

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Monday, Jan. 21

Josh Rose in concert



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LMS evacuated Friday after bomb threat

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Middle School was evacuated on Friday, Jan. 11 after the Lowell Police Department responded to an anonymous threat of violence against the school.

“Today, just as school got started, we received a non-specific threat,” Lowell Area School superintendent Greg Pratt said during an interview in the middle of all the chaos on Friday morning. “In regards to that, our process is to ensure student safety and staff safety. It was decided, in collaboration with law enforcement, that we would exit the building. We decided to move the students to Cherry Creek.”

The scene at the school on Friday was incredibly hectic as a stream of parents arrived to pick up their children, who, for safety’s sake, could not be released to anybody except a parent or guardian. Over 900 students attend Lowell Middle School. Three law enforcement agencies searched the school, but nothing out of the ordinary was found.



Students and parents evacuating Lowell Middle School on Friday after a bomb threat was found.

“Once the students were at Cherry Creek, in collaboration with the Kent County Sheriff’s Department and the Michigan State Police, we brought in a dog

to make sure the building was cleared,” Pratt said. “Once it was decided that the building was safe, the Lowell Police Department, Kent County Sheriff and

Michigan State Police gave us the ‘all clear’ to resume school as scheduled.”

Parents were kept informed through emails, social media and directly

from their children’s cell phones.

“We’ve got great staff and the parents have been really cooperative,” Pratt

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Lowell Board of Ed. regular meeting report



Students from Murray Lake Elementary showed the board members how to do an “Advantage Math Recovery” lesson.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their regular monthly meeting at 7 pm on Monday, Jan. 14. The meeting lasted 42 minutes and was attended by 25 local residents.

The board heard a presentation by Murray Lake Elementary principal Molly Burnett, retired teacher and Murray Lake math interventionist Carmen

Tawney and district math intervention coordinator Ron Acheson about “Advantage Math Recovery,” a math intervention program second graders have been immersed in. The program’s goal is to teach young students early numeracy skills. A group of second grade students from Murray Lake Elementary attended the meeting and were able to lead the board

members through one of the “Advantage Math Recovery” lessons.

“Some of the benefits we’ve seen is that kids are just loving math,” Acheson said. “Students who, typically, in the past, may have struggled a bit and needed some extra support, they’re gaining confidence in math class with their peers. We had somebody say they



Lowell Area Schools Board of Education: Kelly Kroll, Gary Blough, Pat Nugent, Jim Turner, Laurie Kuna, Dan Stephens and Brian Krajewski.

wanted to be a math teacher now, which was awesome.”

The school board’s next regular meeting will be in the Runciman Building,

300 High St., at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 4. Their next work session meeting will be in the same location at 6 pm

on Monday, Jan. 28, 2019.

50¢



Josh Rose and the Founding Fathers to be featured at next LowellArts house concert

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The next LowellArts House Concert will bring singer-songwriter Josh Rose and his band the Founding Fathers to the stage in the Main St. art gallery for an intimate performance of Rose's original, powerful and beautiful original songs.

Rose lives in Lowell and is a chemistry teacher at Lowell High School, so he is probably a somewhat familiar sight to local audiences.

"I try to play somewhere in Lowell a couple of times per year," Rose said. "I've been a fairly regular performer at LowellArts, the Fallasburg Fall Festival and the Summer Concert Series. Honestly, I love Lowell. Pretty much everything about it: the Flat River and its fish, the downtown, the library, the parks, the showboat and the people. I've lived and worked in this community for 18 years now. The people of this town have embraced me and my music, even from my early career, so when I play here it's special."

Rose's goal at his shows is to generate an otherworldly feeling among the crowd.



"Songwriting has become a part of who I am," Rose said. "Performing and writing my songs is the closest I can come to magic. When I play a song for an audience that is welcoming and eager, and then I connect to that audience during that performance, the feeling

really is sublime. It's what keeps me going after fifteen years in this biz."

Unlike many singer-songwriters, Rose does not use his material to make embarrassing emotional confessions and vividly describe his personal problems to the audience.

Instead, his goal is to create songs that with a universal message that will resonate with more people.

"I hope that my songs are not 'me' songs," Rose said. "It seems as if much of the music that is popular these days and in the public consciousness are statements

about who the performer is, how they live their life, their personal brand, their perceptions of life and how to live it, etc. I hope that I draw on all the parts of life, and not just mine, but other people's lives as well. I want to write about big ideas: nature, humanity,

relationships, time, history, the whole gauntlet of life. When I finish a song at my dining room table, I hope that it's universal and every living person can draw some meaning and emotion from it. There's a line in one of my songs called, 'The Pragmatist.' The line goes, 'Someone pull my head from the clouds, I'm drowning in my own dreams.' I spend a lot of time with my head in the clouds. Daydreams are what I dwell on and what I do best."

Tickets to Rose's show are \$10 in advance and are available at LowellArts. To hear a sample of Rose's music, find him on Facebook or visit josh-rose.com. For more information about LowellArts, call 616-897-8545, email info@lowellartsmi.org or visit lowellartsmi.org.

"Now, this show is not just me," Rose said. "The Founding Fathers are Kyle Rasche on guitar and backing vocals, Mat Churchill on bass and backing vocals and Brian Morrill on drums. These guys are all amazing players and guys, it's going to be a great night."

Future winter house concerts at LowellArts

- January 19: Serita's Black Rose Duo
- January 26: Josh Rose & the Founding Fathers
- February 2: Hawks and Owls
- February 9: Kathy Lamar and Robin Connell
- February 23: Natchez Trace
- March 2: Peat in the Creel
- March 9: The Adams Family
- March 16: Hannah Rose Trio
- March 23: Fauxgrass
- March 30: The Bruce Matthews Band



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Threat, continued

said. "We sent out email communications to parents, informing them of exactly what happened today."

On Friday evening, Pratt sent a letter to parents with further information about the incident.

"At around 8 am this morning, I received a call that a hand-written bomb threat was left for the middle school," Pratt's letter read. "In speaking with law enforcement, we could not completely identify the threat as not being credible, so we immediately began taking steps to evacuate students to a safe and secure location while police secured the campus and began a thorough search of the building, including the use of trained canines. Once authorities determined

that the building was safe and secure, students were sent back to the middle school to continue their day of instruction. [...] While I cannot legally disclose information related to suspects or the status of the investigation, I can tell you that threats of this type are considered incredibly serious and we have the full cooperation of law enforcement."

Classes at the middle school resumed on Friday after it was determined that there was no actual bomb on the site.

"This is really just about making sure our students and staff are as safe as possible," Pratt said. "We're just glad that we're back and running as scheduled."



Pub Poker Run event returns Tuesday, Jan. 22

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's annual "Pub Poker Run," a traveling poker game event, will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 22. Participants will race between seven local restaurants to collect playing cards at each stop in order to assemble the best poker hand.

It's \$10 per hand to participate. Simply head to the Chamber office on the

Riverwalk at some point between 5 and 6 pm on Jan. 22 to register, and off you go. This year, the stops are New Union Brewery, Century Post Pub, Sneaker's, Big Boiler Brewing, Flat River Grill, Main Street BBQ and Larkin's Restaurant.

Participants are welcome to make the rounds at their own pace, but you must present your final cards at Larkin's by 8 pm.

There will be cash prizes for the top three winning hands. In the past, prizes have been more than \$200.

The event was created several years ago by local residents Cutter Phillips and Betsy Davidson.

"Tuesday nights are typically slower for restaurant traffic," Phillips said. "We're doing this to bring people out, let them have some fun and have a



good time."

"The event is focused on eating, enjoying a beverage and socializing," said

Chamber director Liz Baker. For more information, visit the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

website, lowellchamber.org, or call 616-897-9161.



Participants at Larkin's Restaurant after a previous Pub Poker Run.

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LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

January is School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to recognize the individuals who approach their volunteer work like it is a full-time job and with extraordinary dedication to public schools. They are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our community.

School boards are charged with making decisions that can sometimes be quite difficult, or require sifting through a great deal of information.

They contribute hundreds of hours each year leading Lowell Area Schools. Collectively, school board members across the state spend more than 7,500 hours on professional development to keep well-informed of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours at extracurricular events.

Through their dedication, collaboration with other school district

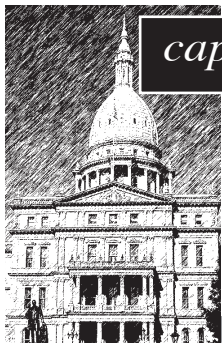

staff, their governance and advocacy, they are building the future of education in Michigan.

This month, we encourage all members of the community to thank a board member. Take this opportunity to show our year-round appreciation for these servant leaders and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders.

Jim Turner, President
Brian Krajewski, Vice-President

Gary Blough, Treasurer
Pat Nugent, Secretary
Tom Kaywood, Trustee
Laurie Kuna, Trustee
Dan Stephens, Trustee

capitol matters
State Representative
Thomas Alberts

Priorities in the New Year

The 2019-2020 legislative session is off to a great start. This week the Senate and House met for the first time this year to begin working and voting on legislation. Over the past eight years, Governor Rick Snyder served our state well, and I am thankful for his leadership during the Michigan comeback. Governor Gretchen Whitmer's inauguration introduces a new administration and a different political landscape in Lansing. This will bring new challenges but also new opportunities for creative

solutions and problem solving. I am committed to continue working hard to pass good policy, and this term, that will mean finding bi-partisan solutions to our state's biggest problems. I look forward to working with my new colleagues in the Legislature, as well as Gov. Whitmer and her team. My goal for this legislative session will remain the same: Helping make our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family. We can do this by focusing on the issues most important to you:

Auto Insurance Reform

I remain committed to supporting reform that will lower Michigan's highest-in-the-nation auto insurance rates. Last term, I was proud to support legislation that would have been the first step in reforming Michigan's broken auto insurance system. This year, I look forward to continuing to work on reforms that will responsibly lower rates for drivers. To do this, we need to crack down on fraud, provide coverage options, reduce out-of-control medical costs, and address other factors creating unfair premiums for Michigan drivers.

Improving Education

Investing in our next generation should always be top priority for our state government. I am proud to have supported historically high funding for our schools during my first two years in office and will continue supporting budgets that put more money in the classroom. Improving education in Michigan will take more than just money; we need to critically look at policies and procedures to ensure our schools are adequately equipping students for life's next steps. I believe this includes expanding opportunities for high school students to get involved in career training and skilled trades programs that will kick-start great careers. In addition, I remain committed to supporting school safety programs, such as the Competitive School Safety Grant Program administered by the Michigan State Police. This initiative provides \$25 million to nearly 200 schools for safety and security updates. A number of schools in the 86th District have already received grants to make improvements to their buildings.

Auto Insurance Reform

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Billboards in Michigan

the lowell ledger

Newspapers are more engaging than billboards.

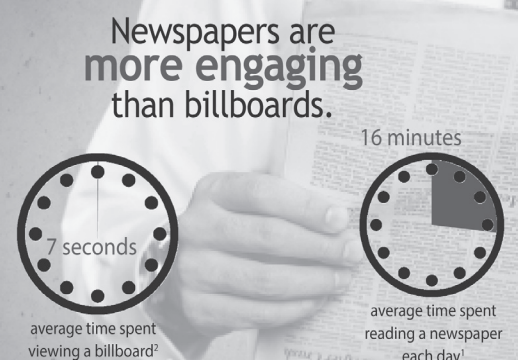
16 minutes
average time spent reading a newspaper each day¹

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



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.⁵

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

Newspaper ads have more staying power

Saving the ad for future reference is one of the top-rated newspaper reader actions.³

The newspaper is often passed along to someone else who sees the ad. Daily/Sunday newspapers average 1.9 readers per copy⁴

People simply scan billboards as they drive by.



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

viewpoint

to the editor

Title: "What to Name a Boat"

The Friday before Christmas 2018 Michigan's legislators presented a spending bill that would provide the funding to restore the historic Lowell Showboat. And with one of the final strokes of then-Governor Rick Snyder's pen, the funding Lowell wanted moved from a hope to a reality.

This is, of course, thanks to the hard work of Senator Dave Hildenbrand. The \$1.3 million earmarked in the spending bill for the Lowell Showboat, added to the million he secured in

2017 puts the total funding at the expected cost of the project. I look forward to watching this project move forward, and for the improvements of the riverwalk area of Lowell. The recent spending bill that made this a reality totaled a whopping \$1.3 billion and has many menial details for state spending. One detail left out however, is a name for our new boat.

As you may remember, our beloved boat lost its name quietly and without fanfare amid the national controversy in 2017 about confederate monuments in the United States. So I

propose we find a name fitting for our motionless, yet important boat. But what do you name a boat that isn't sea-worthy, can't sail, and was mostly funded in the final moments of the state's legislative session? I can think of no name more fitting than "The Lame Duck".

*Keith Disselkoen
Lowell Township*

Dear Editor,

Why can't the people we send to Washington just work together? We send them there to work for us and provide them with a decent salary and benefits. They swear an oath to serve, enforce the laws, and defend the Constitution.

Nancy Pelosi is the new Speaker of the House. I've heard her state that

she has much to contribute to Congress, is a master legislator, and knows the budget in great detail. I am sure others in Congress feel they have expert legislation and budgeting skills, too. Yet we have needed legislation to improve our immigration and border protection laws for decades. Congress can't balance a budget and works on continuing resolutions. The nation, meaning you and me, is in deep debt. And the nation has many more major challenges. Is this the work of the experts who are masters of their profession? Shouldn't they get this work done for us?

Our leaders bully each other. Some elected officials don't want to work or talk with other elected officials. Some belittle colleagues and make condescending comments

and proposals. There is no respect for differing ideas. Have you ever heard more "opinions and feelings" and so few facts used by those who are supposed to be professionals and role models? And how do you like the "foul language" which demonstrates a lack of civility and shows no respect for authority? In what small business, large business, or service industry could you act like that? In your job are you not expected to communicate and compromise, work cooperatively and respectfully with co-workers and customers, deal with the challenges of employers and employees and keep on budget, address and resolve complaints, and respond to changing demands; and do it professionally, with civility, and in a timely manner?

Wouldn't it be nice if the US Congress would put the country before themselves and seriously address the multitude of challenges our nation faces today. Who is to set an example? Who is to lead?

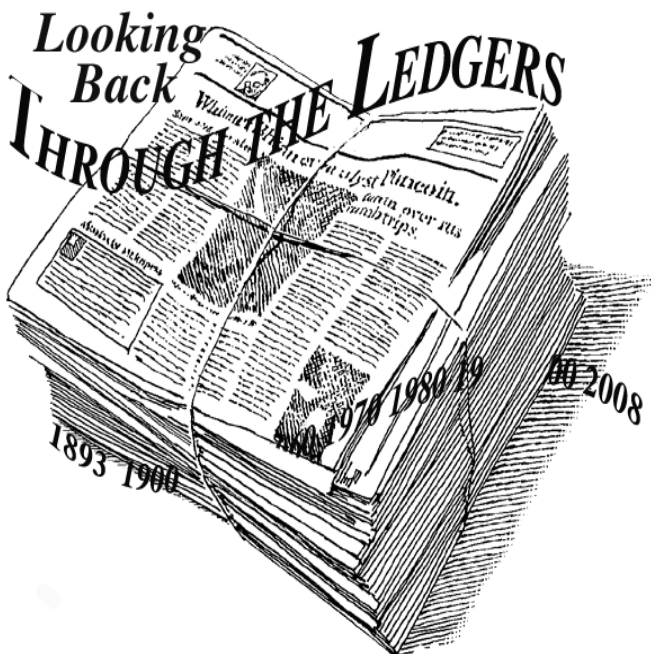
How do you raise children and grandchildren today when our leaders and other professionals in the public eye do not exhibit good character traits? What kind of world is it going to be for them?

I remember the five banners which hung in our LHS. They were RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, INTEGRITY, COMPASSION, and HONESTY. I wish everyone would keep those in mind as they work and interact with their family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues and use social media.

If you're not a parent or grandparent you may not be familiar Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood. It is an animated preschool series based on the legacy of Fred Rogers and the PBS TV show Mister Roger's Neighborhood. The program strives to teach children good manners and character traits and how to deal with conflict. People in today's world of divisiveness would benefit from watching all of the Daniel Tiger episodes. Please start with the episode that teaches, "If there is a problem, STOP, TALK, AND MAKE A PLAN".

I believe that Americans have more in common than differences. I believe that Americans are innovative, creative, industrious, hard working, generous, kind, and problem solvers. We just need to STOP, TALK, and MAKE A PLAN.

*A Concerned Voice,
Carol Drenth
Lowell*



125 years ago Lowell Ledger January 20, 1894

In place of the old Shakespeare club is a new society has been organized in connection with the Martyn college of oratory, Washington, D. C. It has been named the Lowell Literary Society. The following subjects will be studied: Physical culture, health, voice culture, reading, reciting, new recitations, Christian elocution, conversation, literature, oratory, model lectures, human nature and impersonations. On Tuesday, the society met at the home of Mrs. Althen. Rev. Jas. Provan was elected president, Miss McDannell sec'y., and Mrs. Lee treas. Twenty-nine members have already been enrolled. The society will meet again on the 29th inst. at the home of Dr. McDannell.

100 years The Lowell Ledger January 16, 1919

Legislatures of 35 states--one less than the required three-fourths--have ratified the prohibition constitutional amendment. Several state assemblies

now in session are expected to take action tomorrow with a probable race between Nebraska, Missouri and Minnesota, as to which will be the thirty-sixth on the list. Ratification was completed today by the legislatures of five states--Iowa, Colorado, Oregon, New Hampshire and Utah--making a total of 12 in two days. Of the 35 states that have taken action only 14 have certified their action to the federal state department. They are Virginia, Kentucky, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Montana, Delaware, Massachusetts, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana and Michigan.

According to the local officials, Clayton Grant, an Ada township farmer, had two births and two deaths in his family without reporting them to Ada Authorities. Grant, according to Prosecutor Hoffus, has confessed to burying both of the children himself on his farm and gives for reason that he was too poor to give them proper burial. One of the bodies has been dug up and under the direction of Coroner Simon LeRoy and Sheriff Peter Viergever and has been brought to Grand Rapids. According to officials the father stated he would take the body back and give it proper burial. The other child was 7 months old.

75 years The Lowell Ledger January 20, 1944

When "Potato Show" time came last November we were unable to attend and only the other day from Ed Parmeter, in Courtland township, did I learn of the good showing Kent potatoes made at Edmore. While this is late it is still news. Ed Parmeter won the sweepstakes in the open class with a pick of Katahdins. He also had first place on a peck of cobbles, same in a bushel of Katahdins and was awarded the premier growers contest. Franklin Williams, 4-H Club member of Oakfield, won first place on a peck of Chippewas and the 4-H Club sweepstakes in the show. A fellow club member, William Reed, won second place on Chippewas. Gerald Williams won third. Russell Gray won second place in open class on a peck of Katahdins. The Extension office is planning to show all these potatoes at the state show during Farmers Week at Michigan State College.

Hats off to the F. F. A. boys and their adviser, Albert

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.
Wayne A. Christenson III,
Tracy Lixie & John G. Meier



- tinnitus

Tinnitus is the name for when one hears ringing or buzzing in the ear. It is a common problem affecting one in five people. It's a symptom of an underlying condition, but typically not a serious problem.

The phantom noise can be heard as a clicking, hissing, roaring, buzzing, or ringing. It can vary in pitch. It can be so loud that it interferes with your ability to hear or concentrate.

There are several causes of this. Age-related hearing loss is a common cause. Exposure to loud noises such as heavy equipment, chain saws, firearms, and portable music devices can cause this. Stiffening of the bones in the middle ear is a cause as well. Other less common

causes include: Meniere's disease, TMJ problems, head and neck trauma, or an acoustic neuroma. Medications also may cause or worsen tinnitus.

As part of the diagnosis, a hearing exam is done. Sometimes an imaging test is ordered. In most cases, a cause is never found.

There is no cure for tinnitus. Treatment focuses on reducing the sound. White noise machines are helpful at night. Masking devices worn in the ear can also help. Some medications can be tried, but they are typically not very effective.

Tinnitus can't really be prevented, but protecting your hearing by avoiding loud noises and wearing hearing protection can help in the long run.

Albert, continued

Community Building
Lastly, I will keep my focus on policy that will help the 86th District remain the best place to live, work, and raise a family. With this in mind, I am happy to be partnering with the Rising Tide initiative in Ionia, which is a state-administered program to provide communities with the tools they need to design and build a successful economic framework. Over the course of the next year, community leaders will come together to invest time and resources to help the Ionia community grow and thrive.

For every bill that comes across my desk, I ask myself, "Will this help the people of the 86th District?"

Because of that mindset, I will not always vote on party lines, but I can promise my vote will always reflect what I believe is good policy for our community.

If you would like to discuss state policy or a local issue, please feel free to call or email my office at any time. In addition, I will continue holding monthly 'office hours' across the district. No appointment is necessary. On Friday, January 25, I will be in Ada at Jambean Coffee (590 Ada Drive) from 9-10:00 am and in Belding at Third Wave Coffee (105 Main St.) from 11:00 am - noon. I look forward to hearing from you!

Looking Back, continued

T. Hall, for making such a grand success of the waste paper drive. To collect enough waste paper in one day to fill a box car is an achievement worthy of special note and valuable help in the war effort.

Fred Humeston, Smith-Hughes teacher at Sparta, met with a painful accident to his left knee late in December. Fred was helping with the basketball coaching, the regular coach having left his position for a defense job. In throwing a basket he turned his body but his knee didn't turn. Result was a badly twisted knee joint, that needed surgical attention. He is coming along fine. His teaching job has been taken by Lyle Anderson, former ag. teacher at Dowagiac and now farming in Sparta township.

50 years The Lowell Ledger January 16, 1969

Education of the public regarding procedures has been the most difficult part of establishing the new district court, according to District Judge Joseph E. White. The court, in operation since January 1, replaces the Justice of the Peace system in the state of Michigan under recent legislation.

Icy road conditions over the weekend resulted in several accidents in Ionia County, sheriff's deputies reported. On Saturday, Richard Denny, aged 27, of Lowell, lost control of his car while headed west on Riverside Drive about three-tenths of a mile east of Montcalm Road. Denny's car left the road and struck a tree inflicting minor damage to the right front section. He was not injured.

25 years The Lowell Ledger January 19, 1994

In the effort to build two homes on 57 acres of land off Timpson Rd. and I-96, Rick Seese and Todd Verwys are trying to convince Lowell Township officials that I-96 constitutes a public road for road frontage. The debate Seese, a real estate agent for Greenridge Realty, and Verwys, a potential buyer for the property, have with the township is whether I-96 falls within the guidelines of road frontage set forth in the township's zoning ordinance for a single family dwelling.

Vision 2000 chairman Jim Bosserd reflected on Tuesday evening's question and answer forum, pondering whether or not the four-hour forum made strides in helping the community let go of the past and looking towards the future. "I think some of the community school issues and questions were resolved. I think the issues all schools in the state are facing still need to be played out," Bosserd said.

Rep Albert sworn in



State Rep. Thomas Albert of Lowell was ceremoniously sworn into his second term of office on Wednesday by Michigan State Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Markman. Rep. Albert represents the 86th District, which includes the cities of Belding, Ionia, and Lowell as well as the townships of Easton, Ionia, Orleans, Otisco, Ada, Bowne, Caledonia, Cascade, Grattan, Lowell, and Vergennes.

From left to right: Rep. Albert's children Mary, Jack, and Owen and wife Erica.

Oak Meadow
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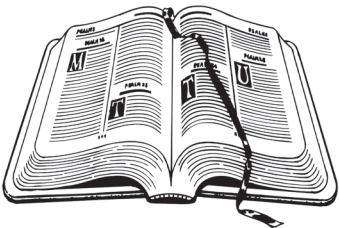
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LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

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Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD
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Sunday School.....11:20 AM
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
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St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com

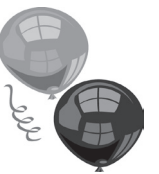
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happy birthday



JANUARY 16
Alex Stuckey.

JANUARY 17
Kevin Rasch, Joe Potter.

JANUARY 18
Shelby Weston.

JANUARY 19
Tim Stencel, Susan Cook, Tim Schuitema, Trevor Mooney, Mark Ries, Scott Crandall.

JANUARY 20
Shelby Baird, Josh Rinard.

JANUARY 21
James Vezino, Mark MacNaughton, Krysta Jankowski, Brooklyn Rinard.

JANUARY 22
Cheryl DeYoung, Bob Pfaller, Dale Latva, Jenni Magner, Frances Walling, Glenn Vanbuskirk, Shane Gildner, Reece VanderWarf, Frances DeVries, Elijah Barr.



Understanding Social Security disability benefits

Disability is something most people don't like to think about, but the chances that you'll become disabled probably are greater than you realize. Studies show that a 20-year-old worker has a 1-in-4 chance of becoming disabled before reaching full retirement age.

Social Security pays disability benefits through two programs:

- The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and;
- The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Social Security Disability

Insurance is funded through payroll taxes. Social Security Disability Insurance recipients have worked for years and have made contributions to the Social Security trust fund in the form of Social Security taxes – either FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) for employees or SECA (Self-Employment Contributions Act) for the self-employed.

SSI is a means-tested program, meaning it has nothing to do with work history, but provides payments to people with disabilities who have low

income and few resources. Social Security manages the program, but SSI is not paid for by Social Security taxes. Social Security pays benefits to people who can't work because they have a medical condition that's expected to last at least one year or result in death. Federal law requires this very strict definition of disability. While some programs give money to people with partial disability or short-term disability, Social Security does not.

It's important that you know which benefits you may be qualified to receive. You can read more about Social

Security Disability Insurance at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10029.pdf and more about SSI at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-11000.pdf.

When you apply for either program, we'll collect medical and other information from you and make a decision about whether or not you meet Social Security's definition of disability. In addition to meeting our definition of disability, you must have worked long enough — and recently enough — under Social Security to qualify for SSDI benefits.

To see if you meet the requirements for disability benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/disability/qualify.html.

Social Security covers millions of people, including children, wounded warriors, and people who are chronically ill. And this is just a part of what we do. Remember, you can also apply for retirement, spouse's, Medicare, or disability benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/apply-for-benefits.html.



Vonda VanTil (pictured) 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 vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

Be the first to know: online COLA notices

We are constantly expanding our online services to give you freedom and control when doing business with us. Our new online cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) notices are another example of our commitment in this area. Soon, you'll be the first to know your new benefit amount!

Later this year, we will post the Social Security COLA notices online for retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries with a *my Social Security* account. The COLA announcement usually occurs in October, but final benefit amounts won't be calculated and available until December, when we send COLA notices that contain the benefit amount for the next calendar year. These COLA notices will now be available to view and save via the Message Center inside *my Social Security*. The Message Center is a secure, convenient portal where you can receive sensitive communications we don't send through email or text. This year, you will still receive your COLA notice

by mail. In the future, you will be able to choose whether you receive your notice online instead of on paper. Online notices will not be available to representative payees, individuals with foreign mailing addresses, or those who pay higher Medicare premiums due to their income. We plan to expand the availability of COLA notices to additional online customers in the future. Remember, our services are always free of charge. No government agency or reputable company will solicit your personal information by email or request advanced fees for services in the form of wire transfers or gift cards. Avoid falling victim to fraudulent internet "phishing" schemes by not revealing personal

information, selecting malicious links, or opening malicious attachments. You can learn more about the ways we protect your investment, personal information, and *my Social Security* account at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/security.html>.

Be the first to know. Sign up for or log in to your personal *my Social Security* account today at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount> and choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive your COLA notice online!

Vonda VanTil (pictured above, right) 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 vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

...

It is the function of speech to free men from the bondage of irrational fears.

~ Louis D. Brandeis (1856 - 1941)

LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
SUSAN C. COONS TRUST
uad 4/17/2013**

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, Susan C. Coons, who lived at 1055 Forest Hill Ave., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, died on 12/8/2018. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Susan C. Coons Trust uad 4/17/2013, will be forever barred unless presented to successor trustee, Mary Gray Slawson, of 8455 Puma Trail, NE, Rockford, MI 49546, or Craig A. Bruggink, attorney for trustee, 429 Turner Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice if further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Mary Gray Slawson
Successor trustee
Susan C. Coons Trust,
uad 4/17/13

Craig A. Bruggink
(P29358)
429 Turner NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-4038

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION TOWNSHIP OF BOWNE KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

On Jan. 11, 2019, the Township Board for Bowne Township adopted a new ordinance entitled the "Bowne Township Marihuana Establishments and Facilities Ordinance" (the "Ordinance") which shall be effective throughout Bowne Township. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

Section 1 - TITLE

The Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Bowne Township Marihuana Establishments and Facilities Ordinance."

Section 2 - DEFINITIONS

This section defines various words, terms and phrases for purposes of the Ordinance, including, but not limited to, marihuana establishment, marihuana facility, and the names and citations of various applicable Michigan statutes.

Section 3 - MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AND FACILITIES PROHIBITED

This section prohibits marihuana establishments and marihuana facilities within Bowne Township.

Section 4 - RIGHTS UNAFFECTED BY THIS ORDINANCE

This section specifies what rights or privileges are not affected by the Ordinance, various Ordinance exemptions and other matters pertaining to rights or privileges.

Section 5 - SEVERABILITY

If any portion of this Ordinance is invalidated by a court, the balance of the Ordinance remains unchanged and in effect.

Section 6 - PENALTIES

A violation of the Ordinance constitutes a municipal civil infraction. This section also specifies potential penalties, fines, subsequent offenses, addresses aiding and abetting and assisting with a violation of the Ordinance, indicates that a violation of the Ordinance is a nuisance *per se*, allows the Township to pursue various remedies for a violation of the Ordinance, indicates which Township or other officials can enforce the Ordinance and similar matters.

Section 7 - EFFECTIVE DATE

The Ordinance shall become effective upon the expiration of 30 days after either the Ordinance or a summary appears in the newspaper.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of 30 days after its publication (or a summary thereof) in the manner provided by law.

A full copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, purchased or reviewed at the Bowne Township offices at 8240 Alden Nash, Alto, MI 49302 during normal business hours (Wednesday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. & 3 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) or by contacting the Township Clerk at (616) 868-6846.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk
(616) 868-6846

LaughFest individual tickets now on sale

Additional shows and events announced and volunteer registration open for 10-day festival

Individual tickets for Gilda's LaughFest are now on sale. Additionally, LaughFest has added several events for the March 7 to 17 festival. Also, individuals interested in volunteering during the festival can do so at laughfestgr.org.

Tickets for the 10-day festival featuring headliners Brian Regan, Jo Koy, Ali Wong, Matt Bellasai, Ed Asner, Nate Bargatze, Loni Love, and other seriously funny events can be purchased at laughfestgr.org, ticketmaster.com (search LaughFest), the Van Andel Arena & DeVos Place Box Offices, or by calling 616-735-HAHA (4242).

Shows and events announced today include several shows at the Comedy Project, and the return of the FUNderwear Run, Kids Rock Hip Hop Dance Party and Super Saturday Kids Zone.

The Comedy Project will feature several shows throughout the festival including Ctl Alt Deflect, a Second City-style comedy

revue that will run March 8, 9, 15, and 16. Quintin Hicks' "Fish Dinner" will take place March 15 and 16. MSW3, (Murder, She Wrote), a Riff Trax and Mystery Science Theater style show will happen on March 8. Finally, The Million Dollar Variety Show featuring comedian and juggler Will Oltman, vaudevillian performer extraordinaire Audria Larsen and comedian and magician Trino, will take place March 14.

Returning this year is the FUNderwear Run which begins at 2 p.m., on Sunday, March 10, downtown Grand Rapids. The FUNderwear Run is a .6 mile course that will start and end at New Holland Brewing Company's Knickerbocker, located at 417 Bridge St. NW. All racers are encouraged to wear their most hilarious and finest underwear over their running clothes, all to help create laughs and smiles. Those with the flashiest, funniest and most creative underwear may be picked for a prize for the best underwear contest. Registration before or on February 25 will be \$25 including an official race

t-shirt, drink ticket and finisher medal. Registration after February 25 will rise to \$30.

Volunteer registration is now open and runs through February 4 for both new and returning volunteers. Volunteers can help with several different teams throughout the festival including event promotion, logistics, ushering, selling merchandise, office support and volunteer staffing needs during all LaughFest ticketed and non-ticketed events. Volunteers interested can sign up at laughfestgr.org

Other seriously funny shows previously announced include the Clean Comedy Showcase, the National Stand-up Comedy Showcase, the Best of the Midwest Competition, Pop Scholars, River City Improv, Rockin' Homegrown Jam, LaughFest's Best and the Dirty Show.

During the seriously funny 10-day festival, LaughFest 2019 will include more than 200 free and ticketed shows. LaughFest will feature over 100 artists at more than 40 venues in Grand Rapids, Holland, Lowell,



New York-based comedian PJ Walsh performing at Lowell High School during a previous LaughFest event.

and Wayland's Gun Lake Casino.

Gilda's LaughFest was created by the team at Gilda's Club Grand Rapids in 2011. Designed to celebrate laughter for the health of it and raise visibility and funds for free emotional health support for anyone on a cancer journey or grieving

a death due to any cause. LaughFest features free and ticketed events including stand-up, improv, film, showcases and a variety of seriously funny stuff.

Past LaughFest headliners have included Howie Mandel, Seth Meyers, George Lopez, Wanda Sykes, Billy Gardell, Iliza, Amy Schumer, Jay Leno, Lily

Tomlin, Chris Tucker, Pete Holmes, Sinbad, Margaret Cho, Betty White, Whoopi Goldberg, Mike Epps, Kathleen Madigan, Martin Short, Kevin Nealon, Wayne Brady, Trevor Noah, Joel McHale, Lewis Black, Tiffany Haddish, Bert Kreischer and Anjelah Johnson.



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Jan Thompson received this letter from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency in regards to the Cookies for Veterans campaign that is held every November. Thompson wanted to share this information because Cookies for Veterans is a community effort.

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR



JAMES ROBERT REDFORD
DIRECTOR

State of Michigan
MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

December 27, 2018

Lowell Bakers
14100 Thompson Dr
Lowell, MI 49331

Dear Lowell Bakers,

On behalf of the residents of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, we wish to thank you very much for your kind donation of new clothing, blankets, puzzles, games, cookies, misc and personal care items. Constructed in 1885, the Home has been providing quality care and a high quality of life for veterans and their spouses, serving every generation of America's heroes since the Civil War.

Donations to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans are tax deductible in the manner and to the extent provided under section 170 (C) of the Internal Revenue Code. Material donations are used for the benefit of the members of the Home, or if no practical purpose is found, are re-donated to other veteran support organizations that may find the item useful in their mission.

Quality of life for our residents is enhanced greatly by donations such as this. Once again, thank you for remembering the residents at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Our Veterans Thank You!

Tracey Nelson

Tracey Nelson
Chief Operating Officer, GRHV

Deanna Reames

Deanna Reames
Volunteer Coordinator

3000 MONROE NE • GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49505
www.michiganveterans.com • (616) 364-5300

Hildenbrand joins Kelley Cawthorne lobbying firm

Kelley Cawthorne, Michigan's leading lobbying firm, announced today that Lansing veteran Dave Hildenbrand will join its team of government relations professionals.

Hildenbrand was a member of the Michigan Senate from 2011 through 2018. He served as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee for four years beginning in 2015. As Chair, he oversaw the state's \$56 billion annual budget. Dave was widely recognized for his ability to navigate the legislative process to produce a balanced state budget months ahead of schedule. Under his leadership, Michigan saw record funding in education, health care, roads, and public health and safety. Prior to serving as Senate Appropriations Chair, Dave was the Assistant Senate Majority Leader and a member of the Michigan House of Representatives from 2005 through 2010 where he also served in several key leadership positions.

"No one knows the state budget process better than Dave Hildenbrand," said Rob Elhenicky, a principal of the firm. "He worked across the aisle to fund important projects, move legislation, and serve the people of Michigan. Having his insight and work ethic on our team will be a tremendous asset for our clients."

Hildenbrand still lives in his hometown of Lowell,

Michigan, with his wife Sarah and their two young children. He began his career in public service under his mentor, Dick Posthumus, during his tenure as Senate Majority Leader and Lieutenant Governor. Before running for office, Hildenbrand served as an agriculture policy advisor to former Michigan Governor John Engler. In addition to his state budget work, Hildenbrand served on the following policy committees: Economic Development, Commerce, Insurance, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and Government Operations.

"Kelley Cawthorne has an outstanding reputation of working tirelessly to get results for its clients," said Hildenbrand. "My goal is to help the firm's clients better understand how to succeed in a term-limited legislative environment. I also hope to use my relationships to help the firm grow in new markets and practice areas."

Hildenbrand officially will join the firm on January 14.

Kelley Cawthorne is the only lobbying firm in Michigan with permanent offices in Lansing and Detroit. The firm's growing client list includes: ATT, Deloitte, DTE Energy, Ford Motor Company, the McLaren-Karmanos Cancer Center, the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, the Michigan Professional Firefighters Union, Wal-Mart, and Wayne State University.



Dave Hildenbrand



Senator Stabenow nominates 32 students to Military Academies

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow announced that she has nominated 32 Michigan students for placement at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY.

"Michigan is fortunate to have so many exceptional students who want to serve our country through military service," said Senator Stabenow. "Having demonstrated a strong commitment to excellence in and out of the classroom, I am confident they will represent Michigan and our country well."

Students seeking appointment to a service academy must first obtain the nomination of their U.S. Senator, their U.S. Representative, or the Vice President. Students nominated by Senator Stabenow's office went through a highly competitive application process that included interviews by veteran, military and community leaders. Now

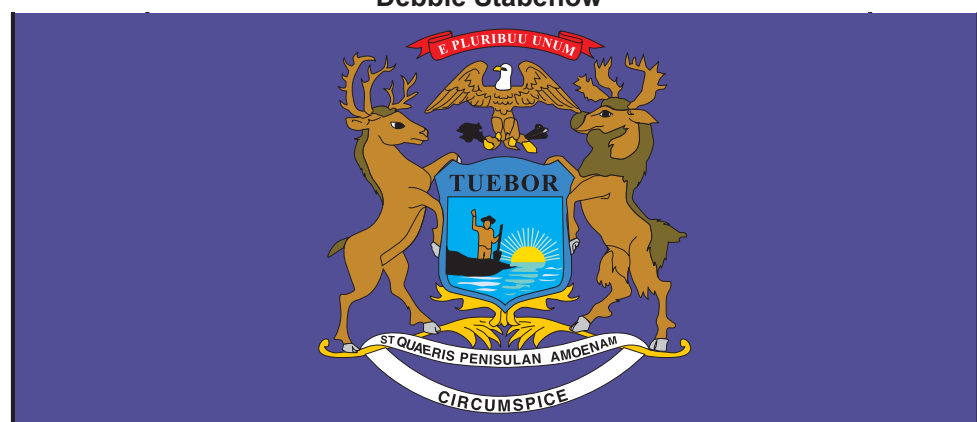
that the students have been nominated, they must await acceptance for admission by the academy to which they have applied.

The following West Michigan students have been nominated by Senator Stabenow to a service academy:

- Brandon Pham – Grand Rapids, Naval Academy**
- Diego Campos – Battle Creek, Naval Academy**
- Jack Horton – Hastings, West Point**
- Janna Ercole – Nunica, West Point**
- Mary Podiak – Portage, Naval Academy**
- Mason Doorn – Lowell, Air Force Academy**
- Tyler Twiss – Holland, West Point**



Debbie Stabenow



...

It's a strain being witty at my age. I'm giving it up.

~ Knut Hamsun (1859-1952)

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of KAY RIDGEWAY Guardianship File No. 19-204,631-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her son, Justice List, and any other unknown relatives and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 30, 2019, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate

Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: January 08, 2019 Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 258-1182

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

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Bill Gordon & Associates, a nationwide practice, represents clients before the Social Security Administration. Member of the TX & NM Bar Associations. Mail: 1420 NW St Washington D.C. Office: Broward County, FL. Services may be provided by associated attorneys licensed in other states.

*The process for determining each applicant's disability benefits varies greatly, and can take upwards of two years.

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

Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Gymnasts pay tribute to service men and women

submitted by WRWW

Lowell's varsity gymnasts paid tribute to area servicemen and women at their fifth annual military salute/gymnastics meet last Saturday. Wearing appropriate patriotic leotards for the event, the gymnasts honored twelve present and previous military personnel, escorting them to the front of the appreciative spectators at Lowell High School, between two flag lines consisting of Boy Scout Troop 102 from Lowell, and Boy Scout Troop 345 from Cascade. Gymnast, Olivia Barber escorted Petty Officer Third Class Todd Richard Noskey. Chief Petty Officer Mark Winterburn was

honored by Paige Barnhart, E4 Specialist Bill Carmean honored by Greta Forward, Captain Scott Venema honored by Lilly Kooistra, Senior Airman Dan Priebe honored by Katy Hock, Lieutenant Greg Clifton honored by Tressa Huizinga, Commander Tony Jungblut honored by Kira Jungblut, Private William Lemke honored by Aubri Lemke, Sergeant Zach Lytle honored by Marlie McDonald, Captain Lucas Gravelyn honored by Taeghan Ronchetti, Private First Class Ethan Ettinger honored by Emily Lothian, and Specialist 4 Steve Gough honored by Corah Miller. Adding inspiration to the event was Jack Misner



The awarding of the 'All-Arounds' medals that included Lowell's Corah Miller, Aubri Lemke, Lilly Kooistra, and Greta Forward.



Emily Lothian honoring Private First Class Ethan Ettinger.

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.

who, with his trumpet, played Reveille and Taps, plus Alise Forward singing the National Anthem.

Following the opening ceremonies, the Lowell gymnasts competed against a strong 11-team field consisting of teams from Bloomfield Hills, Coldwater, Kenowa Hills, Walled Lake, Potters House, and Rockford. Several of the schools, including Lowell, entered two teams. A breakdown of the four separate events showed some strong performances by the agile Lowell gymnasts. In the vault, Lowell's Miller placed third with a score of 8.900, Lemke (5th), and Forward (8th). Morgan Case, of Rockford, won the event with a score of 9.500. On the floor exercise, Miller placed third totaling 9.400 points, Taeghan Ronchetti (5th), Lemke (6th), and

Forward (7th). Ashley Faulkner from Rockford placed first with a score of 9.650. The beam was a little harder to master for the Red Arrows as Lilly Kooistra placed ninth with a score of 8.075. Regan Ammon, of Rockford, took home the first place medallion with a score of 9.275. On the bars, Lowell's Miller placed second with an 8.900. Her teammates: Lemke placed seventh and Marle MacDonald placed tenth. Faulkner of Rockford took home first place honors with a 9.050.

'All-around' scores were announced near the end of the awards ceremonies. It should be noted that sixty-five gymnasts were vying for top scores. The Red Arrows were well represented at the awards stand. Miller placed fourth in the 'All-Around' with 34.800 points. Placing

strong were her teammates: Lemke (7th), Kooistra (9th), Forward (10th), Barnhart (12th), Lothian (13th), Hock (14th), and Ronchetti (15th). Faulkner from Rockford placed first with and all-around score of 36.675.

Following final tabulations, Lowell was awarded a third-place team finish with a score of 134.175, behind first place Rockford with 142.475 points and second place Bloomfield Hills with 140.850 points.

Following the Military Salute Lowell Invitational last Saturday, the lady Arrow gymnasts competed against Rainbow Conference foe, Kenowa Hills and Potters House, on Monday. Lowell topped both schools with a team total of 131.00 points, followed by Kenowa Hills with 93.625 and Potter's

House with 43.350. In the vault, Jessie Marentette, from Kenowa Hills, took first place honors with 8.900. Lowell took the next seven positions with Paige Barnhart (8.825), Marlie McDonald (8.650), and Emily Lothian (8.475) finishing 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, respectively. On the uneven parallel bars, Corah Miller (Lowell) led in scoring with a 8.375. She was followed by Jessie Marentette from Kenowa Hills (7.775), Lowell's Lilly Kooistra (7.675), and the Red Arrow's Katy Hock (7.525). Jessie Marentette (8.025) finished at the top of the leader board on the balance beam with a 8.025 followed by Lowell's Greta Forward with a 7.775 and Joslin Brown from Kenowa Hills with a 7.600. A very nice 9.025 by Barnhart, in the floor exercise, gave her a first place finish in that event. She was closely followed by her teammates: Taeghan Ronchetti (9.000), Miller (8.90), and Forward with an 8.850. Martentette (Kenowa Hills), outdistanced all competitors in the 'All Around' category, racking up 33.050 points. She was followed by Yulisa Deboer of Potter's House (28.450), Addy Rodriguez (26.9745) from Kenowa Hills, and Lowell's Barnhart with a 25.300.



Aubri Lemke on the beam in competition on Saturday.

The Red Arrows will host the Rangers of Forest Hills Central on Jan. 21 at 7 pm

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Red Arrow girls basketball team loses heartbreaker

submitted by WRWW

The lady Red Arrow's with a 1-5 record, took on the 7-1 Forest Hills Northern Huskies last Friday in a hotly contested, extremely entertaining, game that had a lot of drama throughout. Lowell got off to a great start, leading nine to three at the end of the first quarter, aided by Regan Coxon's five points. FHN found their shooting touch in the second quarter scoring 21 points to Lowell's 13 to take a 24 to 22 lead into the locker room at the end of the first half. In that second quarter the Huskies drained four three-pointers, two of them by Madi Stevenson. Coxon, for Lowell, continued her hot hand by scoring 10, four of them coming by way of the

free throw line after being fouled on her relentless drives to the hoop. Lowell reclaimed the lead at the end of the third quarter, 34 to 32, aided by seven points, in quick succession, from Emily Depew. The fourth quarter saw the lead exchange hands frequently. Forest Hills Northern's, Sadie Knee, was a thorn in the side for the Arrows as she put up 14 points on two three-pointers, two lay-ups, and four free throws. The back-and-forth game, tied at 46-46 after Coxon made two free throws with 15 seconds on the clock, went down to the final half second when the Huskies Faith Walker scored on a buzzer-beater, off the glass, on a missed lay-up by one of her teammates. Final

score: Forest Hills Northern 48, Lowell 46. Northern's top scorers were Knee with 19, Stevenson with eight, Morgan Robertson with six, and Sophie Richards with five. Lowell was led by Coxon, who had a 'monster' game, both offensively, and defensively, with 24 points, followed by Depew with 14. Lowell played a Tuesday game against Forest Hills Central. Those results will be in next week's Ledger.

You can check out the lady Arrows in action on Fri., Jan. 18 at Greenville High School. Tip off time is 7 pm.



Ava Frederickson making one of her free throws to keep the game close in the final minutes.

Red Arrows take on OK White Conference foe

submitted by WRWW

Last Friday the Lowell Red Arrows took on OK White Conference foe, the Huskies from Forest Hills Northern. Northern entered the contest with an unblemished record of nine wins and zero losses while Lowell supported a record of two wins and five losses. The very talented Huskies sprinted to a 28-11 lead at the end of the first quarter spearheaded by Ethan Erickson with eight points and Trinidad Chambliss with seven points. Lowell's

Gavin Coxon had seven points in the first stanza to keep Lowell 'somewhat' in the fast-paced game. The second quarter was not much different from the first with Forest Hills Northern's Erickson showing his ability to knock down the 3's. He finished the second quarter with another nine points on three successful attempts made beyond the arc. Coxon continued having a special game for himself, garnering another five points. He would finish the game with 13 points.

The halftime score was 52 to 30 - FHN. At the end of the third quarter, it was FHN 70, Lowell 41. Robby Schneider was somewhat limited due to the fact that he collected three fouls in the first half and picked up his fourth at the 5:43 mark of the third period. Both Forest Hills Northern and Lowell, rotated players from the bench frequently. It did not seem to matter who was on the court for FHN, as they all seemed to score. Of the 14 players on their roster, 12 of them

scored during the contest. The game-ending score was Forest Hills Northern 83, Lowell 58. The Red Arrows, Jordan Dent contributed with a game total of 12 points, ten of them coming in the second and third quarters. Andy Anschutz had a nice game totaling nine points. Caleb Clark and Drew Davidson made their presence known in the fourth quarter as they notched five and four points, respectively. Northern's Erickson, a sophomore, finished the night with 22 points, 18 of those coming on three-pointers. He was followed by Chambliss, also a sophomore, with 13 points, ten of them coming in the first half. It should be noted that the Lowell team plays with intensity for coach Travis Slanger, always giving 100 percent. The boys were in action Tuesday against Forest Hills Central. The game results can be seen in next week's Ledger.

Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!



Gavin Coxon awaiting a pass from teammate. He was high scorer for Lowell with 13 points.

The Red Arrows will travel to Greenville to take on the Yellow Jackets on Fri., Jan. 18, tip off time is 5:30 pm.

Red Arrow Fall
SPORTS SCHEDULES

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING
* Denotes a home game
1/18 at 6 pm Conference Meet #3 at FHC
1/19 at 9 am Gary Rivers Memorial Invitational*

BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE
1/17 at 6 pm Mona Shores at Muskegon HS
1/22 at 6 pm Grand Rapids Christian

L **GIRLS GYMNASTICS**
* Denotes a home game at LHS
1/21 at 7 pm FHC*
1/23 at 7 pm Rockford*

L **GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL**
* Denotes a game at LHS main gym
1/18 at 7 pm at Greenville
1/22 at 7 pm at Cedar Springs

L **BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL**
* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym
1/18 at 5:30 pm at Greenville
1/22 at 7 pm at Cedar Springs

L **GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER**
1/19 at 10 am Rockford Invitational
1/23 at 6 pm Jamboree #2 at FHN

L **BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY**
* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena
1/18 at 6 pm Chelsea*
1/19 at 3:30 pm Saline*

L **BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING**
* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia
1/28 at 3:30 pm FHN*
1/30 at 3:30 pm Greenville*

obituaries

DEBOLD

6/29/1948 - 1/6/2019

Karen Child (Hutchings) DeBold, age 70, of Lowell, passed away on Sunday, January 6, 2019 after battling lung cancer. She was born on June 29, 1948 in Winchester, Mass. Born to Charles and Cynthia (Child) Hutchings, she is preceded in death by her husband of 35 years, Terrance B. DeBold. Karen is survived by seven siblings, Kristan Nicholson (Larry Chesebro), Carolyn Schroeder (Paul), Cyndy DeMann (Frank), Dana Perry (Robin), David Perry, Mark Perry (Elizabeth); three children, Brian DeBold (Carla), Terrance DeBold (Sheri), Michael DeBold (Kelly); grandchildren, Chris DeBold (Danielle), Tory DeBold, Kimberly DeBold, Sara Hood (Andrew), Noelle DeBold, Mary DeBold, Alex DeBold; and nine great-grandchildren. Karen enjoyed the outdoors, lighthouses, and some of her favorite hobbies; fishing, bowling, trips to the family "moddage" (cottage) and just spending time with her family. A private memorial this spring is being planned in honor of Karen.

HOSTLER

Gayven Grace Hostler, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and best friend, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Friday, January 11, 2019. She is preceded in death by her mother and father, Myrtle Kathleen (Flake) and Charles Carroll Wallin; step-father, Arthur Jacobson; and her husband of 39 years, Orville "Lucky" Hostler. Gayven was born in the house she was to call home in Cadillac, Michigan, on October 8, 1934. She shared fond memories of her childhood with her family often, which included skating, double movies for 5 cents each and 5 cent popcorn, dancing at the "Music Box" with the boys from Camp Grayling, and sharing a messy bedroom with her sister, Sandra, in a bed that their mom and dear friend, Grace, had cut the legs to even them out until the mattress was almost on the floor. Like all teens of that era, she loved her 45 and 78 RPMs. She had several best friends: Margot Summerfeldt and Lois and Delores Largent, but her best friend was probably her grandma Wallin. She often shared a story of sitting on her front porch eating tomato soup and tuna sandwiches with her grandma and watching thunderstorms. As a teenager, she worked as a dish washer in the same hotel her mom waitressed at. Gayven loved to talk about her 1949 Chevrolet with a vacuum shift. It was green, 1 year old and she paid \$400 for it, but best of all, it beat out any car at the light. After graduating from Cadillac High School, Gayven moved to Grand Rapids with the intent of going to college, but instead accepted a good job with Dun and Bradstreet. She was later transferred to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,



where she met her future husband. In 1962, Gayven and Orville were set-up on an unexpected, chaperoned date by a mutual friend. She found Orville to be very tall and polite. Soon after, they were married and started a family. Carolyn Gaye was born in 1965 and James Carroll in 1966. In 1971, after living in Philadelphia for the previous 9 years, Gayven and Orville moved their family back to Michigan. They bought a 3-acre plot of land and built a house that Gayven lived in almost to the time of her death. She worked at Lowell State Savings Bank, FMB and Huntington Bank for over 30 years. She had many friends, but Sharon McFall and Dianne Mac Naughton have remained true friends to the very end. The three of them bowled in a league every Thursday night for years, and they continued to visit her often. Gayven was a wonderful mother and grandmother. She attended every event and sport her children and grandchildren were in. Sometimes having to be held so she could get up the stands in her later years and braving terrible weather. Her entire life revolved around her family, and enjoying life to the fullest. She will be forever missed and greatly loved by her family and friends. Surviving Gayven are her sister, Sandra Ryan; and her brother, James (Jeanne) Wallin. Also surviving her are her children, Carolyn (Mark) Lessens, and Jim Hostler; grandchildren, Sarah (Justin) Saunders, Melissa (Anthony) Spurgeon, Amanda Lessens, Tyler Lessens, Jami (Kyle) Manszewski, and Jodi (Tim) Callahan; as well as her great-grandchildren, Zachary, Zane, Xavier Saunders, Sephina Joseph, Willow Spurgeon, Grant Knowlton and baby, Josiah Lessens, Marley and Rhet Manszewski, and Maci, Lincoln and Thea Callihan. Visitation will be held from 6-8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 17, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral will be Friday, January 18, at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home chapel; with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Rev. Rocky Spears of Kilpatrick United Brethren Church, Woodland, MI, officiating. Interment Bailey Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, PO Box 78960 Phoenix, AZ 85062-8960, in her honor.



MARTIN

Albert "Ed" Martin, age 71, of Lowell, lost his battle with cancer on Dec. 22 at home surrounded by those who loved him most, his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred (Ed) and Jessie. He is survived by his wife, Elaine and sons, Steve (Jessica) and Michael; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson, step-mother, Evelyn; mother-in-law, Evelyn Ferguson; brothers, Frank (Norene) and Steve (Robin); along with a large extended network of family and friends. Ed served in the Army from 1966-69, including two tours in Viet Nam. He retired from Steelcase in 2002 and then proceeded to get his contractors license and start his own business. Ed



loved spending time with his grandchildren, his beloved dog Gracie and camping at Gun Lake. Please join our family in a celebration of Ed's life on January 26 from 1-3 pm at Qua Ke Zik Sportsman's Club, 8731 Riverside Drive, Saranac 48881.

PRUSINSKI

Patrick E. Prusinski, age 69 of Ada, Michigan, a loving husband, father, brother and grandfather, passed on quietly Monday, January 7, 2019. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Martha Prusinski. Pat will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Patricia (Manley) Prusinski; siblings, Mike Prusinski of Brighton, CO; Carla Tolar of Piney Flats, TN, Scott Prusinski of Ada, MI; children, Melissa Prusinski and Patrick "Ditto" Prusinski II of Ada, MI; grandchildren, SPC Joseph "Joey" (Kathryn "Kat") Prusinski of Martinez, GA; and many nieces; nephews; family; and friends. Pat was born and raised in Ada, Michigan one of four children. He and his brother, Scott, owned and operated A & S Complete Auto Service. Pat had many interests along with mechanics: playing guitar, repairing clocks and flying – he was a pilot and flight instructor. Pat's family would like to extend a special thanks to Metro Health Hospital ICU and 5th floor staff, as well as Hospice of Michigan. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, January 15, at St. Robert of Newminster Catholic Church, Ada. Rev. Leonard Sudlik presided. Those desiring, in lieu of flowers, may make contributions to a charity of one's choice in memory of Patrick.



STUART

Marion Larinda Stuart, age 89 of Lowell, entered into the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Tuesday, January 08, 2019. She graduated from Lowell High School in 1947. Marion was a loving wife and mother and enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom. She enjoyed serving her Savior Jesus Christ in many ways including encouraging people by sending cards, being a faithful prayer warrior and expressing Christ's love through her generosity. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Richard and brother, Emmett Needham. Marion is survived by her children, Christine (Russell) Partington, Carol (Duane) Hamilton, Catherine (Dion) Ritzema, R. Gary Stuart, Daniel (Sandra) Stuart; daughter-in-law, Sandy Stuart; sister, Barbara (Robert) Lucas; grandchildren, Lisa (Brandon) Ratigan, Larinda Marker, Amie (Jerry) Wilson, Aaron (Alecia) Ritzema, Benjamin (Kaylee) Ritzema, Hannah (Jesse) Droog, Jim (Megan) Stuart, Tonya (Marc) Russell, Kayla (Jason) Mutschler, Amanda (Nathaniel) Canfield; great-grandchildren, Emily, Haley, Myka, Silas, Oliver, Wesson, Duncan, Denver, Tucker, Charlie, Josey, Emily, Noah, Madison, Danielle, Bryson, Calin, Kaydin, Andie, Carson, Cameron; brothers-in-law, Hillis (Marge) Stuart, L.D. Stuart, Donald (Leahbelle) Stuart; sister-in-law, Lois (Donald) Willison; and many nieces and nephews. A funeral was held Friday, January 11, at Alaska Baptist Church, Caledonia. Dr. Brian Harrison officiated. Interment South Boston Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Samaritan's Purse International Relief, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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LUXURIOUS LINCOLN Premium Warranty - Navigation, Sirius, Heated steering, Remote start, 12-way power & Lumbar heated/cooled seats, Gorgeous Ruby Red Metallic 2013 Sedan V6 very peppy, Camera, 103,800 mi \$9,950. Beautiful! Text/call 616-460-7893 Caledonia.

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CAREGIVER - for elderly woman, 12-5 pm. Call 616-897-4829.

EXTRA CASH? - We are taking applications for a walking route carrier to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Must be at least 16 for this position. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. No phone calls accepted regarding this position.

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HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. FREE All Vets Coffee Hour at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303. TFN EOW

WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

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services

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TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 642-9180. Dave Traver, head mechanic, formerly of McCaul's Auto Service. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm.

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Community Calendar January

AND ONGOING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not accept ANY Garage or sales (including fundraisers) as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway.

ALPHA FAMILY CENTER OF LOWELL - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing & free ultrasounds & pregnancy testing available. www.afclowell.org

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs., 1-6 p.m.; Fri. 9:30-6 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 784-2007.

LOWELL ARTS GALLERY HOURS - Tues. - Fri., 10-6 p.m.; Sat., 10-5 p.m. 225 W. Main St., Lowell. Visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - a Christ-centred, Biblically-based 12 step program for people with

hurts, hang-ups and habits. Meets every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Impact, 1069 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell. Open to all who are 18 years or older. Fourth Thursday of each month is Chip Night when we celebrate a meal together starting at 6 pm.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/ Alden Nash.

NEEDLERS - Meet the second & fourth Wednesday of the month from, 5 to 8 pm at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Clay VanderWarf, 616-485-3429 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

VERGENNES CLUB MEETS - at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month March thru Nov. Meeting at Schneider Manor Community Room. Program & refreshments. Guests welcome.

AMERICAN LEGION #152 MEETING - fourth Monday of the month, 7 pm. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell.

TECH HELP - Thursdays by appointment from 1-3 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, ereaders, library downloadable books, etc. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. in the activity room at Schneider Manor,

Lowell. CUBSCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

KNITTING GROUP - Tuesdays 10 a.m. - noon. Meets at the Village Hall. Beginning to advanced knitters welcome. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Open Radio Room Thursdays, 7 pm at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E. General meeting 3rd Thursday. www.w8lrc.org 145.27 MHz.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS - Tues - Fri. 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 - 2 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Resource Center, 897-8260.

VETERANS POTLUCK - second Sunday of month, 2 pm. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell.

TECH HELP - Wednesdays by appointment from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, ereaders, library downloadable books, etc. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

FLAT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit our web page at flatriverwatershed.org

BABY PANTRY OF LOWELL -

(formerly St. Mary's Pregnancy Center) is now located inside Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) at 11535 Fulton St. E. We are open Monday 5:30-7:30 p.m. & Thursday 2-4:30 p.m. to serve pregnant woman & families of small children in need of diapers, wipes & other baby supplies. We are non-denominational & serve families in the Lowell area. For more information, call Michele at 616-322-5957.

FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR - Third Thurs. of each month. at Keiser's.

STORYTIME - Thursdays, 10 a.m. with Ms. Sheila at Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042.

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

ALTOLIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.

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FREE WILL

astrology

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

In 1917, leaders of the Christian sect Jehovah's Witnesses prophesied that all earthly governments would soon disappear and Christianity would perish. In 1924, they predicted that the ancient Hebrew prophet Moses would be resurrected and speak to people everywhere over the radio. In 1938, they advised their followers not to get married or have children, because the end of civilization was nigh. In 1974, they said there was only a "short time remaining before the wicked world's end." I bring these failed predictions to your attention, Aries, so as to get you in the mood for my prediction, which is: all prophecies that have been made about your life up until now are as wrong as the Jehovah Witnesses' visions. In 2019, your life will be bracingly free of old ideas about who you are and who you're supposed to be. You will have unprecedented opportunities to prove that your future is wide open.

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

Movie critic Roger Ebert defined the term "idiot plot" as "any film plot containing problems that would be solved instantly if all of the characters were not idiots." I bring this to

your attention because I suspect there has been a storyline affecting you that in some ways fits that description. Fortunately, any temptation you might have had to go along with the delusions of other people will soon fade. I expect that as a result, you will catalyze a surge of creative problem-solving. The idiot plot will transform into a much smarter plot.

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

In 1865, Prussia's political leader, Otto von Bismarck, got angry when an adversary, Rudolf Virchow, suggested cuts to the proposed military budget. Bismarck challenged Virchow to a duel. Virchow didn't want to fight, so he came up with a clever plan. As the challenged party, he was authorized to choose the weapons to be used in the duel. He decided upon two sausages. His sausage would be cooked; Bismarck's sausage would be crammed with parasitic roundworms. It was a brilliant stratagem. The proposition spooked Bismarck, who backed down from the duel. Keep this story in mind if you're challenged to an argument, dispute, or conflict in the coming days. It's best to figure out a tricky or amusing way to avoid it altogether.

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

An imaginative 27-year-old man with the pseudonym The Wild and Crazy Oli decided he was getting too old to keep his imaginary friend in his life.



So he took out an ad on Ebay, offering to sell that long-time invisible ally, whose name was John Malipieman. Soon his old buddy was dispatched to the highest bidder for \$3,000. Please don't attempt anything like that in the coming weeks, Cancerian. You need more friends, not fewer—both of the imaginary and non-imaginary variety. Now is a ripe time to expand your network of compatriots.

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

In December 1981, novice Leo filmmaker James Cameron got sick, fell asleep, and had a disturbing dream. He saw a truncated robot armed with kitchen knives crawling away from an explosion. This nightmare ultimately turned out to be a godsend for Cameron. It inspired him to write the script for the 1984 film The Terminator, a successful creation that launched him on the road to fame and fortune. I'm expecting a comparable development in your near future, Leo. An initially weird or difficult event will actually be a stroke of luck.

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

Psychologists define the Spotlight Effect as our tendency to imagine



that other people are acutely attuned to every little nuance of our behavior and appearance. The truth is that they're not, of course. Most everyone is primarily occupied with the welter of thoughts buzzing around inside his or her own head. The good news, Virgo, is that you are well set up to capitalize on this phenomenon in the coming weeks. I'm betting you will achieve a dramatic new liberation: you'll be freer than ever before from the power of people's opinions to inhibit your behavior or make you self-conscious.

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

What North America community is farthest north? It's an Alaskan city that used to be called Barrow, named after a British admiral. But in 2016, local residents voted to reinstate the name that the indigenous Iñupiat people had once used for the place: Utqiagvik. In accordance with astrological omens, I propose that in the coming weeks, you take inspiration from their decision, Libra. Return to your roots. Pay homage to your sources. Restore and revive the spirit of your original influences.

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

The Alaskan town of Talkeetna has a population of 900, so it doesn't require a complicated

political structure to manage its needs. Still, it made a bold statement by electing a cat as its mayor for 15 years. Stubbs, a part-manx, won his first campaign as a write-in candidate, and his policies were so benign—no new taxes, no repressive laws—that he kept getting re-elected. What might be the equivalent of having a cat as your supreme leader for a while, Scorpio? From an astrological perspective, now would be a favorable time to implement that arrangement. This phase of your cycle calls for relaxed fun and amused mellowness and laissez-faire jauntiness.

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

Trees need to be buffeted by the wind. It makes them strong. As they respond to the pressure of breezes and gusts, they generate a hardier kind of wood called reaction wood. Without the assistance of the wind's stress, trees' internal structure would be weak and they might topple over as they grew larger. I'm pleased to report that you're due to receive the benefits of a phenomenon that's metaphorically equivalent to a brisk wind. Exult in this brisk but low-stress opportunity to toughen yourself up!

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

Writing at The Pudding, pop culture commentator Colin Morris reveals the conclusions he drew after analyzing 15,000 pop songs. First, the lyrics of today's tunes have significantly more repetitiveness than the lyrics of songs in the 1960s. Second, the most popular songs, both then and now, have more repetitive lyrics than the average song. Why? Morris speculates that repetitive songs are catchier. But in accordance with current

astrological omens, I encourage you Capricorns to be as unrepentive as possible in the songs you sing, the messages you communicate, the moves you make, and the ideas you articulate. In the coming weeks, put a premium on originality, unpredictability, complexity, and novelty.

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

In May 1927, Aquarian aviator Charles Lindbergh made a pioneering flight in his one-engine plane from New York to Paris. He became instantly famous. Years later, Lindbergh testified that partway through his epic journey he was visited by a host of odd, vaporous beings who suddenly appeared in his small cabin. They spoke with him, demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of navigation and airplane technology. Lindbergh's spirits were buoyed. His concentration, which had been flagging, revived. He was grateful for their unexpected support. I foresee a comparable kind of assistance becoming available to you sometime soon, Aquarius. Don't waste any time being skeptical about it; just welcome it.

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

More than four centuries ago, a Piscean samurai named Honda Tadakatsu became a leading general in the Japanese army. In the course of his military career, he fought in more than a hundred battles. Yet he never endured a major wound and was never beaten by another samurai. I propose we make him your inspirational role model for the coming weeks. As you navigate your way through interesting challenges, I believe that like him, you'll lead a charmed life. No wounds. No traumas. Just a whole lot of educational adventures.

NEWS OF THE

wæird

People With Issues

KION TV reported on Jan. 7 that a Salinas, California, family's Ring doorbell camera captured video of a man licking the doorbell for more than three hours. The homeowners were out of town during the encounter, which took place around 5 a.m., but their children were inside. Sylvia Dungan, who was alerted to the activity at her front door on her phone, said, "I thought, boy there's a lot of traffic... Who the heck is that?" Salinas police identified the man as Roberto Daniel Arroyo, 33. Arroyo also relieved himself in the front yard and visited a neighbor's house. "You kind of laugh about it afterwards because technically he didn't do anything," Dungan said, although police later charged him with petty theft and prowling.

Super Fan

Dale Sourbeck, 49, of Pittston, Pennsylvania, had football on his mind after his arresting start to 2019. In the early morning hours of Jan. 3, he used a hammer to break into the Rock Street Music store and helped

himself to two guitars to start with, reported WNEP TV. Presumably realizing he was being watched by surveillance cameras, Sourbeck left and returned to the store wearing a mask and grabbed three more guitars. Police tracked Sourbeck down using the surveillance camera shot of his license plate and found the stolen guitars in his home. Upon his arrest, the only statement he made was "Go Eagles."

Least Competent Criminal

An unidentified 39-year-old wannabe carjacker hit a bump in the road on Jan. 7 when he approached the driver of a Chevrolet Volt in San Diego, reported The San Diego Union-Tribune. The thief demanded the driver's keys and mobile phone around 6 a.m., according to San Diego police, and tried to drive off in the vehicle. But he couldn't figure out how to operate the hybrid car, and in frustration he ran away, discarding the phone and keys. Police located the carjacker a short distance away and arrested him on suspicion of carjacking and robbery.

That Reminds Me of a Movie

Eakins Oval, a Philadelphia traffic circle, was the scene of an ominous accident on Jan. 1 when a 21-year-old unnamed man tried to climb a monument to George Washington at the center of the circle. WPIV-TV reported that the man slipped while climbing and fell on the sharp antler of a large deer statue at the base of the monument, impaling his left side. He suffered lacerations and was admitted to Hahnemann Hospital nearby.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: FACES AND PLACES

ACROSS

1. Fraternity K
6. ___ Jeeves.com
9. Civil rights icon
13. Think tank output
14. Like a dim star
15. What pigeon did
16. *Up on compass
17. Shakespearean fuss
18. Did like goo
19. *On a novelty button
21. Decline
23. Galley tool
24. "Workers of the world, ___!"
25. ___-Air in L.A.
28. Way off freeway
30. *Pain scale faces, e.g.
34. "-zoic" periods
36. "___ good example"
38. Xe
39. Hokkaido native
40. *Face in a text
42. Crescent
43. *Like Jason's or Freddy's face
45. October birthstone
46. Genealogical plant
47. Capital of Taiwan
49. "Tosca" tune
51. Blunder
52. Chopper blade
54. One of Indiana's quests
56. *On a prankster's face?
58. *Like one at a haunted house
61. Selected
62. Water snake
64. Prejudiced person
66. Macho men
67. Pastrami holder
68. South American camelid
69. *Like one in front of Taj Mahal?
70. Create with cloth

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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71. George to George W.
- DOWN**
1. Reunion bunch
 2. #17 Across, pl.
 3. Make waves
 4. BBQ spot
 5. Masonry unit
 6. Not home

7. *Like one at a funeral
8. Familiar
9. *Face on Mount Rushmore
10. Do like goo
11. "As ___ on TV"
12. Put two and two together
15. Cerebral part
20. Clear the board
22. Doesn't mix with water
24. To the required standards, 3 words
25. *In Beauty's magic mirror
26. "The Goldbergs" sibling
27. Hawaiian veranda
29. Memorandum, for short
31. Accustom
32. Not a gregarious one
33. *On a snob's face
35. *One receiving something unexpected
37. A bit cracked
41. Hipbone-related
44. Monarch bodyguard
48. I in T.G.I.F.
50. Fit for farming
53. Deed hearings
55. Whale's lunch
56. Sound of relief
57. Opening page
58. A whole bunch
59. "Goodness gracious!"
60. Top of the Capitol
61. Repeated Cuban dance step
63. Needle hole
65. Makes feathers stick

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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- Human Intelligence
- Artificial Intelligence

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