

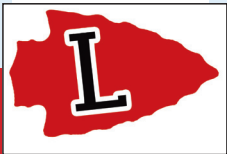


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school board meeting



page 3



lhs teams

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lhs sports



pages 10 & 11

50¢



Hundreds enjoy a special *Nite of Christmas Cheer* on Riverwalk

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The ‘Nite of Christmas Cheer’ event took place on the Riverwalk on Friday, Dec. 8. Hundreds of people enjoyed visits with Santa Claus, devoured roasted chestnuts, hot dogs, hot cocoa and cookies, took carriage rides around town and lots more.

There were two live reindeer to look at and pet.

“We have Dancer, a boy and a Dasher, a girl, here tonight,” said Willa Gorniewicz from Caledonia, the owner of the animals. “Dasher is a year-and-a-half old and Dancer is ten years old. All female reindeer have antlers. They lose their antlers and grow slightly bigger ones every year. They love the cold weather. They love snowstorms, they’re outside running laps in the snow.”

The Lowell Area Historical Museum offered old-fashioned roasted chestnuts.

“It’s kind of a traditional thing, ‘chestnuts roasting on an open fire’ and we thought it was a good fit for the museum to bring them down here to contribute to



The Showboat and the Riverwalk were all lit up for the Nite of Christmas Cheer.

the Riverwalk festivities, so we come down every year and roast chestnuts,” said museum director Lisa Plank. “There’s a farmer up in Grant named Bruce Smith who has a chestnut grove and we get them from

him, bring them down here and roast them for a dollar a cup.”

“They’re yummy,” said her daughter, Elizabeth Plank.

The museum gift shop has all kinds of

interesting Lowell-related presents for sale this year, including prints by Jan Johnson, miniature Lowell landmarks, Christmas cards, magnets, ornaments, mugs, books, old fashioned toys and more.

The romantic carriage rides along the Riverwalk were very popular.

“It’s going great tonight,” said Grady

A Nite of Christmas Cheer, continued, page 16

The Preservers slated for Jan. 5 concert at LowellArts

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell’s most popular young rock band the Preservers are on a hiatus while half the group is at school out of state. However, since the two rogue members are home from college on winter break, the band will play a special show at LowellArts on Friday, Jan. 5 at 7 pm.

The Preservers are Ryne Clarke on guitar and vocals, Jeremy Kargl on lead guitar and backing vocals, Patrick Kargl on drums and Corrina Wenger on bass. With Jeremy and Wenger attending school in Dearborn, MI and Asheville, NC for the foreseeable future, the group decided to seize this rare opportunity when all four members will be in town.

“I’m almost positive we will have time to practice, maybe even arrange a few new songs,” Clarke said.

They also plan to have a “White Elephant” record album exchange as part of the show. The instructions are to bring an LP wrapped in wrapping paper and at some point during the evening there will be a swap.

“I encourage people to bring any record they enjoy and can deal to part with and preferably wrapped so others can’t see what album it is,” Clarke said.

Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. For more information about this event visit rynesyhne.club or lowellartsmi.org. To buy tickets online go to <https://the-preservers-jan-5.eventbrite.com>



The Preservers are having a concert and a record album exchange at LowellArts on Friday, Jan. 5.



along main street

CALL FOR ACTORS

The LowellArts Players is seeking adult actors for the 2018 Playwright Festival: Risky Business. Eight, 10-minute plays will be performed and actors may be cast in more than one short play. Play dates are Feb. 16-25. Directed by Sue Bradford and Ken Parrish. Auditions: Sat., Dec. 16 at 2 pm and Mon., Dec. 18 at 7 pm. For more information go to <https://www.lowellartsmi.org/playwright-festival-risky-business>

GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Cardmaking Together – Tues., Dec. 19, 2:30-4:30 pm. Join us at the Lowell Clubhouse in making handmade cards together! All supplies provided and no experience required.

Chitchat Readers Book Club – Tues., Dec. 19, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join other members of Gilda's Club in discussing an interesting book. Stop by the Clubhouse to borrow a book.

Mindfulness Workshop – Tues., Dec. 19, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join other members to practice the emotional and physical benefits of mindfulness and learn how to incorporate it into your daily life. Please dress comfortably. Presented by Jan Miller, LPC. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

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

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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

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

LowellArts presents James and The Giant Peach on Thurs., Jan. 18 and Fri., Jan. 19 at 7 pm and Sat., Jan. 20 at 2 pm and 7 pm at Lowell Performing Arts Center / Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes. Directed by Teresa Goldner. General admission \$7, kids 2 and under free. Performance is one hour long. www.lowellartsmi.org or 897-8545.

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.

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MLE Volunteer of the Month

Jennie Forney was chosen as Murray Lake Elementary's Volunteer of the Month for November. "She volunteers here in the library every Tuesday morning and many other places during the week. She is training to be the Family Links volunteer coordinator and she helps with [the] school store as well. She has jumped right in her first year here at MLE," said Patti Harrell, media center specialist.

"I love to volunteer at Murray Lake because it is a great way [to] be involved with my children's education while getting to know the wonderful teachers and staff who are shaping their lives on a daily basis. We just moved to Lowell this past summer. Other than the great reputation Lowell schools have, we did not know much about the community. Volunteering has allowed me to see just how much everyone at the school cares about the students. This team is committed to helping every child reach his/her full potential. The support provided to this school by the community is truly inspirational. After moving around a lot with my husband's military career, I can assure you this level of support is a very special thing," commented Forney.



business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Dave VanKeulen received Realtor of the Month in November. This award recognizes VanKeulen for his outstanding success and achievements.



Dave VanKeulen

Tues. December 19, 6 PM

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Superintendent's evaluation revealed and \$1,500 of equipment accepted at Board of Education meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their latest regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 11.

The results of the board's evaluation of superintendent Greg Pratt were revealed. The board gave him a 93 percent positive rating and judged him "highly effective" in all areas.

"Mr. Pratt continues to be an excellent, effective superintendent," said board secretary Pat Nugent. "He is a forward-thinking leader who consistently focuses the district's resources on student academic achievement."

Lowell Middle School principal Dan VanderMeulen and counselors, Katie Erickson and Melissa Simkins, updated the board about the mental health activities at their school. They discussed programs such as Bridging the Gap, Working Four Health, True Colors and STARS [Sisters Together Addressing Real Situations].

"We really have quite a bit in place as a middle school to try to promote positive mental health

and react when there are needs or crisis situations," VanderMeulen said.

"What's so special about this program is that families are getting into counseling for either a reduced cost or no cost," Erickson said. "What's even

more special about it is that the counselors have been able to come to the school to see the kids."

The board accepted a donation of \$1,500 worth of camera equipment including Sigma lenses and Nikon cameras from

board trustee Laurie Kuna, a former journalism teacher at the high school. The equipment will be used by LHS students and placed in a 'history of photography' exhibit.

"I talked to Chris Phillips who runs the digital

photography lab and one of the things that he liked about the lenses was that they can convert them to digital," Kuna said. "They can put converters on them. He was really excited about that. They don't work with

a whole lot of film up there at the high school anymore, it's pretty much all digital."

The school board's next regular meeting will be in the Runciman Building, 300 High St., at 7 pm on Monday, Jan. 8.



Lowell Middle School principal Dan VanderMeulen and counselors, Katie Erickson and Melissa Simkins, discussed programs such as STARS, where eighth graders act as mentors to sixth graders.

Murray Lake's November Staff Member of the Month

Patti Harreld was chosen as Murray Lake Elementary's Staff Member of the Month for November. "Patti goes above and beyond to make our library a fun and inviting place to be! She takes books home to read so she can recommend them to kids; she works extra time to catalog our new technology; she helps kids find books they will be interested in reading and she is constantly adding new books to our library that are fun and engaging for our students," said principal Molly Burnett.

"I have been married to my husband, Larry, for 39 years. Larry and I moved here from the Detroit area in 1999. We have three sons,

Ben, Jeff and Greg. They are all married. We have two grandchildren, Simon, three and Ellie, one. I started as a

playground paraeducator at Cherry Creek Elementary 18 years ago. I have worked at Bushnell, Cherry Creek and

now at Murray Lake for the last 13 years. I love children and books, so the library is the perfect job for me. I work

with children at my church also. They are our future," commented Harreld.



Patti Harreld

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2018. Application forms and instructions are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell Charter Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Englehardt Public Library, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building and online on the City and Township websites. The LCTV Endowment Fund is a nonprofit fund established in late 2007 from the sale of the assets of Lowell Cable Television and is invested and administered by the Grand Rapids Community Fund. The LCTV Endowment Fund supports and promotes projects that benefit a broad segment of the Lowell area community, enhances the quality of life in the area, encourages cooperation among the communities and qualifies as a one-time capital improvement.

2018 grant applications should be submitted to the Lowell City Clerk's office, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The deadline for submitting 2018 applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 9, 2018. Questions should be directed to Susan Ulery, City Clerk.



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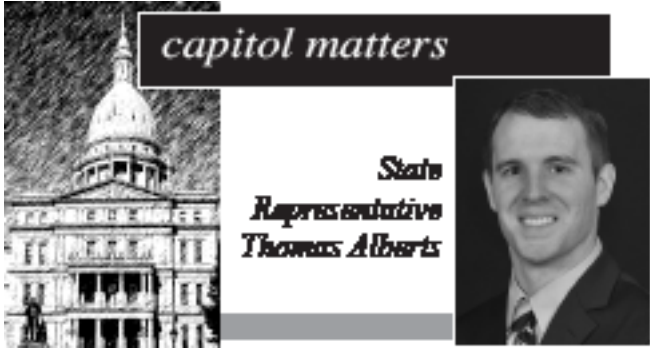
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It has been an honor to serve as your state representative in 2017. This year I have worked on meaningful legislation that I believe will make our community and state a better place to live and work. I have been proud to support many bills that would directly and positively impact Michigan families. This includes voting in favor of lowering your income tax, supporting criminal justice reform, passing a responsible state budget, and voting yes to fix our broken auto insurance system. I have fought against special interests and refused to support any bill I did not believe was the best deal for our state.

The most meaningful part of my service as your representative has been connecting with and learning from, members of our community. At city and township meetings I have heard how our local governments are growing and improving. At my in district office hours I have had one-on-one conversations with business owners, concerned constituents, teachers, retirees, law enforcement and many others discussing legislation and local concerns. My office has helped many constituents navigate government departments and connect them with the services they need.

In 2017 I researched, drafted and introduced the following legislation that I believe will move Michigan forward. As chair of the House Financial Liability Reform Committee, I have specifically focused on addressing the state's unfunded liabilities that threaten the prosperity of Michigan's future generations. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief description of each of the bills.

1. HB 4647 - A bill to reform the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System by creating new hybrid and defined contribution plans.

2. HB 4814 - A bill to limit local millage elections to November ballot proposal in order to guarantee public awareness.

3. HB 4816 - A bill to modify the three tier age bracket tax on retirement or pension benefits that was enacted in 2012 adjusting the pension tax phase in/from individuals born from 1946-1952 to 1950-1955.

4. HB 4858 - A bill to allow state and political subdivisions to consider military experience as relevant work experience to factor into hiring and starting salary.

- 5. HB 4859 - A bill to implement a best practice for the Bureau of Investments to protect Michigan's public retirees.
 - 6. HB 4893 - A bill to consider electronic cigarette devices tobacco products.
 - 7. HB 5071 - A bill to require Michigan's universities and colleges to disclose important federal loan information to their students annually.
 - 8. HB 5222 - A bill to require that all medical marijuana products sold in Michigan to have a public health warning label for women who are pregnant or breast feeding in order to inform them of the risks marijuana poses to their baby.
 - 9. HB 5231 - A bill to establish that the state retirement system offers a fixed and variable annuity retirement plan for its employees.
 - 10. HB 5298 - A bill to create the Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act in order to address the issue unfunded retirement benefits in municipalities across the state.
 - 11. HB 5311 - A bill to accelerate the sunset of a provision allowing municipalities to issue municipal bonds to cover the costs of their unfunded liabilities.
- I have stayed committed to transparency, honesty and excellent legislation. I believe that government officials need to stay accountable to the promises they make and the communities they represent. I look forward to continuing to serve you in this way in 2018.

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viewpoint

outdoors

time flies

Dave Stegehuis

Time seems to pass faster as one grows older. Spring, summer, and fall seasons kind of run together and come and go quickly. The exception may be winter in Michigan. Time seems to slow down when it gets dark and cold out and spring appears to be a long way off.

For those willing to deal with a variety of weather

conditions, there is plenty to do outdoors this winter. People who have been involved with these cold weather activities are well aware of the opportunities and eagerly anticipate the season and, hopefully, favorable conditions.

The winter months are a good time to hunt for a variety of game. A

list of species and dates of seasons can be found on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources web site. Trapping fur bearers is still practiced by a dedicated group of sportsmen.

Fishing regulations dictate when and where fish may be taken during the winter. However, a number of fish are available year around wherever you can find them.

Skiing is popular at downhill areas across the state. Most resorts can make snow if the weather doesn't cooperate. Cross country ski trails wind through private resorts and pass through scenic back country on state and federal land as well as local parks. Downhill sledding is fun for the entire family.

Hockey is still played on frozen lakes and ponds

and at community rinks. Skating for fun is enjoyed by folks of all ages. For the more adventurous, there is camping and hiking with snowshoes. Wildlife and wintery landscapes wait for a good eye to compose a Christmas card quality scene.

Snowmobile trails allow riders to travel long distances around the state. Local businesses are very

accommodating of riders in snowmobile country. My personal bucket list favorite is to someday mush a dog team.

There is as much to do in the winter as during other seasons. Rather than just enduring winter find something of interest from our list or make up your own, and look forward to that instead of spring which is a long way off.



125 years ago Lowell Journal December 14, 1892

'Tis a pity tax time didn't come before election. We who pay taxes find that, in this town at least, they are increased quite materially by the mortgage tax law, passed by the squaw buck legislature, which wiped out \$55,000 of personal property valuation in this town. The man who owns the mortgage pays no tax at all. A sample of democratic legislation in the interest of the poor man.

There is quite a little discussion around town regarding a city charter for our village. Of course in this matter as in all others, there are two sides and it is well to consider all the bearings. A free discussion of such things is better, even if it goes contrary to your desires, than to do something to regret. Talk and think it over, there are many things in the scheme that would be better for the town and many that would benefit the village. It also has its drawbacks, but on the whole it looks as though a city charter would benefit us, all the more. It would settle one source of disagreement, the location of Supervisor and Highway Commissioner.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 13, 1917

Fuel famine here, people face suffering, farmers appealed to for wood. In the face of a Michigan winter many people in Lowell are threatened with suffering-if not worse-because of a scarcity or total lack of fuel. Immediate relief is needed and owners of wood lots are urged to furnish it without delay.

The committee who had charge of the Vaudette Benefit Fund have completed their work and wish to submit their report to Lowell and vicinity. In behalf of

the Lowell boys they wish to thank the public who responded so liberally when Mr. Warner donated his time and Vaudette; the W. R. C. who contributed \$5.00; Mesdames, Laura Vining and Lew Rickner; also four friends who with their contributions swelled the fund to \$63.50. The Lowell Press should not be overlooked as they have very willingly published free of charge all the advertising.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 17 1942

Lowell Twp. taxpayers are smiling this year as they pay their taxes. Through economy and a carefully planned budget, Supervisor F. L Houghton was able to cut the tax rate to \$12.57 per \$1,000 valuation, the lowest for several years.

That out-of-date cannon, a relic of the first World War, which has stood in the West Side Park for many years, could serve a much better purpose if turned into scrap. Living trees 'n its place will seem far more appropriate to our boys when they return home from the battle fronts.

The Lowell Mfg. Company has been forced to suspend a large part of its manufacturing operations because of the freezing of most of the war materials used by the company, according to information obtained by the Ledger. V. A. Snell is in charge of the office, succeeding E. P. Quick, who has joined the forces at Willow Run.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger December 14, 1967

Those X&?\$?! school taxes. You say you just got your tax notice, and your school taxes doubled? Now calm down & we will look at your tax bill & try to make some sense out of it if we can. Yeah, we all know that the cost of living has gone up, & when you had just a one room school to support. It was a lot cheaper: but remember, it was cheaper to keep a horse than it is a tractor. Yeah, I know that kids have gone wild and the school doesn't stop them, but most of that stuff doesn't happen in school. Well, lets get back to taxes—you keep changing the subject on me. Now let's take a look at your tax notice. Up at the top is listed your assessed valuation and then your state equalized valuation of your property. One question real quick, double your listed state equalized value, and that is supposed to be the present day market value of your property. Would you sell the property for that price? Of course you wouldn't but that is all the state claims your property is worth... Nobody likes taxes, friend, but if every unit of government is going to advance and keep up with the times, they are necessary. I don't know where the whole thing is going to end, but you are still living in a country where you, as an average citizen, have more

money and get more for that money than any place else in the world. It's been nice talking to you and my best advice is to smile count your blessings and pay those taxes.

Lowell Police Chief Avery Block and Officer Larry Pelon were first to arrive at the scene of the airplane crash, three miles south of Lowell Wednesday, December 6. Killed in the crash was the pilot, Lee N. Sanborn, 45, of Grand Rapids, the only occupant of the two engine plane. The Melvin Dietz family who reside just off Emory Drive, on 36th Street, called the Lowell Police at 6:30 p.m. They reported that a plane had circled over the area twice and then they heard it crash in a swamp a short distance from their farm home. Policemen from Lowell called outside help, and went immediately to the scene, where they were joined by the Michigan State Police, and officers of the Kent County Sheriff's Department. The search for the plane continued until nearly 8 p.m. before the wreckage and the pilot were found in the dense swamp and brush. Sanborn was still alive when the search party found him. He had crawled out of the plane, and attempted to bandage his face that had been badly smashed

Looking Back, continued, page 6

We love to hear from you!



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.

Looking Back, continued

in the crash. He was trying to lead the searchers to him by pounding on one of the torn-off wings of the plane. Sargeant Donald Harrington of the Sheriff's Department, in charge of the search party, gave special credit to Lowell physician Dr. Orval McKay, who waded into the swamp to give the pilot emergency treatment. While carrying Sanborn a half mile to the roadway, McKay stopped the stretcher carrier to perform an emergency tracheotomy. Efforts to save the pilot's life failed and he died before reaching the ambulance. The investigation by the Federal authorities of the plane failed to discover any mechanical cause for the accident. Bieri Brothers were called in Thursday with their bulldozers to drag out the wreckage of the nearly new plane. Sanborn, a native of the Manistee area, was a two year employee of Northern Air Service, Inc. He is survived by a wife and five children.

Christmas shoppers got a little bonus of excitement Saturday afternoon at 4:15 when Floyd A. Long, 27, of Seeley Road, Belding, engaged in a little fisticuffs with his wife, Sue. The action occurred on Main Street near the intersection of Broadway. Sue went down for the count; Lowell Police arrested Floyd on a citizens' complaint and he was charged with disorderly conduct.

The driver and passenger in a car that ran off M-21 at the Doyle Motel Thursday at 2:45 a.m. were not injured but they knocked down a dozen guard posts along the highway, a sign for the motel, broke off a telephone pole and ended up against the side of the house. The Sheriff's Department said no charges had been placed against the driver of the car William Renucci, 22, of Ionia.

Glue sniffing is not confined to the big cities; Lowell Police report the same problem with local juveniles. Two teen-age youths were turned over to Juvenile Court last week on charges that include glue sniffing. They were also being held for stealing gas from school vehicles, and throwing fire crackers from cars.

Kent County Sheriff's Department is investigating a reported break-in at the Riverview Inn on M-21 early Tuesday morning. Money was taken from a cigarette machine.

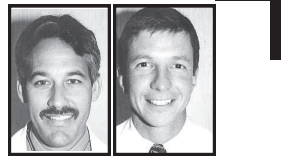
25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 16, 1992

For those who have taken in the holiday light display over the last couple of weeks in Lowell, it's easy to detect that it's "Christmas time in the City." The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce named its winners in the annual residential and commercial Christmas decorating contest. Judges drove around Thursday night viewing the light displays and then picked its residential and commercial winners. There were three categories in the residential contest, They were creative, classic-postcard, and spectacular. Winning in the creative division was Leo Pfaller, Bowes Rd. Ron Wood and Floyd Zwiers, Ann St. were second, while Mike and Laura Topping, Lafayette, were third. The winner in the classic postcard category was John and Nancy Swanson, Lafayette, Jon and Chris Vezino, Chatham, placed second. Ron and Carey Verla, Hunt, were third. In the spectacular category, Joshua Milley, Woodbushe and John Erickson, Avery, tied for first-place honors. Mike and Marsha LaHaye, Birchwood, were second and the Jeff Bailey home in Spring was third.

Development in township requires commitment. Grand Rapids Developer Robert Grooters sees it as a way to bring money into Lowell, instead of Lowell sending money to Lansing. Lowell Township Supervisor John Timpson and the rest of the Township Board were the guest of Grooters for a formal introduction to the developer's firm. It also provided Grooters a chance to display the work of his company, which is showcased in areas like Grand Rapids, Byron Center and Zeeland. Timpson has promoted the development of good high tech industry on land out near Cascade Road and the expressway. "I still believe good high tech industry would benefit the Township, the City of Lowell and the Lowell Schools," Timpson said. "I'd like for the board to be prepared to act if an opportunity arises." Grooters says the location Timpson talks about has a number of things in its favor. "Being near the expressway gives it high visibility, it provides convenience, the work force in the area is good. It could provide an overflow business for merchants in the City of Lowell, the area has a need for such development, and it would help finance education, and development would provide jobs during weak economic times," he said. Timpson also noted that the land is not prime agriculture property. "Development there won't impact home-owners." Grooters said for any development to work, there would have to [be] a commitment from everyone in the community. "Everybody would have to be comfortable," he said. Timpson was pleased that there

was 100 percent turnout for the Grooters show-and-tell type presentation. "While maybe not everybody is excited about development in that area someday, they were all appreciative of the presentation and the information it provided them." Timpson said. "Also, no one board member stated that it was generally against it." Grooters concluded he was happy for the opportunity to provide the Township with information about his company and to show the board what his firm has down in the West Michigan area.

HEALTH



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



- hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver caused by a virus. Hepatitis is contagious and is usually transmitted through contact with blood.

Most people with acute hepatitis do not even know they have an infection and many will develop chronic hepatitis C, a long-term smoldering infection. Over a long period of time 20 to 30 percent will go on to develop cirrhosis or liver cancer. Most cases of hepatitis C occur among baby boomers (people born between 1945 and 1965). Baby boomers may have been exposed to hepatitis C from injecting drugs, having a blood transfusion prior to 1992, having unprotected sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis C or getting a tattoo with an unclean tool.

Symptoms of chronic hepatitis C are often nonexistent until severe liver damage occurs.

Because many infected persons do not realize they carry this infection, the Centers for Disease Control has recommended that all persons born between 1945 and 1965 be screened for HCV with a one time blood test. If hepatitis C is diagnosed, further testing will be indicated to determine the extent of liver damage. A liver biopsy may be performed to help determine the best treatment options.

Hepatitis C is currently treated by taking a combination of medications for several months. The cure rate for hepatitis C has increased exponentially with newer drugs that have become available over the last two to three years.

Even if you have no known risk factors and were born between 1945 and 1965, you should talk to your doctor about HCV screening.

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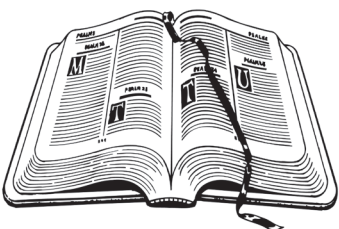
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All Social Security, and disability benefits represent distributions from Social Security Administration. Member of Afl-CIO. All benefits, Mat. 3028 W. St. Belding, MI. Office: Belding, MI. Services may be provided by associated attorneys in each state. *The process for determining each applicant's eligibility is a state process, and can take up to 60 days.

area churches



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

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

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 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

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906
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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happy birthday

DECEMBER 13
Chrys Thaler, Jeff Bowne, Michelle Fyan.

DECEMBER 16
Timmy Buechler.

DECEMBER 17
Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott, Amy Riddle.

DECEMBER 14
Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth, Perry Beachum.

DECEMBER 15
Karen Latva, Tammy Baird, Roger Brown, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin Ellis, Danielle Brenk, Marea Borg, Kimberly Kline, Kelly Potter, Tom Kehoe.

DECEMBER 18
Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Julie Alberts, Heather Walendzik.

DECEMBER 19
Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.

CLASSIFIEDS
small ads **BIG** deals
616.897.9261



How busy has it been downtown lately? What is your favorite part of the holiday season?

From time to time our Ledger reporters will pose a question while out on the streets of Lowell. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK OUT.

If you have a question you think would be an excellent conversation starter, feel free to suggest one.

Send your Street Smarts questions to:
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
subject line - "Street Smarts"



Mike Larkin

"It's been reasonably good. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce puts on parades and Christmas Through Lowell, which brings holiday shoppers. There has been an increase in traffic because of all those Chamber events.

My favorite part of the holiday season happens on January 2."



Kate Kropf

"It's been going really well, business has been steady. Last weekend's Christmas activities were great and I think it's going to be busy this weekend with Santa Claus coming to town and everything. Hopefully it'll pick up even more.

I love going Christmas tree shopping. We've been cutting our own tree down my entire life. It's always fun. We do it at Horrocks Tree Farm in Ionia. They have a great selection."



Patricia Dlouhy

"It was really, really busy during the parade. We had lines out the door during the parade. I've noticed a lot more foot traffic, a lot of shopping. People are happy. They're coming in for coffee, hanging out and enjoying the holidays.

My favorite part of the holidays is getting some downtime after Christmas."

...

An opinion should be the result of thought, not a substitute for it.

~ Jef Mallett, Frazz



Tonia North

"It's been very busy downtown. During Christmas Through Lowell we had a thousand people minimum through here on Friday and Saturday and about another 250 on Sunday. We had a gentleman here whose only job was to count people and he couldn't count the people coming through the back door. Last Saturday was insane with the Rogue River Artisans Show and all the Christmas events downtown. I would give the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce an A+++ ["an A triple plus" is what she actually said] grade for bringing people out. We opened at 10 am on Saturday and we had nonstop action all day long. We closed at seven and there were still people here in the store. Now we're staying open until eight pm on Thursdays and Fridays through the holidays.

My favorite part of the holiday season has to be that my family gathers together. From a business perspective, my favorite part is that I get to meet people from all over the United States who are in Lowell visiting their families."



Jamie Oberlin

"It has been extremely busy. We've had wonderful weekends and a lot of late night activity. We've been here for seven weeks and we have shown a positive at this point. Coming from Saranac, moving here and opening up this store has been wonderful.

The snow is my favorite part of the holiday season. The snow and the smells, pine trees, cinnamon, pumpkin."



Mike Sprenger

"It's been very busy. It's been a good season so far. There has been an increase in traffic with the parades and Christmas Through Lowell. It's been an excellent year.

I always enjoy seeing all the people who come into the store during the holidays."

GET READY TO SEE STARS

HOTEL CALIFORNIA
A SALUTE TO THE EAGLES
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

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Must be 21 or older. Tickets based on availability. Schedule subject to change.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. U-16620

In the matter, on the Commission's own motion, regarding the regulatory reviews, revisions, determinations, and/or approvals necessary for **LOWELL LIGHT & POWER** to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On December 1, 2017, Lowell Light & Power filed an Application for Approval of Amended Renewable Energy Plan with the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) pursuant to the "Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act" (2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001, et seq.) and MPSC Order Case No. U-15800 dated December 4, 2008.

Any interested person may review the filed Renewable Energy Plan on the MPSC website under Case No. U-16620 at www.michigan.gov/mpsc/dockets and at the offices of Lowell Light & Power, 127 N. Broadway Street, PO Box 229, Lowell, MI 49331-0229, or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, Michigan 48917, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2018.

Written comments should be sent to the: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909, with a copy mailed to: Lowell Light & Power, 127 N. Broadway Street, PO Box 229, Lowell, MI 49331-0229. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. All comments should reference Case No. U-16620. Comments received in this matter becomes public information, posted on the Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Comments must not include information you wish to remain private.

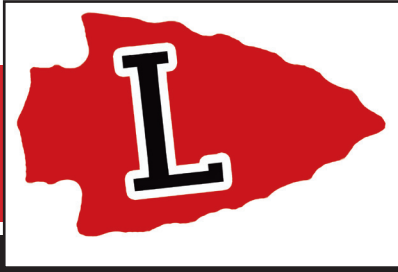
Any proposed Renewable Energy Plan Charges may not exceed \$3 per meter per month for residential customers, \$16.58 per meter per month for commercial secondary customers or \$187.50 per meter per month for commercial primary or industrial customers.

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER



LEDGER OFFICE HOURS

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



LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER TEAMS

VARSITY BASKETBALL



Front row, left to right: Gavin Coxon, Trevor Petroelje, Robby Schneider, Will Reynolds, Austin Pollock and Brett Spanbauer; back row, left to right: Nolan Cusack, Travis Cornell, Mitchell O’Gorman, Nathan VanDeWeert and Nathan Bush.



Front row, left to right: Ava Frederickson, Molly Frederickson, Emily Depew, Jena Lyon and Allyson Lange; back row, left to right: Ashleigh Jarrard, Kenzie North, Makyla Brannagan, Cassie Dean, Riley Conlon, Darby Dean and Hannah Halfmann. Not pictured, Regan Coxon.

JV BASKETBALL



Front row, left to right: Zach Cardis, Ben Davis, Matthew Cooper, Cade Solomonson, Ricky Braman, Braiden Hamilton; back row, left to right: Gavin Barber, Caleb Clark, Logan Dekok, Tyler Lange, Logan Steeley, Jacob Cleaver and Brock Gemmell.

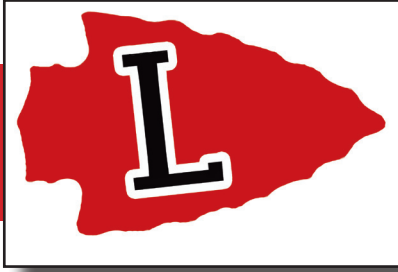


Front row, left to right: Jada Windsant, Kathleen Basinger, Lauren Booth, Bailey Redloske and Aubrie Halbert; back row, left to right: Hailey Halfmann, Audrey Conrad, Madison Halfmann, Kyleigh Rau, Samantha Peterson and Nikoline Samuelsson.



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

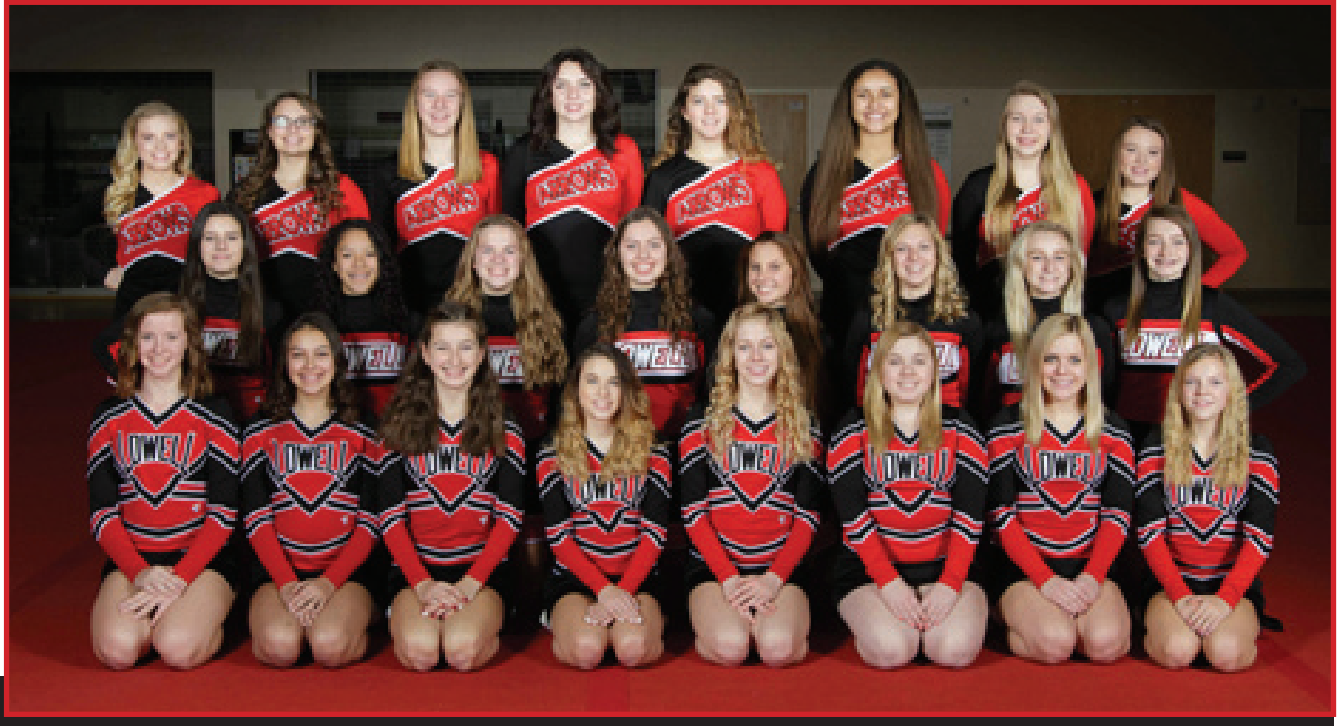




LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER TEAMS

COMPETITIVE CHEER

Front row:, left to right: Kayla VanOosten, Neely Bardwell, Kara Korcek, Mikayla Keller, Riley Frazer, Morgan Buffom, Paige Frazer and Delaney Beimers; second row, left to right: Alyssa Miles, Kyra Snyder, Sydney Hults, Selina Piller, Lea Schenk, Morgan Cremer, Sophia Katsal and Shileigh Shepard; third row: Brooklyn Fryers, Harlie Gerth-McMullin, Allison Weiss, Ember Fox, Lexi Reedy, Deijah Gissendanner, Megan Houghtaling and Shi Steinberg.



GYMNASTICS

Back row, left to right: Aurora Fredricks, Theresa Judd, Aubri Lemke, Tressa Huizinga, Marlie McDonald, Nora Jannenga, Kira Jungblut and Katy Hock; middle row, left to right: Emily Lothian, Hadyn Nash, Corah Miller and Taeghan Ronchetti and front row, left to right: Amber Brown, Maura Fitzpatrick and Marissa Grover.



WRESTLING

First row, left to right: Isis Lett, Alexis Gonzales, Reese Gonzales, Dominik Peplinski, Cole Huisman, Terrick Stewart, Austin Snyder and Nicholas Korhorn; second row, left to right: AJ Chertos, James Fotis, Jeffrey Leach, Jarod Willson, Dawson Jankowski, Joshua Meier, Logan Ryan and Hunter Browning; third row, left to right: Elijah Hall-Jones, Gavin DeKam, Sam Lixie, Bryce McCune, Caden Engle, Brady Musser, Tyler Lynch and John Russell; fourth row, left to right: Avry Mutschler, Tyler Greenop, Michael House, Lane Ryan, William Wurtz, Travis Harvey, Zeth Strejc, Austin Boone and Jacob Hough; fifth row, left to right: Luccano Candela, Zachariah Candela, Jacob Cutler, Doak Dean, Luke Skinner, Jacob Lee, Will Link, Gabe Hare and Derek Mohr; sixth row, left to right: Luke Landman, Channing Perry, Avery Martin, Keigan Yuhus, Austin Engle, George Gonzales, Keegan Nugent, Christian Beimers and Carter Bierling; back row, left to right: Zander Hamilton, Simone Ingrassia, David Kruse, Tyler Delooff, Connor Nugent, Josh Beke, Regan Zimmerman and Jared Hough.



Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Arrows topple Coopersville 48-22

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Moving their early season record to 2-0 last Friday night, the girls varsity basketball team topped non-conference Coopersville in their home opener by 48-22.

Juniors, Regan Coxon and Ava Frederickson, led the offensive charge with an unanswered 16 point run in the first period which ended 16-2. Coxon was equally effective on the

defensive side. Senior Darby Dean also on the defense smothered Coopersville in the second allowing only four points leading to a lopsided halftime score of 31-6.

Lowell continued to play well outscoring Coopersville 12-10 in the third period to slightly extend their lead. Coopersville got a small trump in the fourth out netting the Arrows by one free throw bucket. Despite their effort, Lowell's hefty lead held to the end for a 48-22 win. Coxon scored 15 points, while Frederickson chipped in 12.



On the schedule for the Lady Arrows this week are a pair of tough non-conference games against Forest Hills Eastern Tuesday on the road and Friday at home against former OK White rival East Grand Rapids. Game action is scheduled to begin at 7 pm inside the main gym.

Junior starter Regan Coxon en route to two of her 15 game points against Coopersville.



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF MICHIGAN
The Probate Court for
the County of Kent

In the matter of
SEAN SPAIN
Guardianship File No.
12-192,163-DD

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including
Lacey Lisette, whose
address(es) is/
are unknown and
whose interest in the
matter may be barred
or affected by the
following:

TAKE NOTICE: A
hearing will be held on
December 27, 2017, at
8:45 a.m. at Kent Co.
Probate Court, 180
Ottawa NW, Grand
Rapids, MI 49503
before Judge David M.
Murkowski (P35026)
for the following
purpose: Modification
of appointment of a
Guardian for a person
with a developmental
disability.

Dated:
December 11, 2017

Adult Protective
Services, DHHS,
Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 260-5649

VAN ESSEN AND
ASSOCIATES PLLC
Atty's. for Petitioner
by Amanda Van Essen
Wirth (P75001)
3425 Kelly St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 633-0196

St. Pats' alum wins fifth straight football championship for West Catholic

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

John-Luc Richmond, a young man from Lowell, recently completed a season playing on the state champion high school football team. Richmond is a junior at West Catholic High School in Grand Rapids and was the starting defensive tackle on the division five football team that defeated Saginaw Swan Valley for the state championship on Saturday, Nov. 25. It was the fifth straight championship for the West Catholic team.

"It felt great to win the state championship and to see all of the work the team put in during the off-season amount to something great,"

Richmond said. "During the game I made four tackles against Saginaw Swan Valley. It's always a good feeling to end the season on a high note and send the seniors out with a win."

Richmond has been on the West Catholic football team since his freshman year. He played defensive end and offensive guard before a teammate's injury placed him in the position of starting defensive tackle.

"I worked myself up to a starting position after a teammate's injury," Richmond said. "A defensive tackle's job is to stop the opposing team's interior runs and to do

pass rushes on throwing downs. During the course of the year I made numerous tackles and prevented running plays."

Although the Richmonds live in Lowell, they send their children to parochial schools.

"I attended St. Patrick Elementary School in Parnell from kindergarten through eighth grade," Richmond said. "During that time I started out playing in the Lowell Youth Football program. I started tackle football in second grade and played for Lowell until my eighth grade year when I started playing football for West Catholic."

"My children are life-long residents of Lowell and played Lowell youth sports like football, wrestling, et

cetera, though not as Lowell area schools' students," said John-Luc's father, Ben Richmond.



John-Luc Richmond,

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by law

Red Arrow SPORTS

-WRESTLING

Weekend tourneys result in a first and second for Red Arrows

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Rolling out their season in winning style, the Lowell varsity wrestling team competed in dual tournaments this past Saturday. The team finished first at the Allegan Southwest Classic and battled to the finals for a second-place finish at the Grandville Challenge.

Fourteen Lowell grapplers assigned to the hardware winning “A” team hit the road for the Allegan Southwest Classic. Exiting with first-place honors the team saw four of their own reach and win first place in their respective weight classes. Earning top honors at the highly competitive tournament was Avry Mutschler who grappled to the top of the 135 pound weight class and was also named outstanding wrestler by competition directors. Earning a total of 25 team points, Mutschler earned his first round win by fall at 1:13, his quarterfinal match by 14-2 major decision and added a 3-2 decision in the semifinals before his 6-3 decision in the final round.

Sophomore standout Austin Boone earned 29 points and first place at 152 pounds after topping his opponent in each preceding round. Three of his victories came by way of fall at 0:35, 0:57 and 2:15 and the other

by an 11-1 major decision. Senior strength came from fellow Red Arrow champions, Keigan Yuhas and David Kruse. Yuhas earned a total of 26 points en route to his win via two quick falls at 0:38 and 0:40 and one 6-2 decision at 215 pounds. Kruse, competing at 189 pounds, went 4-0 earning 26 points and the first-place win after a fall at 1:48, a decision and a pair of major decisions 11-0 and 10-1.

Several Arrows earned second-place finishes, including sophomore Bryce McCune at 112 pounds, junior Jeff Leach at 130, sophomore James Fotis at 140 and sophomore heavyweight Tyler Delooff who weighed in at 285. Earning a third-place finish was freshman newcomer Derek Mohr who went 2-1 at 160 in his varsity debut totaling 13 team points. Fellow freshman Cole Huisman landed in the fourth position also earning 13 points at 103. Rounding out the top five finishers were 119 pound sophomore Dawson Jankowski and 145 pound freshman Jacob Lee. Senior Tyler Lynch and sophomore Grant Pratt also represented the Red Arrows at the tournament earning a combined seven points.

Over at the Grandville Challenge the equally

tough Red Arrow “B” team also hit the mat hard coming up with a second-place tournament finish. Participating grapplers included sophomore Dominik Peplinski at 112

pounds, junior Hunter Browning at 119, freshman Will Link at 125, freshman Reese Gonzales and senior Jarod Willson at 130, junior Alexxis Gonzales at 135, freshman Doak Dean at 140,

freshman A.J. Chertos and senior Christian Biemers at 145, junior Jared Hough and senior Channing Perry at 152, senior Carter Bierling at 160, freshman Luke Skinner at 171; seniors, Austin

Engle and George Gonzales, who battled each other at 189; and heavyweights, senior Connor Nugent and sophomore Jacob Hough, who competed at 215.



Lowell varsity wrestling’s “A” team with their first-place trophy from the Allegan Southwest Classic. Photos Courtesy of Lowell Wrestling

This week the wrestlers will attempt to conquer two more tournaments on Saturday as they head out once again. Team “A” will travel to Grand Rapids for the Kent County Classic at 9 am and team “B” will head north to the Belding Duals which begins at noon.

Sports Summaries

GIRLS BOWLING

The six rollers of the Lowell girls varsity bowling team headed to the lanes last Wednesday to take on their first competition of the season facing OK White foe Cedar Springs at Ionia. The young team, consisting of seniors, Morgan Allison and Laura Lachowski; and sophomores, Emma Blakie, Olivia Dennie, Brianna Lachowski and Jessica Hull; fell 23-7. The senior Lachowski rolled the highest scores of the day tallying a 210 and a 212. A pair of road matches are on the schedule for the ladies this week starting with Caledonia and ending with conference rival Northview.

ICE HOCKEY

Lowell/Caledonia varsity hockey earned a pair of victories last week topping Rockford in a high scoring, high action game on Wednesday and beating Byron Center in a highly defensive, one goal overtime game on Friday. In Rockford, LC was down 3-2 at the close of the first after a pair of goals from Lowell senior Austin Whaley. Caledonia teammate Nolan Lockhart knotted the match at three in the second where the score remained until the close of the third, forcing overtime. Caledonia iceman Brendan Irons scored the 4-3 game winning goal. On home ice Friday night in Kentwood, LC faced Byron Center in a battle that also led to overtime. Ethan Pinto of Caledonia netted the 1-0 victory after a scoreless regulation. The team will compete on Wednesday and Friday with the latter taking place on home ice at Kentwood Ice Arena with a 7 pm puck drop.

BOYS BOWLING

After concluding a perfect season that ended in the program’s first state championship last year, the varsity boys bowling team kicked off their OK White season last week with a loss at home. While less than twenty pins separated Lowell and opponent Cedar Springs in total match play, the overall score of 21-9 ended in the Red Hawks’ favor. The Red Arrows were led by senior Carson Clark who recorded a 200 game, senior Marcel Primeau who rolled a 209 and sophomore Collin Clark who earned a 209 as well as a 243. This week the team will meet non-conference competitor Caledonia and return to OK White play against Northview in a pair of road match ups.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

Coach and LHS alumni Dayna Crumbak led the varsity competitive cheer team to their first competition of the season last Saturday where the ladies earned a ninth-place finish. The Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan hosted the annual tournament at Comstock Park High School where Lowell was one of twelve teams vying for top honors and scholarship opportunities. The combined round score for the team at was a 588.46. This week the Arrows will compete back to back on Friday and Saturday traveling to both the Aquinas Invite as well as the West Ottawa Invitational.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for
the County of Kent

In the matter of
JASON KROFT
Guardianship File No.
17-202,478-DD

Rapids, MI 49503
before Judge David M.
Murkowski (P35026) for
the following purpose:
Appointment of a
Guardian for a person
with a developmental
disability.

Dated:
December 7, 2017

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including
Robin Kroft and any
unknown siblings
whose address(es)
is/are unknown and
whose interest in the
matter may be barred
or affected by the
following:

TAKE NOTICE: A
hearing will be held
on February 21, 2018,
at 8:45 a.m. at Kent
Co. Probate Court,
180 Ottawa NW, Grand

Adult Protective
Services, DHHS,
Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 558-6781

VAN ESSEN AND
ASSOCIATES PLLC
Attys. for Petitioner
by Amanda Van Essen
Wirth (P75001)
3425 Kelly St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 633-0196

obituaries

FROESE

Herbert P. Froese, age 91, formerly of Cascade Township, passed away Sunday, December 10, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Genevieve; children Thomas (Mary) Froese, Connie (John) VanBelkum, Cynthia (Steve) Wells, Barbara (David) Gillman, Laura (Joseph) VanBelkum; brother Richard (Dorothy) Froese; sister Mildred Qualls; grandchildren Tamara Froese, Jeffrey VanBelkum, Kristina VanBelkum, Michael (Kristy) Wells, Amy (Justin) Wells-Morgan, Cherie (Matthew) Hanson, Eric (Catherine) Gillman, Kevin (Stephanie) Gillman; 9 great grandchildren; also nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister and brother-in-law Edna (Louis) Alighire; brother-in-law Samuel Qualls. Herb was proud of his country and served in the Navy during WWII. He retired from Parker Motor Freight and was an active member of the Teamsters. His hobbies included a small farm in Cascade Township and traveling with their travel trailer. Visitation will be held Friday 6-8:00 p.m. at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. S.E., Grand Rapids. Funeral service will be Saturday, December 16, 11:00 a.m. also at the funeral home chapel. Hospice Chaplain Steve Bristol officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, W 46th Street & 12th Ave., New York, NY 10036, Grace Hospice, 3355 Eagle Park Dr. N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or Kindred Hospice, 625 Kenmoor Ave., S.E., Suite 115, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



O'Brien-Eggebeen
GERST
Cascade & East Paris at 196
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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GRABION

John Wesley Grabion, age 89 of Zeeland, formerly of Lowell, went to be with his Lord and Savior Friday, December 08, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents Pearl and Albert Grabion; sister Wanda (Robert) Evans; brothers Marvin (Bobbie) Grabion, Larry Grabion; brothers-in-law Richard McNeal, and Miles Weaver. He is survived by his loving wife Dolores (Jewell). They were blessed to celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary on Thanksgiving with family. He is also survived by his children, Lorri Grabion, Nancy (Gary) Wandell, Karen (Roger) Graham, and Brian Grabion; sisters Maxine Weaver, Bonnie McNeal, Vicki (Andy) Root; sister-in-law Mary Grabion; grandchildren (who he adored) Emily Wandell, Katie Wandell (fiancé Jim Shaw), Julie Wandell, Landon (Amber) Graham, Elizabeth (Craig) Boonstra, Brock (Arica) Graham, Brianna Grabion, Brendan Grabion, Madelyn Grabion; great-grandchildren Joseph, Jacob, John, Nathan, Graham, Brady, Natalie, Casen, and Trey. John was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was born and raised in Ithaca, MI and graduated from Central Michigan University. He was a Middle School Principle in Lowell and enjoyed watching the Lowell Red Arrows. John loved fishing, hunting at his cabin with friends, was a member of the Lowell Rotary Club, and a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Lowell. Memorial service will be held at noon Thursday, December 21 at First Baptist Church of Lowell, 2275 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331; with a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Pastor Brock Graham officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Lowell.



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SALDIVAR

Juan Ramon Saldivar, age 69, of Lowell, passed away after a short bout with cancer at Spectrum Butterworth Hospital, Grand Rapids, Tuesday, December 5, 2017. He is survived by his ex-wife, Connie Saldivar; sons, Sergio and Sean Saldivar; daughter, Kamie Saldivar; grandchildren, Kendall Richard-Saldivar, Saige Saldivar, Saige Saldivar, Tess Saldivar, Gabrielle Saldivar, and Travin Saldivar-Howe. Juan was a PC analyst for Kent County Information Technology for many years prior to retirement. A memorial will be held Friday, December 15, 2017, from 12-4 pm at the Moose Lodge located at 1320 E. Main St, Lowell, MI 49331.



SOBLESKEY

Pauline Jeanne Sobleskey, age 86 of Ada, passed away Saturday, December 9, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband Walt Sobleskey, and son Tim Robidoux. She is survived by her sons Dale (Dotty), Gale (Donna); brothers Duke Thomet, Rich Thomet, Ron (Rose) Thomet; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; special niece and nephew Amy and Ben Thomet; sister-in-law Patricia Thomet. Pauline was born in her family homestead in Ada, MI. She retired from Amway in Ada. A Memorial Visitation will be held Sunday, December 17, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Interment Findlay Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 989 Spaulding Ave. S.E., Ada, MI 49301.



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LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of HENRY HUZEL
Guardianship File No. 09-186,200-GA
Conservatorship File No. 17-201159-CA

Rapids, MI 49503
before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026)
for the following purpose: Modification of appointment of a Guardian and modification of appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: December 11, 2017

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his sister: Marlene Lidgard, and any other siblings, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on December 27, 2017, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 690-7176

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC
Attys. for Petitioner
by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001)
3425 Kelly St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 633-0196

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 17-202453-DE

Estate of PATRICIA HAGGERTY.
Date of birth: Jan. 7, 1943.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Patricia Haggerty, died November 15, 2017.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against

the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Terrance M. Haggerty, 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.

December 7, 2017

John D. Mitus (P-31244)
410 Bridge Street, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Terrance M. Haggerty
66 Covell, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504



MDOT keeping most rest areas open year-round

As in most years, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will keep nearly all of the state's 78 rest areas open this coming winter to maintain the convenience and safety they provide to motorists.

Only five rest areas will be closed for the 20-week period beginning Dec. 5 and ending April 25, 2018. These closures are due to reduced use during winter months and safety

concerns, such as steep entrance and exit drives and potentially slippery conditions on stairways between the parking lots and the buildings.

"Many look to our network of rest areas year-round for convenience and safety on their travels," said state transportation director Kirk T. Steudle. "For that reason, we keep as many open through winter as possible."

The following five rest areas will close Dec. 5 and reopen in April:

- St. Ignace Rest Area on southbound I-75 in Mackinac County
- Ludington Rest Area on northbound US-31 in Mason County
- Topinabee Rest Area on northbound I-75 in Cheboygan County
- Hebron Rest Area on southbound I-75 in Cheboygan County

- Hart Rest Area on southbound US-31 in Oceana County

Designated rest areas will have "Closed Until Spring" signs posted and will have the mileage to the next open rest area listed. Closed rest areas will be listed on MDOT's Mi Drive construction and traffic information website at www.michigan.gov/drive

Winter is here: Sign up for incident notifications

Fast facts:

- MDOT's West Michigan Traffic Operations Center (WMTOC) provides free county-tailored traffic notices for US, M and I routes via e-mail and text messages.
- From November 2016 to March 2017, the WMTOC recorded 556 incidents.
- The WMTOC serves 13 counties: Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent,

Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) partners with law enforcement, first responders and dispatch centers to provide quick and effective response times for traffic incident management

and notification. One of the goals of the West Michigan Traffic Operations Center (WMTOC) is to alert drivers about lane-blocking incidents on US, M and I routes as soon as possible. Well-informed drivers can make better decisions to ease congestion and increase safety. In addition to providing traffic impact information on MDOT's

Mi Drive website and roadside message signs, the WMTOC provides county-by-county notifications. To sign up for free county-tailored traffic alerts, which can also include alerts for traffic restrictions due to construction and maintenance activities, go to: <http://bit.ly/14ucwY2>

"Our objective is to

reduce everyone's exposure to lane-blocking events," said WMTOC operations manager Suzette Peplinski. "We constantly monitor our notification process with the unending goal of improving our response times for the motoring public. Since 2015, we have improved our notification response time by 22 percent."

MDOT's Mi Drive traffic information website (www.michigan.gov/drive) provides 78 traffic cameras in Allegan, Barry, Kent, Osceola, Ottawa, and Mason counties. This offers motorists a chance to view weather and traffic conditions in real time before they get behind the wheel.

LHS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game, all games start at 7 pm, unless indicated.

12/15 EGR
12/19 West Catholic High School*

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game, all games start at 7 pm, unless indicated.

12/15 EGR*
12/19 Byron Center High School

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

* Denotes a home meet at The Bowling Alley, Ionia, MI.

12/18 at 3:30 pm Hudsonville
12/20 at 3:30 pm FHN

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

* Denotes a game at Kentwood Ice Arena

12/20 at 6 pm West Ottawa

VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a meet at LHS

12/16 at 12 Varsity B team - Belding Duals
12/16 at 9 am Kent County Classic

BOYS VARSITY SWIMMING

12/28 at 11:30 am Curt Pals Invite

VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER

12/15 at 12 Aquinas Invitation
12/16 at 12 West Ottawa Invitational
12/20 at 6:30 pm Jenison Invite

Taxpayers warned of fraudulent phone calls

The Michigan Department of Treasury is warning taxpayers of aggressive and threatening phone calls made by criminals impersonating state tax officials.

Within the last couple of days, the state Treasury Department has observed a surge in scam phone calls where scammers are claiming to be state tax officials and asking for cash through a wire transfer, prepaid debit card or gift card. Victims are told they owe money and will face arrest, legal action or

suspension of business if not paid promptly.

Scammers are also altering caller ID numbers to make it look like Treasury is calling. The callers may use employee titles, a person's name, address and other personal information to sound official.

"Unfortunately, scammers are consistently using new tricks and tactics to take advantage of taxpayers," said Deputy Treasurer Glenn White, head of Treasury's Tax Administration Group. "The

Michigan Department of Treasury doesn't initially contact taxpayers through the phone. Our first interaction is generally done by mail."

Treasury will never:

- Initiate a phone call to ask for personal information.
- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, Treasury will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Demand that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Ask for a PIN, password or access codes to your bank accounts or credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

Taxpayers who don't owe taxes or don't think they owe taxes should hang up immediately if they receive one of these calls. For individuals who owe taxes or think they do, they can call 517-636-5265 to find out their account balance information.

Taxpayers who have received a call from a scammer should report the case to the IRS through the web or by calling 800-366-4484.

Taxpayers who don't owe taxes or don't think they owe taxes should hang up immediately if they receive one of these calls. For individuals who owe taxes or think they do, they can call 517-636-5265 to find out their account balance information.

Taxpayers who have received a call from a scammer should report the case to the IRS through the web or by calling 800-366-4484.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent

Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

In the matter of Linda Staeven Guardianship File No. 17-201500-GA

Dated: December 11, 2017

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her son, James Staeven and any other children, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on December 27, 2017, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 690-7176

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 3425 Kelly St. Hudsonville, MI 49426 (616) 633-0196

**STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD**

**THEME: HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

ACROSS

1. Oscar, e.g.
6. Debate position
9. Judicial document
13. Hawaiian veranda
14. Deadeye's forte
15. Capital of Egypt
16. Lumps of something soft
17. Beluga yield
18. Ar on table of elements
19. *First state to officially recognize Christmas
21. *Country which produced first artificial Christmas trees
23. Boiling emotion
24. Grain in "The House That Jack Built"
25. Equinox mo.
28. *On Christmas it often includes ham or goose
30. In style
35. Twelfth month of Jewish year
37. *Max and Santa's Little Helper
39. Jack Black's Libre
40. Saturnalia's place of origin
41. Rat's world
43. Movie spool
44. Actress _____ Perlman, pl.
46. Angler's decoy
47. Partner of "void"
48. "A Connecticut _____ in King Arthur's Court"
50. Speed of object divided by speed of sound
52. A layer in plywood

CROSSWORD															
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DECEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 12

- The latest fire in Southern California covers a span of more than 230,000 acres — tens of thousands of acres larger than all of New York City combined. Nearly 1,000 homes and other structures have been either damaged or destroyed. The cost of the fire has crested \$38 million, according to fire officials, and with roughly 18,000 more structures threatened, that cost is likely to increase. More than 4,000 firefighters are battling these fires.
- Trump has officially recognized Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and he plans to move the U.S. embassy. In the last week there have been several violent protests over the decision.
- Tuesday voters in Alabama had to decide between a Republican former state Supreme Court justice who has been removed from the bench twice and is also suspected of sexual misconduct and assault with a minor, Roy Moore; and a former prosecutor and Democrat Doug Jones.
- Scientists say the North Pole continues to warm at an alarming pace — twice the rate as the rest of the planet, on average. This year was the Arctic's second-warmest in at least 1,500 years, after 2016. There was less winter ice in the Arctic Ocean than ever observed.

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53. Please do not delay
55. "*" _____ the season to be jolly..."
57. *Beloved Montgomery Ward creation
61. "*"Christmas Carol" author
65. Avoid, as in taxes
66. ENT's first concern?
68. Alfred Hitchcock in his own movie, e.g
69. What tailor did
70. #19 Across abbreviation
71. Driver's 180
72. Sin over cos, pl.
73. Blade drops
74. Mexican coins

DOWN

1. Aquarium dweller
2. Room border
3. Dwarf buffalo
4. Torah teacher
5. Divest one of a gun
6. "For" in Spanish
7. Orinoco or Grande
8. Opposite of alpha
9. *Like holiday memories?
10. Capital of Latvia
11. Wedge in a golfer's bag, e.g.
12. Broadway recognition
15. Dairy aisle package
20. Bribes of rewards, in the olden days
22. Liberty Tree, e.g.
24. "Naked Lunch" creatures
25. *Like Christmas
26. Greeting in the land of "Mele Kalikimaka"
27. Part of cow's stomach
29. *Yuletide
31. Repair, as in socks
32. Freeze over
33. Conch, e.g.
34. *Poisonous Christmas berry
36. Plumbing problem
38. Red Cross supplies
42. Abdominal muscles
45. *Like a letter mailed to Santa
49. Sixth sense
51. Diaphragm spasm
54. Best way to shop?
56. *The kids do it in openng of "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
57. Catch your breath
58. Iris holder
59. Dracula's bane
60. Words from Wordsworth
61. Big attraction
62. Outback birds
63. Infamous emperor of #40 Across
64. Daughters' brothers
67. Belgian brew

*Puzzle solutions
on page 12*

SUDOKO

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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

**LAST WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL
RESULTS**

**What do you
do to combat
the stress of
everyday living?**

- Scream into a pillow.....75%
- Volunteer0%
- Exercise/Yoga25%
- Pray0%
- I thrive on it.....0%

A Nite of Christmas Cheer, continued

Cebelak from Common Gentry Carriage in Kent City. “These horses are called Percherons, which are draft horses. They can definitely pull their own weight and they weigh a ton.”

The live ice sculpting drew quite a crowd of spectators as Randy Finch from Ice Sculptures Limited in Grand Rapids used tools like die grinders, circular sanders and chainsaws to turn a hunk of ice into a holiday scene.

“Tonight I’m working off the theme for this year, which is ‘Redneck Christmas,’ so I’m doing Santa Claus in a monster truck,” Finch said. “That way if we have bad weather Santa Claus can still

deliver presents. It usually takes about five hours to do a sculpture so I have it prepared before I get here and I have two hours to finish. As people walk by I hear them try to guess what it is; it’s a lot of fun. It’s usually quite a hit. I don’t think people care what I carve as long as there’s snow flying and power tools.”

There was free hot chocolate and cookies in the chamber of commerce office. Volunteers Christine Koehler, Cindy Nosko and Janet Karasiewicz estimated they went through 15 gallons of hot chocolate in the first hour, with no sign of it letting up.

“This is the hot chocolate and cookies for after you see Santa,” said

volunteer Christine Koehler. “We usually do it on the Showboat, but the Showboat is out of commission.”

The main event was Santa Claus himself, who saw scores of children during the course of the evening.

“It’s going great, we’ve got lots of people coming in here, lots of kids,” said Mrs. Claus. “He loves it, he [is] doing great. He loves seeing kids. He does well with all of them, big or little. We’ll probably have between 150 and 200 come through.”

If you or a loved one had their photo taken with Santa, those photos are available on the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.



Randy Finch from Ice Sculptures Limited in Grand Rapids used various power tools to turn a chunk of ice into holiday art.



Dasher and Dancer, two reindeer who live in Caledonia, were an object of fascination for the crowd.



Lowell Fire Department had buckets of fire out there to keep people warm.



Elizabeth and Colin Plank were literally roasting chestnuts over an open fire on behalf of the Lowell Area Historical Museum.



Liam, Elliana and Lachlan Kropf were among the hundreds of children who got to meet Santa Claus in person during the ‘Nite of Christmas Cheer’ event on the Riverwalk.