambulance make it virtually impossible for the small operator. In consulting our city manager about the problem it appeared that a meeting with representatives of Lowell and Vergennes Townships might be helpful. W. W. G.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 25, 1992

An Orleans Township man remained in critical condition Tuesday morning following a multi-car accident three miles east of Lowell on M-21 Saturday afternoon. Joel O'Donnell, the Ionia County man, remained at Butterworth Hospital, receiving treatment for head and leg injuries. The Kent County Sheriff's Department reported that O'Donnell, was traveling east in his Chevrolet Cavalier when he hit a westbound pickup truck driven by Daniel Heckman of Grand Rapids. The car then spun back into the eastbound lane and was struck by another vehicle driven by Walter Stanford, 38, of Gowen. O'Donnell's car was torn in half. The Orleans Township man was also thrown from his car. Stanford was transported to Blodgett Memorial medical Center. His 14-year son suffered a broken arm and was also treated at the hospital. Daniel Heckman, Grand Rapids, the driver of the pickup truck, did not sustain an injury. A Greenville woman, Martha Sowell's reported that O'Donnell had passed her and her husband at a high rate speed in a no passing zone just prior to the accident.

Call him superstitious and Craig Willison, Owen Ames and Kimball, may disagree. Ask the superintendent/construction manager how the new high school project is coming along and he knocks on wood before answering. "So far, things have been going smoothly," Willison says. "I just need a few more good weeks before the winter weather gets here so we can close in the math/administration and science wings." There has been plenty of movement on the project, even since 306 Lowell residents went through the new high school site tour on Oct 25. Electrically and mechanically Willison says everything is put together. "We may actually be ahead," Willison says. The underground utilities are in with the exception of the water main. The superintendent believes that will be in this spring. Currently work is being completed to enclose the classrooms. Concrete is being put down up through the second floor of the wings. "I expect the second floor of the science wing to be poured by the end of the week," Willison explains. "The roofer has already started on the A-wing (math/administrative) and will continue to work through the rest of it." The mason has enclosed the lower half of the wings and will move up to enclose the second levels. Some of the bleachers at the football/soccer stadium have already begun to be poured. The pit for the orchestra has been dug for the auditorium.

Aerial maps of the Lowell Township water district were completed late last week. Lowell Township contracted out Abrams Aerial Survey Corp. to provide an aerial map of the total water district. "There was a couple hours of sunshine which provided a small window for the filming to be completed," Lowell Township Supervisor John Timpson said. "Leaves must be out of the trees and there cannot be snow on the ground." The map will be used as a planning tool, so pipes can be laid out. The filming will cost the Township \$1,000. It will cost the Township \$15,000 to transcribe all 2,920 acres of the water district from film to paper. Timpson said only the areas that will be used will be transcribed at this time. Timpson said it will cost \$5.45 an acre to transcribe.



Go Red Arrows!



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell

ledger





State fire marshal reminds consumers to change smoke alarm batteries

Now that we have “fallen back” to standard time it is important to adopt the life-saving habit of also changing the batteries in your smoke alarms.

“The foam cushions and synesthetic fabrics in household furnishings today produce more heat, thick dark smoke and fire gases than in the past.

Early warning by working smoke alarms in your home improves the ability for your family to get an early warning of a fire and quickly exit your home,” said state fire marshal Kevin Sehmeyer. “There should be a smoke alarm on every level of the home including your basement and in every bedroom (sleeping area).

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 71 percent of smoke alarm failures are a result of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Never remove or disconnect batteries from detectors unless you are putting a new battery in. Check your smoke alarms monthly to ensure that they are in working order. If you hear a chirping noise, it is likely a warning of a low battery.

Three of every five home fire deaths in the United States result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Last year, home fires in Michigan killed 91 citizens and according to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), fire departments throughout the state responded to 12,063 home fires in 2016. So far in 2017, there’s a reported total through NFIRS of 61 civilian residential fire fatalities and 9,122 residential fires in Michigan.

The state fire marshal along with the NFPA recommend the following:

- Test smoke alarms

monthly using the test button.

- Replace batteries once a year or when they begin to chirp, signaling that they’re running low.

- Equip your home with multiple smoke alarms in all the bedrooms, outside of each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement.

- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds they all sound.

- Hardwired smoke alarms are more reliable than those powered solely by batteries.

- Buy newer models of smoke alarms with lithium batteries that will last the life of the unit.

- Replace all smoke alarms at least every 10 years or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.

- Choose alarms that bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

For a list of nationally recognized testing laboratories go to: <https://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/nrtllist.html>

Carbon monoxide alarms are also critically important safety equipment in the home. Carbon monoxide is called the invisible killer. You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide. This poisonous gas can come from a variety of sources and can quickly incapacitate and kill its victims.

Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms need fresh batteries at least once every year, unless they are powered by sealed, 10-year batteries. Carbon monoxide alarms should be tested once a month to make sure they are working properly.

Sehmeyer emphasized the importance of having a home fire escape plan. He urged families to “plan two ways out” and practice with all family members and people living in the residence at least twice a year. Fire is unpredictable and in less than three minutes, a home could be totally engulfed in flames; every family member should know two ways out and react quickly and calmly.

For information on smoke alarms and safety tips, visit the NFPA website at www.nfpa.org/smokealarms. Visit the Bureau of Fire Services website at www.michigan.gov/bfs for more fire safety information.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Zoning Ordinance Amendments

On November 20, 2017, the Township Board for Lowell Charter Township adopted amendments to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance regarding fairs. More specifically, the Township adopted several new amendments involving a word change to existing Subsection 5.03(f) of the Zoning Ordinance regarding public and private parks and also added a new and additional Subsection 5.03(y) to the Zoning Ordinance regarding county fairs, youth fairs, and other multi-use fairs or fairgrounds, camping and campgrounds, concert facilities, recreational trails, outdoor recreational uses and facilities, sports facilities, golf courses and country clubs, convention, conference and educational facilities, receptions, and potentially other uses.

The zoning amendments will be effective upon the expiration of 7 days after this notice appears in the newspaper. A copy of the zoning amendments can be obtained at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 291D Alden Nash, Lowell, MI 49331, during Township office hours or by contacting the Township Clerk at (616) 897-7600. The ordinance is also available on our website: www.twp.lowell.mi.us.

Monica Burt, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

SHOP LOCAL



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SATURDAY

NOV. 25



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obituaries

DOUSE

Sandra Kay Douse, age 70 of Cascade, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, November 15, 2017. She is survived by Ross, her loving husband of 54 years; children, Kenny Douse and Kimberly Williams; grandchildren Brittany (USMC SGT Caleb) Hershberger and Brooke Williams; great grandsons Landon and Wesley Hershberger, and her several loving brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews. The visitation was held at Lowell Church of The Nazarene, 201 N Washington St, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, November 20th a Funeral Service followed. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the family.



SALIK

Katie Jeannette Salik (nee Snider), age 95 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, November 14, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband Ervin; son and daughter-in-law John (Jelaine) Svec; son-in-law Norm Holmes. She is survived by children Gladys Holmes, Sharon (Mike) Lewis, Gary (Kelly) Salik; brother Pete Snider; ten grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; nine great-great grandchildren. Funeral service was held November 18 at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell. Pastor Ralph Robrahn officiated.



STENHOLM

Eugene Edward Stenholm Jr., age 64 of Lansing, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, November 15, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene Sr. and Eva Stenholm; and daughter Lindsay. He is survived by his brother, Michael Stenholm; and sister, Karen (Timothy) Long. Eugene loved playing football and guitar. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, November 20, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Lowell, MI. Rev. Aaron Ferris presided. Interment Clarksville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan, 107 Oakes SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



LEDGER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday:
8 am - 5 pm
Friday: 8 am - Noon
Closed Sat. & Sun.

P.O. Box 128
Lowell, MI 49331
897-9261

An important fact about Social Security disability

An important fact about Social Security disability is the definition: the inability to work because of a severe condition that is expected to last for a year or end in death.

Social Security disability benefits replace part of your income when you become disabled and are unable to work. Other disability programs may have partial or short-term disability, but federal law requires a stricter definition

for Social Security benefits. The definition of disability used to qualify you for Social Security Disability Insurance is generally the same one that is used for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Most people focus on the medical severity of their condition when filing for disability benefits. They provide medical records that show how severe the condition is. Since Social Security defines severity

in terms of being unable to work, we also need complete work information.

You can read a description about the process of evaluating whether you can work or not and the severity of your condition in our publication, *Disability Benefits* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10029.pdf. Understanding how we make the disability decision helps you see the importance of information you provide about your condition and the types of work you have done. For information about how we evaluate your work, check out this site: www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/step4and5.htm.

Remember, when you provide the details about your condition and your work, you're creating a picture of your individual situation. These details show the extent of your disabling condition. These are examples of some of the types of specific information we need about your prior work:

- Main responsibilities of your job(s);
- Main tasks you performed;

- Dates you worked (month and year);
- Number of hours a day you worked per week;
- Rate of pay you received;
- Tools, machinery and equipment you used;
- Knowledge, skills and abilities your work required;
- Extent of supervision you had;
- Amount of independent judgment you used;
- Objects you had to lift and carry and how much they weighed;
- How much you had to sit, stand, walk, climb, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, balance;
- How you used your hands, arms, and legs;
- Speaking, hearing and vision requirements of your job(s); and
- Environmental conditions of your workplace(s).

Disability is an unpredictable element in our lives. Help us help you by educating yourself about disability benefits, and by providing all the specific information we ask for when you file for benefits.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 17-202330-DE

Estate of BETTY JEANE HAGUE, aka Betty J. Hague, deceased. Date of birth: 06/06/1932.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Betty Jeane Hague, aka Betty J. Hague, died 10/20/2017.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against

the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Elizabeth Yeager, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 17, 2017

Craig A. Bruggink (P29358)
429 Turner Ave., NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

Elizabeth Yeager
206 N. Jackson St.
Spring Lake, MI 49456
616-422-0318



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Council meeting and Showboat renderings, continued

official name will be “The Lowell Showboat.” Asked if the city would consider donating the old “Robert E. Lee” nameplate to the Lowell Area Historical Museum; asked if the committee could auction off choice bits for fundraising and asked if they could use certain elements of the existing boat in the new boat. The council voted “yes” to all of this.

“We’re planning on reusing some of the boat,” D’Agostino said. “If it all works out we’re planning on using the paddle wheel and maybe two of the smokestacks and a few other items.”

Next, the city entered into an agreement with Munetrix LLC for \$4,661.30 to use their financial forecasting software for one year.

“Munetrix is able to create financial forecasting models for the city based on audit information we send to the state and information we have in BS&A [financial software used by municipalities] for our budget,” Burns said. “Many of these forecast models created can be placed on the city website and viewed by residents and others who utilize the city website.”

Finally, the council voted to pay \$9,670 to Prein &

Newhof, who will prepare a water asset management plan for the city. They will assess every piece of the city water system, every pipe, every hydrant, every connection, to determine a schedule of repair and replacement.

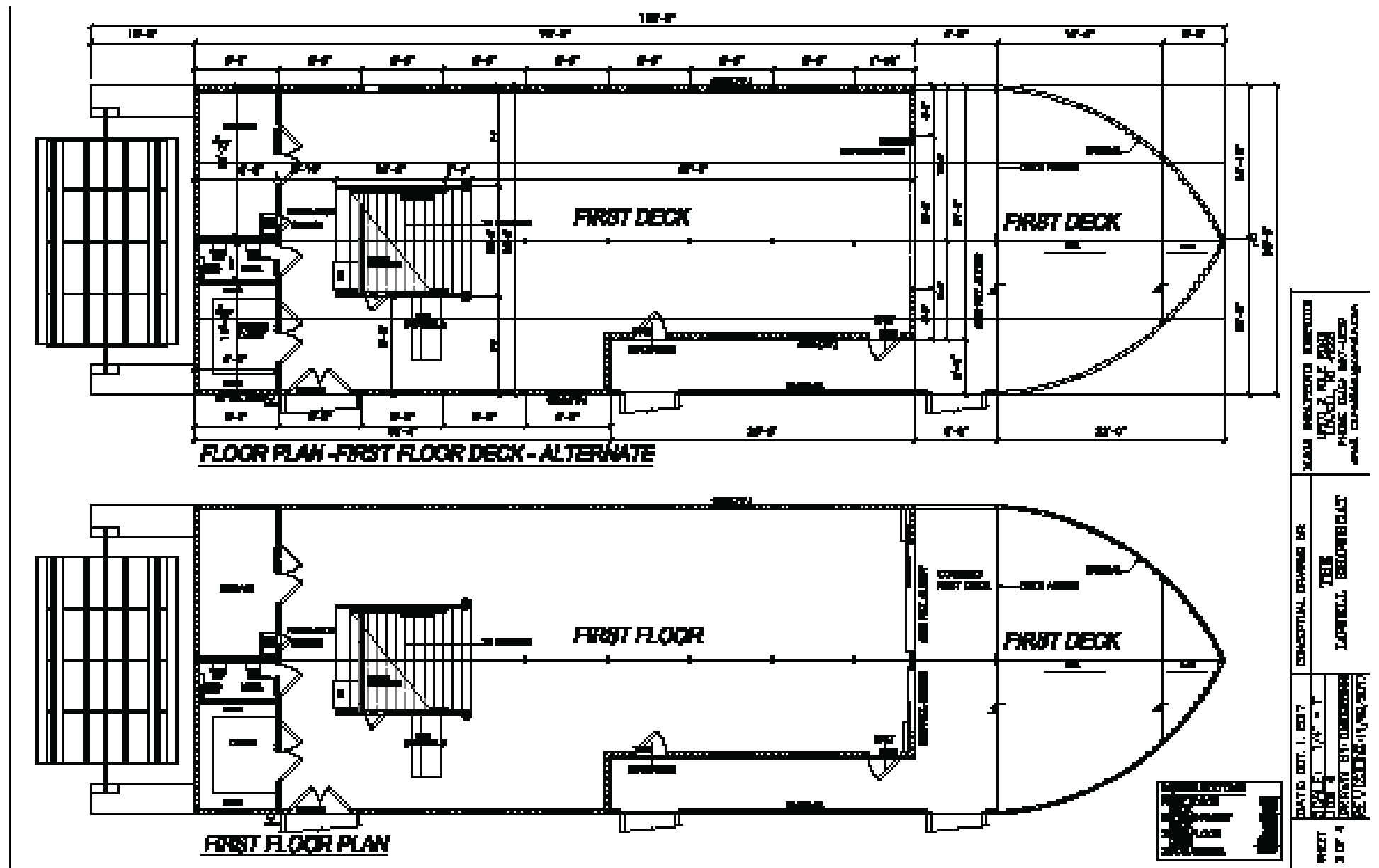
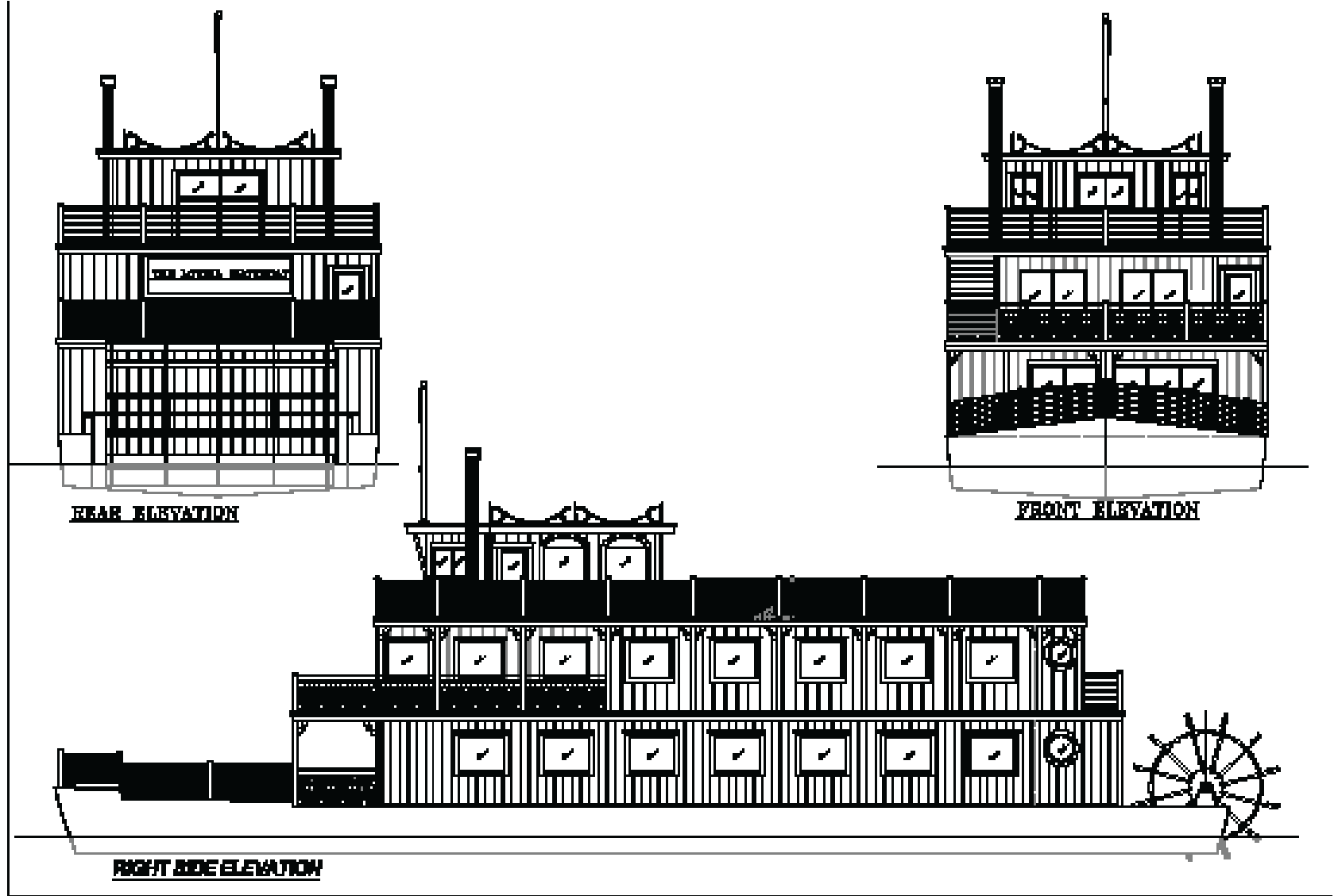
“Because we’re also in the middle of the SAW program [Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater], the capital planning for future water improvements will be rolled in with the SAW capital planning,” said Prein &

Newhof engineer Brian Vilmont. “We’ll have a very comprehensive capital plan for the city which will be very succinct for the next 10 years and plan out water, sewer and street projects all together in a way that helps maximize the use so we

aren’t tearing up the street and then coming back and doing utility three or five years later.”

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will be at city hall on Monday,

Dec. 4 at 7 pm. They will also have a “Coffee with the Council” meet-and-greet event at the chamber of commerce building on the Riverwalk from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, Dec. 2.



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

**THEME:
THE 1980s**

ACROSS

1. The lowest voice
6. Bottom line?
9. Composer Johann
13. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
14. Mesozoic one
15. Joanna Gaines' concern
16. Landowner
17. Rainbow, e.g.
18. ____ vs. pathos
19. *Intercontinental musical benefit in 1985
21. *Brat Pack director
23. Type of English course, for short
24. Not all
25. *John Mahoney to Lone Skye in "Say Anything..."
28. Former Speaker of the House
30. **"Purple Rain" performer
35. Amount of measurement
37. a.k.a. Red Planet
39. *Ed Koch, e.g.
40. **"Lifestyles of the ____ and Famous"
41. Winter driving hazard
43. Stag party guest
44. "To death" in France
46. Latticework wood strip
47. U.S.S.R plus countries of the Warsaw Pact, e.g.
48. As opposed to nurture
50. **"Star Trek II: The Wrath of ____"

CROSSWORD														
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NOVEMBER 15 - NOVEMBER 21

- According to a new NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll, 58 percent of people celebrating the holiday are dreading having to talk politics around the dinner table. Just 31 percent said they were eager to discuss the latest news with their family and friends, while 11 percent are unsure.
- Speaking of turkeys, in the latest of the seemingly, never-ending list of those involved with inappropriate behavior, eight women have told The Washington Post that television host Charlie Rose sexually harassed them between the late 1990s and 2011.
- Trump pardoned the National Thanksgiving Turkey in the Rose Garden on Tuesday.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state in America, with a planned production total of 46.5 million in 2011. Six states—Minnesota, North Carolina, Arkansas, Missouri, Virginia, and Indiana—account for nearly two-thirds of the 248 million turkeys that will be raised in the U.S. this year.



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52. *Rocker Adam
53. Bald eagle's nest
55. Form of Anna
57. **"Out of ____," movie
60. *Chernobyl disaster location

64. Diego Rivera
65. Janitor's tool
67. Free from
68. Golf bunkers
69. Knot-tying words
70. Out in the open
71. Giant kettles
72. Poetic "even"
73. Gradually deprives

27. Monocot's alternative
29. *It fell in Europe
31. Shakespeare's metrical unit
32. African antelope
33. Part of gastrointestinal system
34. Raise a barn, e.g.
36. "Through" in text message
38. Comedian Rogan
42. Give gratitude
45. "Happy ____" by Dale Evans
49. Common Market initials
51. Like a Norwegian fjord
54. Chinese silk plant
56. Innocent
57. Radiant light
58. Short for brotherhood
59. *What Blondie does in "Rapture"
60. Second word in fairytale?
61. Brainchild
62. Fate of Norse mythology
63. Newts in terrestrial stage
64. *Music videos channel
66. "____ to Joy"

DOWN

1. *His company launched Windows
2. Antioxidants-rich berry
3. Gangster's blade
4. Julien of Stendhal's "The Red and the Black"
5. Appoint a priest
6. Seat of intellect
7. "To ____ is human"
8. *Randy Savage, a.k.a. ____ Man
9. Short for Elizabeth
10. Dull pain
11. Avian messenger's sounds
12. Store posting, for short
15. Get rid of bugs?
20. Agenda entries
22. Behind the plate
24. Like amateur's paint job?
25. *Duran ____
26. Carl Jung's inner self

Puzzle solutions
on page 12

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

ONLINE POLL

Did you discuss politics during your Thanksgiving Day meal?

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Local adoptions, continued

but that is not the case," concluded Thompson, "they have suffered and lost their original family and in our case their culture. I'm thankful that we found each other. We are whole."

Lowell residents, Meekhof and husband Bruce, already shared custody of Bruce's twin sons Spencer and Nathan when they decided to adopt with the desire to also be full-time parents. "Since I knew I couldn't have any kids, adoption was the avenue we needed to take. A friend of mine was a case worker at an adoption agency. We talked at length about the process and we decided that this was definitely the right decision for us."

Nineteen months later they brought home sweet Olivia and fused two families together. Meekhof explained, "We have an open adoption, so we are able to spend a lot of time with her birth family. We always spend Halloween and Thanksgiving with them and they have been at every single birthday party she has had. Our daughter and her birth mother joined together two families that may not have ever crossed paths otherwise. We had an amazing experience with our adoption process. Our daughter has completed our family and has brought

more happiness to us than we ever imagined possible."

Johnston and husband Bob of Alto tried for years unsuccessfully to start a family, struggling to do so due to a former bout with cancer. "Bob and I had actually discussed adoption before we were married. He is a cancer survivor and we didn't know what our chances would really be. We just knew we wanted a family. Years of failed fertility treatments and I finally said enough. I should have said it long before I did, but then we wouldn't have the two amazing kids we have now."

The couple's son David has a semi-open adoption, meaning they were selected by his birth parents. They were able to be at the hospital when he was born. Their other son Wilson is from a closed adoption, meaning they have no information on his birth family. Despite that, they were blessed to be able to have him from birth driving him home from the hospital as well. "We were ready to call our family complete after four years of waiting and then we got the phone call about this sweet little boy. We had 24 hours to get ready for him and it has been nonstop from that moment on."

The blessing of their boys came after another

adoption fell through, a moment that was a huge blow for the couple. "We did have an adoption fall through when the birth mother changed her mind and chose to parent. That was a devastating loss for us for so many reasons. So there was a fear to get too attached and yet there is this beautiful child you have been gifted. It's so beautifully complicated."

Johnston said that both she and her boys are thankful for the gift of adoption. "I don't think there are enough words to say how thankful we are for adoption. We are beyond blessed by these two amazing kids. We are forever grateful to their birth parents for making such an incredible sacrifice of love. Without adoption, we would not have this incredible family. It's not perfect but it is truly a wonderful life."

David and Wilson concur offering their own thoughts, "I'm thankful for adoption because it allows me to have this really fun, happy family with an adopted brother and there is love all around us," said David, with Wilson chiming in, "It's hard to describe how I'm thankful. It's just the best thing ever and I love my mom and dad and David so so much!"



Bruce, Kristine, Nathan, Spencer and Olivia Meekhof.



Brian, Sarah, Eliana and Bryleigh Thompson.



Bob, Cindy, David and Wilson Johnston.

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