

Celtic music



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MSU wrestlers



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New Main St. business



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LHS sports
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Lowell High wrestlers competing at state team finals in Kalamazoo this weekend



LHS wrestler Jacob Lee during a recent competition

The Lowell High School wrestling team will compete at the Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and 23, during the second of six straight weekends of finals.

The quarterfinals will be on Friday; Lowell will compete against Cedar Springs at 6:45 pm. The semifinals are on Saturday morning and the finals on Saturday afternoon. If the Lowell team is triumphant over Cedar Springs, they will compete against either Gaylord or Tecumseh at noon. If they win that event, they'll compete against an undetermined foe at 3:45 pm.

Individual wrestling finals will take place on Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2.

The Wings Event Center, 3600 Vanrick Dr., was known as Wings Stadium until 2015. It was built as a home for the Kalamazoo Wings hockey team and has hosted hundreds of events such as WWE and WWF tapings, concerts by legendary artists like Nirvana, Bob Dylan, Frank Zappa and Elvis Presley as well as decades of trade shows and conventions.

For more information, visit MHSAA.tv.

Local rep's reaction to governor's speech

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer delivered her first State of the State address at the capitol in Lansing on Tuesday, Feb. 12. The governor addressed many important issues during her speech, and the Ledger contacted two of our local representatives, one from each political party, for their reactions

to what the governor said. State representative Thomas Albert did not respond to the Ledger's requests for his remarks. State senator Winnie Brinks agreed to a 30 minute telephone interview, truncated to 15 minutes after some technical issues were resolved.

In her speech, Gov. Whitmer said that the

Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act should be expanded to include protections for LGBT people.

"I also signed an executive directive banning state government from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, without any exemptions," Gov. Whitmer Brinks, continued, page 2



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in a television commercial during the 2018 campaign.

School, YCMA employee arrested for child pornography

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell resident Madalynne Iteen, an employee of Lowell Area Schools and Lowell YMCA was arrested at her home at 7:30 am on Friday, Feb. 15 for taking sexually explicit photos of an infant. Iteen appeared in federal court on Friday and will remain in custody until detention hearing next week.

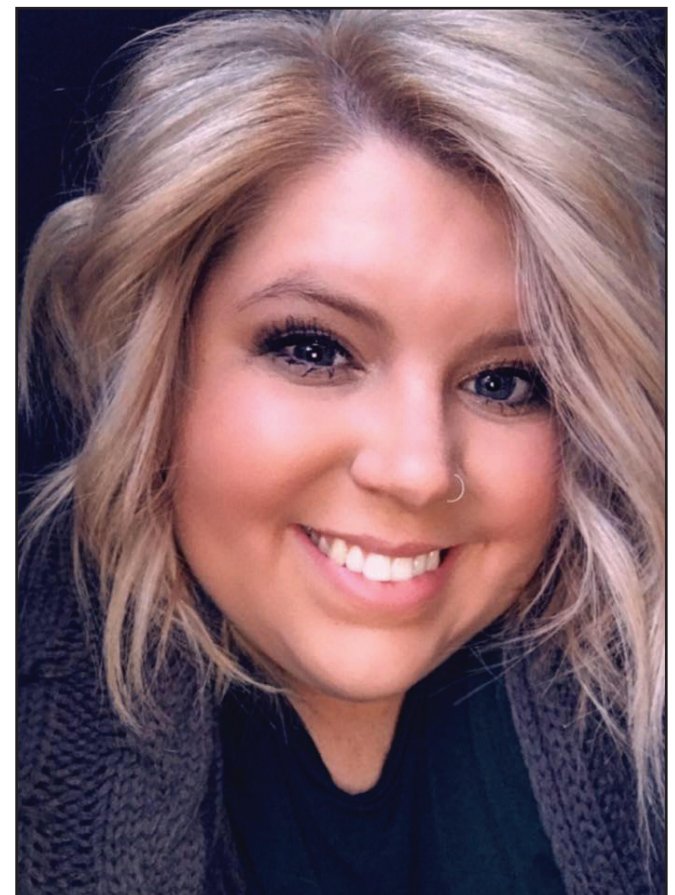
Iteen, age 22, is accused of taking sexually explicit images of a baby boy at her home in Lowell in the summer of 2018. According to court documents, Homeland Security and the Kent County Sheriff's Department executed a search warrant at Iteen's home in Lowell, where Iteen was living with her grandmother. Iteen says she was contacted by a person on social media during

summer, 2018. For two weeks she chatted online with an individual who sent her videos of underage girls performing sexual acts with men. When Iteen told the person she was babysitting an infant, she was instructed to take sexually explicit images of the child. Last month, Canadian police arrested a person in a child porn investigation and have been monitoring those email accounts ever since. One account received a message on Feb. 6 with links to a folder containing pornographic images of an infant. Investigators identified Iteen as the originator of the images, taken in July 2018.

Superintendent Greg Pratt sent home a letter with students on Friday, Feb. 15.

"Lowell Area Schools was notified this morning that a part-time employee was arrested," Pratt's letter said. "At this time, no Lowell Area Schools students or other employees are known or alleged to be involved. The name of the employee has not yet been made public, but the employee is currently in custody and has been immediately placed on administrative leave from the district pending the investigation. The district is cooperating fully with law enforcement and it is our policy not to comment further while an investigation is active and ongoing.

A tip line with the Department of Homeland Security is available at 616-235-3936, [extension] 2223."



Madalynne Iteen [Facebook photo]

50¢



Reaction to governor's speech, continued

said. "Now Michigan government is on the right side of history. Because nobody should ever be fired because of who they are or who they love. It'll help build and attract a talented, top-notch workforce. That's precisely why the business community has pushed to extend these rights to the private sector as well. If we want Michigan to be a home for opportunity, it should be opportunity for all, in all workplaces. We need to expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for our LGBT community."

"I really think it should be expanded," Brinks said. "We've been talking about this for a lot of years. Discrimination of any kind that's allowed by the way we have our laws or our constitution written should be eliminated. It's not just about doing what's right. That's the most important thing, but it's also something that the business community in West Michigan have been asking for. They know it's an important part of attracting the best talent. Right now we're having a hard time filling all the jobs that are available. We want to make sure that we're a welcoming community and a welcoming state for people who would like to move here. And I think that eliminating discrimination of any kind is always the right thing to do."

In her speech, the governor said that prospective employers should cease the practice of asking about women's salary history during pre-employment screening.

"Women in Michigan's workforce make 78 cents for every dollar that men make for doing the same job," Whitmer said. "Women of color make even less. It is time for that to change. That is why I signed an executive directive prohibiting employers in state government from asking women applicants about their salary histories. This ensures past discrimination doesn't hurt a woman's future earnings. Those same protections, extended to all Michigan women, would cut the poverty rate among working women in half. Think about that. It would cut the poverty rate among working single moms by even more. Michigan women's annual income would increase enough to pay for, on average, nearly 14 months of rent or more than 18 months of child care."

"It is important for anyone, not just women, to base reimbursement for services provided on the job itself," Brinks said. "By asking about past salary history, it sort of bakes any unfairness into the calculation for future salary. To kind of stop that in its tracks, it's really helpful to get a clean start and set up a playing field where employers are paying people what the job is worth, regardless of the characteristics of the applicant. There is clear evidence that this [practice] has disproportionately impacted women in the workforce, but I think it's certainly not only impacting women. From a business perspective, you know what

the job is, you know what skills are required to do it and you know what you're looking for in an employee. You should value that job at a certain amount and then look for the best employee to fill it. Women have been a far better deal [for employers], if you want to put it that way, because they've been able to get away with paying us less, and that's really not fair. We need to find ways to stop that ongoing practice and this was one of the ways that has been shown to be effective in other states."

Gov. Whitmer discussed Michigan's crumbling infrastructure during her speech.

"Share your stories about what the infrastructure crisis means to your families," Whitmer said. "Take a picture of your damaged car or repair bill and post it with the hashtag #FTDR. I'm sure you know what that stands for by now. Michigan businesses: Quantify how it's impacting your bottom lines and share it with us using #FTDR. And to the legislature: When you're home in your districts, talk with local leaders and identify infrastructure priorities in the areas you represent. And then, let's come together and pass a budget that actually fixes the damn roads!"

"That's the way things work here in Lansing; the governor takes the lead on the budget," Brinks said. "In the past, that was Gov. Snyder. We would wait until he laid his plans out there and see what the legislature wanted to do in response. That process is still intact and we'll see what the governor does in terms of proposing how much and what sources of revenue. What's very clear is that we have a neglected infrastructure, and not just roads and bridges, which

are very important, but also our water infrastructure, Internet access, all of those things that are important for the quality of life of our residents. I heard a lot when I was knocking on doors and talking to voters how important this is to them. We'll approach the governor's proposal with an open mind and see what we can come to agreement on. The question isn't what [infrastructure projects] we need to do to provide infrastructure, the real question is how do we get from here to there in a way that's fair. If there is additional revenue required, it needs to be done in a way that is fair to business, to families, to people who have been asked to pay more in recent years without seeing the benefit of it. Those are the kinds of questions that I'll be asking when I see her proposal and anything that is counter-proposed by folks in the legislature. One of the things I'm really hoping to see is a real concrete way to talk about water infrastructure. Obviously, in Flint there was a failure of infrastructure and leadership around that, as well as resources available. We also have issues with PFAS contamination throughout the state. There are lots of communities who are struggling to figure out how to get clean water to their constituents, and I think the state has a role in helping assist them in finding ways to pay for it, creating some regulatory clarity around what's required of those water providers, then assisting people who have wells or private water sources in figuring out whether or not their water is safe to drink and then helping them fix that problem if it's not."

Gov. Whitmer announced the MI Opportunity

scholarship and Michigan Reconnect programs that are designed to decrease tuition debt and increase educational opportunities for students.

"I am announcing a new statewide goal of increasing the number of Michiganders between the ages of 16 and 64 with a post-secondary credential to 60 percent by 2030," Whitmer said. "[It] will guarantee two years of debt-free community college for all graduating high school students who qualify. The scholarship will be officially launched this spring and available to students in the fall of 2020 and it will make Michigan the first Midwestern state to guarantee community college for all."

"I'm very intrigued by those concepts that she laid out in her speech," Brinks said. "I am eager to see the details that fill out the rest of that proposal so that we can evaluate it thoroughly. I know for sure that we need to help our students finish more than just high school. We need to equip them with some sort of post-secondary degree, a certificate, a community college degree, or maybe an associate's degree. At the very minimum, we know that young people need to have that additional education in order to really be successful in this economy. It's really hard to find a good-paying job and have the necessary skills if you only have a high school diploma. Times have changed in Michigan and we need to help equip our citizenry to meet the new challenges of our economy and the workforce. I'm excited about it. We'll see what's in the details. Certainly minimizing debt would be huge. We'll see what the price tag looks like when we see the budget. It's important to remember that we've been in a context where college costs have gone up so much and it's either prohibitive and people aren't going or they end up

saddled with so much debt afterward that they have a hard time doing things that young adults want to do, things like buying a vehicle, buying a house, all of those other things that help us move into adulthood and join our community. I think it's a concrete idea that's time has come. We'll be able to help our young people launch into adulthood, be more successful and have less debt."

Brinks said that a career in the trades instead of the college path may be right for many students, and the jobs you end up with are just as or more lucrative.

"We're seeing shortages of the skilled trades in lots of areas," Brinks said. "There is an opportunity in the trades to learn on an ongoing basis and continue to advance in your career. It's less onerous upfront, in terms of debt. Those are great opportunities for lots of folks. Hopefully, this is the perfect timing to help connect young people with those opportunities."

Whitmer said that FOIA rules should be expanded to include the legislature and the governor's office.

"For too long, our government has been plagued by a lack of transparency," Whitmer said. "We have consistently ranked the worst in the country. We have the power to fix that. Let's expand FOIA to my office and to the legislature. It's time to ensure that the sun shines equally on every branch of state government. [...] I also established stronger ethics rules for the executive branch, including a ban on the use of private email accounts to conduct state business."

"Government should work for the people, and there's no reason why we can't increase our transparency," Brinks said. "We are dead last in the nation for transparency and ethics rules. This is one very concrete thing that we can do that will help improve that."

Continued on next page



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 TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019
 4:00 P.M.**

City of Lowell registered residents of the City interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four-year term vacancies occurring, must obtain nominating petition forms for circulation and return no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.



Susan Ullery
 City Clerk

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Cont. from p. 2

Peat in the Creel at LowellArts March 2

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

In the last legislative session, the house passed this but the senate did not. I think it was unanimous or nearly unanimous in the house, so there are a significant number of folks in the legislature who are willing to give it another shot and support that concept. I think the governor is obviously open to it, so we'll be counting the votes and see if we can get that through."

The governor also said that Michigan should have a "hands free driving" law.

"It's time for Michigan to join the 16 states that have passed hands-free laws to keep our roads and our kids safe," Whitmer said.

"We've all been driving down the road before and seen somebody who is doing something unsafe and realized they were looking at their phone," Brinks said. "It is frightening. We need to be thinking at the legislature about ways to help people stay safe, not just for themselves and their passengers, but for everybody else on the roads, on the sidewalks and on bicycles. I'm willing to take a look at the proposal. We'll see how much support there is in the legislature. It's been brought up before a couple of times and not really gone very far in the house and senate. We'll see if this is a friendlier crowd this time around. I'm certainly willing to entertain anything that will keep our citizens safe and is written in a way that is reasonable for folks, so they can still use their phones in case of an emergency and that kind of thing."

Peat in the Creel will perform Celtic music, particularly Scottish, during an intimate show at LowellArts, 223 W. Main, at 7 pm on Saturday, March 2.

The group consists of Alison Myers on flute, whistle, and vocals; Aidan Carry on fiddle; Toby Bresnahan on bouzouki, guitar, and vocals; and Mike Mulder on bodhran drum. According to advance press for their appearance, the band "draws from Irish traditional music roots to bring forth a range of energetic dance tunes, spirited folk songs and peaceful melodies."

"Most everything we play is traditional ancient Celtic music, or in the style of ancient Celtic music," Myers said. "We play jigs, reels, waltzes, airs, most everything that is considered dance music. A song is music that has stories with words to it, while tunes are instrumental and meant to be evocative. Subject matter includes everything in life that you can think of: love, longing for home, work, slavery, war, loss, and, of course, alcohol. Most of the shenanigans in Celtic songs have to do with someone consuming more than their share and learning a hard lesson."

People generally associate Celtic music with St. Patrick's Day and don't listen to it much outside the month of March. Myers said that West Michigan has a small but lively year-round Celtic music scene.

"While we all have day jobs, not many make a living playing traditional Irish music around here, playing music is something we do because we love to connect to the rich history and the deeply emotional sounds of the style," Myers said.

Another unique aspect of Peat in the Creel is that, unlike most Celtic bands, they play more Scottish music than Irish music. Yes, there is a difference.

"Not only do they sound different, they have different instrumental influences and different languages," Myers said. "Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic are not the same. To the average ear, you could say that the two styles of music have different 'accents.' Beyond those two Celtic cultures, there are many more across the globe that are popular. For example, Galicians, Bretons and especially those in Canada."

The phrase "Peat in the Creel" was taken from a song written by John Roderick Bannerman to celebrate Mary C. MacNiven winning the gold medal for best singer at the Royal National Mòd in 1934.

"[The band name is] taken from a verse of a Scottish song called 'Mairi's Wedding,'" Myers said. "Mairi's guests have brought her many gifts including 'plenty peat to fill her creel.' In the rural areas [of Scotland], people typically cut peat turf, dried it and burned it in stoves for heat and to cook with. A creel was a large woven basket similar to a fishing creel that was used to haul the heavy peat bricks."

The members listen to a lot of Celtic music, that's how each helps decide what songs they perform as a group.

"Whenever one of us hears a tune that we like elsewhere, whether it be on the Internet, at a session, from friends, etc, we bring it to the band and learn the melody," Myers said. "Then we either pick other tunes to go with it in a medley or we give our own spin based on other versions we like. We just do what we think sounds good to us. We have [written original songs] in the past, but nothing beats the tried and true traditional tunes that have stuck through the centuries."

Some of the band members are from Lowell and the



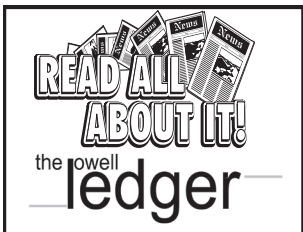
Peat in the Creel will play Celtic music, primarily Scottish, at LowellArts on Saturday, March 2. [Facebook photo]

band has played around the Lowell area lots of times since they were founded in 2011.

"Half of the band is from Lowell, the other half hails from Trufant in Montcalm Co. and Chelsea, near Ann Arbor," Myers said. "Toby has played guitar since he was a teenager and has since produced, played and recorded soundtracks for the film and gaming industry; Mike has been behind the scenes of Celtic music as an engaged follower and promoter of local music talents and as a host and presenter of several world-renowned bands for many years before being encouraged to learn bodhrán [a hand-held drum]; I have played the classical flute for over 25 years and transitioned over to other types of flute-like

instruments while in college; Aidan has been playing violin for over 13 years, as well as with the well-known Chelsea House Orchestra, which has produced many professional musicians, and was recently certified as a mixing engineer. Aside from the LowellArts house concerts, we have played the Fallasburg Arts Festival many times. The LowellArts council does a great job of bringing diverse artistic and cultural events to Lowell."

Tickets to the show are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door that night. For more information about the band, visit peatinthecreel.com. For more information about LowellArts, visit lowellartsmi.org, call 616-897-8545 or stop by the gallery during business hours.





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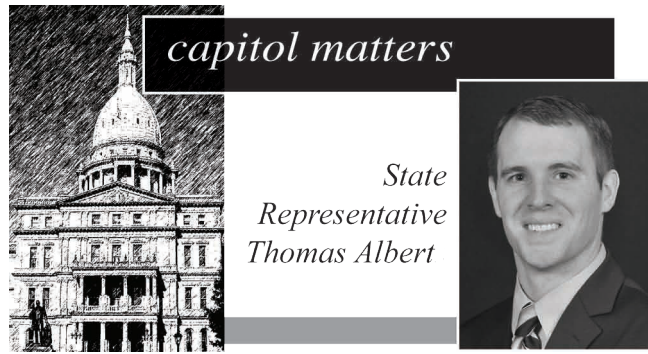
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It's time to protect Michigan's children from vaping, e-cigarette hazards

by Sen. Rick Outman and Rep. Thomas Albert

The U.S. Surgeon General recently declared youth e-cigarette usage an "epidemic." In a 2018 Centers for Disease Control survey, roughly one in five high school students reported using them in the previous month – up 78 percent from the prior year.

We simply aren't doing enough to protect Michigan's children from these harmful and addictive products. Our kids seem to be getting the wrong message -- that vaping is safe and fashionable. It's time we take this danger seriously, which is why we recently introduced Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 4164 in the Michigan Legislature – proposals to prohibit minors from buying and possessing these harmful products.

E-cigarette advocates contend they are a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes. But that is by

no means proof that vaping is safe. Jumping off a three-story building is still reckless, even if it seems less reckless than jumping off a 15-floor skyscraper.

E-cigarettes contain highly addictive nicotine. Vaping liquid is also full of other unknown and unregulated chemicals, and it's becoming apparent these chemicals are harmful. A Harvard study reported that 39 of 51 examined e-cigarette flavors contained diacetyl, which is commonly associated with "popcorn lung" – the nickname for bronchiolitis obliterans, a condition that damages airways, making sufferers cough and short of breath.

These hazardous products are marketed to be attractive to our kids. Many of these devices are colorful and made to look harmless, and they are hard to detect in

our schools – including a version that looks just like a computer USB flash drive.

Local school administrators are concerned and demanding action.

We can't wait on the federal government, which has been waffling on e-cigarette regulations for years – failing to set a clear or consistent path. It's up to us in Michigan to stop allowing mixed messages and to start protecting our kids.

Right now, the state has no law prohibiting the sale or possession of these highly addictive nicotine-based products. Since e-cigarettes are not classified as a tobacco product, the regulations associated with traditional tobacco products do not apply.

Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 4164 will protect our kids with a commonsense ban against these health hazards.

The long-term health effects of vaping are endangering our youth. We can't sit around and wait – this problem is spiraling out of control. We must act now.

(Sen. Rick Outman, of Six Lakes, represents the 33rd District in the Michigan Senate. Rep. Thomas Albert, of Lowell, represents the 86th District in the Michigan House.)

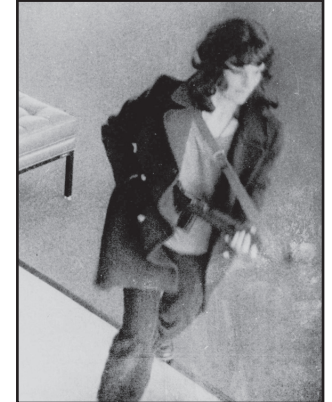
ANDREWS McMEEL ALMANAC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

Today is the 51st day of 2019 and the 62nd day of winter.



Nirvana singer/songwriter Kurt Cobain would have been 52 years old today. [Time Magazine photo]



Birthday girl Patty Hearst robbing a bank in San Francisco on April 15, 1974. [AP photo]

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Billboards in Michigan

the lowell ledger

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

Sources: *eMarketer; †Lamar Advertising; ‡Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; §Pulse of America 2018; ¶NAA

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1792, President George Washington signed into law the Postal Service Act, establishing the U.S. Post Office Department.

In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth, making three orbits aboard the Mercury program's Friendship 7 spacecraft.

In 1986, the Soviet Union launched the core module of the Mir space station.

In 2003, a pyrotechnics display during a Great White concert set fire to the Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ansel Adams (1902-1984), photographer; Robert Altman (1925-2006), filmmaker; Richard Matheson (1926-2013), author/screenwriter; Sidney Poitier (1927-), actor; Nancy Wilson (1937-2018), singer/actress; Patty Hearst (1954-), actress/socialite; Charles Barkley (1963-), basketball player/broadcaster; Cindy Crawford (1966-), fashion model; Kurt Cobain (1967-1994), musician; Lili Taylor (1967-), actress; Trevor Noah (1984-), comedian/TV host; Miles Teller (1987-), actor; Rihanna (1988-), singer-songwriter.

TODAY'S FACT: More NASA astronauts (31 men and women, as of 2019) have come from New York than any other state.

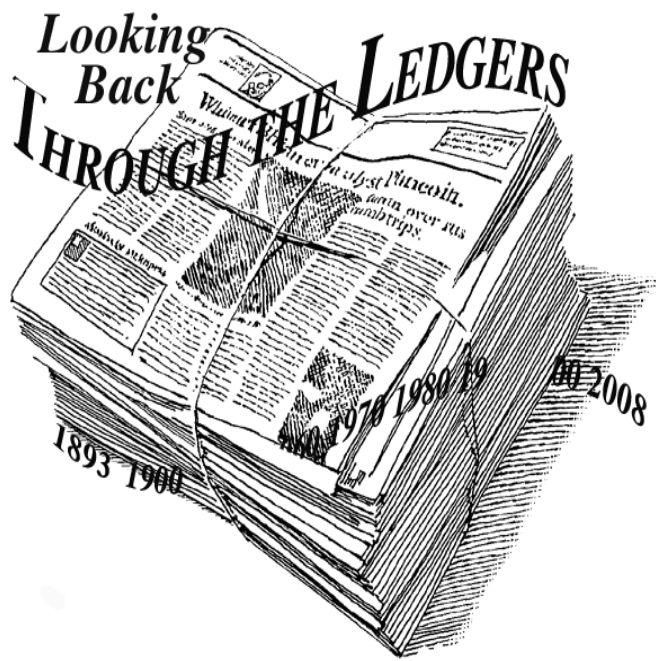
TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1998, 15-year-old Tara Lipinski became the youngest person in history to win a singles figure skating gold medal at the Winter Olympics held in Nagano, Japan.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "A great photograph is a full expression of what one feels about what is being photographed in the deepest sense, and is, thereby, a true expression of what one feels about life in its entirety." -- Robert Altman

TODAY'S NUMBER: 10,506 -- duration (in hours) of the longest single human spaceflight, by Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov from January 1994 to March 1995. Polyakov spent 437 days aboard the Mir space station.

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Feb. 19) and last quarter moon (Feb. 26).

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger February 24, 1894

Mrs. Angus McDiarmid fell on the sidewalk Thursday and fractured her right leg below the knee. She was carried into John Kelly's residence and Dr. McDasnell was called in to give needed attention. The lady was afterward removed to her home and is as comfortable as could be expected.

John Bettentorf, employed at the casket factory was working at a rip saw, when one of the pieces of a board flew back and struck him on the left cheek. It came with much force that it went entirely through the flesh and against the cheek bone fracturing the latter, and laying it partially bare. It will doubtless heal all right, but will leave a bad disfiguring scar.

100 years The Lowell Ledger February 20, 1919

The public schools of Lowell are now offering a High school course in Agriculture. The Course will consist of one class for each of the four years in High School and is entirely elective but is strongly recommended for those boys who are interested in the farm and intend to stay there upon the completion of their work in school or college. Some of the classes, especially those in gardening, are of interest to the girls as well as the boys. In fact, one class has several more girls than boys enrolled.

Goerge Hefferan of Lowell, 82 years old and a Fremont voter, had attended 20 Lincoln day banquets in Grand Rapids. Lincoln day this year found him without enough ready cash to make the trip and the outlook was not bright. Mr. Hefferan was equal to the emergency. In spite of the weight of his 82 years he walked all the way from Lowell to Grand Rapids. In his pocket was \$1.50 to pay for his night's lodging. When Cornelius Hoffus and Frank McKay learned Hefferan was here they found a seat for Mr. Hefferan well up in front where he could see and hear without difficulty. They also made arrangements which made it unnecessary for him to walk back to Lowell.

75 years The Lowell Ledger February 24, 1944

Next Monday, Feb. 28, the new system of ration points will be placed in effect. Instead of tearing point

coupons out of books for each purchase made, the housewife will tear out a single coupon, which will be good for an allotment of point tokens, small red and white tokens which can be used just like money.

Purchase of a tract of 195 acres in Ionia and Montcalm counties to enlarge the state's Pittman-Robertson Flat River project was authorized by the conservation commission at its February meeting in Lansing. The project now contains 4,100 acres under state ownership and open to public hunting with over a mile of frontage on the Flat River.

A rag and paper drive will be held by the Lowell Chapter of F. F. A. on Thursday, March 2, 1944. Magazines, cardboard, etc., should be sorted and tied up separately.

50 years The Lowell Ledger February 20, 1969

A novel experiment in education has attracted wide interest from other area schools...and perhaps needless criticism from Lowell Area School residents. But, in the opinion of local faculty members, the system of "elective courses" for junior high students is beginning to pay dividends. According to Mrs. Sandra Van Weeldon who outlined some of the general courses offered in a special seminar at the junior high last Thursday, it's a matter of "using a little sugar to make the medicine go down easier." Principal John Gabrion told the turnout of 40 parents and interested residents the philosophy of the new program, borrowed from a Massachusetts school, is designed to do away with stereotyped, traditional curriculum and to "better meet the needs of children today."

Plans for a major storm sewer project in the City of Lowell were moving closer to reality today following action by the city council at its bimonthly meeting Monday night. The council authorized City Manager Bernard C. Olson to proceed with negotiations with the Kent County Department of Public Works on an engineering survey.

The speed limit on US-131 and M-44 between Plainfield Avenue and Seven Mile Road will be reduced soon from 65 to 55 miles an hour, the Department of State Highways has announced.

25 years The Lowell Ledger February 23, 1994

Stating the market would not bare the monies needed to update its store to that of its competitor, Plumb's announced that it will be closing its doors in Lowell effective March 12. "Based on our projections, the Lowell market could not economically support the improvements needed to upgrade the store's standards," said Plumb's vice president of operations, Dale Domsten.

Injuries were incurred in a two-car accident Monday morning in front of 7-Eleven. Anna Carlson, Lowell, was westbound on South Pleasant, when she dropped her vehicle at the M-21/Pleasant Street intersection. She then proceeded across M-21 into the westbound lane where her vehicle struck a motorhome driven by Hugh Cosgrove, Lowell.

Following last year's chaotic attempt to find funding for the Kent County Library system, the library board has suggested a new district library system for townships in Kent County. Lowell Township received a letter from the library board detailing plans for installing the district system throughout the county.

outdoors

summer

Dave Stegehuis

Summer may seem a long way off given the recent extreme winter weather. Looking ahead to summertime activities can ease the pain. Preparation is important and a large part of the outdoor experience. The sooner we start the more time we have to enjoy the process.

Making plans the last minute can lead to frustration and disappointment. Planning ahead provides more time to make arrangements and adjustments if necessary.

Especially around the holidays, popular campgrounds both public and private tend to fill vacancies early. Michigan state parks offer a convenient on-line reservation system. Private campground and resort representatives will have booths at remaining outdoor shows. This provides for easy comparison shopping for destinations.

Outdoor activities usually require some kind of equipment. Fishing and camping require a lot of stuff. Boats should have been winterized last fall. Still, between now and ice out, boats, motors, and fishing gear should

be checked out. Tents and RV's can acquire problems over winter, so a thorough inspection will reveal needed attention when there is still time to make improvements and repairs. If any repair service is necessary, it is wise to get this done before the season starts and for sure well before Memorial Day if you plan to go out then. Due to human nature, people tend to put things off until the last minute, so service facilities are overwhelmed just before and during holiday weekends.

Michigan has many popular destinations of which we are all aware. With a little research many great out of the way places wait for the more adventurous. Local chamber of commerce office staff know their area and are happy to help visitors find places of interest to explore and experience.

Just thinking ahead to next spring and summer will make it more likely that one will actually get out and enjoy the outdoors in comfortable weather. The key is to get started, and the rest will follow. Although it may seem a bit early to start planning, summer is on its way and won't last forever. Don't miss it.

We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

HEALTH



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

- nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) are probably the most widely used medication worldwide. Many are available without a prescription. NSAIDs work by blocking the production of proteins that are involved in development of inflammation. NSAIDs are widely used to lessen pain after an acute injury or in chronic conditions such as arthritis. NSAIDs are very effective treating pain from multiple conditions. Common NSAIDs are ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naproxen (Aleve), meloxicam, Celebrex and many others. Aspirin is a type of NSAID but it works differently from others. NSAID use has led to some safety concerns. Using NSAIDs at a low dose for

a short period of time is generally safe. Serious side effects associated with long-term use at higher doses include kidney damage, gastrointestinal bleeding and an increased risk of heart attack and stroke. Aspirin has not been associated with higher cardiovascular risks; in fact aspirin use has been shown to decrease the risk of stroke and heart attack in people at higher risk. There is no single safest NSAID. If you are taking an NSAID or considering taking this type of medication for chronic pain, we recommend you discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor, especially if you have a history of GI bleeding, ulcers, kidney disease or a history of heart disease.

college news

Saginaw Valley State University has announced the President's List and Dean's List for the fall 2018 semester. Ashley Beauchamp, of Alto and Branden Smith, of Saranac were among the more than 500 students whose determination and commitment to academic excellence earned them a

spot on the President's List. Elle Coble, of Lowell; Haley Lake, of Saranac and Kelsey Merrifield, of Saranac were among the more than 2,000 students who earned a spot on the Dean's List. To be eligible for the Deans' List, a student must take at least 12 credit hours and carry a semester GPA of 3.4 or better.



At Your Local Library

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

Guided Painting with Art of Life

Pre-registration opens February 18 and is required. When the waitlist is full, the registration buttons disappear because registration is closed. Create and take home an acrylic painting with guidance from experienced Art of Life staff. Wed., March 13 at 6 pm.

Coding Camp for Kids

Pre-registration opens February 18 and is required. For children grades 3-8 only. Using simple-to-use visual programming language based on Google's Blockly and littleBits new coding kit, the four-day camp is perfectly suited for children learning to code for the first time. Coding basics help nurture creativity, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills, preparing students for the future regardless of their ultimate field of study or occupation. Sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library. Mon., April 1, 1-4 pm.

Escape Room

Pre-registration for teens and adults opens February 18 and is required. When the waitlist is full, the registration buttons disappear because registration is closed. Challenge your brain during spring break! Sign up your family or friends or meet new friends for a collaborative 45-minute challenge to follow the clues to escape destruction. Sessions start promptly at the top of the hour and late entry is not possible. Children age 8-12 are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Wed., April 3, 1-7 pm.

Block Printed Banner

Pre-registration opens February 18 and is required. When the waitlist is full, the registration buttons disappear because registration is closed. Learn how to create and carve a custom design onto linoleum to be used to embellish a canvas banner. Leave class with a new skill, a cool piece of art and a stamp you can use over and over! Wed., April 17 at 6 pm.

KTC student of the month

Lowell High School has announced that Cassandra Thomas, 11th grade, has been named Student of the Month at Kent Transition Center. Thomas is enrolled in the retail marketing program.



Cassandra Thomas

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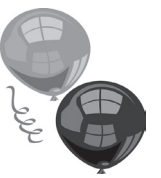
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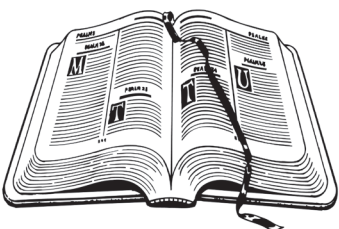
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happy birthday



- FEBRUARY 20**
Mike Rivers, Gary Kemp, Barbara Carpenter, Sara Soyka, Madison Emelander, Nate Sloan.
- FEBRUARY 21**
Betsy Vezino, Ashton VanDerWarf, Kimberly Sterzick, Robin Martin, Luke Landman.
- FEBRUARY 22**
Kevin Gerard, Rob Tulecki, Julie Shaffer, Jessy Dale Abel, Krista Foster.
- FEBRUARY 23**
Joe Ellis, Heather Essich, Sharon Miles.
- FEBRUARY 24**
Cliff Mulder, Tarah Essich, Lizzy Decker.
- FEBRUARY 25**
Mike Nearing.
- FEBRUARY 26**
Jeremy Goff, Barry Vezino, Bob Ford, Nancy Porter, Leslie Rash.

area churches



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060
Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906

Pastor Jon Propper
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
www.lowellucc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

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

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

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

Faxing

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105 N. Broadway
Lowell • 897-9261
Mon.-Thur. 8am-5pm; Fri. 8am-noon

Battle Creek's new hands-free driving law

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Battle Creek city commission voted on Tuesday, Feb. 5 to approve a new law that would fine drivers \$100 if they are observed by police with a cell phone in their hand. Proponents of the law are calling for the legislature to come up with something similar for the entire state. Critics say the new law is unnecessary and difficult to enforce. Michigan law currently prohibits texting while driving, but the law does not specifically prohibit drivers from holding a phone while driving.

"The device in hand is not necessarily the problem, it's the person that feels they need to text and drive," said Lowell police chief Steve Bukala. "Car phones have been around since the 1970s, [for example on] the original 'Charlie's Angels' TV show. Phone companies have used technology to keep your eyes on the road. It is the texting and driving, Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat postings that are the problem, and these are my personal and professional opinion."

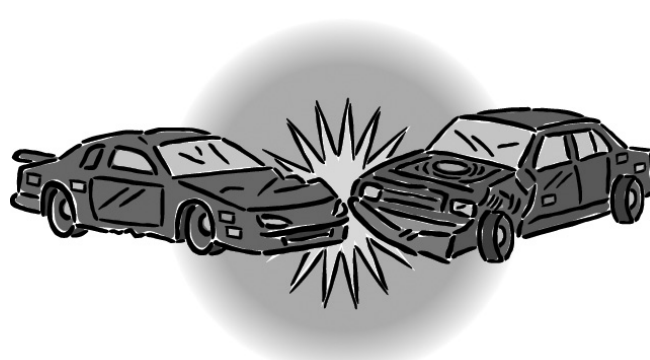
According to the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center, in 2016 there were 12,788 distracted driving-related

crashes in Michigan, with 43 deaths and 5,103 injuries. According to data from the Criminal Justice Information Center, cell phones were a factor in 1,912 auto crashes in Michigan in 2016. Of those, 1,893 (99 percent) involved use of a phone by the driver of a vehicle.

Bukala said cell phones are just one of the many things he's seen distracting drivers.

"I feel it's almost redundant to the texting while driving law. I was not a proponent of the texting and driving law when it came out," Bukala said. "At that time it was two points and a \$100 fine. We already had careless driving in Michigan, and at that time, careless driving was three points and about \$150 fine. The careless driving had more teeth and it was easy to prove. The phone was in hand, the driver was distracted, speeding, left of center, hit a curb or you fill in the blank. Careless driving has been around for years. In the 25 years I've been a police officer I've seen people shaving, reading the paper, reading books, applying makeup, driving with their feet, watching a small TV on the dashboard, and my favorite, shaving

their nose hair with a small electric razor while looking in the rear-view mirror. All of these amount to careless driving. Now the courts in this area have caught onto this, and now 63rd District Court has matched the texting and driving citation to the careless driving offense of \$195. However, careless driving is three



points, versus two points, on the license."

Right now, if somebody gets into an accident while texting, Lowell police will ticket them for careless driving.

"It's up to the discretion of the officer on whether or not to issue the citation," Bukala said. "I can say I wrote [a ticket for texting while driving] one time in my career and our officers could say the same. If the texting was resulting in an

accident, I guarantee you we wrote that person for careless driving resulting in an accident."

Bukala said that unruly passengers in a vehicle can be even more distracting than any of its conveniences or entertainment features. He said he was even guilty of this himself in his youth and was in multiple accidents.

"All the other distractions I mentioned still do not amount to the distraction the other people in your vehicle cause the driver," Bukala said. "As a driver when I was a teen, my accidents occurred

based on my inexperience as a driver. As an adult, you mature as a person as well as behind the wheel. When I started driving, I had an AM/FM radio in the car, not even a cassette player. I had to save my money to buy one of those. Back in the day, in 1987 when I started driving, you had to fast forward or rewind to get to your favorite song. Fast forward 30 plus years, you have a digital navigation screen, turn by turn directions, digital sound systems, and you still have the distracting passengers in the car with you. The problem is people forget that a car is transportation, and you need to focus on the road ahead and what's going on around you versus someone's social media status."

There are simple, affordable solutions if you have an older vehicle without all the fancy, interactive doodads that turn a car into a rolling cell phone.

"My advice for you is if you have a Bluetooth set up in your vehicle, use it or buy a hands free device," Bukala said. "I am not sure if most people realize you can put an earbud in one ear, most are equipped with a built in microphone, and presto, your phone is now hands-free. My family vehicle is Bluetooth-paired to our phones, and in the other car I use an earbud if I need to make a call. If you don't have either of those, just hang up and drive. Your status update can wait 20 minutes."

Another good, new way to get a ticket is to disobey the "Move Over" law that went into effect Wednesday, Feb. 13. It will now cost you \$400 if you fail to slow down by at least 10 mph to a speed 10 mph less than the posted speed limit when passing stationary vehicles with flashing lights, including police cars, fire trucks, tow trucks and snow plows.

2019 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

**Lowell Charter Township
2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
Lowell, MI 49331**

2019 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2019 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9 a.m. = **Organizational Meeting**

Monday, March 11, 2019

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

&

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2019 assessments. **By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 12, 2019.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2019 are as follows:

Agricultural.....	50.62.....	.9878
Commercial.....	49.84.....	1.0032
Residential.....	46.68.....	1.0711
Industrial.....	49.75.....	1.0050
Personal.....	50.00.....	1.0000

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

**Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
616-897-7600**

Board of Review Members, Sandra Graham, Nancie Mathews & James Foerch.

Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

West Michigan Youth Ballet Presents

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Local boy befriends MSU wrestling team & coach

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Theresa Umlauf recently contacted the Ledger about a positive experience she had with the Michigan State University wrestling team.

She was looking for something fun she and her husband, John Umlauf, could do with her 8-year-old grandson, Everett Dressander. Their grandson loves MSU athletics, and is on his third year of participating in the Lowell Youth Wrestling Club. After doing some research, she

decided to get tickets to a home wrestling match in East Lansing against Cleveland State University on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Umlauf was excited about the event and was talking about it with some her friends when they suggested she should reach out to the team to see if they could meet Everett before or after the match. Unsure of whether or not this was realistic, Umlauf found the coach's email address online and contacted

him. To her surprise, coach Roger Chandler emailed her back promptly and said that would be great. She had not realized how easy reaching out would be.

"All teams have a website and probably Facebook page," Umlauf explained. "It's fun and brings about conversation."

Umlauf also thinks the novel experience may help encourage her grandson and other people given the opportunity in the future.

"I believe in education beyond high school and it is my hope that our grandsons go to college and/or trades program," Umlauf said. "Sometimes just going to a place or talking about it can be an inspiration."

The coach, Roger Chandler, who began his tenure as MSU's head coach following the 2015-2016 season, met with her grandson and introduced him to many of the wrestlers on the team. The proud grandparents were also able

to snap a few photos of their grandson with the team.

"Coach Chandler and the team were genuinely congenial to my grandson," Umlauf said.

The MSU wrestling team brought home a 36-7 victory in the match. The generosity extended beyond the match as well. She stayed in contact with coach Chandler; he invited Everett and his family to join them at their match against Purdue University on Sunday Feb. 17, complements of the team.

They went with some fellow wrestlers from his team and their families. Unfortunately, the MSU team lost 14-18 to 20th ranked Purdue.

Umlauf hopes to do something similar in the spring with the football team, as Everett also plays football.

"During the spring, MSU has an exhibition football game, and you can possibly meet with Coach Dantonio," explained Umlauf.

Overall, Umlauf said, "The experience was great!"



Everett Dressander and the MSU wrestling team.



MSU wrestling coach Roger Chandler and Everett Dressander.

Public Notice City of Lowell

2019 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2019 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St SE, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 5th, 11:00 am

Appeal Hearings:

Monday, March 11th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tuesday, March 12th, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact:
City Hall @ ph. 616.897.8457**

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2019 assessments

By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 5th, 2019

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2019 are as follows:

Commercial.....	51.51.....	0.9706
Residential.....	46.86.....	1.0670
Industrial.....	44.78.....	1.1165
Personal Property.....	50.00.....	1.0000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days' notice.

Contact: Michael Burns – City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457

Free tax prep. at FROM

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

This year's income tax filing deadline is Monday, April 15, but since many employers have already distributed their annual W-2 forms, many taxpayers are getting the dirty deed over with early. For over a decade, the free tax preparation services at Flat River Outreach Ministries have helped guide local residents through what can be a very confusing, irritating process. It's called the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, and appointments are currently available every Tuesday until April 9.

The VITA program is run by the United Way and also has sites all over Grand Rapids. It was created for taxpayers of low and middle income with family incomes of less than \$66,000 per year. FROM's 11 tax preparers were trained by the IRS and have to re-certify every year. One does not have to live in the Lowell school district to participate. A typical appointment takes about 90 minutes, and all tax returns are checked over repeatedly to make sure there are no mistakes. Morning, afternoon and evening appointments are available.

"If someone calls for an appointment, we're going to screen them," FROM volunteer Dianne LaWarre said in a 2016 interview with the Ledger about VITA. "If they [qualify], then they can make an appointment at our site. When they come in, they need to show their Social Security card and an ID to the greeter. [They] assign them to a tax preparer. The IRS requires that we have a quality review, so another person comes in while the taxpayer is sitting there and they have a quality review. They go over the total tax return and find out if there are any errors or anything that we should ask about. Then they go home and that's when we e-file it. We schedule the appointments every hour and a half, but they usually take about an hour on average. Some are shorter, some are longer."

Haberlein said participants should bring the following items to their VITA appointment:

1. Social Security card for each family member and picture ID for adults
2. W-2 form for all jobs worked in the previous year
3. 1099 forms for other income (including unemployment)

4. All forms 1095, health Insurance Statements

5. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) letter

6. Copy of your last year's tax return (if available)

7. Last year's heating bills (11/2017-11/2018)

8. Proof of rent or mortgage and property tax payments

9. Name and address of all landlords

10. Childcare provider's name, address and federal tax identification number

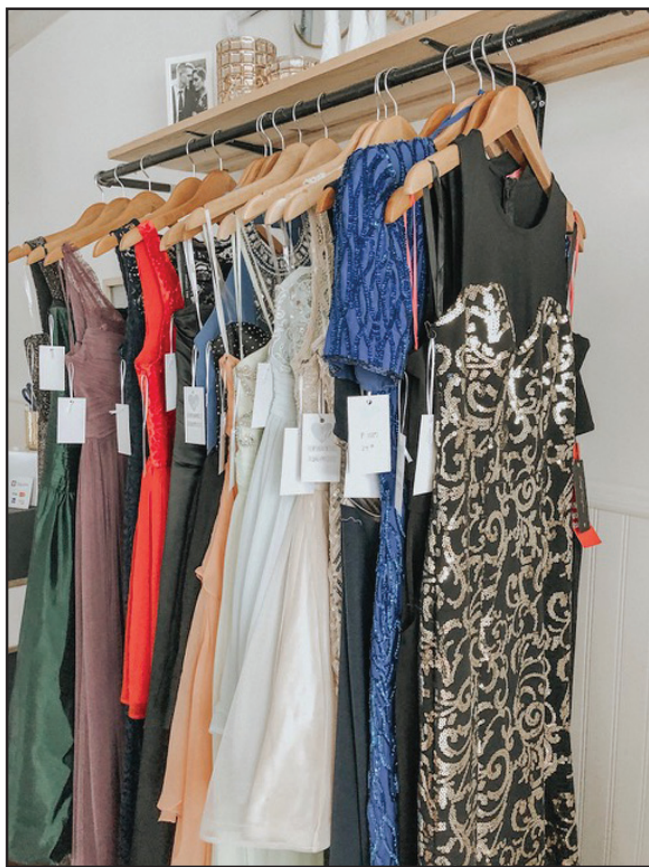
11. Blank, voiced check (to set up direct deposit of your refund)

12. Any other tax-related letters or document you have received (including letter from the Internal Revenue Service)

Call the United Way at 211 or at 800-887-1107 to make a VITA appointment or for more information. FROM is located at 11535 Fulton St. E. For more information about FROM, call 616-897-8260, find them online at fromlowell.org or follow them on Facebook and Pinterest.

"It's important for people to get their taxes done well, and with no cost," LaWarre said.

Dearly Loved Bridal shop to open on Main St.



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Dearly Loved Bridal, an upscale bridal and formal wear consignment shop and boutique, will open for business at 100 W. Main on Friday, March 1.

“We are a new, consignment bridal and formal wear shop,” said shop owner Raegen Davis. “There are only a couple others in the area. This is something I’ve always been passionate about. These dresses are too beautiful to just be worn once! This seemed like a good opportunity and a good location. I love downtown Lowell. I have not run a business before, this is my first. I’m very excited, it’s definitely a new, exciting experience for my family. But I am a little nervous!”

Davis said she has been exposed to the wedding industry her entire life as the assistant to her mother, a successful wedding planner in Nashville TN. She said her goal was “to provide a place where women can find a dress that makes them feel beautiful and have a

great experience that leaves them feeling loved, despite their budget.” When she got married, she had a hard time finding an attractive yet affordable wedding gown. She eventually found the perfect dress at a thrift shop.

“When I was looking for my wedding dress about two years ago, I was on a really tight budget and could not find anything that I didn’t get laughed out of the shop for,” Davis said. “I’m a serial thrifter. Everything in our house is basically thrifted in some fashion. I ended up thrifting my own dress. My wedding dress was a great find. That kind of spurred the idea that there needs to be a place you can go to get an affordable wedding gown. It’s always been a dream of mine to own my own store. I knew that this was something I wanted to do, to help other women be able to find a dress that fit their budget and made them feel beautiful on their wedding day. We will carry all kinds of different formal wear for prom, special events,

mother of the bride and groom, flower girl dresses, wedding dresses, all kinds of dresses. We’ll also have some accessories like shoes, jewelry, belts and veils.”

Davis said she encourages all young ladies heading to prom to stop by the shop when it opens because by then they will have new and designer dresses at less than half the price of brand new ones. Dearly Loved had a “prom dress drop off” event on President’s Day, Monday, Feb. 18, and expects to be fully stocked by opening day on March 1.

“Right now, we’re focusing on the prom



Davis bought her wedding dress, pictured above right, at a thrift shop because she couldn’t find an affordable option.



Pictured is a selection of the formal wear that will be available at Dearly Loved Bridal when they open March 1. They’re currently accepting previously-owned formal wear and accessories on consignment. [photos submitted by Raegen Davis]



crowd,” Davis said. “In March, we’ll have tons of prom dresses for the local high school girls. Brides, of course, if they’re getting married, they need a dress!”

She also encourages people who have old formal dresses taking up space to haul them over to her shop. When somebody buys your old dress, you’ll get money.

“They leave the dress in the shop and they get paid when the dress sells,” Davis said. “Through the month of February we’re doing a 55 percent commission special where they would get 55 percent of the sale price. Of course, we would agree on the price before they left their dress with me. That’s how it works. A lot of women try to sell their dresses online and that can be difficult. You don’t want people coming into your house and trying on a dress. It’s just kind of awkward. This gives you a more formal setting and the chance of selling a dress on consignment is much higher.”

For more information or to make an appointment, call 616-987-0060, visit the store’s website at dearlylovedbridal.weebly.com or find Dearly Loved Bridal on social media.



Red Arrow

BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Boy's basketball: Close losses/inspired win

submitted by WRWW

The Red Arrow boys' varsity basketball team lost two and won one last week, losing to Forest Hills Central Tuesday, 56 to 55, and to Caledonia Wednesday, 50 to 47 and winning Friday against Greenville 56 to 41.

Lowell's furious rally in the fourth quarter fell

a little short as they lost a close one to the Rangers of Forest Hills Central, 56 to 55. The Red Arrows led at the end of the first period, 10 to 9, but trailed at halftime 30 to 24. Both teams scored 14 points in the third period to make it a six-point game moving into the fourth quarter. Forest Hills Central held on, escaping with a 56

to 55 win. James Scholler (Forest Hills Central) led all players with 24 points. Gavin Coxon had a huge game for Lowell, totaling 22 points.

Lowell's loss to Caledonia saw Lowell leading at the end of every quarter except the last. The Red Arrows were up 16 to seven at the end of the first

quarter aided by six points from Robby Schneider and five points from Trevor Petroelje. The Fighting Scots outscored the Red Arrows 15 to eight over the course of the second period to only trail at halftime, 24 to 22. Nolan Cusack drained two three-pointers during that stanza. He also dropped in another three-pointer in the fourth quarter and would finish the game as Lowell's top scorer with thirteen points. Lowell extended their lead, 36 to 32 by the end of the fourth period, but could not hold on as Caledonia outscored them in the final quarter, 18 to 11, to give the Fighting Scots

the win. Schneider finished with eight points. Braiden Hamilton and Petroelje both finished with seven.

The Red Arrows played an inspired 'Senior/Parent' recognition game against Greenville last Friday. Lowell trailed at the end of the first quarter 13 to 12, but took the lead at halftime, 30 to 27. They held their lead, ending the third quarter 40 to 34, and closed out the game by outscoring the Yellow Jackets 16 to seven in the fourth quarter, winning 56 to 41. Ten of the eleven Lowell players scored, with Robby Schneider 'lighting-it-up' with seventeen, aided by four three-pointers.

He was followed by the strong play of Nolan Cusack with twelve points. Brett Spanbauer, recently returning to the lineup after recovering from an injury, put up eight points. Kaine Brown, with nineteen, and Gavin Cossou with seventeen led the Yellow Jackets. Lowell enters MHSAA district playoff action this coming Monday when they play DeWitt at 7 pm at the Lowell High School gymnasium. Other schools entered in that district include: St. Johns, Lansing Waverly, Grand Ledge, and Middleville-Thornapple.



Seniors and their parents were honored.

Girls basketball: Lopsided loss, satisfying win

submitted by WRWW

The Red Arrow girls basketball team lost to the Forest Hills Central Rangers last week, 57 to 18, in a game they might like to forget. Lowell trailed 14 to two, at the end of the first quarter, 30 to three at halftime, 44 to 18 at the close of the third period, and 57 to 18 at game's end. The Rangers' Claire Baguley blistered the net, scoring 33 points, with teammate Remmie Ingraham totaling eleven. Regan Coxon led Lowell with six points,

those coming in the form of two three-pointers.

Lowell played an inspired game against the Yellow Jackets of Greenville last Friday, winning 42 to 36. The Red Arrows started slowly, trailing 10 to seven at the end of the first quarter, and 19 to 17 at halftime. Lowell's Emily Depew got off to a very good start, dropping in nine points during that half. She would finish the game with a total of eleven. The third quarter saw Lowell outscore Greenville 12 to

seven, to take a 29 to 26 lead going into the fourth quarter. Lowell scored 13 points in the fourth quarter to Greenville's 10, to put a 'W' in the 'win' column. Final score: Lowell 42, Greenville 36. Adele Kemp scored seventeen for Greenville. Lowell's Coxon totaled thirteen, eight of them coming in the fourth quarter. Depew finished with eleven and Kyleigh Rau had seven for the Red Arrows.

Public Notice Vergennes Township

2019 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vergennes Township Board of Review for 2019 will be held at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr SE, Lowell MI 49331, on the following dates:

- Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 5th, 10:00 am
- Appeal Hearings:
 - Monday, March 11th, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 - Wednesday, March 13th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact:
Township Office @ ph. 616.897.5671

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2019 assessments

By Board Resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 5th, 2019

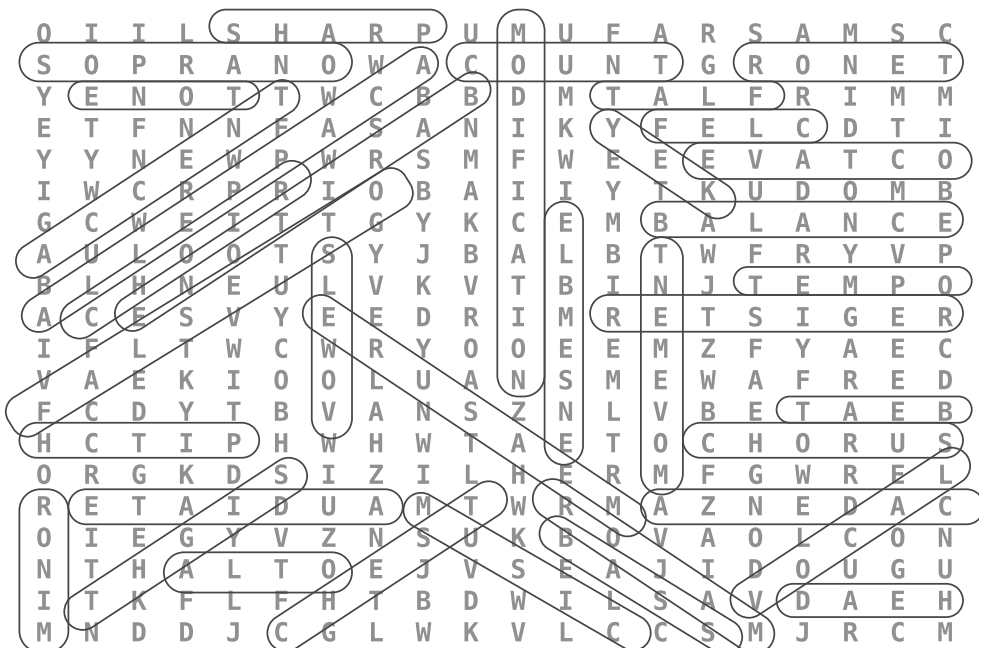
The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2019 are as follows:

Agricultural.....	49.60.....	1.0080
Commercial.....	45.55.....	1.0976
Residential.....	45.80.....	1.0917
Industrial.....	47.01.....	1.0636
Personal Property.....	50.00.....	1.0000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days' notice.

Contact: Tim Wittenbach – Township Supervisor, ph. 616.897.5617



Red Arrow

- SWIMMING

SPORTS

CLS guys grab Tier II lead from Wildcats

by Brett Bremer
Contributing writer

It took a little finagling, but the Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian varsity boys' swimming and diving team finished off an undefeated season of OK Rainbow Conference Tier II duals in Hastings Thursday.

The CLS boys will go to the conference meet with the lead after knocking off Wayland 101-84 in their fifth conference meet of the season, originally scheduled for Feb. 7 in Wayland. The Wildcats end conference competition duals at 4-1.

"This was a tight meet. I expected it to be tight. They put on a show," CLS head coach Trenten Babcock said. "Obviously, we came out on top, but it was really tight. It was really close. Wayland has a lot of good talent. I've got nothing but respect for them. I enjoyed the close races. You win some and you lose some of them. I got hyped for the kids. Some of the old swimming instincts come back."

The two teams will return to Hastings Feb. 22-23 for the conference meet. Wayland also swam against the Delton Kellogg/Thornapple Kellogg/Hastings boys Thursday, scoring a 125-56 win over the evening's hosts.

DK/TK/Hastings is 1-3 in conference duals, and will score its league dual with the Muskegon/Mona Shores Co-op team during the preliminary heats at the conference meet.

Babcock said his guys quickly learned that Wayland came to win Thursday when the Wildcat foursome of Sean Jenison, Rory Bessinger, Garret Kloska and Jordan Sopjes took the 200-yard medley relay in 1 minute 43.73 seconds, besting the Viking team of Ty Dykhouse, Alexander Pollock, Ethan Arendsen and David Bud that touched the wall in 1:44.00.

The Vikings were a little surprised to discover that their best time of the season was still not enough to win the race.

"Guys, they're as fast as us," Babcock reminded his swimmers after that first race. "We need to treat them as such. So I, figuratively speaking, knocked a few of them upside the head and they got out of their funk and we did what we had to do."

Depth really got the job done. In the next race, the 200-yard freestyle, the Vikings had the top three

finishers with Emmet Schmeehling leading the way in 1:56.32. Zach Logan was second and Zach Burghgraef third.

Andrew Tuokkola from DK/TK/Hastings was fourth in that race, finishing in 2:06.43 to earn a win in his team's dual with Wayland.

Tuokkola had two of the four wins for his team against the Wildcats. He also finished third overall in the 500-yard freestyle in 5:39.14, behind a pair of Vikings. Schmeehling won that race in 5:19.46 with Burghgraef second in 5:28.61.

CLS and Wayland each won six events in their match-up.

DK/TK/Hastings' Alex Fabiano won the 100-yard

freestyle in 49.92 seconds. He is just off the Division 1 state qualifying time in both that race and the 100-yard backstroke, but he didn't get to compete in the backstroke after being disqualified for an unfortunate false start.

CLS's Dykhouse swam to victory in that 100 backstroke in 58.32 seconds. CLS also saw Pollock win the 50-yard freestyle in 23.39.

CLS sophomore Logan Morse took the diving competition with a score for 200.80. DK/TK/Hastings picked up points on Wayland in that event too, with Blake Sheldon second overall with a score of 194.55 and Gram Price third with 190.55 points for DK/TK/Hastings.

"Even in the non-scoring heats there were a lot of

close races," Babcock said. "Everybody was getting up and getting involved in terms of cheering. There was this electric sense of tension. I told these guys, this is a preview of conference. This was the first time this season that I had actually felt that electricity going. Usually, that goes from 0 to 100 for conference. I guess it'll go from 50 to 100 this time. I was really happy for them. I think we did what we needed to do."

Wayland had Rory Bessinger take the 200-yard individual medley in 2:07.65 and the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:03.45 and Jordan Sopjes win the 100-yard butterfly in 53.13. They then teamed with Garret Kloska and Caleb Wolf to win the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:33.33.

The CLS team of Logan, Alexander Le, Bud and Burghgraef was second to the Wildcats in that 200 freestyle relay in 1:38.88. The 100-yard breaststroke was one of the best races of the evening, with Bessinger edging Pollock by 29 hundredths of a second.

Sopjes, Wolf, Sean Jenison and Cooper Sidebotham won the 400-yard freestyle relay for Wayland in 3:40.18.

"We didn't have a lot of better swims, but there were some," DK/TK/Hastings head coach Tyler Bultema said. "Without the last two days of practice and the crappy practice schedule we've had, they'll keep grinding. They'll have a good week of practice ahead."



CLS freshman Carson Herzog in the 100-yard backstroke in Hastings.



CLS sophomore Seth Morse holds his tuck in the air during Thursday's dual with Wayland in Hastings.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm., in the City Hall at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. The subject of the hearing will be:

Proposed rezoning of 2560 Bowes Road from I Industrial to PF Public Facilities

The City of Lowell has submitted an application to rezone 2560 Bowes Road from the Industrial (I) district to the Public Facilities (PF) district.

Copies of documentation on the special land use request and the City's Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Written Comments will be received until the night of the hearing.

If you are planning to attend this hearing and are handicapped requiring any special assistance, please notify the City Clerk by calling at (616) 897-8457 as soon as possible.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk

Lowell Crew Team Is Starting Another Season



Practice will be starting Feb. 25 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, meeting at the high school weight room.

We are looking for some athletes that want to work hard and stay in condition.

Crew is a low impact sport but works every muscle in your body.

obituaries

DEVRIES

Karen M. DeVries, age 49 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, February 16, 2019 in Saranac. Karen is survived by her mom, Joyce Noah of Mesa, Arizona; father, Gerald Noah of Grand Rapids; daughter, Trinity Holst of Kentwood; sons,

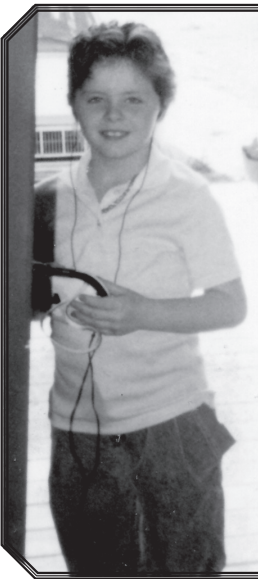


Trevor Thompson of Grand Rapids, Skylar DeVries of Clarksville, and Tristen Bussell of Lowell; grandsons, Elijah and Tanner Thompson; sisters, Nancy Young of Rockford, Valerie Worley of Oregon, Robin Mason of Belding, and Kim (Larry) Zander of Belding; and her brother, Rodney Noah of Lowell. She was preceded in death by two grandmas, Evelyn Gachter and

Gertrude Nichols; grandpa, August Gachter; aunts, Celina Trebian, Janet Farley, Donna Rasmussen, Joanne Gallagher; and uncles, Bernard Noah, Robert Gachter, and Ralph Gachter. Memorial services for Karen are being held on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at Simpson Family Funeral Homes in Sheridan (246 S. Main Street) beginning at 11 am with Father Mark Bauer officiating. Visitation will be one-hour prior from 10 to 11 am. Memorial donations may be made to the family and envelopes will be available at the funeral home on Saturday. To order flowers for the service, leave an online condolence, or share a favorite memory of Karen, please go to www.SimpsonFamilyFuneralHomes.com.

Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching.

- Satchel Paige



CASSIE GALE STINCHCOMB

August 4, 1982 - February 12, 2007

Time will never diminish our feelings of love for you and our sense of loss.

- Father, Mark Stinchcomb, family and friends

HARRIS

Robert Wayne Harris, age 60 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack. He was a loving husband, father, and brother. Robert is survived by his wife of 29 years, Sandy; daughter Melissa R. Harris; sisters, Dawn (David) Wright, Kelly (Jay) Nowak, Connie Campbell, Wendy (Russ) Miller, Bobbi Lynn (Scott) Keiser; along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Sharon Harris; and sister, Melanie Harris. He will be remembered by those who knew him for his love



of NASCAR, classic cars, music, history, eagles, and more than anything, his family. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 2, from 1-4:00 PM at the Flat River VFW Post 8303, 3124 Alden Nash Ave. SE, Lowell, MI 49331. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made in Robert's name to the American Heart Association, 27777 Franklin Rd. #1150, Southfield, MI 48034.

ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

KOLODZIEJ

Rosalia (Andres) Kolodziej passed away on February 1, 2019, at age 91, in Lowell, Michigan. After WWI, Rosalia's Austrian father, Jan Andres, and her Polish mother, Maria Bojanowska, married and settled in Srdevic, Bosnia. Here they raised their nine children and managed a large farm. Just before WWII, the family was forced to leave their farm and move to Germany, where they spent most of the war in a work camp. After the war, Rosalia received formal training as a seamstress. In 1952, she immigrated to the US and proudly earned her citizenship. She was employment in bridal shops and at Detroit's Chrysler Trim Plant. Rosalia lived in Warren, Rockford and Lowell. Rosalia is survived by daughters Julie Kolodziej-Brown (Stephen Brown), Patricia Kolodziej (George Carroll); grandson Andrew Brown; and nephew John Beregsasi. Rosalia is predeceased by her husband Eugene, and all eight of her siblings. A memorial gathering will be held on May 5th. Visit www.gerstfuneralhomes.com for more details about Rosalia's life, the memorial, and donations to charities.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

ROTH

Martin Eugene Roth, age 61 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, February 17, 2019. He was preceded in death by his father, Maynard Roth. Martin is survived by his mother, Marcia Roth; brother Robert Roth; sister Kristine (Doug) Dozeman; niece Jolene Roth; and nephews Michael (Katie) Roth; Matthew Roth; Stephen Dozeman; and Thomas Dozeman. Martin loved his family, a good cup of coffee, his church and church family, gardening and – last but not least – always a good joke. Visitation will be held Wednesday, February 20, from 2-4:00 and 6-8:00 PM at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral will be held 11:00 AM Thursday, February 21, at Elmdale Church of the Nazarene, 11830 Drew Road, Alto, MI 49302. Pastor Nathan Gray officiating. Interment Clarksville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Martin's name to Elmdale Church of the Nazarene.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

Social Security and Black History Month

In February, our nation honors African Americans by celebrating Black History Month. Recognizing our shared history is one way we can affirm our belief in freedom and democracy for all. For more than 80 years, Social Security has helped secure today and tomorrow with financial benefits, information, and tools for people of countless backgrounds and ethnicities that make up our richly diverse country.

One of our popular tools is the online Retirement Estimator. With it, you can plug in some basic information to get an instant, personalized estimate of your future benefits. Different life events or choices can alter the course of your future, so try out different scenarios such as higher and lower future earnings amounts and various retirement dates to get a good prediction of how it can change your future benefit amounts. You can access it at www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/retirement/estimator.html. If you find that helpful, we have a number of calculators to help you prepare for retirement at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/calculators.

We also pay disability benefits to people with medical conditions that could prevent them from working for 12 or more months or result in death. If the disabled person has dependent family members, they may also be

eligible to receive payments. We pay disability through two programs: the Social Security Disability Insurance program, for people who have worked and paid Social Security taxes long enough to be eligible, and the Supplemental Security Income program, which is a means-tested program for people who are 65 or older, as well as people of any age, including children, who are blind or have disabilities.

Widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. Social Security helps by providing income for the families of workers who die. In fact, 98 of every 100 children could get benefits if a working parent dies. Social Security pays more benefits to children than any other federal program.

You can learn more about retirement, survivors, and disability benefits, at www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits. Social Security is with you through life's journey, helping secure today and tomorrow for you and your family. Visit us today at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/africanamericans.

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND VALUE - Requires less wood & provides more heat. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today! 616-554-8669. SOS Property Maintenance LLC, 6950 Hammond Ave, Caledonia. We are your local sales, service & parts dealer! TFN

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- **MAKE & SAVE MONEY** with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-576-0404 Ext.300 (MICH)

NEWSPAPER ENDS ROLLS AVAILABLE - Many uses. Usually \$3-\$5 each. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. TFN

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. No refunds if ad is cancelled early. Call 897-9555.

USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks. TFN

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555 for more info.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818. TFN

lost

LOST FUR SCARF/HEADBAND - Made of silver fox fur with black velvet lining & black velcro fastener. Please call Lisa at 616-481-3793.

HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER...please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches!
Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.

help wanted

CLEANING LADY NEEDED - 2 hours/month at \$25/hour. Call 676-9734.

TRUCK DRIVER POSITIONS - Full-time positions available for truck drivers. Must have Class A CDL & clear driving record. Hauling sand, topsoil & other similar product. Lowboy, dump, flatbed & heavy equipment experience preferred. Progressive pay scale, bonuses & full benefits including health, 401K with match & life insurance. Dental & vision also available. Apply in person at 3175 Segwun Ave., Lowell Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm or email resume to: info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 616-897-5905.

NOW HIRING - 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.

DRIVERS CDL-A - Looking for an incredible career? Don't wait! Earn top pay, Sign-on bonus, Quarterly safety bonus, excellent benefits: health, life, dental & vision insurance, 401K and more! Must have 1yr CDL experience with X-end. Apply at www.gulfmarkenergy.com or call 866-448-4068 EOE.

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900. TFN

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

services

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198. TFN

HEARTILY CLEAN - Hi, I'm Razilee. I clean houses & I make it a point to do so whole heartedly. I charge \$15 an hour. If you're interested in my services, please call me at 616-902-9031.

WORK WANTED - Double D's Bucket Van & Handyman Service. 40' bucket, tree trimming & removal, gutters, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates.

services

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.

ROOFTOP SNOW & ICE REMOVAL - Avoid costly roof damage from ice backup! Clayton Risner Home Improvement, over 35 years experience. Call 616-870-4733.

EVERYDAY MILITARY DISCOUNT - 10% off any service when showing your military ID. 24-Hour towing, tire change, lock out, jump starts, fuel delivery. J&K Roadside Service, 616-690-0983.

services

UPS/FEDEX SHIPPING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING PRINTING BANNERS POSTERS & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE
 105 N. Broadway
HOURS
 M-Th. 8-5 p.m.
 Fri. 8-noon
 Ph. 897-9261
 Fax 897-4809
 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

misc

STEAK DINNER - Fri., Feb. 22, 5-7:30 pm and Sunday breakfast, Feb. 24, 8-11 am. Alto American Legion, 6056 Linfield, Alto. Public welcome.

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION! World Health Link. Price Match Guarantee! Prescriptions Required. CIPA Certified. Over 1500 medications available. CALL Today For A Free Price Quote. 1-855-972-1693 Call Now! (MICH)

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

Community Calendar

February

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.

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

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/adult programs available, Call Shawna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://mi222.miwg-cap.org

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION FOR FROM - 1st. Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. FROM, 11535 Fulton St. E. Call for more information 897-8260.

SENIOR NEIGHBORS BIBLE STUDY - All are welcome to join this bible study on Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson St., Lowell.



Senator Stabenow introduces Medicare at 50 Act

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) introduced the Medicare at 50 Act (S.470) to give people between the ages of 50 and 64 years old the option of buying into Medicare. Millions of Americans approaching retirement or forced to retire early due to layoffs or mandatory retirement face increasing health care needs and rising costs. U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) is an original cosponsor of this legislation.

“Our legislation is a win-win for Michigan families,” said Senator Stabenow. “It will help strengthen Medicare, lower costs, and improve care for millions of people.”

“Providing anyone age 50 or older the option to buy into Medicare is a commonsense measure that will help expand access to affordable health care for millions of families across the country, including in Michigan,” said Senator Peters.

Allowing more Americans to buy into Medicare has the potential to lower their costs, reinforce the existing Medicare program, and strengthen the existing health insurance marketplace. Recent polling from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicates that 77 percent of the public supports giving people between the ages of 50 and 64 the option to buy Medicare.

Today, 27 percent of adults approaching retirement are not confident that they can afford health insurance over the next year, and more than a quarter have issues navigating health insurance options, coverage decisions, and out-of-pocket costs. Many did not get the care they needed because of how much it would cost or kept a job or delayed retirement to keep their employer-sponsored health insurance.



Governor E.O. rejected for first time in 42 years

The Legislature officially rejected its first Governor-issued executive order since 1977 Thursday after the Senate passed HCR 1 on a straight party-line 22-16 vote.

Thursday’s action means Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s Executive Order 2019-2, which would have reorganized the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and abolished three oversight panels created by the Legislature last year, will not go into effect.

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II initially ruled that by a voice vote, the resolution didn’t have the votes to pass. But a record roll call vote was requested and granted, and the resolution was approved 22-16.

Democrats decried the vote as one that would jeopardize the state’s water. But Republicans have said the resolution preserving the oversight boards were necessary to keep government regulators in check.

Whitmer’s team decried the move as a vote against cleaning up Michigan’s drinking water and mitigating the “harmful impacts” of PFAS. They said her EO created new public advocates for clean drinking water and environmental justice, while also addressing climate change.

“It’s disappointing to see the party of limited government vote for more government bureaucracy, but the Governor remains undeterred,” said Whitmer Press Secretary Tiffany BROWN. “She is committed to reorganizing this department so we can clean up our drinking water and protect public health.”

The Governor will be talking with the Legislature about

a department reorganization it can support, Brown said.

The boards in question were rules and permitting oversight boards that were designed to give the regulated community a sounding board when they feel regulators or environmental officials had overstepped their bounds. The department director still has final say over the issuance of any permits or rules.

In floor debate, Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) referred to the panels as “polluter panels,” and asserted that corporate polluters have been successful in rigging the system in their favor.

“Those polluters are counting on us,” Irwin said in reference to Republicans voting to keep the panels in place.

“On Valentine’s Day this is a love letter to polluters and a ‘Dear John’ letter to your constituents,” said Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing).

“This is about who is watching the watcher,” Sen. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) said in support of HCR1.

Under law, the Legislature had a 60-day window to decide whether or not to override the E.O. There had been speculation that the Senate might delay taking the vote and use the threat of doing so as a bargaining chip.

Earlier Thursday morning, Senate Oversight Committee members voted 4-1 to approve House Concurrent Resolution 1, which overturns the Whitmer executive order.

Committee members also voted 4-1 to send a letter explaining their reasons to Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) and the Government Operations Committee. The dissenter was the lone Democrat Irwin.

“The tendency of executive branch entities, particularly those with significant enforcement powers such as the DEQ, to self-aggrandize and progress towards detached determinations is incontrovertible,” the letter states. “Administrative rules and procedures become tools to impede public and legislative involvement, creating a quasi-legislative process without the consent of the governed. It is incumbent on the Legislature, as an extension of the people, to check those tendencies and ensure accountability in government.”

Irwin explained his objections to the letter.

“This assertion aside, I don’t think it is incontrovertible and I certainly wouldn’t sign on to that kind of sweeping language. What you see as detached determinations for some of these individuals who have been denied permits for sheds in wetlands, I see as the much larger volume of activity in the DEQ where we’ve got regulatory capture. We’ve got regulated entities who . . . have taken over this entity. The very people who this entity, the Department of Environmental Quality, are meant to oversee and regulate are actually driving the bus.”

Irwin said he does not believe businesses intend to pollute. Their goal is to make money.

“I also don’t think that the Lorax intended to pollute. I don’t think he intended to fill the pond with gluppity-glup. I don’t think he intended to cut down all the truffula trees. He just wanted to make more Thneeds. He was figuring on biggering and biggering. And then all of the sudden, the forest was gone,” Irwin said.

McBroom said while he appreciated Irwin’s citing of Dr. Seuss, permit requests for the factories are typically being approved by the DEQ.

What the committee heard about were “permits that were denied for a community to have a fishing tournament that they have been having for 27 years, permits that were denied to farmers that have been plowing a field for years,” McBroom said. “As was mentioned during testimony by several groups, the department is approving about 99 percent of the permits it gets in, and so part of the problem is the additional requirements that get slapped on folks during that process, the lack of transparency in how those permits are granted and the inability for someone to appeal.”

McBroom said after the hearing that he was not objecting to the reorganization of the DEQ into the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), his concern was with the elimination of the oversight panels.

“Elimination of these essential panels, as well as the oversight and transparency that they provide, does not provide justice or improve government for the citizens of this state. Abolishing the boards is an objectionable step backward, especially for property owners, farmers, and businesses large and small who have experienced an unclear and often unreasonable permitting or regulatory process, sometimes with a predetermined outcome,” the committee’s letter states.

Rep Albert: Whitmer’s conditions for Ionia prison facility sale were extreme

State Rep. Thomas Albert has said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer effectively blocked plans to sell a former prison facility in Ionia by creating strict stipulations to which developers were unable to commit.

Albert, of Lowell, said shortly after Gov. Whitmer took office she inserted additional stipulations into the Deerfield Correctional Facility Development Agreement. They ranged from more stringent building conditions to requirements for religious services.

The most demanding of the stipulations was:

- The facility will not house any individual who has been separated from a family member (or someone that he or she alleges is a family member) at apprehension, during detention, or at any other time while in the custody of the United States. This included individuals presently classified as single adults who had previously arrived as part of a family unit (or alleged to be part of a family unit). This also included adult individuals detained and separated from minor members of the family unit for the purpose of criminal prosecution or unlawful entry.

Upon reviewing the new stipulations, Rep. Albert said: “The new stipulations inserted by Gov. Whitmer were not an honest attempt to improve the conditions of the sale. She effectively torpedoed the deal by demanding the detention center for illegal immigrants be turned into a hotel where anyone can leave at any time.”

Albert continued, “Obviously, Immigration Centers of America cannot agree to a policy of catch and release. Gov. Whitmer got her talking points into the press and the people I represent were collateral damage. We just lost out on millions of dollars in economic investment and hundreds of good paying jobs. I could expect this from socialists in New York City, but not in small town Ionia, Michigan.”

Since Immigration Centers of America was not able to confirm compliance with the newly inserted stipulations, Gov. Whitmer blocked the sale.

If the sale were to be completed, Immigration Centers of America would have renovated the long-vacant Deerfield Correctional Facility into a federal immigration detention center. The privately-operated facility would have directly hired about 250 employees and created millions of dollars in additional indirect economic activity throughout the Ionia area.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

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

Mich. Sen. Winnie Brinks
PO Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536
517-373-1801
senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov
senatedems.com/brinks

Mich. Rep. Thomas A. Albert
N-1190 House Office Building
PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-0846
thomas@votealbert.com
gophouse.org/representatives/westmi/albert

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	8					6		
6	2						8	9
		5						2
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Puzzle solutions on page 10 & 12

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on January 18, 1955. I was inspired to act after seeing a film at age 7. I have appeared in many notable films; two about baseball. I won two Academy Awards for work on a film about Native Americans.

Answer: Kevin Costner

CROSSWORD

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CHORUS WORD SEARCH

O I I L S H A R P U M U F A R S A M S C
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 Y E N O T T W A B B D M T A L F R I M M
 E T F N N F C S A N I K Y F E L C D T I
 Y Y N E W A W R S M F W E E E V A T C O
 I W C R P R I O B A I I Y T K U D O M B
 G C W E I T T G Y K C E M B A L A N C E
 A U L O O T S Y J B A L B T W F R Y V P
 B L H N E U L V K V T B I N J T E M P O
 A C E S V Y E E D R I M R E T S I G E R
 I F L T W C W R Y O O E E M Z F Y A E C
 V A E K I O O L U A N S M E W A F R E D
 F C D Y T B V A N S Z N L V B E T A E B
 H C T I P H W H W T A E T O C H O R U S
 O R G K D S I Z I L H E R M F G W R E L
 R E T A I D U A M T W R M A Z N E D A C
 O I E G Y V Z N S U K B O V A O L C O N
 N T H A L T O E J V S E A J I D O U G U
 I T K F L F H T B D W I L S A V D A E H
 M N D D J C G L W K V L C C S M J R C M

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

CHORUS WORD SEARCH

A CAPPELLA
ACCENT
ALTO
AUDIATE
BALANCE
BARITONE
BASS
BEAT

CADENZA
CHEST
CHOIR
CHORUS
CLEF
COUNT
ENSEMBLE
FALSETTO
FLAT
HEAD

KEY
MAJOR
MEASURE
MINOR
MODIFICATION
MOVEMENT
MUSIC
OCTAVE
PITCH
REGISTER

SHARP
SIGHT
SOPRANO
TEMPO
TENOR
TONE
VOCAL
VOWELS

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to safety.

C O S L K

□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Locks

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE OSCARS

ACROSS

- *Animated Isle dwellers
- Dropped drug
- *Kind of editing
- Doing nothing
- Hoodwink
- Support person
- Toothy wheel
- Distinctive flair
- Tadpoles, eventually
- **"Bohemian Rhapsody" protagonist
- Norse capital
- *Kathy Bates' Annie Wilkes, e.g.
- Contrary conjunction
- Withdraw, like Ukraine from Soviet Union
- Sweet Madeira wine
- **"Green Book" nominee
- Completely lacking
- Clip contents
- Like pleasant winter day
- Charge carrier
- Food between meals
- Relating to ear
- Religious split
- **"BlacKkKlansman" nominee
- Sweet treat
- *Paths to glory
- One or some

48. Wharton's "The House of _____"

- Shipping hazard
- *T'Challa, a.k.a. Black _____
- Arranges into categories
- One with pants on fire?
- Japanese stringed instrument
- *Nominations for "A Star Is Born" (2018)
- *Olivia Colman's royal character
- Discharge
- Fill to excess
- Casual attire
- **"The _____ Emperor," winner of 9 Oscars

DOWN

- "Can you _____ it, man?"
- Schiller's address to joy
- *The Oscars show is filled with it, informal
- Tranquil
- Seductive beauties
- Tire in the trunk
- Say it isn't so
- *Ryan Gosling's role
- *Former American _____ and best supporting actress winner
- Emmet Brickowski's brick
- *Robinson in "The Graduate"
- King's order

- Run _____ of the law
- Red, as in healthy complexion
- **"The _____ and the Beautiful," winner of 5 Oscars
- Heidi's shoe
- Fill with optimism
- Locomotive hair
- Twiggy's skirt
- Size
- *Kevin Hart stepped down from this role
- Ox connectors
- *Bale's role
- "_____ la la!"
- *Literary forgerer portrayer
- *2-time Oscar-winning Dame
- *Jessica Lange won Best Actress for "Blue _____"
- Famous existentialist
- Teen worry
- Israeli money
- *Jackson _____ of "A Star Is Born"
- Stupid or silly
- Result of hair follicle infection
- "Cogito, _____ sum"
- Neighborhood map
- *Best Picture and Best Foreign Language Film nominee
- Dry, Demi-_____, Doux
- "_____ the season ..."
- Giant Hall-of-Famer

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FREE WILL

astrology

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Aries

(March 21-April 19)

In December 1915, the California city of San Diego was suffering from a drought. City officials hired a professional "moisture accelerator" named Charles Hatfield, who promised to make it rain. Soon Hatfield was shooting explosions of a secret blend of chemicals into the sky from the top of a tower. The results were quick. A deluge began in early January of 1916 and persisted for weeks. Thirty inches of rain fell, causing floods that damaged the local infrastructure. The moral of the story, as far as you're concerned, Aries: when you ask for what you want and need, specify exactly how much you want and need. Don't make an open-ended request that could bring you too much of a good thing.



truck, and begin playing music. In the coming weeks, I hope you'll be equally ingenious as you brainstorm about ways to expand your outreach.

Gemini

(May 21-June 20)



According to Edward Barnard's book *New York City Trees*, a quarter of the city is shaded by its 5.2 million trees. In other words, one of the most densely populated, frantically active places on the planet has a rich collection of oxygen-generating greenery. There's even a virgin forest at the upper tip of Manhattan, as well as five botanical gardens and the 843-acre Central Park. Let's use all this bounty-amidst-the-bustle as a symbol of what you should strive to foster in the coming weeks: refreshing lushness and grace interspersed throughout your busy, hustling rhythm.

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

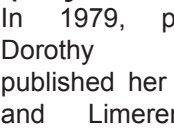


As a poet myself, I regard good poetry as highly useful. It can nudge us free of our habitual thoughts and provoke us to see the world in ways we've never imagined. On the other hand, it's not useful in the same way that food and water and sleep are. Most people don't get sick if they are deprived of poetry. But I want to bring your attention to a poem that served a very practical purpose in addition to its inspirational function. For months, Simon Armitage's

poem "In Praise of Air" was on display in an outdoor plaza at Sheffield University. The material it was printed on was designed to literally remove a potent pollutant from the atmosphere. And what does this have to do with you? I suspect that in the coming weeks you will have an extra capacity to generate blessings that are like Armitage's poem: useful in both practical and inspirational ways.

Leo

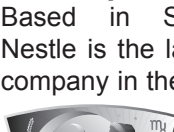
(July 23-August 22)



In 1979, psychologist Dorothy Tennov published her book *Love and Limerence: The Experience of Being in Love*. She defined her newly coined word "limerence" as a state of adoration that may generate intense, euphoric, and obsessive feelings for another person. Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Leos are most likely to be visited by this disposition throughout 2019. And you'll be especially prone to it in the coming weeks. Will that be a good thing or a disruptive thing? It all depends on how determined you are to regard it as a blessing, have fun with it, and enjoy it regardless of whether or not your feelings are reciprocated. I advise you to enjoy the heck out of it!

Virgo

(August 23-September 22)



Based in Switzerland, Nestle is the largest food company in the world. Yet it pays just \$200 per year to the state

of Michigan for the right to suck up 400 million gallons of groundwater, which it bottles and sells at a profit. I nominate this vignette to be your cautionary tale in the coming weeks. How? 1. Make damn sure you are being fairly compensated for your offerings. 2. Don't allow huge, impersonal forces to exploit your resources. 3. Be tough and discerning, not lax and naïve, as you negotiate deals.

Libra

(September 23-October 22)



Sixteenth-century Italian artist Daniele da Volterra wasn't very famous for his own painting and sculpture. The work for which we remember him today is the alterations he made to Michelangelo's giant fresco *The Last Judgment*, which spreads across an entire wall in the Sistine Chapel. After Michelangelo died, the Catholic Church hired da Volterra to "fix" the scandalous aspects of the people depicted in the master's work. He painted clothes and leaves over the originals' "personal areas." In accordance with astrological omens, I propose that we make da Volterra your anti-role model for the coming weeks. Don't be like him. Don't engage in cover-ups, censorship, or camouflage. Instead, specialize in the opposite: revelations, unmaskings, and expositions.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

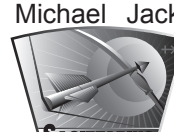


What is the quality of your access to life's basic necessities? How well do you fulfill your need for good food and drink,

effective exercise, deep sleep, thorough relaxation, mental stimulation, soulful intimacy, a sense of meaningfulness, nourishing beauty, and rich feelings? I bring these questions to your attention, Scorpio, because the rest of 2019 will be an excellent time for you to fine-tune and expand your relationships with these fundamental blessings. And now is an excellent time to intensify your efforts.

Sagittarius

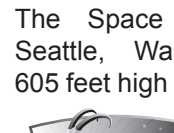
(November 22-December 21)



Michael Jackson's 1982 song "Beat It" climbed to number three on the record-sales charts in Australia. On the other hand, "Weird Al" Yankovic's 1984 parody of Jackson's tune, "Eat It," reached number one on the same charts. Let's use this twist as a metaphor that's a good fit for your life in the coming weeks. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you may find that a stand-in or substitute or imitation will be more successful than the original. And that will be auspicious!

Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)



The Space Needle in Seattle, Washington is 605 feet high and 138 feet wide: a tall and narrow tower. Near the top is a round restaurant that makes one complete rotation every 47 minutes. Although this part of the structure weighs 125 tons, for many years its motion was propelled by a mere 1.5 horsepower motor. I think you will have a comparable power at your disposal in the coming weeks: an ability to cause major movement with a compact output of energy.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)

In 1941, the Ford automobile company created a "biological car." Among its components were "bioplastics" composed of soybeans, hemp, flax, wood pulp, and cotton. It weighed a thousand pounds less than a comparable car made of metal. This breakthrough possibility never fully matured, however. It was overshadowed by newly abundant plastics made from petrochemicals. I suspect that you Aquarians are at a phase with a resemblance to the biological car. Your good idea is promising but unripe. I hope you'll spend the coming weeks devoting practical energy to developing it. (P.S. There's a difference between you and your personal equivalent of the biological car: little competition.)



Pisces

(February 19-March 20)

Cartographers of Old Europe sometimes drew pictures of strange beasts in the uncharted regions of their maps. These were warnings to travelers that such areas might harbor unknown risks, like dangerous animals. One famous map of the Indian Ocean shows an image of a sea monster lurking, as if waiting to prey on sailors traveling through its territory. If I were going to create a map of the frontier you're now headed for, Pisces, I would fill it with mythic beasts of a more benevolent variety, like magic unicorns, good fairies, and wise centaurs.



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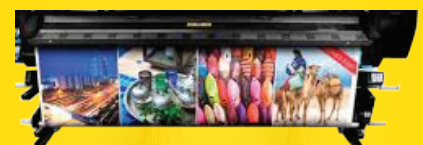
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