

FROM
distribution



page 2

Key Vista
improvements



page 3

WWC
luminary
hikes



page 8



page 7

50¢



Winter snow covers Lowell area, Midwest



A major winter storm over Thanksgiving weekend created blizzard conditions across a huge portion of the middle of the country, from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes. Here in Lowell, it was freezing, wet, rainy and snowy all weekend; now we're left with a couple inches of snow accumulation.

Holiday festivities coming to downtown



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

There will be two big holiday celebrations in Lowell over the next couple weeks.

First, the "Songs of Christmas" holiday festivities and nighttime parade will take over downtown Lowell on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Santa Claus will be busy throughout Lowell all afternoon. First he'll be on the Riverwalk in Santa's

Cabin (the old Lowell Cable building) for visits with the kids from 2:30 pm until 4 pm. You can even share a meal with Santa during the pancake supper at the Lowell Fairgrounds from 4 pm until 6 pm.

You can catch up with Santa again at the "Songs of Christmas" parade, which starts at 6 pm. The parade's theme changes every year; last year it was "Redneck Christmas."

"The parade [entrants] will theme their entries after their favorite Christmas songs," said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "We are anticipating lots of creativity and thinking outside the box. The biggest change this year for parade day is the Sweet Tooth Jubilee. Lowell High School Interact Club students and Lowell Rotarians will be handing out 2,400 parade

bags stuffed with candy and coupons. They will begin handing out the bags at 5:45 pm, 15 minutes prior to the start of the parade. We feel this a great way to satisfy those who are upset that we don't allow candy throwing in the parade. It's always good to remind people that we don't allow this because children are a very precious commodity. Their safety is a priority with the Chamber."

There are always changes

and improvements, but many familiar aspects of the event are returning.

"Lowell's Santa traditions continue with visits and digital photos on the Riverwalk in Santa's cozy cabin in the same location as last year," Baker said. "[Also returning are] Rudolph's craft workshop in the Chamber Building along with cookies and hot chocolate and entertainment by Luc James Studio on the Riverwalk. [And] don't forget those yummy pancakes at the fairgrounds before the parade."

Friday, Dec. 7 from 5:30 until 7:30 pm is the Chamber's annual "A Nite of Christmas Cheer" event on the Riverwalk. That event will include free online photos with Santa by Kim Feenstra Photography, horse and carriage rides, Pickles and friends, warming fires, hot dogs from Arctic Heating and Cooling, roasted chestnuts from the Lowell Area Historical Museum, holiday 3-D glasses from

Holidays, continued, page 4

FROM accepting donations for holidays

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Donations are currently being accepted for Flat River Outreach Ministry's Christmas gift distribution. FROM began in 1998 and they have been orchestrating the Christmas distribution since 1999. Those wishing to donate can bring their toys directly to FROM's main location, 11535 E. Fulton, or at the drop-off sites throughout town, including: Goodrich Theater, Dollar General, Lowell City Hall, Red Barn Market and many others. Look for the barrels set up for donations.

The drop-off site at Springrove Variety is already almost full after Black Friday shopping. Huntington Bank in Lowell has a Christmas tree set up where individuals can take a piece of paper with a specific gender and age group suggestion for the toy. Engelhardt Library has yet to set up its display, but will accept donations at the desk.

On Dec. 15, eligible community members are able to walk through a portion of FROM set up for the event and choose the gifts they would like for their children.

"We have different rooms with different items to choose from," said FROM's executive director Dawn Broene. "The rooms we usually have are the toy room, game and book room, stocking stuffer room, and a room with hat, scarves [and] mittens, along with PJ pants."

Broene said that some items they are particularly looking for are "books and games for all age levels. We also could use teenage gifts or gift certificates to local stores."

Besides Christmas gifts, the distribution also includes food items for a Christmas meal. While the gifts are donated, FROM purchases the food. If people would like to help out with this portion of the distribution, they may make a monetary donation or buy Meijer "Simply Give" gift certificates. Any other questions about helping out by donating or volunteering for the distribution can be directed to FROM's volunteer coordinator Diane Kleczynski at dianek@fromlowell.org or by calling 897-8260 ext 123.

The distribution for eligible community members living in the Lowell School District will take place on Dec. 15. People can sign up during their food pantry hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2 pm until 4:30 pm, Wednesday from 5 to 7 pm and Friday from 10 am until noon. A photo ID and proof of residence, like a piece of mail, are required to sign up. These sign-ups end on Dec. 12, and FROM would like to have all donations by this time.

Last year, 278 families benefited from the program; this included 387 children who received Christmas gifts that they otherwise would not have.

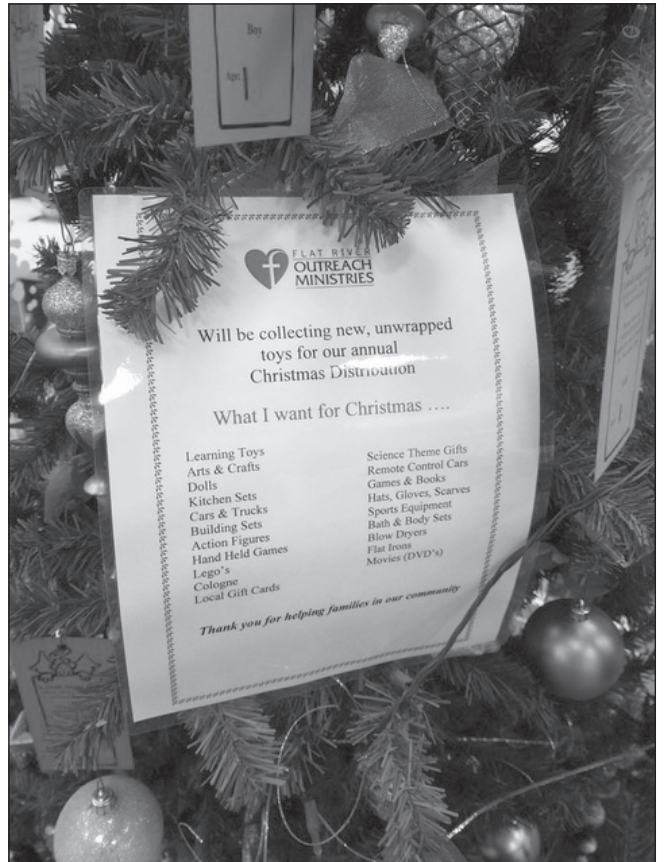
...

If everyone isn't beautiful, then no one is.

~ Andy Warhol (1928-1987)



There are FROM holiday donation displays at Dollar General, Engelhardt Library, Huntington Bank, Springrove Variety and several other locations around town.



TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN

Tony Orlando & Dawn
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

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Lots of upgrades at Key Vista mobile home park



More homes, newer homes, speed bumps, a dog park and other improvements and amenities have been added to Key Vista mobile home park, 1800 W. Main.

by Gerald Browning
contributing reporter

In January of 2017, Key Heights Village took ownership of Key Vista Mobile Home Park. Fred Desero became manager of both communities. With the help of Destiny Hansen, who was hired in July, Key Vista has moved in a positive direction.

Desero discussed the changes that were made early in his tenure as manager. With the replacement of several run-down homes and, Key Vista is taking steps toward improving the community.

“When we took over in January we brought in five homes,” Desero said. “We brought in 40-55 more homes. This year... we have three more coming.”

Key Heights is all owner-occupied housing, whereas Key Vista is predominately rental and affordable housing. A major goal of Key Vista is to fill all of

the homes in the area and provide affordable housing.

“There is an affordable housing shortage, which Key Vista intends to help with,” Desero said. “We will make the people a real good deal to buy them in a couple of years, if they want. We will refund them back their own money to buy it as a down payment. It is a win-win for them. [...] You have your own space and we’re in downtown Lowell.”

“When I first started here...a lot of the [residents] came up to me and they would...talk about how great it [the community] is and all the new...houses and everything has been cleaned up and the streets are being fixed,” Hansen said. “We are getting all new street signs, which are very, very pretty.”

These same signs will be made in the style of the signage in downtown

Lowell, which will bring the downtown feel into the community.

Since Key Heights Village took ownership of Key Vista, it has brought roughly 70 families into the Lowell economy.

“We buy the higher end homes, they don’t want the cheap homes in this community,” Desero said.

Along with the upgraded homes, Key Vista has resurfaced the streets and added amenities.

“We put twenty grand in that pool to get it up and running,” Desero said.

To help protect residents, speed bumps were put in to keep drivers from speeding through the area. A dog park was placed in Key Heights and there are plans to get a dog park placed in Key Vista as well. By putting in so many new homes, there was a need to cut down a number of trees. There is a

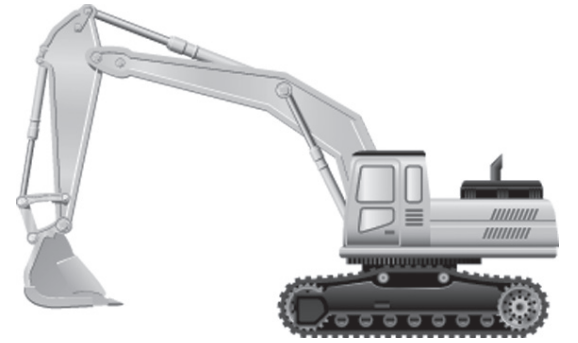
plan in place to plant new trees and to “hydro-seed” the whole community.

Not only are they putting work into Key Vista, but they are working to improve the city of Lowell, as well. Key Vista donated \$5,000 to the new playground at Stoney Lakeside Park and they have contributed to Christmas Through Lowell.

A major theme in these renovations and upgrades has been community. Key Vista management says that they are focused on preserving the community feel of Lowell and the residents of Key Vista.

“This whole year, since April, has been constant construction,” Desero said.

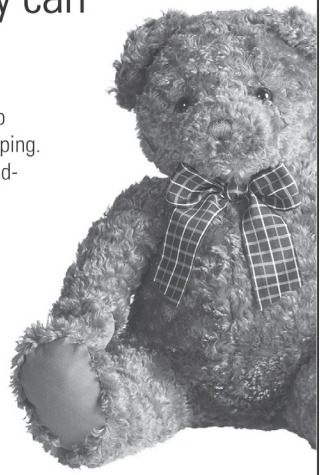
With future goals and plans, the Key Vista community only shows signs of growing.



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7AM AND FRIDAY
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Christmas Benefit Concert

with John Darin Rowsey

December 1 at 7 pm
Doors open at 6 pm

Admission: \$5

First Baptist Church
of Lowell
2275 W. Main St., Lowell

Guest artist - Jim Visser

Money raised from admission and a love offering will go to the ministry of Alpha Family Center of Lowell



John Darin Rowsey is a Dove Award winning song writer and lead singer for the Gospel quartet The Guardians, who have had two #1 hits on Singing News charts this year.

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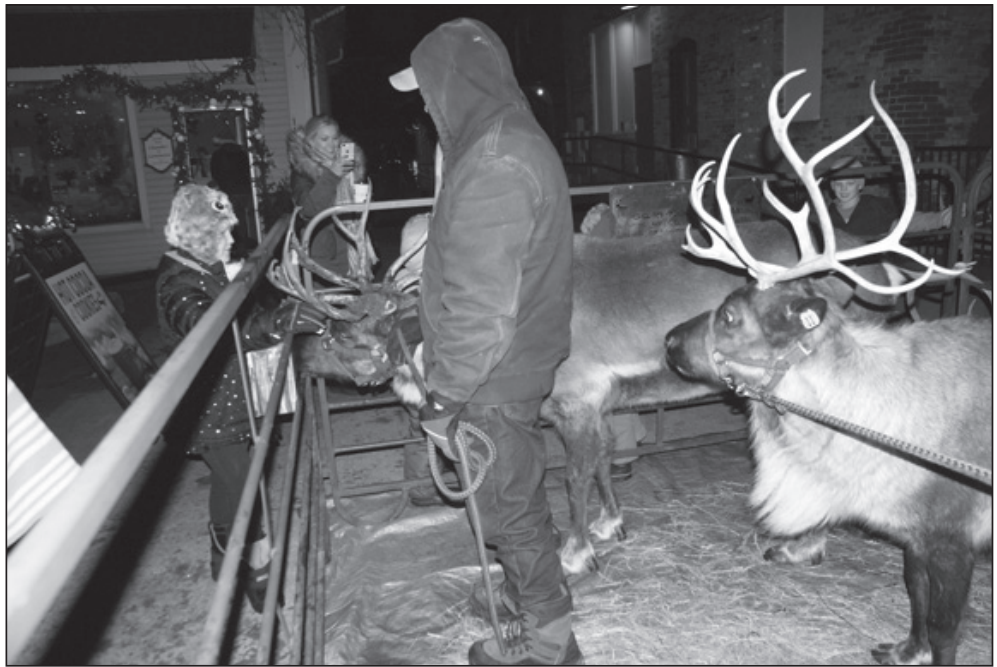
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Holidays, continued



Tuckertown Forge and the “all new Miracle Mirror.”
 “It’s kind of a traditional thing, chestnuts roasting on an open fire,” museum

“The overall Christmas festivities, annual nighttime parade and Santa visits are sponsored



director Lisa Plank said at last year’s event. “We thought it was a good fit for the museum to bring them down here to contribute to the Riverwalk festivities, so we come down every

by the city of Lowell Downtown Development Authority and presented by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce,” Baker said.



NEWSPAPERS Outperform Magazines in Michigan



More adults in Michigan read a newspaper than local magazines.¹



Newspapers are the most trusted media source.²

Adults, across all generations, identify newspapers as their most trusted source of news and information – ahead of magazines.

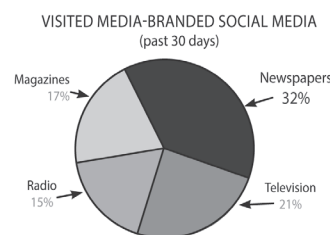
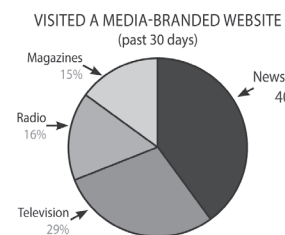
79% Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days³

Newspaper ads result in more purchases than magazine ads.

22%

of adults often purchase products and services as the result of a magazine ad.⁴

Digital media users rely on newspaper-branded websites and social media, over magazine-branded properties, for local market news.⁴



Sources: (1) Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved, (2) Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; (3) NAA; (4) AMGP/Parade Local Knowledge Survey

year and roast chestnuts.”

Santa will meet with area children in his cabin on the Riverwalk on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 from 5:30 pm until 7 pm, Friday, Dec. 7 from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm, Saturday, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 2:30 pm until 4 pm and Saturday, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 10:30 am until 1:00 pm. They’re offering “free online photos with Santa” (that means the photos will not be printed) by Kim Feenstra Photography and Bruce Doll with a suggested \$2 donation. Be sure to dress warm, the line is outdoors and it can get quite long.

For more information about the Chamber’s holiday events, check out the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce website, discoverlowell.org.

Saturday, Dec. 1 schedule of events

9:00 am - 4:00 pm: Rogue River Artisans 37th Annual Fine Art and Craft Holiday Show with over 100 juried artisans, Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes.

9:30 am - 5:00 pm: Friends of the Englehardt Library “giftable book sale” in the library community room, special books and small gifts sale.

2:30 - 4:00 pm: Santa visits with hot cocoa and cookies at Santa’s cabin on the Riverwalk Plaza, adopted by Birchwood Gardens, online photos by Bruce Doll, suggested \$2 donation.

2:30 - 4:00 pm: Entertainment by Luc James Studio on the Riverwalk Plaza.

2:30 - 4:30 pm: Rudolph’s Craft Workshop in the Chamber building for children 2 to 6 years old, sponsored by Curiosity Corner Preschool and TOTS program.

4:00 - 6:00 pm: Pancake supper, King Memorial Youth Center at Lowell Fairgrounds, 225 S. Broadway, suggested donation \$5 per adult/\$3 per child, benefits premium fund at Fair.

4:45 - 5:45 pm: Eat with Santa, King Memorial Youth Center at Fairgrounds.

5:45 pm: Sweet Tooth Jubilee along Main St., candy will be handed out prior to the parade start along Main St.

6:00 pm: Annual Nighttime Santa Parade “Songs of Christmas,” parade steps off from the Fairgrounds and heads east on Main St., ending at the Lowell United Methodist Church.

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 2, 1893

In the latter part of the nineteenth century with its thousands of miracles occurring about us daily, we become accustomed to many luxuries of which our ancestors never even dreamed, and things not known of a few years ago become so common that they are not appreciated always as they should be. The people of Lowell for instance have come to regard our electric system as an every night affair, and when on Sunday and Monday nights the lights didn't come on as usual, it took them some time to and "where were they at" and there was a lively digging up of kerosene lamps, "the light of other days." Inquiry developed the fact that the Water and Light Company have been putting in new machinery and making improvements for the betterment of the service. They put twenty men to work Sunday morning and the gang worked night and day to get the work done so that light could be turned on Monday evening. The undertaking was too big, however, and it was a little late Tuesday when our darkness was turned into day. It is expected that the gang will be kept busy all this week in making the proposed changes.

John Yeiter, one of the pioneers of South Lowell, passed over to the majority on Saturday, Nov. 25, aged 68 years. He had lived in the community where he died for over 40 years. Funeral services were held at the Morse Lake church on Tuesday.

100 years The Lowell Ledger November 28, 1918

On Wednesday morning, November 20, 1918, death claimed him. Dr. McDannell is dead! The tidings spread over this community like a funeral pall. Tears filled the eyes of hundreds. Strong men wept. His devotion to his profession, his skill, sympathy and manhood had bound his friends with bands stronger than steel. Although past the allotted time of three score years and ten, he was active in his duties. He never seemed to think of or dwell on the past. Only calling to mind some of its busy scenes. He planned for the future; often remarking, "I have no time for antiques. It keeps me busy keeping up to date." He was up to date in the affairs of the day and in his profession. During the past few weeks he spared not himself; giving his strength and skill to all who asked his advice and help. His last professional labor was on Sunday morning preceding his death. He went home weary and exhausted. On Wednesday morning the rising sun lighted the path of his spirit to the Great Beyond.

In view of the enforced closing of the churches for Thanksgiving services, on account of the influenza epidemic, Rev. W.M.P. Jerrett has kindly written he

following sermon for the benefit of the readers of this paper. We would suggest it as appropriate reading for the family circle following the Thanksgiving feast.

75 years The Lowell Ledger December 2, 1943

For the past few weeks workmen have been busy building an outside entrance and ramp into the shop at the Lowell school. A door is being installed on the west side to allow the entrance of farm machinery and other materials to be worked on. A concrete floor has replaced the wood floor on one end. This makes it possible to install equipment for teaching welding and forge work.

The village of Lowell will pay a reward of \$5 for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who have been breaking and destroying electric light bulbs and globes at various street intersections.

There has been a gradual increase in meningitis over the last year. In normal years, the expectancy of meningitis during the hot months is zero. In recent months, however, meningitis has remained at epidemic level during a period when no cases could be expected on the basis of seven-year averages.

50 years The Lowell Ledger November 28, 1968

Weeks of hard work paid off for LHS students when their production of "The Wizard of Oz" played to full houses of entranced children of all ages on Friday and Saturday.

An off-duty Lowell policeman today was credited with playing a key role in apprehending a suspect who allegedly stole postal money orders with a face value of \$165,000 from an Upper Peninsula post office in early October.

There should be a place where there are no muffled streets, no silent buildings, no quiet tears, no bended heads, no broken hearts. And there should be a time when men don't hurt in grief, women don't weep, throats don't catch, voices don't break and eyes don't blue. But that place is not here and that time is not now. For here and now, grief walks our city because "Runci" does not.

25 years The Lowell Ledger December 1, 1993

Sandy Esch, with her head bleeding profusely, thrashed around on her stomach in pieces of broken glass on M-21 following a six car accident on Nov. 1. Esch, a teacher in the LPN program at Grand Rapids Community College, was eastbound on M-21 and on her way home when she was unable to stop for the vehicle in front of her which was turning left.

To fulfill the needs of the new high school, the Kent County Road Commission has condemned nearly six acres of land owned by Vergennes Township Supervisor Jim Cook. The land, located along Alden Nash, is needed because the commission wants to widen Alden Nash to the east to accommodate a driveway for the new high school.

Hoping to protect her property, Carol Wieland approached the Lowell Township Board last week asking if it could help in her plight against the Kent County Aeronautics Board. Weiland and several residents, along the 60th Street and Segwun Ave. intersection, have been contacted by the Aeronautics Board about turning 320 acres of farm land into wetlands.

to the editor

Dear Editor,

The philosophical quotes sprinkled thru your paper can be entertaining and thought provoking as well as very telling of this publication's bias. I only wish some thought had gone into the quote on the Sports page of the Nov. 7th edition. What Michael Jordan said is inspiring if Championships are still being sought or had been gained. Unfortunately, in light of the articles here, it comes off as a dis on our best volleyball team ever and on the exceptional young students that made it to the state finals in cross country.

These young people made our community proud with their efforts and accomplishments. Their seasons were historic. It is truly unfortunate that this paper chose to focus so boldly on what they didn't do instead of their success.

I say congratulations to all of them and commend all of the hard work that went into their seasons. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Go Arrows!
Kim Meyer

outdoors

another opener

Dave Stegehuis

Michigan deer hunting seasons run from late September to the first of next year. There are a number of hunts with different dates and rules. Back in the day, it was simple — Deer hunting began November 15th and ended November 30th during which time the hunter was allowed to take one antlered buck. Times have changed.

This year especially, it is wise to study the

game law digests before venturing out. Because of efforts to address chronic wasting disease which was found in the wild deer herd, regulations have become very complicated. Hunters will play a major role in attempting to control this disease.

Although the season is long and varied, opening day of regular firearm season remains the main event of the fall hunting

Outdoors, continued, page 12

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

HEALTH

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



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

- epilepsy

Epilepsy is a disorder of the brain that causes recurrent seizures. A seizure is an abnormal burst of electrical discharges that disrupts the normal electrical function of the brain.

Signs and symptoms of epilepsy depend on the areas of the brain activated by the abnormal electrical activity. If the entire brain or a large part of the brain is involved from the beginning of the seizure (generalized epilepsy), many people experience a loss of awareness without any warning. This is typically associated with stiffening and shaking of the whole body.

If the seizure starts in a small area of the brain

(focal epilepsy) a person may experience a warning, known as aura. An aura may be a sense of tingling, unusual smells, sounds, or visual distortions.

There are many causes of seizures, although in about half of cases, no clear underlying cause is found.

The diagnosis of epilepsy is based on history and physical exam, and is confirmed with a brain wave test called EEG. Sometimes brain imaging with CT scan or MRI is also performed.

Treatment of epilepsy is medication and depends on the type of seizures the patient has experienced. Medication usually is effective in eliminating further seizures.

One-on-One Technology Tutoring

Dec. 1 – Feb. 28. KDL offers 45-minute personal technology help sessions by appointment at select branches. During these sessions, our friendly staff members will help with eBooks, email, Facebook or other technology related topics. You are welcome to bring your own laptop or other device, or use ours.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Dec 1, 9:30 am to 5 pm. This holiday season give the gift that can be opened again and again – books! All proceeds go to support Englehardt branch programming.

Night Owls Book Club

Wed., Dec. 5, Jan. 9 and Feb. 6 at 6:30 pm.

Minecraft Club

Mondays at 4 pm. in December and 4:30 pm in January and February. Get your Minecraft fix and show off your world-building skills. The library has a limited number of computers and licenses for Minecraft. First come, first served. No registration required. If you are able, bring a laptop with Wi-Fi capabilities and Minecraft installed and join us. December's Club will begin with The Hour of Code™ - here kids have fun and learn programming skills using tutorials based on Minecraft. For children ages 6-12.

Sensory Toddler Time

Tuesdays, Dec 4 – Feb 19, at 6:30 pm. Nurture your toddler's love of books through music, movement and stories while helping develop their language, motor and social skills. For children ages 3 and under with a caregiver.

Family Storytime

Thursdays, Dec 6 – Feb 21, at 10 am. Read and sing together. Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading. For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Siblings are welcome to attend as well.

Dot Mandala Lids

Wed., Dec. 12 at 6 pm. Create and take home a dot mandala painted jar lid and jar. Learn how to paint in color tints and patterns. You will learn how to apply dots using special tools and to layer dots for a 3D effect. For adults. Seating is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins.

Bookworms Adult Book Discussion

Tuesdays, Dec 11, Jan 8 and Feb 12, at 10 am. Join us for rousing reads and riveting discussion of a fall season of books that include: **December** – "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf. **January** – "Salt to the Sea" by Ruta Sepetys. **February** – "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury.

Gingerbread Lane – Storytime Special

Thurs., Dec 13 at 10 am. Jump into the holiday spirit with some family-friendly festivities! Listen to seasonal music while each child builds their own simple gingerbread house. Pre-registration opens November 19 and is required. Seating is limited, reserve your place early. When the waitlist is full, the online registration buttons disappear because registration is closed. For children ages 6 and under with a caregiver.

West Michigan Origami

Meets at the library on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9:30-11:30 am.

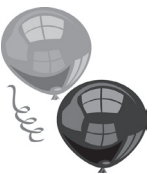
KDL Lab Experience: Art-O-Rama

Wed., Dec. 26 at 1 pm. Everyone knows that there ain't no party like an Art Party, 'cause an Art Party don't stop! Come explore and let your creative side run wild! Try a variety of art styles and create your next masterpiece to take home and display proudly. For all ages.

KDL Lab Experience: Build It!

Thurs., Dec. 27 at 10 am. Drop in with your friends and make all kinds of creations using the library's building sets. For all ages.

happy birthday



NOVEMBER 28

Shelly Hildenbrand, Lee Miller.

DECEMBER 2

Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Karly Batt, Olivia Starkweather.

NOVEMBER 29

Gail Thomet, Kelly Sauber, Scott Swanson, Tara Propst, Ethan Pearson.

DECEMBER 3

Chris Chambers, Christine Gillies, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline, Jennifer Kovacs.

NOVEMBER 30

Jason Craig, Todd Ryder, Joe Kiczanski, April McClure.

DECEMBER 4

Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.

DECEMBER 1

Travis Briggs, Nate Schoen, Deb Anchors, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous.

Yep we cover Life



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area churches



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Last week we asked a few random people around Lowell: Do you put ketchup on steak?

The Heinz ketchup company has offered Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes free ketchup for life if he throws 57 touchdown passes this season.

A recent ESPN.com story about Mahomes said, “[Fame] means [Mahomes] eats less ketchup. He spent most of his life putting ketchup on everything. He would get bottles of it for his birthday. But now that everyone is watching every move he makes, he is sheepish about ordering ketchup. At a restaurant recently, his mom, Randi, recognized an unfilled desire as he dove into a steak. ‘Just ask for it,’ Randi said. ‘I know you want it.’ Patrick wouldn’t. So she asked for the ketchup and slipped it to him.”

[http://www.espn.com/espn/feature/story/_/id/25224771/kansas-city-chiefs-quarterback-patrick-mahomes-unassuming-unstoppable]

The description of Mahomes’ act of putting ketchup on steak generated a tremendous online debate among football fans and foodies. Some took the position that only a little baby would ruin a steak with ketchup, while others agreed with Mahomes that ketchup is good on everything. Many Chiefs fans said they didn’t care if Mahomes eats his helmet as long as he maintains his current exceptional level of performance. With four more weeks to go in the season, he is currently at 37 touchdown passes. The record is 51, set by Payton Manning in 2013.

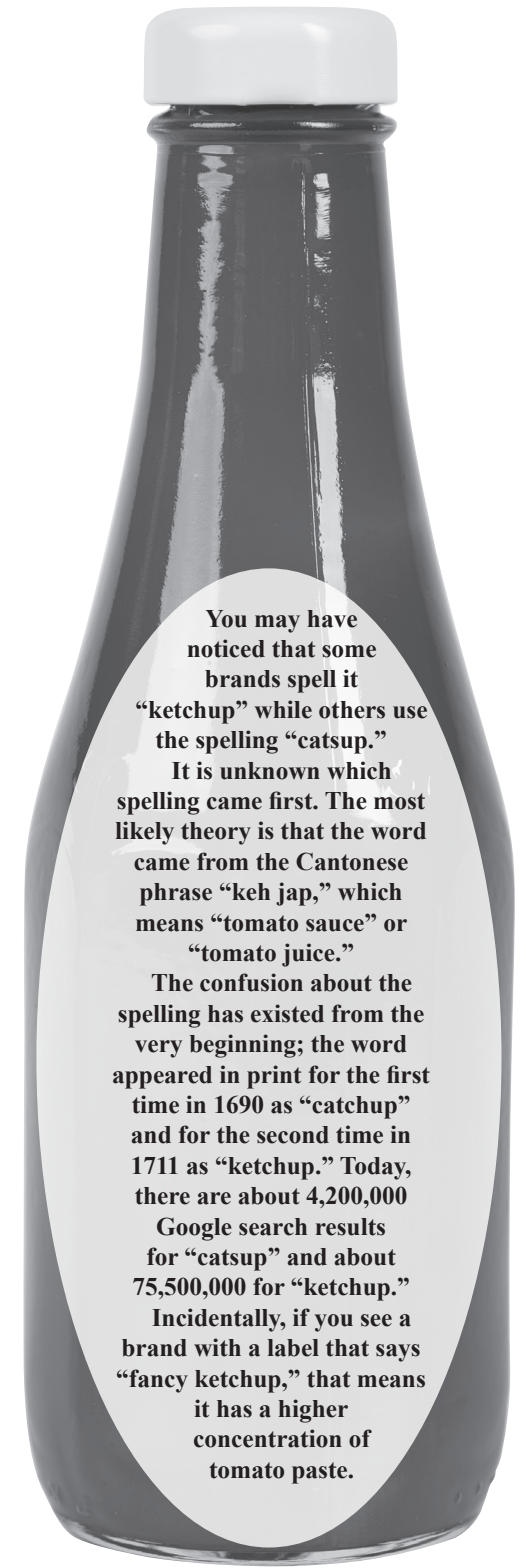
Mahomes clarified his ketchup stance at a press conference a few days after the initial brouhaha.

“I don’t think it’s that weird, but I put it on my macaroni and cheese,” Mahomes said. “People seem to think that’s a weird thing, some people think that’s disgusting, but it’s good to me.”

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"



You may have noticed that some brands spell it “ketchup” while others use the spelling “catsup.” It is unknown which spelling came first. The most likely theory is that the word came from the Cantonese phrase “keh jap,” which means “tomato sauce” or “tomato juice.” The confusion about the spelling has existed from the very beginning; the word appeared in print for the first time in 1690 as “catchup” and for the second time in 1711 as “ketchup.” Today, there are about 4,200,000 Google search results for “catsup” and about 75,500,000 for “ketchup.” Incidentally, if you see a brand with a label that says “fancy ketchup,” that means it has a higher concentration of tomato paste.



Ben, Lowell
 “I never have before, I’ve never tried it. I would prefer to try barbecue sauce, though.”



Chris, Ionia
 “No, I’ve never tried it. I don’t know why. I usually put A.I. Sauce on steak.”



Elonzo, Lowell
 “No, but I’ve tried it. I thought it was disgusting.”



Rick, Lowell
 “No, it ruins the flavor of the steak. Ketchup is okay on a hamburger, but steak is steak, hamburger is hamburger.”

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Luminary hikes at WWC doubled this year



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Because of high attendance at previous events, the Wittenbach Wege Center's annual luminary hike will run for two evenings this year. The hikes will take place on Friday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 8 from 5

pm until 9 pm. "The hike will run on two evenings this year to accommodate the growing popularity of our luminary hike," said WWC director Courtney Cheers. "Last year, we welcomed more than 1,100 people in

about five hours, hence we added another night." The trails through the woods will be lit only by candles, bonfires and the moon, creating a uniquely serene experience that grows more and more popular each year.

"Friday night, the trail will be lit from 6 pm until 9 pm with warming fires at the cabin and center, but there will not be any extra activities," Cheers said. "Saturday night, the trail will be lit from 5 pm until 9 pm and we will have craft activities at the cabin as well as the center. Hot chocolate will be available for \$1 both evenings."

The crafts during the event will appeal to all ages.

"WWC staff and volunteers will be assisting the craft activities," Cheers said. "At the cabin, we will be stringing popcorn and cranberries or making pine cone seed feeders to decorate our wildlife tree. At the center we will have paper craft tables and nature ornament tables."

The wetland observation

deck at the WWC offers an excellent opportunity to get a look at the Geminid meteor shower. The meteor shower is visible every December, which can make it difficult to view in Michigan.

"I have yet to have clear skies during the luminary hike to view the Geminid meteor shower," Cheers said. "It is a good place

Geminids always come into view about this time in December."

This event is free and open to the public. However, a donation of \$2/person is suggested at the door. Hot chocolate will be available for \$1. T-shirts will be available for \$15/adult, \$11/kids. Additional parking will be available

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance:

1. An amendment to Section 8.03 to permit Adult Foster Care Large Group Homes in the R-2, Medium Density Residential Zoning District as a Special Land Use.
2. An amendment to Section 22.03(k) to delete the requirements for housing for the elderly and replace this language with specific regulations for Adult Foster Care Large Group Homes. The proposed regulations would require a minimum lot size of five acres, limit the number of units to ten per acre, require a connection to public water and sanitary sewer if such utilities are located within 1300 feet and allow on-site septic systems subject to approval by the applicable county and state agencies.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI. 49331

Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission



Commemorative t-shirts will be available at the hikes for \$15 or \$11.



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...
The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it.

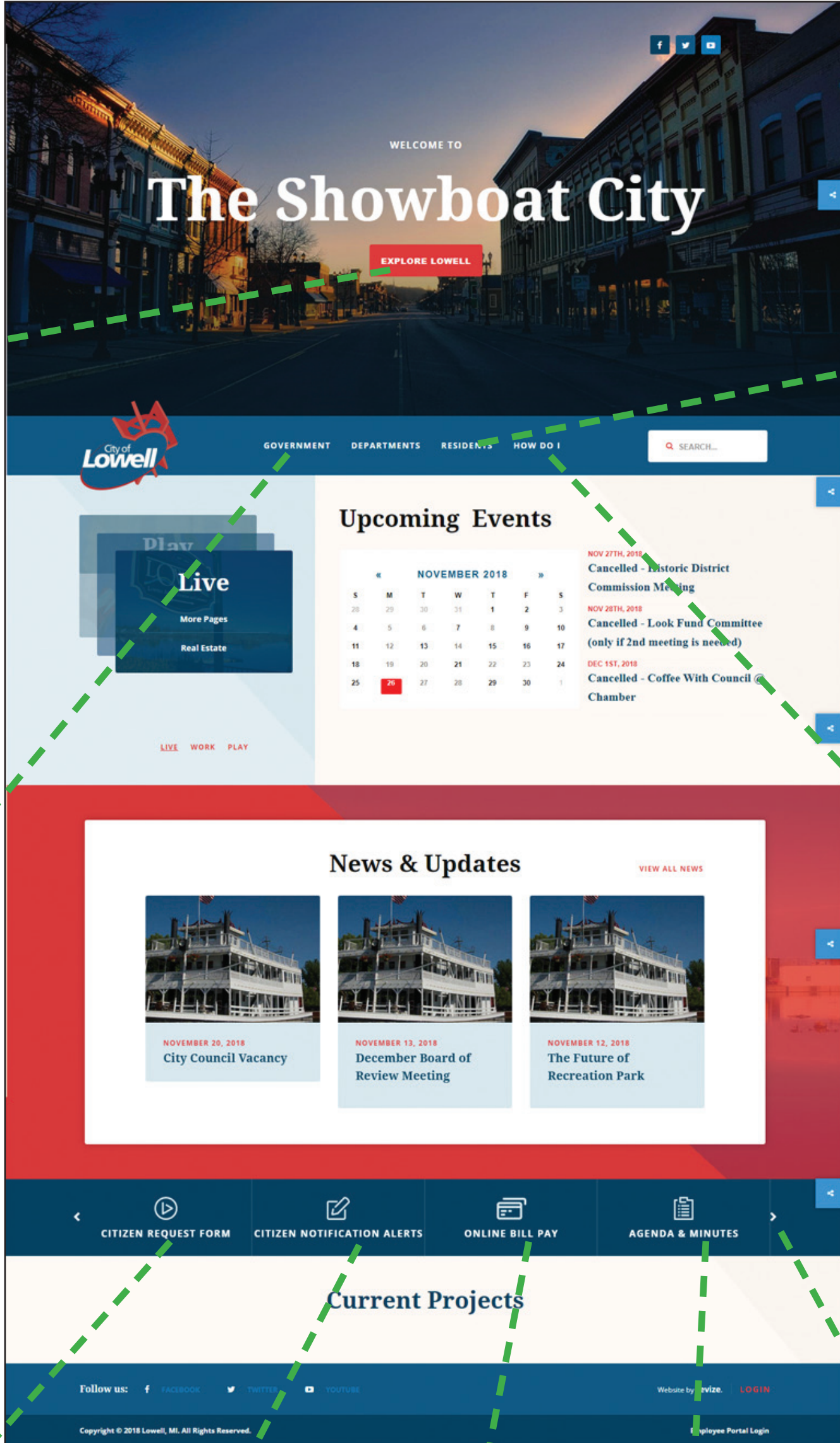
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New, easy to use city of Lowell website debuts



Brings up "Residents" page.

This brings up links to local organizations like Lowell Area Schools, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Kent District Library, etc.

Links to the city council, plus all of the various city boards and commissions like the city manager, cemetery, parks and recreation, public works and the police department.

City hall hours, staff directory and links to various forms and departments.

Report issues to city departments, including the police, city manager, assessors, inspectors, water and sewer and more. You can also use it to report potholes, malfunctioning streetlights or sewer backups.

Clicking here brings up a screen where you can sign up for notifications from the city via email or text.

Pay your taxes or utility bill online.

This brings up links to agendas, packets, minutes and videos of city council meetings dating back to 2004. Not all have agendas, packets and videos, but they all have minutes available.

Click here to find potential useful documents like an absentee ballot, firearm permit, dog license, building permit and more.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD

NOTICE OF DRAFT ORDINANCE

SECOND READING

The Lowell Charter Township Board will consider the second reading of a draft ordinance to prohibit the establishment of marijuana establishments and to provide regulations regarding the use of marijuana in Lowell Charter Township. The proposed ordinance language is as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

The terms marijuana, marijuana establishment, and cultivate as used in this Ordinance shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Michigan Marihuana Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act.

Section 2. Prohibition of Marijuana Establishments.

In accordance with Section 6.1 of the Marihuana Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, marijuana establishments are prohibited from operating in Lowell Charter Township.

Section 3. Prohibition of Marijuana Consumption in Public Places.

Marihuana shall not be consumed in a public place or any outdoor location if the location is clearly visible from a public place. The term public place means a place to which the public or a substantial number of the public have access, and includes, but is not limited to, streets and highways, transportation facilities, schools, places of amusement, parks, playgrounds, and the common areas of public and private buildings or facilities.

Section 4. Prohibition of Marijuana Use in a Motor Vehicle.

Marijuana shall not be consumed in or on a motor vehicle, aircraft, snowmobile, off road recreational vehicle or motorboat.

Section 5. Outdoor Cultivation of Marijuana

Marihuana plants shall not be cultivated outdoors if the plants are visible from a public place without the use of binoculars, aircraft, or other optical aids. Any outdoor areas devoted to the cultivation of marijuana plants shall comply with the following requirements:

- a) For parcels that zoned AG-1, AG-2, R-1, R-2, R-3, MH, or OS-PUD, the area shall only be located on a parcel that contains a dwelling unit. The area shall only be located in the rear yard and completely enclosed by a solid fence or wall six feet in height;
- b) For parcels that are zoned General Commercial or Light Industrial the area shall only be located on a parcel that contains a principal building. The area shall only be located in the rear yard and completely enclosed by a solid fence or wall that is at least six feet in height but no more than eight feet in height;
- c) The enclosed area shall be equipped with a locked entrance or the area shall be equipped with other functioning security devices that restrict access to the area;
- d) The fence or wall shall comply with all other applicable requirements for the zoning district in which the cultivated area is located;
- e) No more than 12 marijuana plants shall be cultivated on the premises at any one time.

Section 6. Severability.

Should any portion of this Ordinance /ordinance amendment be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, that shall not affect the balance of this Ordinance/ordinance amendment, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This Ordinance/ordinance amendment shall become effective seven days after its publication or seven days after the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation.

The meeting will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI. 49331

Comments will be accepted at the meeting or may be provided prior to the meeting by submitting them to the Township Offices at 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Monica Burt,
 Lowell Charter Township Clerk



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

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New resource guide helps Michigan seniors, family caregivers find local services

The Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA), under the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, announced the release of a new resource guide, A Guide to Services for Older Adults, that is aimed at helping older adults have better access to local services to help them live at home safely and independently.

As people age, they may begin to have difficulties with daily tasks like cooking, cleaning or shopping for groceries. When this happens, it is often family members or friends who step up to help. When this informal support is not enough, finding services to help people continue to live at home safely is necessary to avoid institutional care.

A Guide to Services for Older Adults was created to promote knowledge of and access to services for Michigan's older adults and family caregivers. The guide also has listings of other local, state and federal resources that are available and may be helpful depending on the person's needs.

"Most people want to remain at home and in their community as they age," said AASA Senior Deputy Director Richard Kline. "This resource guide was designed to help people do just that by quickly connecting them to services like Meals on Wheels, caregiver support and in-home care that can help them continue to live at home independently."

Michigan has 16 regional area agencies on aging and nearly 1,000 providers across the state that can offer more than 40 types of free or low-cost services to older adults and the people who are caring for them. Last year, providers served more than 120,000 Michigan residents.

Visit the AASA website to download a copy of the resource guide, A Guide to Services for Older Adults.

Michigan has resources for older drivers and their families

If you have an aging driver in the household, you are not alone. In Michigan, drivers age 65 and older represent the fastest growing segment of the state's population.

To highlight the issues surrounding aging drivers, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson urges residents to observe "Older Driver Safety Awareness Week," beginning Dec. 3. This nationally recognized event has been organized to promote the understanding of the mobility and transportation issues that affect older adults, such as how to assist drivers who can still drive safely and how to prevent transportation concerns from becoming a barrier that keep seniors isolated at home.

"Everyone knows how difficult it is to bring up the subject of driving with an older loved one," Johnson said. "But, as painful as it can be, it is important that the topic be addressed."

Beginning Dec. 3, residents are invited to explore a different topic each day related to aging and driving, with their family, friends and professionals in their community:

- Monday, Dec. 3: Identifying Changes That Can Affect Driving
- Tuesday, Dec. 4: Family Conversations
- Wednesday, Dec. 5: Screening and Evaluations with an Occupational Therapist
- Thursday, Dec. 6: Equipment That Can Empower Drivers
- Friday, Dec. 7: Taking Changes in Stride

Johnson recommends that older drivers, families and friends begin the discussion by visiting the state's Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility website at www.michigan.gov/agingdriver.

The Safe Drivers Smart Options website is a statewide response to the need for information on this important and challenging subject. It was developed through a collaboration of public and private agencies as a much-needed strategy to promote safety and mobility for Michigan's aging adults.

Recognized for excellence by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the website provides accessible information and resources for drivers, their families and the professionals who work with them. Among the website's many resources are:

- Older driver self-assessment driving tools and videos
- Links to driver refresher courses and other community supports for older drivers
- Information about how medications and health problems may affect driving and lists of resources available to drivers once they stop driving

- Strategies for initiating conversations about when and how to transition to a non-driving lifestyle
 - Procedures for referring an unsafe driver for a driver reexamination
 - Information about the aspects of aging and how best to interact with older residents for audiences such as law enforcement, healthcare and other professionals
- "Michigan has great information and resources available for older drivers and their families through the Safe Drivers Smart Options website," Johnson said. "Just knowing there is help available can make the daunting task of tackling this issue that much easier."

For more information and resources about aging drivers, visit the Safe Drivers Smart Options website.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

US Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Senate Office Building
731 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov

US Sen. Gary C. Peters
Senate Office Building
724 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6221
peters.senate.gov

US Rep. Justin Amash
House Office Building
114 Cannon
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3831
amash.house.gov

Mich. Sen. Dave Hildenbrand
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
517-373-1801

SenDHildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals on **December 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Vergennes Township Hall** located at 10381 Bailey Dr. at the corner of Parnell (Lowell) to hear the following business:

A variance application has been received from Hanson Homes, Inc. (agent) for owner Kristy Rempalski for a side setback variance to construct a detached garage to be located at 2375 Biggs Ave NE, Lowell. The variance is from the R-A district, section 201.304 F.

The complete variance application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursdays or on the website at www.vergennestwp.org. Public comment will be heard at the meeting for the variance request. Written comments received by mail, email, in person or in the drop box on the side of the driveway parking area will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may be emailed to: zoning@vergennestwp.org

To view the application on the website, click on "Planning and Zoning", then "Zoning Board of Appeals", then "Pending Applications".

Red Arrow Fall SPORTS SCHEDULES

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING
* Denotes a home game
12/8 at 9 am Allegan Southwest Classic
12/15 at 8 am Kent County Classic

BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE
12/11 at 6 pm EK Christmas Quad
12/11 at 6 pm Grand Rapids Union

L GIRLS GYMNASTICS
* Denotes a home game at LHS
1/5 at 10 am Rockford Flip Flop Invite

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL
* Denotes a game at LHS main gym
12/7 at 7 pm at Coopersville
12/11 at 7 pm West Catholic*

L BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL
* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym
11/30 at 7 pm at Wayland Union
12/7 at 7 pm Coopersville*

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
12/8 time TBA CCCAM Meet at West Catholic

BOYS VARSITY ICE HOCKEY
* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena
11/30 at 7 pm Holt*
12/1 at 3:30 Manistee*
12/7 at 8 pm Fath Gabriel Richard HS*
12/8 Portage Northern and Wings Stadium

L BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING
* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia
12/1 at 8 pm Wyoming Invitational at Eastbrook Lanes
12/5 at 3:30 pm Cedar Springs*
12/6 at 3:30 pm Belding*

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
November 12, 2018

Motions Approved:

1. Testing of 5 Residential Wells surrounding Cowan Lake for PFAS.
2. Jansma Re-zoning Resolution.
3. Zoning Administrator Training for Supervisor.
4. Ordinance 2018-004 an Ordinance to REGULATE AND PROHIBIT CERTAIN MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AND FACILITIES AND TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Our next Township Meeting will be a **regular meeting December 10 at 9 a.m.**

The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

obituaries

DAWSON

Patricia Ann Dawson, age 66 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly at home in Lake Odessa on Tuesday, November 20, 2018. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Neva McWhinney; sister Carol Glasgow; and brother Gary McWhinney. Patricia is survived by her children, Tricia Wittenbach, Laura Osmolinski, Soheila (Steve) Merritt, Ronnie Dawson Jr.; grandchildren Jaegar and Eastin Stank, Alex Osmolinski, Malcolm Venema, and Alden Merritt. She was a long time employee of Rapistan Dematic. Funeral will be held at 12:00 p.m. Friday, November 30, with a visitation one hour prior to the service at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery, Bowne Township. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Santa Claus Girls online at www.santaclausgirls.org.



WASHBURN

Leonard Jay Washburn, age 75 of Ada, passed away at home with his family at his side on Sunday, November 25, 2018. He was preceded in death by his parents RC and Virginia Washburn; and brother, Raymond Washburn. He is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Jan; his children Jeff (Keri) Washburn, Bruce (Denise) Washburn, Dee (Mike) McKendrick; brothers Kenneth (Sally) Washburn, Wayne (Janice) Washburn; sisters Carol Kuiper, Kathy Holmes, Sherry DeVries; grandchildren Trevor Washburn, Shelby Washburn, Megan Eilar, Devin (Kyle) Schmidt, Sam Washburn, Caben (Kayleigh Heynen) McKendrick, Elena (Matt) McCaleb, Breana (Carl Mitchell) McKendrick; and great-grandson, Willet Schmidt. Leonard worked as a meat cutter for many years at Ada Beef and Valley Meat Co., and was a volunteer with the Ada Township Fire Department. He enjoyed playing fastpitch softball. He was an avid outdoorsman, and loved hunting and fishing. Funeral will be Wednesday, November 28, 1:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel 305 N. Hudson, Lowell; with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor Jon Bell officiating. Interment Ada Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice, 100 Michigan St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



Understanding spouse's benefits

Marriage is a cultural institution that exists all over the world. Having a partner means sharing many things including a home and other property. Understanding how your future retirement might affect your spouse is important. When you're planning for your fun and vibrant golden years, here are a few things to remember.

If a spouse accepts reduced retirement benefits before starting spouse's benefits (his or her spouse is younger), the spouse will not receive 50 percent of the worker's benefit amount.

Your full spouse's benefit could be up to 50 percent of your spouse's full retirement age amount if you are full retirement age when you take it. If you qualify for your own retirement benefit and a spouse's benefit, we always pay your own benefit first. (For example, you are eligible for \$400 from your own retirement and \$150 as a spouse for a total of \$550.) The reduction rates for retirement and spouse's benefits are different. If your spouse is younger, you cannot receive benefits unless he or she is receiving benefits (except for divorced spouses). If you took your reduced retirement first while waiting for your spouse to reach retirement age, when you add spouse's benefits later, your own

retirement portion remains reduced which causes the total retirement and spouses benefit together to total less than 50 percent of the worker's amount.

On the other hand, if

benefit limit may apply to the surviving spouse. The retirement insurance benefit limit is the maximum survivor benefit you may receive. Generally, the limit is the higher of:

finances affect your spouse's can help both of you avoid future impacts on your incomes. When it comes to information, we have over 80 years of experience. Access a wealth



your spouse's retirement benefit is higher than your retirement benefit, and he or she chooses to take reduced benefits and dies first, your survivor benefit will be reduced, but may be higher than what your spouse received.

If the deceased worker started receiving reduced retirement benefits before their full retirement age, a special rule called the retirement insurance

- The reduced monthly retirement benefit to which the deceased spouse would have been entitled if they had lived, or
- 82.5 percent of the unreduced deceased spouse's monthly benefit if they had started receiving benefits at their full retirement age (rather than choosing to receive a reduced retirement benefit early).

Knowing how your

of useful information as well as our benefits planners at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners.

Vonda VanTil is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vondavantil@ssa.gov.

Outdoors, continued

season. Thousands of hunters have entered the Michigan woods. Memories will be made and some hunters will harvest deer. Managing the herd to keep numbers in line with available habitat and with human concerns such as vehicle-deer crashes and crop damage rely on the success of those in the field. Michigan also relies

on hunters to fund wildlife management and other natural resource projects through license fees and federal taxes. Many business and their employees depend on hunter purchases for their livelihood.

Hunter numbers have been declining steadily for the last twenty years as hunters age and drop

out. Young people are not replacing the retirees at a rate high enough to maintain necessary programs. Women are participating at a much higher level than in the past, which has helped.

Hopefully, educating the public and possible cultural shifts will spark a resurgence of interest in hunting. The land is there,

the wildlife is there, the opportunity is there. The number and length of the seasons provides a variety of opportunities for individuals and families to add a new dimension to their lives and in doing so support wildlife and our great Michigan natural resources.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

1	4	5	9	7	2	8	3	6
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Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Every year the bird known as the Arctic tern experiences two summers and enjoys more daylight than any other animal. That's because it regularly makes a long-distance journey from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again. Let's designate this hardy traveler as your inspirational creature for the next eleven months. May it help animate you to experiment with brave jaunts that broaden and deepen your views of the world. I don't necessarily mean you should literally do the equivalent of circumnavigating the planet. Your expansive adventures might take place mostly in inner realms or closer to home.



Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

When the American Civil War began in 1861, the United States fractured. Four years later, the union was technically restored when the northern states defeated the southern states. At that time, African American slavery became illegal everywhere for the first time since the country's birth decades earlier. But



there was a catch. The southern states soon enacted laws that mandated racial segregation and ensured that African Americans continued to suffer systematic disadvantages. Is there a comparable issue in your personal life? Did you at sometime in the past try to fix an untenable situation only to have it sneak back in a less severe but still debilitating form? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to finish the reforms; to enforce a thorough and permanent correction.

Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

Does an elusive giant creature with a long neck inhabit the waters of Loch Ness in northern Scotland? Allegedly sightings have been reported since 1933. Most scientists dismiss the possibility that "Nessie" actually exists, but there are photos, films, and videos that provide tantalizing evidence. A government-funded Scottish organization has prepared contingency plans just in case the beast does make an unambiguous appearance. In that spirit, and in accordance with



astrological omens, I recommend that you prepare yourself for the arrival in your life of intriguing anomalies and fun mysteries. Like Nessie, they're nothing to worry about, but you'll be better able to deal gracefully with them if you're not totally taken by surprise.

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

Does moss really "eat" rocks, as Cancerian author Elizabeth Gilbert attests in her novel "The Signature of All Things?" Marine chemist Martin Johnson says yes. Moss really does break down and release elements in solid stone. Gilbert adds, "Given enough time, a colony of moss can turn a cliff into gravel, and turn that gravel into topsoil." Furthermore, this hardy plant can grow virtually everywhere: in the tropics and frozen wastes, on tree bark and roofing slate, on sloth fur and snail shells. I propose that we make moss your personal symbol of power for now, Cancerian. Be as indomitable, resourceful, and resilient as moss.



"HALLELUJAH!" to the enzymes in our bodies. These catalytic proteins do an amazing job of converting the food we eat into available energy. Without them, our cells would take forever to turn any particular meal into the power we need to walk, talk, and think. I bring this marvel to your attention, Leo, because now is a favorable time to look for and locate metaphorical equivalents of enzymes: influences and resources that will aid and expedite your ability to live the life you want to live.



Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

"Every dreamer knows that it is entirely possible to be homesick for a place you've never been to, perhaps more homesick than for familiar ground," writes author Judith Thurman. I'm guessing you will experience this feeling in the coming weeks. What does it mean if you do? It may be your deep psyche's way of nudging you to find an energizing new sanctuary. Or perhaps it means you should search for fresh ways to feel peaceful and well-grounded. Maybe it's a prod to push you outside your existing comfort zone so you can expand your comfort zone.



Libra

(September 23-October 22)

Venice, Italy consists of 118 small islands that rise from a shallow lagoon. A network of 443 bridges keeps them all



connected. But Venice isn't the world champion of bridges. The American city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania holds that title, with 446. I nominate these two places to be your inspirational symbols in the coming weeks. It's time for you build new metaphorical bridges and take good care of your existing metaphorical bridges.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

To aid and support your navigation through this pragmatic phase of your astrological cycle, I have gathered counsel from three productive pragmatists. First is author Helen Keller. She said she wanted to accomplish great and noble things, but her "chief duty" was "to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." Second, author George Orwell believed that "to see what is in front of one's nose" requires never-ending diligence. Finally, author Pearl S. Buck testified that she didn't wait around until she was in the right mood before beginning her work. Instead, she invoked her willpower to summon the necessary motivation.



Sagittarius

(November 22 - December 21)

Blackjack is a card game popular in gambling casinos. In the eternal struggle to improve the odds of winning big money, some blackjack players work in teams. One teammate secretly counts the cards as they're dealt and assesses what cards are likely to come up next. Another teammate gets subtle signals from his card-counting buddy and makes the bets. A casino in Windsor, Ontario pressed charges against one blackjack team, complaining that this tactic was deceptive and dishonest. But the court decided in the team's favor, ruling that the players weren't cheating but simply using smart strategy. In the spirit of these blackjack teams, Sagittarius, and in accordance with astrological omens, I urge you to better your odds in a "game" of your choice by using strategy that is almost as good as cheating but isn't actually cheating.



Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)

What has become of the metaphorical seeds you planted during the weeks after your last birthday? Have your intentions flourished? Have your dreams blossomed? Have your talents matured? Have your naive questions evolved into more penetrating questions? Be honest and kind as you answer these inquiries. Be thoughtful and big-hearted as you take inventory of your ability to follow through on your promises to yourself. If people are quizzical about how much attention you're giving yourself as you take stock, inform them that your astrologer has told you that December is Love Yourself Better Month.



Aquarius

(January 20- February 18)

Expect to be in a provocative mood, Aquarius. For the past few days you may have been searching for an outlet for the overflowing energy you're so lucky to have. You will have an opportunity, as innovative projects are likely to come your way. If you face your demons, you will find a unique opportunity to rid yourself of the fears you've been carrying around for so long.



Pisces

(February 19-March 20)

In his song "Happy Talk," Academy Award-winning lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II offered this advice: "You gotta have a dream. If you don't have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?" Where do you stand in this regard, Pisces? Do you in fact have a vivid, clearly defined dream? And have you developed a strategy for making that dream come true? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to home in on what you really want and hone your scheme for manifesting it. (P.S. Keep in mind Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's idea: "A goal without a plan is just a wish.")



NEWS OF THE

weird

Crime Without Punishment

The historic Chattaway restaurant in St. Petersburg, Florida, is a welcoming place, but it was the scene of a lot of unexpected late-night activity in early November, according to the Tampa Bay Times. Surveillance video of a Nov. 6 break-in captured an intruder who "spent over an hour just milling around going room to room and eating and drinking," said manager Amanda Kitto. In the process, he stole chicken wings and beer, along with computer equipment and cash tips. In the midst of their investigation, police were surprised to find yet another nocturnal visitor on tape from the night before: A man riding a bicycle cruised up to the restaurant and slipped in a back gate. After emptying a storage shed of all its contents, he went into the restaurant bathroom and emerged completely naked. Next he can be seen at a restaurant picnic table, digging into the meal he brought with him: Maruchan Instant Lunch ramen noodles. But Kitto said he was so tidy staff wouldn't have even known he was there had police not been investigating the later incident. "We still don't know where his pants are," said server Chad Pearson. Officers identified the man, who is homeless, but the restaurant declined to press charges because he caused no real harm. Police are still looking for the other man.

Girl Fight!

A lawsuit filed in federal court in Dallas on Nov. 9 seeks up to \$1 million in damages and accuses American Airlines flight attendant Laura Powers, 56, of assault and battery on her co-worker Kathy Ida Wolfe during an in-flight brawl in June 2016. In her suit, Wolfe claims Powers "maliciously dug her fingernails into my arm, and slammed the door of a beverage cart on my arm," and also "grabbed my scarf, choking me, and dragged me in the aisle and in front of the passengers."

The Dallas Morning News reported Wolfe also said she alerted the captain and other flight attendants about the behavior, but American took no action "to ensure my safety." In response to the suit, originally filed in Tarrant County, the airline and Powers both said they are "not liable because (Wolfe) caused or contributed to cause the harm for which recovery of damages is sought."

Compelling Explanation

Christopher Greystock, 57, of West Milford, New Jersey, used the old disappointed football fan excuse to explain how things went wrong after he was involved in a traffic accident in Wayne on Nov. 11 that injured two people: "I drank too much because the Jets suck." According to News12, as first responders were attending to the injured, Greystock staggered toward them smelling of alcohol. A field sobriety test confirmed Greystock was inebriated, and he was arrested. On the front seat of his car were a bottle of bourbon. Buddy, there's always next year.

My Generation

Hasbro has determined that the buying hotels and houses aspect of Monopoly doesn't much appeal to millennials, who "can't afford it anyway." So just in time for Christmas, the company has released a new version of its classic game, Monopoly for Millennials, in which players, whose game pieces include an emoji and a vintage camera, gather experiences rather than property. On the box, Rich Uncle Pennybags holds a takeout coffee and wears ear buds and a "participation" medal that reads, "If you had fun, you won!" USA Today reported the game's experiences include "Thrift Shop" and "Farmers Market," along with dining at a vegan bistro and attending a music festival. But make sure you Uber home: There is still a "Go to Jail" space on the board.

Bright Ideas

The Zolotoy Bridge in Vladivostok, Russia, is more than a mile long and opened in 2012, but three years later, inspectors banned pedestrians from crossing it because the walkways were too narrow to be safe. United Press International reports the ban didn't stop four pedestrians on Nov. 8, who attempted to cross the vehicle-only bridge wearing a yellow cardboard bus costume to disguise themselves. Police weren't buying it, though, and pulled them over.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: DISNEY

- ACROSS**
- 1. *Store princesses
 - 6. Pop-ups
 - 9. Violin's Renaissance predecessor
 - 13. Relating to axis
 - 14. *Like Cinderella Castle at night
 - 15. Lowest part of a ship
 - 16. Easily irritated
 - 17. North American country
 - 18. Ticked off
 - 19. *Mighty Ducks home base
 - 21. *Disney vacation
 - 23. Philosophical system
 - 24. Epidermis plus dermis
 - 25. School group
 - 28. Consideration
 - 30. Vandalize
 - 35. Performing _____
 - 37. Air of allure, slang
 - 39. Tiptoe around it?
 - 40. Pro _____
 - 41. Revealed
 - 43. Cleopatra's necklace
 - 44. Tibetan ass
 - 46. Dog nemesis
 - 47. Any number multiplied by _____ is zero
 - 48. Brett Favre's 297 consecutive starts, e.g.
 - 50. Shipbuilding wood
 - 52. Spot command
 - 53. *Hannah Montana to Miley Cyrus
 - 55. Farm sound
 - 57. *Mickey's predecessor
 - 60. *Princess of Agrabah
 - 64. Japanese-American
 - 65. African migrator
 - 67. Inverted circumflex above certain letters
 - 68. Hipbone-related
 - 69. Slippery sort
 - 70. Related on mother's side
 - 71. More to some?

CROSSWORD

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68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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*Source: Savings are the monthly premium difference between the plan with the highest premium and the plan with the lowest Plan F premium for women age 65 in certain ZIP codes on the eHealth platform, according to an October 2017 eHealth analysis. eHealth Medicare is operated by eHealthInsurance Services, Inc., a licensed health insurance agency that sells Medicare products. In NY and OK, we do business as eHealthInsurance Agency. This is a solicitation of insurance. Not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or federal Medicare program. Savings are not guaranteed.

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- 72. *Walt's brother
 - 73. Civil unrest, pl.
- DOWN**
- 1. Facts and figures
 - 2. A yoked pair
 - 3. Actress Kudrow
 - 4. Policeman's club in India
 - 5. Trickiest

- 6. Reunion attendee
- 7. *NYSE acronym
- 8. Library storage
- 9. One of English Henries
- 10. Misfortunes
- 11. Curved molding
- 12. Was ahead
- 15. Black or brown haired guy
- 20. Idealized image
- 22. Free
- 24. _____ of limitations
- 25. *Disneyland and Disney World, e.g.
- 26. Characteristic
- 27. Perfume obtained from flowers
- 29. *Mickey Mouse organization
- 31. Fiddle with
- 32. Medicinal plants
- 33. Wispy clouds

- 34. *a.k.a. Permanent World's Fair
- 36. Of sound mind
- 38. *Mom, to Gaston or LumiÈre
- 42. *"The Fox and the Hound," e.g.
- 45. Stinking rose?
- 49. Ornamental carp
- 51. Like "Hebrew National" hot dog
- 54. Fashion designer HervÉ
- 56. Yemeni's neighbor
- 57. _____ E. Coyote
- 58. Terrorist org.
- 59. Grassy land tracts
- 60. 31 days
- 61. International Civil Aviation Org.
- 62. Profit
- 63. Augments
- 64. Zip or zilch
- 66. New prefix

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.

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Do you think it's a mistake for GM to cut the Chevy Cruze, Volt and Impala?



- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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Ohio State Buckeyes 0%

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Red Cross: Urgent need for blood and platelet donations now

Come to give by Dec. 19, receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card in thanks

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood and platelet donors to give now to ensure blood is available for medical treatments and emergencies during the holiday season.

Blood and platelet donations often decline during the holidays. Regular donors are busy with holiday activities, and travel and severe winter weather may cause blood drive cancellations. Yet donations remain critical for patients like 4-year-old Wyatt Monacelli who is in the midst of intense chemotherapy treatments for leukemia. He has received a number of transfusions since his diagnosis in June and will likely need more.

"We are fortunate to have had so many donors give the gift of life to our child so far throughout the course of his treatment, and even more so, we are lucky to have had a supply of blood available for him when he needed it," said Julianna Monacelli, Wyatt's mother.

Donors are urged to give now to ensure that families like Wyatt's don't have to worry about the availability of blood this winter. In thanks for helping meet the urgent need around the holidays, all those who come to donate blood and platelets now through Dec. 19, 2018, will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email. (Restrictions apply; see amazon.com/gc-legal. More information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.)

Make an appointment to donate blood or platelets by downloading the free American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Another way to help keep



the blood supply strong is to host a Red Cross blood drive this winter. To learn more about hosting a blood drive and to sign up, visit RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. 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.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

There will be a blood drive in the King Memorial Youth Center at the Kent County Fairgrounds, 225 S. Hudson, from noon until 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 10.

The public is welcome, no appointment is necessary.

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