

Updates from latest city council meeting

Johnny Cash



Starts on page 7

Light & Power board



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LHS sports
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Gilda's Club of Lowell



page 2

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Jan. 7. The meeting lasted 46 minutes and was attended by nine citizens.

Accountant Peter Haefner of the Grand Rapids accounting firm Vredeveld Haefner presented the results of the most recent audit of city finances. He gave Lowell city finances “a clean opinion.”

According to the audit report, “We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the city of Lowell. [...] Assets exceeded liabilities by \$19,820,685 at the close of the most recent fiscal year [June 30, 2018].”

A full copy of the audit report is available to the public by contacting city hall.

The council authorized signatures for the various people permitted to interact with city bank accounts. Those people include mayor Michael DeVore, and mayor pro-tem Greg Canfield, city manager Michael Burns, city treasurer Suzanne Olin, deputy city treasurer Lori Gerard and police chief Steve Bukala.

The council passed a resolution that will pave the way for the city to finally install wayfinding signs downtown.

“The attached agreement is necessary for the installation of the wayfindings signs that will be installed in the next few weeks, as well as our installed and activated electronic speed signs on Main St.,” said city manager Michael Burns. “Due to both the wayfinding and electronic speed signs being installed on M-21, or E. and W. Main St., MDOT controls the right of way. In short, this agreement allows the city

to install and maintain the above signage.”

The council set the dates for two upcoming public hearings. The first is to solicit public input on creating an “industrial development district” in order to give King Milling a tax credit so they can comfortably continue their expansion. This public hearing will take place at the next regular council meeting on Jan. 22.

“Remember, this is a two step process,” Burns said. “The first step is to create the district. They have to come back for the abatement.

The second public hearing, also to take place at the Jan. 22 regular meeting, will be about the city’s potential involvement in MDOT’s Small Urban program. According to the MDOT website, the program “provides federal Surface Transportation Program funding to areas with a urbanized population of 5,000 to 49,999.”



Accountant Peter Haefner of Vredeveld Haefner delivered a PowerPoint presentation about city finances.

“The maximum award amount is \$375,000 in federal funds for road construction, which does not include any engineering costs,” Burns said. “As part of this, the city would need to provide a 20 percent match to that construction cost. Monroe from Fremont to

Avery is federal-aid eligible and able to participate in this program.”

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

Cincinnati to sell historic public showboat

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell isn’t the only city that currently has a decomposing showboat to deal with. Cincinnati, OH announced last week that they are considering selling the “Majestic,” their 95-year-old showboat.

The shows on the Majestic stopped in 2013 and nobody has taken or been given the responsibility of programming future content. Cincinnati’s parks department says it costs them about \$100,000 annually to maintain the structure.

“It has been a great asset for the city, but only when there was an entity prepared to run and maintain it as a theater,” Cincinnati parks director Wade Walcutt said in a Dec. 7 memo to the Cincinnati city council.

“Unfortunately, there is no one who has stepped forward to take on this task.”

When they are finally ready to sell it, they plan to list it for auction on the website govdeals.com.

Like the Lowell Showboat, the Cincinnati Majestic has been

the site of hundreds of live performances over the years. Unlike the Lowell Showboat, they concentrated on theater and drama instead of live music. The Majestic was built in 1923 and is 135 feet long. Until 1965 when they

put it in dry dock, it floated up and down the Ohio River bringing live shows from town to town. The city of Cincinnati purchased it for \$5,000 in 1967. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1989.



Cincinnati’s “Majestic” showboat as pictured on a promotional postcard from the 1960s.

Nov. LPD stats

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Police Department made 23 arrests during the month of November, down from 25 arrests in October. The arrests included two for drunk driving, three for driving with a suspended license, 15 for outstanding warrants and three that are described in the police department’s statistics as “other arrests.” That adds up to a grand total of 305 people arrested by Lowell Police during the first eleven months of the year. Incidentally, there were zero arrests for drug law violations in November.

LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during November. There were six larceny calls, one dog/animal complaint, seven disorderly conduct calls and six assaults. Lowell police issued 23 citations and notified two residents about ordinance violations. Out of 98 traffic stops in November, they let 84 drivers go with a warning.

Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 12 times and called other agencies for assistance seven times last month. They were also called for assistance by citizens and motorists 42 times.

Lowell police were dispatched to 11 accidents during November, one with injuries.

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Giving is Caring: Carol McGregor of Gilda's Club



by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Gilda's Club of Lowell and the Senior Center at 314 S. Hudson were filled with the smell of coffee, tea and soup this past Thursday evening, Dec. 27, as volunteers prepared for the weekly dinner and support group gathering. One of the many volunteers that helps make these events possible is Carol McGregor, who works as a receptionist for the events and assists the gardening committee during the warmer months of the year.

"I work the reception desk," McGregor said. "When someone comes in that is not a member and has never been here before, [Gilda's Club] wants to have a welcoming face there, because a lot of times they

have just lost someone or have just been diagnosed with cancer, and they are kind of scared. It takes a lot to open that door and come in, so we want to welcome them and make sure they are taken care of."

McGregor's time with Gilda's Club began when she faced a cancer diagnosis of her own and began attending meetings at Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids. She appreciated the creation of the Lowell satellite location, but she soon realized they needed help.

"Before I was [at the Lowell location], I was a member in downtown [Grand Rapids]," McGregor said. "Because I lived in Lowell, I started here as soon as they opened up. I started volunteering here because we needed volunteers

as Gilda's Club grew," McGregor said.

She is quick to point out the many other volunteers that make Gilda's Club of Lowell successful. As different people dropped off soup for Thursday evening's gathering, Carol explained that each week different groups are responsible for making the meals. This week it was Lowell High School's girls soccer team. Despite the continuing need for new volunteers, Carol pointed out, "We have a great group of volunteers."

"It is very important to have volunteers here," McGregor said. "We have them in our garden club and that takes a lot of time in the summer."

Lindsay Jousma, the director of program operations for Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids, similarly emphasized the importance of volunteers for Gilda's Club.

"Gilda's Club is 80 percent volunteer supported, and 100 percent of our program is based on donations," Jousma said.

Grand Rapids is one of about 42 affiliate locations in the United States, along with some in Canada. Lowell's clubhouse is unique as most Gilda's Club satellite locations are usually connected with a hospital or comparably clinical setting. The clubhouse, which partners with the Lowell Senior Center and uses the large home at 314 S. Hudson once a week, provides a much more homey environment for participants in the program. The creation of the clubhouse came about amidst the activities of Pink Arrow Pride.

"After a couple years of Pink Arrow Pride, [LHS football] coach [Noel] Dean and some of the community leaders in the Lowell area actually came to Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids and spoke to our CEO at the time," McGregor said. "[They] said, 'We want a Gilda's Club, but we want it right here in Lowell, right in our backyard, for our neighbors,

for our community members who could really benefit from that cancer support from one another.'"

"There was a whole long list of things that needed to happen to start a Gilda's Club," Jousma said. "It's quite a process. [...] It speaks volumes of this Lowell community that was able to come together and within months the Lowell community made Gilda's Club Lowell happen."

Organizers and volunteers usually plan on having enough food for about 40 to 45 people at events like the one on Thursday.

"It varies," Jousma said. "They are open and ongoing groups, so that means that anyone that is ready to start the program at Gilda's Club, whether it is cancer or grief support, can come in through a new member meeting, and learn and meet with one [of our staff] and have that opportunity to learn what to expect before jumping right into group [meetings]. We call these a new member meeting and we have these every Tuesday that we are here."

The girls soccer team provided this week's meal, but there are a variety of groups, restaurants and businesses who sign up for a Tuesday and provide the meal, help serve it and clean up afterward. Trained volunteers from Gilda's Club also provide supervised childcare called "Noogieland" for participants' children, kindergarteners and under, during the meetings.

"All of our support groups are facilitated by master-level professionals, so we don't call this counseling, and it's not therapy, but it is very therapeutic to meet with other people who get it, who understand what it is like to be on a journey, whether it is cancer or grief, and to have that opportunity to connect and know they are not alone," Jousma said. "It is because of the volunteers that we are able to have the program... here in the Lowell community. And



McGregor with Lindsay Jousma, director of operations for Gilda's Club of Lowell.

it is through the continued support of our volunteers, of Pink Arrow Pride, of the Senior Neighbors, of the community collaborations that we have, that we are able to offer continued free cancer and grief support for our members right here in the community."

Gilda's Club relies on volunteers like Carol McGregor, but she is sure to point out that they have fun.

"I think volunteering is a great, rewarding thing to do, and just something that seems to be catching on," McGregor said. "More and more people are volunteering for things because it is rewarding. It is fun, even though sometimes it can be time-consuming and back-breaking when it is hot outside, but [it is] something I enjoy."

Aside from volunteering with Gilda's Club, she also uses her skills as a master gardener to assist the Lowell Garden Club and her church, Vergennes United Methodist. She is also currently on a committee looking into the creation of a community center in Lowell. The volunteer roles she fills do not stop her from continuing

her profession of designing homes for her company, M and M designs, which she has been doing since 1985. It is in this official capacity that she created the design for the new Lowell Showboat, a subject she discussed with excitement.

"It's been an all-year process this past year, since fall of 2016," McGregor said.

Although Carol has lived in Lowell for 20 years and has taken on many responsibilities closely tied to the community life of Lowell, she is originally from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. It has been a long road to end up in Lowell. She initially headed south to Florida, where she lived for 15 years, before finally moving to Lowell in 1998.

Gilda's Club in Lowell is located in the large home on 314 S. Hudson St. Their normal hours 12:30 pm- 7:30 pm on Tuesdays. The Lowell Clubhouse can be reached by phone at 616-897-8600, and Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids can be reached Monday through Friday at 616-453-8300.

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Former LHS student now WRWW asst. station mgr.

Al Eckman, WRWW Station Manager, has announced the appointment of Dakota Krzysik to the position of Assistant Station Manager. Krzysik joined the WRWW Radio Club as a seventh grader and during his six years with the club, he was very active as an on-air 'personality', technician, and webmaster. He completed 185 on-air shows and 53 events as a technician. During his four years at Lowell High School, he took all the computer-related courses that were available. As a junior in high school, he decided to take networking classes at KCTC to further his knowledge. He is currently enrolled in the advanced networking class at KCTC. He has earned the following certifications: Comptia A+ (entry-level computer certified for PC computer service technicians), CCENT (Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician) and is working towards his CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate). He is currently attending Davenport University, where he was dual-enrolled while in high school. In addition he works 40+ hours per week at IT Partners+ as a Partner Support Engineer.



Dakota Krzysik, the new assistant station manager of WRWW-FM

Eckman further states, "Dakota put together several software programs for WRWW including 'Dakota's Publisher', 'Members Dashboard'

and an underwriter management program. He is invaluable". His plan for the future is to obtain a four-year Bachelor's degree from Davenport in

Network Administration without owing on any student loans. It should be mentioned that, in this newly appointed position, Krzysik does not receive any compensation.



According to city manager Michael Burns [below], wayfinding signs like this one are going up soon; see the city council story on page one for further details.

KDL presents Let It Snow

Win prizes for reading!
Your favorite winter reading program for adults is back. Kent District Library is pleased to present Let It Snow. Adults (18 and older) who participate and read a minimum of six books in different categories between January 2 and March 31

will receive a Let It Snow 2019 ceramic 15 oz. mug. Participants who finish an additional four titles are entered into a drawing to win an iPad.
"Let It Snow is a unique program that encourages adults to read for fun in a lot of different genres," said

KDL Programming Manager Kip Odell. "It's exciting to read and receive a cool prize, a new Let It Snow mug!"
In 2018, 1,413 people completed Let It Snow. Participate online at kdl.readsquared.com or pick up a print form at any KDL branch.

...
I wear black because I'm comfortable in it.
But then in the summertime when it's hot I'm comfortable in light blue.

~ Johnny Cash (1932-2003)

the lowell ledger

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Light & Power board discusses rate increase

by Tim McAllister
 lead reporter

The Lowell Light & Power board had their latest regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 13. The meeting lasted three hours and 28 minutes and was attended by one member of the public.

The board voted to accept a bid of \$33,001 from Total Fire Protection, a Grand Rapids firm.

“While inspecting the turbine enclosures’ CO2 fire suppression systems, inconsistencies and discrepancies from industry standards were noticed,” read a Dec. 3 memorandum from LL&P

van Overbeek. “These would give us the best coverage throughout Michigan. This band would give us 95 percent coverage throughout the State. With the 800 MHz system we would not be responsible for any tower maintenance or upgrades to towers in the future. We would be on the same system as the Kent County DA and would pay a onetime fee of \$250 per radio. If we make the purchase now, we would receive a 40 percent discount. If we purchase half now and half later,

electricity.

“In May of 2017, Mark Beauchamp, president of [Utility Financial Solutions], presented the results of our cost of service study at our board meeting,” read a Nov. 28 memorandum from LL&P general manager Steve Donkersloot. “After a great discussion and a number of questions, there was a consensus by the LL&P board to have UFS design our rates using their recommended increase of 1.45 percent per year to the base rate with a one percent



The LL&P board in discussion at their Dec. 13 regular meeting.

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Billboards in Michigan

the lowell ledger

Newspapers are more engaging than billboards.

16 minutes
 average time spent reading a newspaper each day¹

7 seconds
 average time spent viewing a billboard²

Newspaper ads result in more purchases than billboards.

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

2.3% 2.3% of adults made a purchase in the last 90 days as the result of a billboard ad⁴

Newspaper ads have more staying power

Saving the ad for future reference is one of the top-rated newspaper reader actions.¹

The newspaper is often passed along to someone else who sees the ad. Daily/Sunday newspapers average 1.9 readers per copy.⁴

People simply scan billboards as they drive by.

Newspapers ads provide more flexibility

Based on the length and complexity of the advertising message, retailers can choose from a variety of newspaper ad sizes – from smaller units up to full-page and two-page spreads.

Billboard ads should contain only three basic elements – an image, a copy line, and a company name or logo. Copy should be kept to nine words.²

Newspaper ads can be placed, and changed when necessary, within a day or two. Billboard creative is often posted for 30 days.

generation superintendent Casey Mier. “This led us to contact five fire suppression vendors to visit the facility and provide the following information: feedback on the existing systems, analysis of the turbine enclosures to engineer a proper system and scope of work and material quotes for a correct suppression system that would integrate with the existing Det-Tronics fire and gas detection panel.”

The board approved the purchase of new radio equipment for LL&P trucks.

“After reviewing all of our options and testing different types of radios, not only in our coverage area but also inside buildings and the far west side of Grand Rapids, it is my recommendation that we move forward with the 800 MHz radios presented by Chrouch [Communications, a company in Saranac],” read a Nov. 19 memorandum from LL&P safety coordinator Ron

the discount most likely would not apply to the second purchase. Pricing for the radios would be as follows: portables list at \$1,597 but we would pay \$940.87; mobiles list at \$1,564 but we would pay \$938.38; trunking, which is the programming required to make the radios work, list at \$1,070 per unit but we would pay \$641.98. We would be purchasing a total of 13 units: six portables and seven mobiles. The cost of installation for the mobiles would be a total of \$1,720.52. In total, the cost for this project is \$29,344.03. [...] An added bonus is the counties around us are also adding this system which would increase the number of towers to help guarantee the 95 percent coverage. Kent County is adding 12 or 13 towers as we speak to accommodate the fire departments.”

The board moved to approve a 1.45 percent increase in the “base rate,” the amount of money they charge their customers for

bandwidth over the course of the next five years. At the September 2017 board meeting, the LL&P board then proceeded to adopt the electric rates that are currently in place that were recommended by UFS. We are now approaching year two of five and UFS, after reviewing last year’s cost of service study, is recommending we stay on the path they recommended to the board [in] May of 2017, a 1.45 percent per year increase in 2019 to the base rate with a bandwidth of one percent.”

The board also listened to data updates from Donkersloot on a variety of topics and projects. Complete recordings of this and past LL&P meetings are available on Lowell Light & Power’s YouTube channel.

The Lowell Light & Power board will have their next meeting at their 127 N. Broadway headquarters at 6 pm on Thursday, Jan. 10.

Sources: ¹eMarketer; ²Lamar Advertising; ³Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; ⁴Pulse of America 2018; ⁵NAA

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger January 13, 1894

That old and time-worn adage, "Love laughs at locksmiths," was given another illustration Friday night when Miss Hattie Tate, the young girl who created a commotion on Ottawa street the other night, crept down from her chamber, jumped into the arms of Ernest Rodabaugh, the cook, and was borne away to a place unknown. It was about 8 o'clock when Hattie disappeared, and about the same time a young man might have been seen in the restaurant on the corner concealing the pancake batter beneath a cloth and exchanging his apron for outdoor habiliments. He came out, locked the door carefully behind him, and looking fearfully around made a bee line for the stronghold of Hattie.

On January 9, twenty-four white ribbon ladies gathered at the home of Mrs. S. Brower for a social tea and to say farewell to their president, Mrs. P.A. Clark, who is going to Albion to live for a time. An elegant tea, and a few well-chosen words by one of the number, in presenting the president with a gift, closed a very enjoyable afternoon and evening.

William T. Potter died at his residence in this village, Wednesday morning, Jan. 3, 1894. Mr. Potter was born in Centreville, Alleghany Co., NY, February 17, 1817. When quite young he removed with his parents, to Mt. Morris, Livingston Co., same state, where he lived until manhood. He graduated at Moscow Academy at the age of eighteen. In December, 1838 he was married to Miss Calista Flint, his now bereaved companion, and the following year moved west and located on a farm in McHenry Co., Ill. In 1847 he came to Michigan, locating in Montcalm Co. There he opened the first general store in the township of Montcalm and was supervisor and clerk of the township. In the fall of 1862 he came to Lowell, having purchased the Lowell House. After keeping hotel in several places, he finally located to Reed City, about ten years ago, where he resided until a year ago last June, when he became again a resident of this village.

100 years The Lowell Ledger January 9, 1919

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt died at his home at Sagamore Hill at 4:15 o'clock this morning, while he slept. A clot of blood on the heart caused his death, it was stated at the house. The colonel went to bed last night feeling well. The end came when there was no one in the room but his valet. The following statement was made to the United Press by Dr. Faller of Oyster Bay, the physician who last saw the colonel: "Colonel Roosevelt retired at 12 o'clock last night feeling

much better. At 4:15 o'clock this morning he simply ceased to breathe. Death was caused probably by a pulmonary embolism."

Loren Williams, 16 years old, former Western Union messenger boy, was Friday sentenced by Judge Perkins to the state reformatory at Ionia for from 5 to 15 years, for the killing of Ambrose Vanderhave, 16 years old, on Oct. 28. VanderHave died of knife wounds suffered in a gang fight near a Leonard street drug store, and on Thursday Williams entered a plea of guilty to a charge of manslaughter.

The appalling ravages of Spanish Influenza in this country are perhaps best realized by the statement recently made, that more deaths have resulted in little more than a month from this disease than through our whole eighteen months participation in the battle of the European war. Our greatest danger now, declare authorities, is the great American tendency to forget easily and to believe the peril is over. Competent authorities claim the coming of cold weather is very apt to bring a return of this disease and there should be no let-up throughout the winter months of the following easily observed precautions, remembering that influenza is far easier to prevent than cure.

75 years The Lowell Ledger January 13, 1944

Deaths resulting from automobile accidents in Michigan last year will not exceed 975, according to a state health department estimate. It was the first time since 1924 the annual traffic toll has dropped below the 1000 mark.

Robert D. Hahn, who has operated a food store in Lowell for the past twenty years, has sold his business to Carl Munroe, who will take possession on Monday, Jan. 17. During his business career here, Mr. Hahn has built up a large clientele, who will regret to learn that he is leaving the local business field, but who join in extending best wishes for his future success. Mr. Hahn has been vice president of the Universal Metal Products Company since its inception, and will continue with that institution in a new capacity after March 1.

Michigan Lumber production is vitally important to the war effort not only because of the large number of board feet produced but also because many of the particular species obtained from Michigan forests are used in the manufacture of war materials. White oak from the state's southern forests is used in ribs and keel stock for sub chasers and minesweepers. Birch veneer and plywood go into airplanes and a large amount of Michigan wood is used for crates to ship farm produce and other necessities.

50 years The Lowell Ledger January 9, 1969

Alertness of the newest member of the Lowell police force was credited today with the arrest of two Grand Rapids men sought in connection with a brutal beating and robbery. Donald L. Fry, 35, and John R. Martin, 30, both of Grand Rapids, demanded examination when arraigned in Grand Rapids Municipal Court on a charge of robbery unarmed. They were charged with the beating of Ralph Dyer of Ionia and robbing him of cash and personal belongings.

A long-simmering feud between Mrs. Virginia Myers and fellow members of the Lowell city council broke into the open again Monday night. Mrs. Myers took exception to a proposal that council accept a new offer from John Gerhart to sell approximately 39 acres located in Vergennes Township at a reduced price of \$20,000.

outdoors

place to hunt

Dave Stegehuis

Hunter numbers in Michigan have been on a downward trend for twenty years. Cultural shifts may be the reason. Our technologically crowded lives become more detached from nature as present-day concerns take over our time and interests. Recruitment of new hunters is not keeping pace with those leaving the ranks for age related issues.

Hunters have a vested interest in the welfare of wildlife and where they live. Hunters monitor conditions in the fields and forests year around and speak up if they see problems. In addition, hunters provide a large percentage of funding for resource management, law enforcement, and habitat improvement. License fees and federal tax on firearms, ammunition, and other related equipment are the main source of funds.

Locating an area to hunt has become more challenging because of shrinking habitat due to development of private property. With a little research, however, one can take advantage of the vast federal and state lands open to hunting in Michigan. The good news is that this land is being aggressively managed by government agencies and private property owners. At the same time, fewer hunters in the woods means it is easier to find opportunities for a quality hunting experience.

Private land is available to the public through the Commercial Forest Program and Hunting Access Program. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources website has information regarding access to these areas.

Others may find leasing property is the answer to secure a place in the woods. Leasing as a group will lower costs for the participants.

Another way to find a place to hunt is to purchase hunting land. This may sound extreme but owning property can be considered an investment. The owner is free to manage the property for wildlife habitat establishment and improvement. This may involve selective logging to open the land to promote the growth of wildlife friendly tree species and ground cover. Leasing tillable land to local farmers and selling timber generates income to offset taxes and other costs as well as provide food for wildlife.

Hunting opportunities are available across the state for those who take the time and effort to seek out places to get outdoors and up close and personal with nature. Make a New Year's resolution to do it.

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

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Tracy Lixie & John G. Meier



- lupus

Lupus is a disease of the immune system that can affect many parts of the body. Normally, the immune system makes antibodies to protect the body against infections. In people who have lupus, the immune system becomes overactive and attacks healthy cells and tissue by mistake. Lupus can affect anyone, but it is more common in women between the age of 15 and 44. Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American women are more likely to have lupus.

Not everyone who has lupus has the same symptoms. Symptoms can come and go, and often stop completely for a while. When symptoms start or get worse, it's called a flare. Some common symptoms include feeling tired all the

time, joint pain or swelling, rashes (often on the face), fever, muscle pain, and sores in the mouth.

How lupus is treated depends on your symptoms. If you have joint pain, sore muscles, or a rash, your doctor may want you to take an anti-inflammatory medicine like ibuprofen. Medicine that is used to treat malaria can also be helpful in treating symptoms of lupus and preventing flares. Steroids are another kind of medicine that can help with inflammation. Because of the risk of side effects, your doctor may want to stop certain medications if your symptoms go away for a while. It is important to see your doctor regularly for check-ups and stay up to date on preventative testing.

college news

Jenna R. Greenfield and Jonathan T. Greenfield, both of Lowell, were among the exactly 335 students who made the dean's list for the fall 2018 semester at Spring Arbor University.

Leah Brogger, a Lowell native, qualified for the fall 2018 dean's list at Belmont University. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Looking back, continued

Lowell's educational program, already suffering from lack of citizen response to obvious financial needs, will absorb still another setback next Monday when the Board of Education meets to accept the resignation tendered this week by Superintendent James C. Pace. There are many in the community who disagreed with policies established by the board during Pace's administration. What a few appear to realize is that Pace, the board...in fact, the entire education structure of this community and many others...have been victimized by forces they are almost helpless to cope with.

25 years The Lowell Ledger January 12, 1994

Beginning Feb. 1, the city of Lowell will commence with its new curb-side recycling contract with Denny's disposal. The new refuse pickup program is expected to save the city thousands of dollars. Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale did not know exactly how much. "It will depend on the volume of customers who participate in curb-side recycling, and those who use trash bags. The current refuse pickup contract cost the city \$137,000 a year.

In order to quell rumors and create a good line of communication, representatives of the Kent County Airport presented their position on relocating wetlands to the Lowell planning commission this week. The presentation was the first visit by representatives since their initial visit in August. Since that time, residents have heard many rumors and have not had answers to their questions.

The philosophical differences of what technological areas should be focused on in Lowell schools were spelled out in separate presentations Monday night at a special meeting prior to the regular board meeting. The presentation made by the Citizens for Quality Education at the technology plan review called for the Lowell Board of Education to not leave computers for the monies leftover from what's budgeted.

happy birthday



JANUARY 9

Jordan Potter, Helena Guastavino, Zvonko Andelkovic.

JANUARY 12

Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber, Mike Vezino.

JANUARY 10

Mary Jo Vezino, Jared Felling, Mike Barnes, Logan M. Eidenier, Chase Anderson, Gage Soyka.

JANUARY 13

Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.

JANUARY 14

Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.

JANUARY 11

Katie Plutschow, Ian Blodger, Marian Guastavino.

JANUARY 15

Dennis Burns.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

3RD MONDAY - TWP. BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1ST THURSDAY - PLANNING COMMISSION
3RD THURSDAY - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

ALL MEETINGS AT 7:00 P.M.
LOCATON: HISTORIC TOWNSHIP HALL
8240 ALDEN NASH AVE SE
ALTO, MI 49302

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area churches



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

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
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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

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Website: www.stmarylowell.com

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Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2019. 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.

2019 grant applications should be submitted to the Lowell City Clerk's office, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The deadline for submitting 2019 applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 8, 2019. Questions should be directed to Susan Ullery, City Clerk.

Local woman describes her friendships with country music legends, beginning with JOHNNY CASH



Wondergem and Cash on Feb. 17, 1966.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Wilma Wondergem was born, raised and lives in Grand Rapids. Now age 85, she is a retired Michigan Bell operator. She has lived alone since her mother Johanna died in 2001; she never got married and had no children. In the '50s and '60s, Wondergem was an avid country music fan who became a friendly acquaintance of many of the big stars who came through town. Sometimes she'd even follow favorite acts from town to town.

Wondergem and her group of friends brought cameras

why I had my picture taken with him so many times, probably almost every time I saw him. We could get backstage easily at the Civic Auditorium. One time we went to either Lansing or Kalamazoo to see Johnny and some guard said, 'You can't come back here!' Johnny heard and said, 'These are friends of mine, they can come back,' and we did. The first time that I realized he knew my name was one time when we were backstage after a concert. People were standing around getting autographs and he said, 'Wilma, do you have a

pencil or a pen I could use?' I said, 'Yeah!' Then, during his shows, he always would say, 'This song is for Wilma and her friends.' [long sigh] He always said that. We never got tired of seeing him, we always had a nice time. Even if the shows were the same night after night, we never got tired of it."

On one occasion in the '60s when Wondergem gave Cash and his future wife, June Carter, a ride to their hotel, she noticed the effects of Cash's notorious drug use.

"This one time we saw him, he was really skinny. I said something to him about it," Wondergem said. "That was the time he was at the Civic Auditorium in downtown Grand Rapids.

Records days in the '50s, I took a shine to Wondergem's younger sister and ended up overstaying his welcome.

"Luther Perkins liked my sister, so he came to our house for supper," Wondergem said. "He was playing his guitar so long we wished he'd go home! He was just sitting there in our living room playing that guitar... but it got so late! I remember thinking, 'I wish he'd stop!' Finally we went to bed and our mother had to drive him back to his hotel downtown."

The last time Wondergem went to one of Cash's concerts, he was considered a major celebrity and was no longer as accessible to the public.



Cash poses with the Wilburn Brothers (Teddy and Doyle) backstage in Battle Creek on Jan. 14, 1958.

It wasn't as nice, but it was still okay."

Johnny Cash wasn't the only country music star Wondergem became friendly with during her youth. In upcoming editions of the Ledger, Wondergem will share stories and more unpublished photos of her encounters with legends

such as Hank Williams, the Louvin Brothers, Carl Perkins, Webb Pierce, Hawkshaw Hawkins, Carl Smith, Conway Twitty, Eddy Arnold, Roy Acuff, Slim Whitman and many, many more.

MUCH MORE ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES!



Cash with his little brother Tommy Cash at Buck Lake Ranch in Angola, IN, June 1957.

We must've went and got our car or something, then him and June were just coming out of the auditorium, so I said, 'Would you like a ride?' He said 'Yeah!' so they got in the car and we gave them a ride from the Civic Auditorium to their hotel. It was just a short ways, but Johnny and June got in the back seat and we took them over there. I think it was the Pantlind Hotel that was right by the auditorium. I was driving. He always gave me a kiss goodbye, I had to turn around in the driver's seat so he could give me a kiss."

Luther Perkins, Cash's guitar player since their Sun

"I went to see him once after I hadn't seen him for a long time, that was probably in the '70s," Wondergem said. "June Carter and the Carter Family were with him, and Jan Howard and everything. Luther Perkins was dead by then, so the show was entirely different. I can't remember where in Grand Rapids it was, but we had to sit way up in the back and I never got anywhere near him. When it was just Johnny and his band, it was better. When June and her sisters started touring with him, then it was different. I can't say why. I think maybe his mind was more on them.



Wondergem and Cash at Buck Lake Ranch in Angola, IN, June 1957.

to the shows, took snapshots and traded the photos among themselves. Today, Wondergem has a nice collection of autographed pictures of herself alongside people like Hank Williams, Carl Perkins and her all-time favorite singer, Johnny Cash. She was a fixture at Cash's early Midwest concerts and eventually found herself on a first-name basis with the singer.

"Johnny was nice. He had kind of a sick smile, though," Wondergem said. "I don't remember long conversations or anything, but he was always pleasant and friendly. I don't know



Wilma Wondergem today

CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN THE SMALL URBAN PROGRAM PROVIDING FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR MONROE ST. BETWEEN FREMONT ST. AND AVERY ST.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lowell will hear public comment on the participation in the Small Urban Program which would provide federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding for Monroe St. between Fremont St. and Avery.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council will meet at the City Hall at 301 E. Main Street in the City on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 7 p.m., local time, for the purpose of hearing the public about this transportation project.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk
City of Lowell

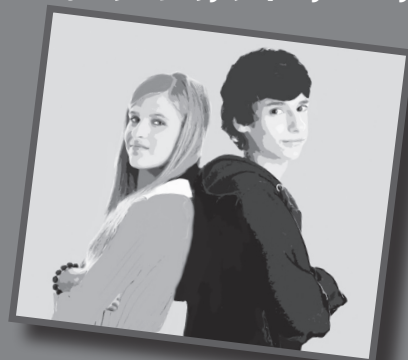
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January 17 & 18
at 7:00pm
January 19
at 2:00pm & 7:00pm

At Lowell Performing Arts center

Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes,
Lowell, MI 49331
General admission tickets.
\$7 in advance and at door.

lowellartsmi.org

Wilma Wondergem's adventures with Johnny Cash



Wondergem and Cash backstage in Battle Creek on Jan. 14, 1958.



Above left: A candid shot of June Carter relaxing backstage on Feb. 15, 1964. She would marry Johnny Cash four years later.



Above right: Wondergem with Marshall Grant and Luther Perkins from Cash's band on Feb. 23, 1966.



Cash poses with Wondergem, her mother and her younger sister on Feb. 23, 1966.

CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PLANT REHABILITATION DISTRICT) PURSUANT TO ACT 198 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN OF 1974, AS AMENDED FOR 149 BROADWAY ST.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Lowell has been requested by King Milling to establish an industrial development district (plant rehabilitation district) pursuant to Act 198 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1974, as amended, on a parcel of property described as follows:

Part of Blocks 1, 2 and 5 and parts of Lots A, B and C, and part of vacated Ottawa Street and vacated Water Street in Mrs. Snell's Addition to the Village (now City) of Lowell, Kent County, Michigan, according to the recorded plot thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, on Page 35 and part of Government Lots 7 and 8 of Section 2, T6N, R9W, described as; Commencing at the Southeasterly corner of Lot 3, Block 5 of Mrs. Snell's Addition; thence N12°04'46"E 364.20 feet along the Easterly line of said Blocks 5 and 2; thence S88°33'57"W 335.25 feet; thence N15°26'31"W 223.62 feet to the South line of said Government Lot 7 and the Place of Beginning; thence S15°26'31" 223.62 feet; thence N88°33'57"W 335.25 feet to the Easterly line of said Blocks 2 and 5; thence S12°04'19"W 329.20 feet along said Easterly line to the North line of the South 35 feet of Lot 3, Block 5 of said Mrs. Snell's Addition; thence N77°58'53"W 137.94 feet along said North line to the East line of Broadway Street (66 feet wide); thence N12°01'15"E 553.52 feet along the East line of said Broadway Street to the South line of the North 20 feet of Lot 2, Block 2 of said Mrs. Snell's Addition; thence Northeasterly and Northwesterly along the East line of said Broadway Street to the Southerly line of Mid Michigan Railroad right of way; thence Northeasterly, Easterly and Southeasterly along said South right of way line to water's edge of the Flat River; thence Southerly along said water's edge to a line bearing S87°23'45"E of the point of beginning; thence N87°23'45"W to the Place of Beginning.

and commonly known as 149 Broadway St. SE, Lowell, Michigan.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council will meet at the City Hall at 301 E. Main Street in the City on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., local time, for the purpose of hearing the owners of real property to be included in the district and any other resident or taxpayer of the City regarding the establishment of the industrial development district (plant rehabilitation district).



Susan Ullery
City Clerk
City of Lowell

Johnny Cash was no stranger to the 'Mitten State.' His first performance in West Michigan was in Battle Creek on Jan. 14, 1958. During his decades on the road, he also brought his show through Grand Rapids, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, Allegan, Lansing, East Lansing, Benton Harbor, Harrison, Muskegon, Flint, Port Huron, Auburn Hills, Clarkston, Clinton, Pontiac, Adrian, Mount Pleasant, Mount Clemens, Rochester, Traverse City, Ann Arbor, Cassopolis, Monroe, Belleville, Sterling Heights, Hillsdale, Escabana, Austin and Onsted, MI. His final live performance in Michigan was way up north at the Vegas Kawadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie on Aug. 15, 1997.



Above left: Wondergem and Cash backstage in Lansing on Feb. 15, 1964. Above right: Cash backstage at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids on April 1, 1959.



Up next in this series: HANK WILLIAMS





Above: Johnny Cash and his band the Tennessee Three performing at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids on Feb. 18, 1960.
 Below: Johnny Cash, his band and Wondergem at an unknown location somewhere in the Midwest on Oct. 6, 1962.



Above and below: Johnny Cash, his band and the Statler Brothers at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids on Feb. 17, 1965, and an ad for the show.



TONIGHT, 8:00 P. M.
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 IN PERSON

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 SHOW

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- ★ TEX RITTER
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Red Arrow

- BOWLING

SPORTS

Bowlers compete in the Jenison Invite

Lowell boys varsity bowling team finished seventh on Saturday at the Jenison Invite. The team had a total score of 2581 points. High rollers were Aaron Fritsma with 196, Collin Clark with 208 and DJ Simpson with 221.

The girls team placed 11th with 1866 points on Saturday. Emma Blakie rolled a high game of 148 and Brianna Lachowski had a high game of 162.

The boys and girls varsity bowling teams will host the Lowell Invitational on Sat., Jan. 12 at The Bowling Alley of Ionia



Emma Blakie rolled a high game of 148 at the Jenison Invite on Saturday. Photo courtesy of Justin Scott.

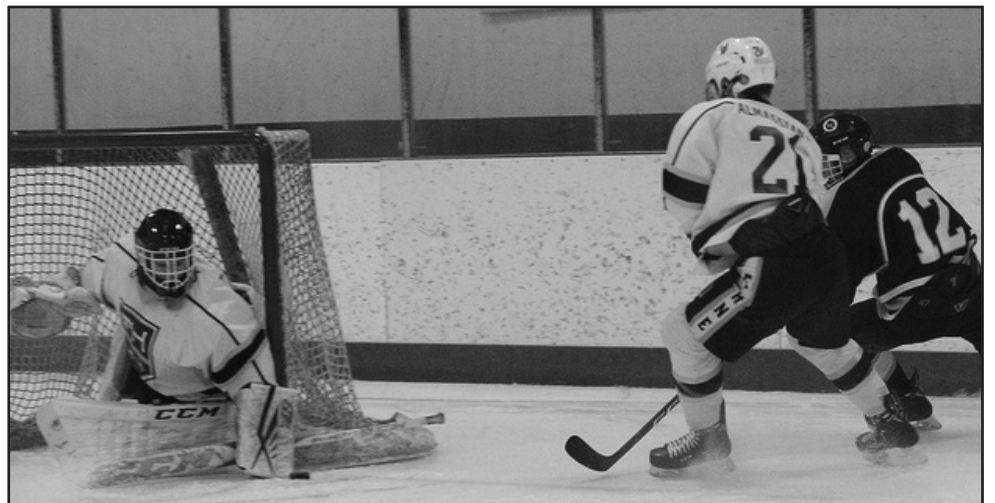


Collin Clark had a high game of 208 in Saturday's competition. Photo courtesy of Justin Scott.

Lowell/Caledonia hockey loses to FHNE 1-3



Eli Radtke in action against Forest Hills Northern/Eastern on Saturday. Photo courtesy of Justin Scott.



Number 12 Nolan Lockhart taking a shot against FHNE. Photo courtesy of Justin Scott.



Austin Douma takes a shot at the FHNE goal. Photo courtesy of Justin Scott.

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

Go Red Arrows!

the lowell ledger

Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Gymnastics teams place at Rockford Flip Flop Invitational

Lowell finishes eighth and tenth at the Rockford Flip Flop Invitational. Senior Corah Miller and Sophomore Aubri Lemke led the team placing in multiple events and in the all around. Freshman Greta Forward is showing she is one to watch placing in two events. Lowell has a lot of depth again this year

with nine girls competing Saturday, out of a team of 12. This week, the Arrows travel to Rockford Thursday at 6:30 pm and host their 5th Annual Military Salute at Lowell High School Saturday at 9:30 am.

- 1 Farmington 143.6
- 2 Rockford 140.725
- 3 Plymouth 135.375

- 4 Canton 132.8
- 5 Forest Hills 132.525
- 6 Farmington 131.85
- 7 Coldwater 131.25
- 8 Lowell 129.5
- 9 Canton 127.525
- 10 Lowell 127.1
- 11 Tecumseh 124.6
- 12 Rockford 120.275
- 13 Plymouth 115.25
- 14 Coldwater 86.65
- 15 Kenowa Hills 84.25
- 16 Potter House 46.85

Lowell White Team

- Vault:**
 Tressa Huizinga 8.225
 Emily Lothian 8.55
 Aubri Lemke 8.9 - placed 10th
 Corah Miller 9.1 - placed 4th

- Bars:**
 Kira Jungblut 6.825
 Emily Lothian 7.075
 Aubri Lemke 7.975 - placed 8th
 Corah Miller 8.125 - placed 4th

- Beam:**
 Tressa Huizinga 7.025
 Corah Miller 7.55
 Aubri Lemke 7.6
 Emily Lothian 7.95

- Floor:**
 Emily Lothian 8.3
 Kira Jungblut 8.4
 Aubri Lemke 8.9
 Corah Miller 9.0 - placed 8th

- All Around:**
 Corah Miller 33.775 - placed 8th
 Aubri Lemke 33.375 - placed 10th

- Lowell Red Team**
Vault:
 Lilly Kooistra 8.775
 Taeghan Ronchetti 8.8
 Paige Barnhart 8.85
 Greta Forward 9.0 - placed 9th

- Bars:**
 Paige Barnhart 6.8
 Lilly Kooistra 6.85
 Marlie McDonald 6.95
 Greta Forward 7.275



Greta Forward starting her floor routine.

- Beam:**
 Olivia Barber 7.025
 Lilly Kooistra 7.1
 Paige Barnhart 7.225
 Taeghan Ronchetti 7.975

- Floor:**
 Taeghan Ronchetti 8.2
 Lilly Kooistra 8.625
 Paige Barnhart 8.7
 Greta Forward 8.95 - placed 9th



Corah Miller saluting the judges to begin her beam routine.

Red Arrows faced Godwin Heights at the DeltaPlex

The Lowell Red Arrows boys varsity basketball team met the Godwin Heights Wolverines varsity team at the DeltaPlex on Saturday, January 5. Lowell came out hot in the first quarter, with Gavin Coxon hitting a three-point shot, firing

up his teammates to take control of the ballgame. The Red Arrows hit eight of 12 free throws for a 21 to 12 lead. Coach Tyler Whittemore, of Godwin, called the Wolverines together and said, "Let's play ball boys!" The Wolverines listened well

and outscored the Red Arrows 24 to 13 to take a 36 to 34 lead at the half. The third quarter saw both teams playing a zone defense and each team scoring 16 points. Braiden Hamilton went to the free-throw line six times, making four free throws

and Robby Schneider got two baskets to bring the Red Arrows close at the end of the third. In the fourth quarter, Schneider made two three-pointers along with a two-point basket to keep the Arrows close in the game. Jordan Dent had another good game with 15

points, shooting 83 percent from the free-throw line. The final score was Godwin 71 and Lowell 65. Lowell was led in scoring

by Dent with 15 points, followed by Schneider with 12 and Trevor Petroelje with 11 points.

The boys host Forest Hills Northern this Friday at LHS main gym. Play begins at 5:30 pm.



Right: Nathan VanDeWeert looking to pass.

Bottom: Trevor Petroelje taking the ball down the court. Photos courtesy of Justin Scott.



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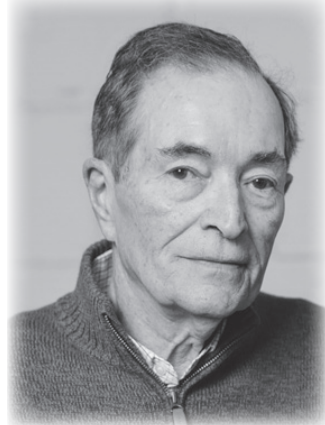
BALL

Harold William Ball, age 92 of Lowell, went to be with his Heavenly Father on Tuesday, January 1, 2019, surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mabel Ball; brother Sidney Jack Ball, who was killed in action in WWII; son-in-law Glenn Kenney; and grandson Joshua Ford. Harold is survived by his wife of 68 years, Rose; and will be lovingly remembered by his children, Cynthia Kenney-Ball, Colleen (Dar) LaLone, James (Kim) Ball, Gregory Ball, and Patrick Ball. He was also the proud grandfather of 11 grandchildren, as well as 8 great-grandchildren. Harold served in the US Navy aboard the USS Tekesta ATF-93, in the Asia-Pacific Theater during WWII. He and Rose were both world travelers; they loved to go on cruises and would spend the winter months in Puerto Rico. Over the years, Harold and Rose owned several businesses and had a strong passion for gardening. Mass of Christian Burial was Monday, January 7, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Lowell. Rev. Aaron Ferris presided. Interment Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.



COMP

Jerry Michael Comp, age 77 of Saranac, passed away Friday, January 4, 2019. He is loved by his wife of 47 years, Jane; children Becky (Aaron) Venema, Josh (Sarah) Comp; brother David (Pat) Comp; grandchildren Madison, Malcolm, Kamie; special friend Kenny Akers; his poker buddies; tons of friends; and his Min Pin, Ace. Celebration of Life will be Sunday, January 13, from 2-5:00 p.m. at the Lowell Moose Lodge, 1320 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Spectrum Health Hospice, 100 Michigan St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503; or The Mooseheart, <http://www.mooseheart.org/>.



COTNEY

Mrs. Mary Ann (Michaud) Cotney, age 69 of Newnan, Georgia, passed away January 4, 2019. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Dorothy Michaud of Lowell and her husband, Charles Cotney. She is survived by her children, Amy Wilson of Newnan, Heather (Wesley) Palfrey of Dadeville, AL, Cathy (Nick) Accordino of Macon; grandchildren, Patrick Wilson, Samantha Wilson and Chase Accordino; great-grandson, Julian Wilson; siblings, Kay Livingston of Odessa, TX and Joseph (Lenora) Michaud of Augusta; nieces, Carrie and Marti. Mary, a 1967 graduate of Saranac High School, also graduated from MSU as a nurse. She eventually became a professional truck driver. She and her husband-to-be, Charles Cotney became a truck driving team. They married in 1980, settling in Alexander City, AL. Mary then began a 30 year career as a manager for Russel Corporation. Mary was a true matriarch to her beautiful family and was deeply loved.

DOWLING

Marian Lucile Dowling, age 85 of Ada, passed away Tuesday, January 1, 2019. She was preceded in death by her husband Wayne Dowling; brother Bob Whittier; and sister Janet Rigdon. Marian is survived by her children, Charles (Christine) Schram, Patricia Dietz, Nancie (Steven) Mathews, Lynn (Janet Garner) Dowling, Michelle (Mike) Ergang; brother Walt (Pat) Whittier; brother-in-law Rex (Connie) Dowling; sisters-in-law Gwen Zanella, Carla (Ron) Kerekes-Martin; grandchildren Cortney (Matt) Xiong, Cody Schram, Brittany Dietz, Crystal (Amanda) Dietz, Taylor Ergang, Brayden Ergang; great-grandchildren Calia Xiong, Cai Xiong; and many nieces and nephews. Marian graduated from East Grand Rapids in 1951, and assisted her husband Wayne with bookkeeping at Lowell Automotive. She worked as a claims adjuster for Citizen Insurance; and after retiring, she went back to work part-time at Meadowbrook Insurance Group. Marian loved to fish, and belonged to a bowling league. A funeral service was held Friday, January 4, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell. Rev. Ken Ford officiated. Interment Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Gilda's Club, ATTN: Lowell, 1806 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.



PASTOR



After battling the effects of cancer therapy for over 5 years, Daniel Pastor passed away from malignant melanoma on Thursday, January 3, 2019. He was 64. Daniel overcame an early childhood of oppressive poverty. Finances normalized in his youth, and he enjoyed a typical family environment growing up. After high school, he was awarded an academic scholarship to the University of California. Upon graduation in 1980, he immediately began work with Rockwell International at the Space Shuttle Acceptance Test Facility in Palmdale, CA. He was responsible for assembly and test of the Environmental Controls and Life-Support Subsystems on several Orbiter space vehicles. A few years later, Dan joined the Lockheed team at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc, CA, preparing and validating Space Launch Complex 6 for Air Force Space Shuttle operations from the west coast. Dan transferred to Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where he became certified as an Orbiter Test Conductor, qualified to launch and perform landing recovery operations of the shuttle and orbiter. A few years later, Dan was invited to join the Space Station Freedom design group in Sunnyvale, CA. Dan was responsible for insuring all requirements were met during design of the Thermal Radiator Rotary Joint used on the station. By 1993, Dan and his wife Mary purchased Mary's grandparents home in Belding, Michigan. They both quit their jobs, packed a truck and drove to Michigan where they raised their son, Thomas, and daughter, Katherine, in Michigan bliss. Dan started a technical services business which he and Mary ran for 17 years. Tiring of the 80-hour weeks, Dan joined one of his largest clients, Dematic Corp, where he spent his last 7 years working with great people. Daniel had numerous hobbies, but mostly just enjoyed being with his family. And now he has gone to rest. Daniel is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter Katherine (Joshua) Kelley; son Thomas Pastor; daughter, Guilia Slatten; mother Ann Slatten-Jones; father Daniel Pastor; brothers Danny (Tena) Pastor, David (Ali) Pastor, Mark (Paula) Slatten, Scott Slatten; sister Leslie (Matthe Van El) Slatten; and aunt Roberta "Bobbie" Pastor. A memorial service was held Tuesday, January 8 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Parnell. Rev. Julian Reginato presided. Memorial contributions may be made to the Melanoma Research Foundation online at www.melanoma.org/; or Crash's Landing & Big Sid's Sanctuary Cat Rescue and Placement Centers, 1545 Diamond Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.



YEITER

Micheal (Mike) John Yeiter, age 60, of Lowell, passed away December 16, 2018, after a two year fight with stage 4 lung cancer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Cora Yeiter. He is survived by siblings, Terry (Charlene), Jim (Shirley), Craig (Chris), Monnie, Bill, Lori (Mark), Bruce (Michelle), David (Becky); several nieces and nephews. Mike loved the outdoors, he worked most of his life farming. He loved hunting, fishing, wood carving and camping on the river. He loved his family too; he was the middle link in a chain of nine children. He will be missed. Special thanks to Becky and David for all you've done for Mike. Also to Doug and Kevin at Hillcrest Farms for everything. A family memorial will take place at a later date. Interment at Merriman Cemetery, Alto. Memorial donations may be made in Mike's name to the American Cancer Society.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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FREE WILL

astrology

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Aries**(March 21-April 19)**

Computer-generated special effects used in the 1993 film Jurassic Park may seem modest to us now. But at the time they were revolutionary. Inspired by the new possibilities revealed, filmmakers like Stanley Kubrick, George Lucas, and Peter Jackson launched new projects they had previously thought to be beyond their ability to create. In 2019, I urge you to go in quest of your personal equivalent of Jurassic Park's pioneering breakthroughs. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you may be able to find help and resources that enable you to get more serious about seemingly unfeasible or impractical dreams.

Taurus**(April 20-May 20)**

I'm a big proponent of authenticity. I almost always advise you to be yourself with bold candor and unapologetic panache. Speak the truth about your deepest values and clearest perceptions. Be an expert about what really moves you, and devote yourself passionately to your relationships with what really moves you. But there is one exception to this approach. Sometimes it's wise to employ the



always advise you to be yourself with bold candor and unapologetic panache. Speak the truth about your deepest values and clearest perceptions. Be an expert about what really moves you, and devote yourself passionately to your relationships with what really moves you. But there is one exception to this approach. Sometimes it's wise to employ the

"fake it until you make it" strategy: to pretend you are what you want to be with such conviction that you ultimately become what you want to be. I suspect now is one of those times for you.

Gemini**(May 21-June 20)**

The students' dining hall at Michigan State University serves gobs of mayonnaise. But in late 2016, a problem arose when 1250 gallons of the stuff became rancid. Rather than simply throw it away, the school's Sustainability Officer came up with a brilliant solution: load it into a machine called an anaerobic digester, which turns biodegradable waste into energy. Problem solved! The transformed rot provided electricity for parts of the campus. I recommend you regard this story as a metaphor for your own use. Is there anything in your life that has begun to decay or lose its usefulness? If so, can you convert it into a source of power?

Cancer**(June 21-July 22)**

If you grow vegetables, fruits, and grains on an acre of land, you can feed twelve people. If you use that acre to raise meat-producing animals, you'll feed at most four people. But to produce the meat,



you'll need at least four times more water and twenty times more electric power than you would if you grew the plants. I offer this as a useful metaphor for you to consider in the coming months. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you should prioritize efficiency and value. What will provide you with the most bang for your bucks? What's the wisest use of your resources?

Leo**(July 23-August 22)**

Modern kids don't spend much time playing outside. They have fun in natural environments only half as often as their parents did while growing up. In fact, the average child spends less time in the open air than prison inmates. And today's unjailed adults get even less exposure to the elements. But I hope you will avoid that fate in 2019. According to my astrological estimates, you need to allocate more than the usual amount of time to feeling the sun and wind and sky. Not just because it's key to your physical health, but also because many of your best ideas and decisions are likely to emerge while you're outdoors.

Virgo**(August 23-September 22)**

NASA landed its robotic explorer Opportunity on Mars in January of 2004.



The craft's mission, which was supposed to last for 92 days, began by taking photos and collecting soil samples. More than 14 years later, the hardy machine was still in operation, continuing to send data back to Earth. It far outlived its designed lifespan. I foresee you being able to generate a comparable marvel in 2019, Virgo: a stalwart resource or influence or situation that will have more staying power than you could imagine. What could it be?

Libra**(September 23-October 22)**

In 1557, Welsh mathematician Robert Recorde invented the equals sign: =. Historical records don't tell us when he was born, so we don't know his astrological sign. But I'm guessing he was a Libra. Is there any tribe more skillful at finding correlations, establishing equivalencies, and creating reciprocity? In all the zodiac, who is best at crafting righteous proportions and uniting apparent opposites? Who is the genius of balance? In the coming months, my friend, I suspect you will be even more adept at these fine arts than you usually are.

**Scorpio****(October 23-November 21)**

There's a modest, one-story office building at 1209 North Orange Street in Wilmington, Delaware. More than 285,000 businesses from all over the U.S. claim it as their address. Why? Because the state of Delaware has advantageous tax laws that enable those



businesses to save massive amounts of money. Other buildings in Delaware house thousands of additional corporations. It's all legal. No one gets in trouble for it. I bring this to your attention in the hope of inspiring you to hunt for comparable situations: ethical loopholes and workarounds that will provide you with extra benefits and advantages.

Sagittarius**(November 22-December 21)**

People in the Solomon Islands buy many goods and services with regular currency, but also use other symbols of worth to pay for important cultural events like staging weddings and settling disputes and expressing apologies. These alternate forms of currency include the teeth of flying foxes, which are the local species of bat. In that spirit, and in accordance with current astrological omens, I'd love to see you expand your sense of what constitutes your wealth. In addition to material possessions and funds in the bank, what else makes you valuable? In what other ways do you measure your potency, your vitality, your merit? It's a favorable time to take inventory.

Capricorn**(December 22-January 19)**

In 1984, singer-songwriter John Fogerty released a new album whose lead single was "The Old Man Down the Road." It sold well. But trouble arose soon afterward when Fogerty's former record company sued him in court, claiming he stole the idea for "The Old Man Down the Road" from "Run Through the Jungle." That was a tune Fogerty himself had written and recorded in 1970 while playing with the band Creedence Clearwater Revival. The legal process took a while,

Aquarius**(January 20-February 18)**

Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book is a collection of fables that take place in India. Three movies have been made based on it. All of them portray the giant talking snake named Kaa as an adversary to the hero Mowgli. But in Kipling's original stories, Kaa is a benevolent ally and teacher. I bring this to your attention to provide context for a certain situation in your life. Is there an influence with a metaphorical resemblance to Kaa: misinterpreted by some people, but actually quite supportive and nourishing to you? If so, I suggest you intensify your appreciation for it.

Pisces**(February 19-March 20)**

Virginia Woolf thought that her Piscean lover Vita Sackville-West was a decent writer, but a bit too fluid and effortless. Self-expression was so natural to Sackville-West that she didn't work hard enough to hone her craft and discipline her flow. In a letter, Woolf wrote, "I think there are odder, deeper, more angular thoughts in your mind than you have yet let come out." I invite you to meditate on the possibility that Woolf's advice might be useful in 2019. Is there anything in your skill set that comes so easily that you haven't fully ripened it? If so, develop it with more focused intention.

NEWS OF THE

weird

Which Witch?

Tiffany Butch, 33, of Timmins, Ontario, Canada, may go down in history not for her psychic gifts, but for being the last person ever charged in Canada with "pretending to practice witchcraft." On Dec. 11, Butch, whose nickname is the White Witch of the North, was charged under Section 365 of the Criminal Code for demanding money in return for lifting a curse. Two days later, that law was repealed. Marc Depatie, spokesperson for the Timmins police force, said Butch gave a customer "a sense of foreboding that a dreadful thing was about to happen to their family ..." But Butch denies the charge, saying other psychics framed her. "People proclaimed me a witch here and gave me a nickname, but I'm not a witch. I'm a psychic," she told CBC News. Butch is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 22.

Weird Science

On Jan. 1, Camron Jean-Pierre, an 11-year-old Brooklyn, New York, boy, lost his life after apparently suffering an allergic reaction to the smell of the fish his

family was cooking for dinner, reported the New York Daily News. His parents used an unspecified medical device to try to help him, but he lost consciousness and emergency services were called. Camron was taken to Brookdale Hospital, but he couldn't be revived. Scientists have noted that people with food allergies can react strongly to odors from food, and inhaling these odors can cause extreme asthmatic reactions.

People Different From Us

Asparagus is healthy and delicious. But for 63-year-old Jemima Packington of Bath, England, the columnar vegetable is much more: Packington is an asparamancer, a person who can foretell the future by tossing the spears into the air and seeing how they land. "When I cast the asparagus, it creates patterns and it is the patterns I interpret," Packington said. "I am usually about 75 to 90 percent accurate." In fact, out of 13 predictions she made for 2018, 10 of them came true. What's in store for 2019? Packington tells

Metro News that England's women's soccer team will win the World Cup; "A Star Is Born" will win an Oscar; and fears over Brexit will be largely unfounded. Oh, and asparagus will see an all-time high in sales.

Weapon of Choice

Rogelio Tapia, 26, was arrested in Des Moines, Iowa, on Dec. 31 after a dispute at a QuikTrip around 3 a.m. The store clerk and witnesses told police Tapia chased the clerk around the store and assaulted him with a banana after the clerk tried to intervene in a domestic situation. According to KCCI, Tapia caused about \$1,000 in damage; he was charged with assault and third-degree criminal mischief.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: AMERICAN AUTHORS

ACROSS

- 1. ____bat or ____phobe
- 5. *Old Man's turf
- 8. Old-fashioned "over"
- 11. Group of countries
- 12. Bayonet action
- 13. Sailing vessel with two masts
- 15. **Up the Down Stair ____" by Kaufman
- 16. Philosopher Marx
- 17. Poetic although
- 18. *Whaling writer
- 20. Soak some ink
- 21. Golf course
- 22. Hawaiian dish
- 23. **"Slouching Towards Bethlehem" essayist
- 26. Tax break
- 30. Singer Yoko
- 31. Bodily fluids
- 34. Three-ply snack
- 35. Parkinson's disease drug
- 37. Debt acknowledgement
- 38. Special way of doing something
- 39. EU money
- 40. Chevy Chase's 1985 comedy
- 42. One little piggie?
- 43. Plunder
- 45. Bias crime perpetrators
- 47. Pied Piper's follower
- 48. Feed the fire
- 50. Rare bills
- 52. *Female Nobel winner
- 55. Olden day calculators
- 56. Home-grown healer
- 57. H.S. math class
- 59. Azaria and Aaron
- 60. Known for its cabs
- 61. Sports award
- 62. 're
- 63. "But I heard him

CROSSWORD

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- exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas to all..."
64. Wander about
- DOWN**
- 1. **Dr. Seuss's ____" alphabet book
 - 2. Chowder protein
 - 3. "A ____ is a ____ is a

- 4. Plural of ocellus
- 5. Corn holder
- 6. British peers
- 7. Having the means
- 8. Doctor Octopus' first name
- 9. Not counterfeit
- 10. Greek R
- 12. Fit for some jeans
- 13. Shish ____
- 14. **"Invisible Man" author
- 19. Actress Davis
- 22. Product of inflammation
- 23. Dished out
- 24. Empower
- 25. Morrison's "The ____"
- 26. "Open and ____" case
- 27. About to explode

- 28. Joanna Gaines' concern
- 29. Ox connectors
- 32. Grain grinder
- 33. *Master of the macabre
- 36. **"American Authors" genre
- 38. Shade of Dockers
- 40. In good shape
- 41. Movement disorder
- 44. Desert mirage
- 46. SAT administrator
- 48. Type of renewable energy
- 49. Figure of speech
- 50. Type of ski lift
- 51. Do like the moon
- 52. Lion's do
- 53. Guesstimate phrase
- 54. Australian palm
- 55. Norwegian band
- 58. Sweaty spot

Puzzle solutions on page 12



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

Online POLL QUESTION

After Kevin Hart's contentious exit of hosting the Oscars, who should host?



- Steve Martin
- Ellen DeGenerous
- Jerry Seinfeld
- Key and Peele
- Ricky Gervais
- Tina Fey and Amy Poehler

TO VOTE, GO TO
WWW.
thelowellledger.com

Then watch for the results in

Lowell's Only Hometown Newspaper!

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Our poll asked ...

Do you think the "Trump Shutdown" was a good strategic move by the president?

- Yes 33%
- No 63%
- No Idea, too busy 4%

WWW.
thelowellledger.com

Youthful cast of “Henry & Ramona” in rehearsal

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

The cast of the LowellArts Players Youth Theater’s production of “Henry and Ramona” wrapped up their Christmas break with a run-through of the play this past Saturday morning, Jan. 5. The performances, which run Jan. 17, 18 and 19 at the Lowell Performing Arts Center, feature 18 youth and teen actors with one adult.

The Youth Theater puts on productions every year. They rehearse in the sparse upstairs of the LowellArts location downtown.

“We put on a show every winter [through] LowellArts,” said Teresa Goldner, director of this year’s performance. She also directed last year’s Youth Theater performance of “James and the Giant Peach.”

“Henry and Ramona” was written by Cynthia McGean and based on three of Beverly Cleary’s books put together.

“Henry is trying to get a paper route and show that he is an older kid, but he is only a fifth grader,” Goldner said. “Ramona is the neighborhood pest. She is a kindergartener and she wants to fit in. Beezus is Henry’s best friend and Ramona is Beezus’s sister.”

Much of the behind-the-scenes work for these productions has been a family affair.

“My mom is my stage manager/ assistant director,” Goldner explained. “I have stage-managed for her many times [including] kids’

Her family connection to Lowell theater goes back even further, as her grandparents “kind of helped kick off the program when it was the LowellArts Council.”

“So they were in theater, and then my mom got into

a full run-through of this play was possible was an arduous process.

“We started rehearsal in late November; a couple of nights a week,” Goldner explained. “Now we are pretty close to show time, so it is crunch time.”

are memorized; we are just getting the flow down.”

They will have a stage rehearsal of sorts with a performance at an elementary school.

“We perform for the elementary kids on Jan. 16,” Goldner said. “That’s just

Theater production. In fact, he was not even planning on trying out for the play originally.

“I had a friend who is really into drama, and she came,” Deets said. “My sister was planning on going out for [a] role, and she had stage fright. And I figured, since we drove all the way out here, why not [try out]?”

Despite the stage fright, his sister, Rebecca Deets, did end up making the play as Evelyn.

Andrew has enjoyed his unexpected inclusion in the cast.

“It has been really fun. I have made friends with pretty much everyone [on the cast],” said Deets.

The one-hour long performances open to the public will take place at Lowell High School’s Performing Arts Center on Jan. 17, 18, and 19 at 7 pm with an additional matinee performance on Jan. 19 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$7 with children ages two and under admitted free. Any questions can be directed to LowellArts at 616-897-8545 or info@lowellartsmi.org.



shows, and we have two other adult performances [each year]. Normally those are in the fall and spring. And I have stage-managed for I don’t know how many of those.”

theater,” Goldner said. “My dad does the set building and stuff. My dad is doing the set building for this show too, which is pretty awesome.”

Getting to the point where

At this point Goldner is happy with the preparation of the cast.

“We have some stumbles, but that is expected at this point,” said Goldner. “Lines

act one [out of the two act play].”

Andrew Deets is the lead in this year’s performance, playing Henry Huggins. This is his first time in a Youth

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