

Ken Ayres' WWII POW diary



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Used bookstore opening



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New tattoo parlor opens doors on Main St.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell finally has its own tattoo parlor, Where the Rivers Meet Tattoo at 100 E. Main. The shop opened about three weeks ago and will specialize in classic-style tattoo artwork.

"There was no tattoo shop here, and I just felt that Lowell needed a tattoo shop. It's about time," said tattoo artist Joseph "Von Zipper" Peterman, who owns the shop with his wife Yvette Peterman.

The name "Joseph Von Zipper" is an alias he uses for the tattoo business, it's taken from the hapless biker character "Eric Von Zipper" in a series of 1960s beach party films.

"There are lots of people in this town that are tattooed on and I just felt that it would be a nice addition to Lowell," Von Zipper said. "I love this town, it's just really super nice here. We drove by this place for about four years,

and I kept saying this place would make a nice tattoo shop. It was a big joke, but all of a sudden it turned into a reality and here I am. So far, it's been very positive."

Some more conservative local residents might be slightly terrified by VonZipper's appearance, particularly his long, wild beard and facial tattoos, but he is friendly, genial and hardly frightening. A native of Seattle, he moved to Michigan about four years ago. He started tattooing professionally about 25 years ago and has worked in Washington, Tennessee and California. He will work with customers to get the perfect artwork for their body, but he prefers doing vintage "Sailor Jerry" style graphics.

"I wanted to get back to the basics of traditional tattooing," Von Zipper said. "A lot of shops don't offer

that anymore, the kind of work that I like to do. A lot of shops have found Pinterest."

He said it's surprising that tattoo shops slow down in the winter, because the winter is the best time of year to get a tattoo.

"There is no sun, you can keep it out of the elements easier, you're not going swimming or anything like that," Von Zipper said. "Never go swimming after getting a tattoo."

Where the Rivers Meet Tattoo is at 100 E. Main. During winter, the shop is open every Tuesday through Saturday from noon until 6 pm. For more information or to make an appointment, call or text 206-300-1261.

"I prefer walk-ins as opposed to appointments, but appointments are okay," Von Zipper said. "For bigger stuff, it's better to have an appointment."



Where the Rivers Meet Tattoo owner Joseph VonZipper.

Lowell city council Dec. 2 meeting report

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Dec. 2. The meeting lasted 30 minutes and was attended by 12 area residents.

Three citizens spoke during public comment. Lowell Light & Power board chairman Perry Beachum suggested the council try going for a city income tax again but next time explaining it to voters more clearly. Jake Davenport speculated that the income tax failed because the council presented the public with "information overload" and suggested broadcasting relevant meetings live over the Internet for those unable to attend in person. Eric Bartkus thanked the Lowell public works department for their fast response to a gas leak.

The council voted not to solicit bids to have a company other than Suez manage the city's wastewater treatment facility. The company's contract to manage the plant will expire on June 30, 2020.

"The city has not bid the service since the plant was privatized in the mid-1980s," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. "We have



Lowell city council in discussion during their Monday, Dec. 2 meeting at city hall.

had consistency in personnel at the plant, and I believe our staff from Suez do an excellent job for the city. If you were to bid this out, it would only be to see if there was a cost savings. [...] We may receive a significantly lower bid, but we would have new personnel who may not be as equipped to manage the facility. I am not sure the cost would be significantly lower, and it might lower the quality of services if we change providers."

The council voted to spend \$19,894.92 to have Peerless Midwest of Ionia overhaul a well and pump at the municipal water plant. "Well #4" was first installed in Feb. 1990 and has not been repaired since.

"The project would consist of pulling the pump and inspecting the whole unit,

with replacement of bearings and couplings and shafts," said Lowell public works director Daniel Czarnecki. "The motor [will be] disassembled and cleaned and bearings replaced, and then the unit tested. The well will be video-inspected and cleaned."

City manager Burns unveiled a new, vastly



Lowell police chief Steve Bukala donated an old police car to Kent Career Tech Center.

expanded employee handbook for city employees, and the council voted 4-0 to approve it (councilor Gregory Canfield was absent).

"Our previous policy was 12 pages and very open to interpretation, in my opinion," Burns said. "Our revised handbook is now 40 pages, very thorough, and meets federal and state legal requirements. Policies can be revised or added, depending on the need. The upgraded policy includes guidelines for anti-harassment, workplace violence, social media and many other items of necessity not in the current handbook. I must clarify that in situations where there is conflicting language between an employee's employment agreement and the handbook, we will

defer to the language in the employee's labor agreement to resolve the conflict."

The Lowell police department donated an old police car to the Kent Career Tech Center Junior Police Academy. Lowell police chief Steve Bukala said the 2010 Chevrolet Impala LTZ will be used by the school's auto mechanics program and as a police training vehicle. The vehicle is in fair condition, has 155,000 miles on the body and is worth about \$1,500. Many Lowell High School students currently attend or have attended the criminal justice and automobile mechanics programs at KCTC.

"By the time we get rid of our vehicles, they're pretty much worn out," Bukala said.

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50¢



Veteran to open kitschy used bookstore downtown



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

A Lowell military veteran is opening a used bookstore called “Bettie’s Pages” at 96 E. Main later this month. In addition to used books, they will offer coffee, tea and unusual gift items.

The store is named after pin-up model Bettie Page, and the interior will be decorated in a kitschy, mid-century style.

“I’ve always had a love of old Hollywood/pin up,” said owner Nicole Lintemuth. “When I was a kid I was fascinated by Marilyn Monroe, Betty Grable and all of the magnificent, glamorous ladies I saw on TCM. As an adult I still love it. There is a pretty awesome and thriving pin-up culture in the Midwest, and I wanted to be a part of that. I wish I could take credit for the clever name, but that was actually my friend Meaghan.”

Lintemuth is quitting her safe, comfortable job in the banking industry to launch her dream bookstore.

“I have not [owned a store before],” Lintemuth

said. “I’ve worked in retail but never owned it. It’s definitely scary and a little overwhelming, but I’m really driven to do my best. As a veteran/woman-owned business, I’ve been searching out every single resource available to me, to learn as much as I can. GROW in Grand Rapids, #GRBossBabes, the [Small Business Administration] and the Veteran Women Igniting the Spire of Entrepreneurship programs have been invaluable to me. I will be leaving my day job. I’ve worked in banking for the last eight years and been incredibly thankful for a very interesting career there. But I’m really looking forward to the challenge of being a one woman show for at least the first year. If things go well, which I plan to do everything in my power to make happen, I will be hiring help. But until then, it’s going to be me.”

Lintemuth said the store should open sometime in December, but a definitive date has not yet been set.

“We’re at the mercy of inspectors and contractors right now,” Lintemuth

said. “My landlords have been dealing with all of that, so I don’t actually know. I am hoping for a mid-December opening, but as soon as I know more I will be sure to share it on our website and Facebook page.”

She lives in Lowell with her husband, dog and two cats.

“Since we moved here, we couldn’t imagine living anywhere else,” Lintemuth said. “I grew up in the UP until high school, which is when I moved to Zeeland. We lived in the lakeshore area until my husband and I moved here three years ago and fell in love with the town. We miss the water and our friends, but Lowell is home. As I was driving through downtown one day and saw the ‘for rent’ sign on my space I just knew that was where I was meant to be. I love the feel of downtown, and everyone has been so welcoming and encouraging. Plus, we need a bookstore. Our downtown is really a neat and thriving area that I can’t wait to be a part of.”

Her interest in literature was sparked by a childhood tutor.

“Books are magic,” Lintemuth said. “You can travel the world, meet the most interesting people, and have the best adventures without ever leaving your house. What’s not to love about that? When I was young I actually had to be tutored in reading because my teachers were worried I was behind the class. What we found out was that I was just bored. I had an amazing tutor spend the time with me to figure this out and ignite my love of reading. Once I found out how much I enjoyed it, I was unstoppable.”

The new store will help you clear some space on

your shelves for all the books you buy there.

“Once we open, we will be accepting used books for store credit,” Lintemuth said. “That credit can be used for up to 50 percent off your purchase. People will also have the ability to donate their credit to the house account that can be used by teachers and students on their purchases.”

Another way to get a discount is to join the store’s book subscription club.

“Bettie’s Book Club is part subscription box and part loyalty program,” Lintemuth said. “People will be able to sign up month to month, or get a discount for longer subscriptions. Every member of Bettie’s Book Club will get a brand new book in the mail depending on which book club they sign up for (romance, mystery, general fiction, young adult, kids) as well as the occasional special curated item from the store. They also get discounts on events, a 10 percent discount on all purchases in the store and other benefits.”

Don’t be discouraged if you don’t find the exact title you were looking for on your first visit, Lintemuth said the books on the shelves will probably change as she gets to know Lowell readers’ tastes.

“To start, we will stock all genres of books,” Lintemuth said. “As we’re open longer and I get a better idea of what my customers would like, that might change slightly. As a used bookstore, it’s really cool to see what treasures come in. I’ve got a great supply already and have really enjoyed sorting them all and getting ready to open. I will also have the ability to special order



Nicole Lintemuth is opening the used bookstore “Bettie’s Pages” at 96 E. Main sometime this month.

new books, as well as offer e-books and audiobooks for my customers. I’ve loved seeing some of my favorites though come into the inventory, [like] “A Little Princess,” “Harry Potter” [and] authors like Liz Carlyle and Alison Wier. Romance has a special place in my heart and I’ve got some really good books in that genre. I have a lot of favorite authors, and often whoever I’m reading at the time is my favorite. I plan to highlight my favorites as I have them and encourage other people to write reviews for books in the store. We will also have what’s called a ‘blind date’ section. People can wrap a book in brown paper and then write a synopsis on the paper. This is a fun way for people to try new books/authors without the bias.”

In addition to browsing books, you’ll also be able to enjoy a cup of coffee and pick up some unique gift items.

“I call Bettie’s Pages a vintage inspired store, and hope to offer a selection of gifts, stationary [and]

art that fits into that feel,” Lintemuth said. “I’ve been able to start sourcing some really unique items that I can’t wait to share with people. We’re also going to offer tea [and] coffee, as well as bottled drinks. Hopefully, as we get into the space and things go well, I’ll be able to expand the offerings to include snacks, and someday I hope to offer beer/wine for our events.”

Lintemuth plans to hold special events at the store almost constantly, and said to watch the bookstore’s social media for details as they become available.

“I’m most excited about the events,” Lintemuth said. “A conversation I’ve had time and again with people is how hard it is to make friends as an adult. Most often we make friends at work or school, and if you don’t have that or aren’t lucky enough to have a good mix of people in those places, it’s really hard to connect with others in person. So our events, especially the evening events, are designed to

Bookstore, continued, page 3

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Victorian dollhouse in new museum holiday display

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowellians Rita and George ‘Sid’ Ammon recently donated a Victorian dollhouse that they spent years building to the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The museum plans to use it in their holiday displays.

“Rita and Sid created the dollhouse together,” said museum executive director Lisa Plank. “Sid

did the construction and electrical wiring. Rita completed the décor. They bought miniature pieces during their travels around the country. The couple approached the museum last year. They wanted the dollhouse to find a permanent home back in Lowell and be somewhere that everyone could share it.”

The dollhouse is on display right now. The museum is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 1 pm until 4 pm. They will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 21 through Jan. 2.

“We hope you can visit this year to experience the dollhouse,” Plank said “Look closely, the Ammons have added many minute details, including

family pictures hung on the walls, cookies in the oven and more.”

Plank offered some background information on Rita Ammon.

“Rita (Kutsche) Ammon grew up in Lowell,” Plank said “She moved here in first grade and graduated from Lowell High School. The family lived at Hudson and Foreman Streets. Her father worked for Lamb Construction building bridges around Michigan, including in Lowell. At first, the family moved around with him for each project. Rita noted that each of her siblings were born in a different city. As the family grew, they looked for a permanent home and moved to Lowell.”

The dollhouse will be the focus of the next “Museum for Tots” event for ages zero to five at 10:30 am on Monday, Dec. 9. For only \$1, participants in that event will learn about local history through hands-on activities and create a take-home craft.

Finally, the museum is still looking for more volunteers. Anyone interested in learning about their volunteer opportunities should call 616-897-7688 or send an inquiry to history@lowellmuseum.org.

“We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities including working special events like Christmas Through Lowell, research projects and welcoming guests to the museum,” Plank said. “We have a very flexible schedule and ask for an average of three hours per month.”

For information about everything going on at the museum, visit them online at lowellmuseum.org, find them on social media or visit them in person at 325 W. Main.



Above: Rita and George “Sid” Ammon upon donating their intricately-decorated Victorian dollhouse to the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Below: The dollhouse is now on display in the museum’s parlor.



Bookstore, continued

get people together in smaller groups, maximum 25-30, and have a good time. We will have game nights, girls nights, pop up shops, classic movie nights and more. We will have a calendar of events on the website. For first dibs on events, as well as discounts on event tickets, people can join Bettie’s Book Club. Otherwise they’ll be able to join our mailing list or stop in the store for a calendar of the upcoming events. I’m very focused on making sure these events are fun, as well as a good value. During the day we’ll have special events and sales as well as just cozy spaces to sit and gather for outside groups who’d like to use the space.”

Lintemuth said she is hoping that, in addition to making a living for herself, the bookstore will become a vital gathering place for the community.

“Independent bookstores can be a staple of communities, benefiting authors, readers and the community at large,” Lintemuth said. “We create a unique feel to any town [and] give back in so many ways by helping local/regional authors get noticed where big box stores won’t. And the stats are strong that independent



The store is named after vintage cheesecake model Bettie Page, pictured above. After converting to Christianity in 1959, Page retired from modeling to study at Bible college and ended up working for Billy Graham. In her later years she was hospitalized for mental illness and passed away from a heart attack and pneumonia in 2008. She was the subject of the 2003 biopic “The Notorious Bettie Page” starring Gretchen Mol.

bookstores, as well as all small businesses, are good for the community because the money spent there stays there. Opening a bookstore has been a dream of mine since I was kid. Seeing

the great response from the community has been such a joy. I know this will be a lot of hard work and tough days, but I’m ready for it and can’t wait to see everyone there.”

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Council, continued

Burns updated the council about a recreational marijuana business that is in the works at 1965 W. Main, until very recently the location of a Family Video store.

“Myself, [city clerk] Sue Ullery and Andy Moore [an urban planner with Williams and Works] did meet with them this past week,” Burns said. “They have not submitted their formal application as of yet. I anticipate them submitting their regulatory application and their special land use application very soon. We’d like them to submit both at the same time so we can start our process in one fell swoop. From there we go to the planning commission shortly thereafter, and hopefully we can get approvals, possibly in February or March.”

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 16. The council will also meet with the public during a “Coffee with the Council” at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, Dec. 7.

To watch various city council, board and commission meetings from the past, look for the “City of Lowell” or “Lowell Light and Power” channels on YouTube or visit archive.org.

At left: Local residents Perry Beachum (top), Jake Davenport (middle) and Eric Bartkus (bottom) spoke during public comment. Beachum and Davenport discussed the city income tax that voters rejected last month and Bartkus related an incident about a gas leak.



LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of Constance Connolly Guardianship File No. 19-206,556-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her cousin Judy Jacobs, and any other unknown children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and

whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on December 18, 2019, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: December 1, 2019

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 8, 1894

What will probably prove a fatal accident, occurred at the home of Ross Kinyon, who lives near the D. G. H. & M. track, about three miles west of Lowell, on Wednesday of this week. Mr. Kinyon was sorting potatoes in his cellar by lantern light and his wife and three years-old daughter were with them. Going up stairs he overturned a jug of gasoline, which fell to the cellar bottom and burst, throwing its contents over the lantern, which stood on the cellar floor.

Henry Spencer of Ada township had his trial before Justice Westfall at Grand Rapids, Wednesday, on the charge of cruelty to a horse. He was found guilty and fined \$25, with costs to about the same amount. An appeal was taken to the Circuit Court. Spencer fired a charge of shot into the hips of a horse. Human agent Randolph was the complainant.

A large barn, belonging to Geo. McGee, who lives on the old Hagis-Wesbrook farm, in Vergennes, was burned to the ground on Wednesday afternoon, together with its contents consisting of grain, hay, etc., and three stacks of fodder, which stood near it. Mr. McGee and a hired man had been working in the barn all day and about dusk discovered the fire in the hay in the loft, but have no idea how it could have originated.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 4, 1919

The body of John Esch, 75, a farmer, badly mutilated by hogs, was found in his hog pasture. He disappeared from the home Wednesday.

A woman about 46 years old, who gave her name as Clara I. Horten, failed to leave an Interurban car as it arrived from Allegan. She was questioned by the conductor and it was found she had lost her memory. She is said to be a nurse.

An educational and recreation branch of the army has been established. On November 1 the war department took over the activities of the seven religious and recreational organizations that were so helpful during the war. In the future all the religious work in the army will be done by the regularly commissioned chaplains. It is proposed to give every denomination a fair representation. Recreation will be an army activity.

75 years The Lowell Ledger December 7, 1944

Here is a story that really smells. Somebody stole a pet skunk from a Flint garage and the indignant owner has appealed to the conservation department for their help. "Chiefie" was a nice little skunk, too, as skunks go—fat and gentle, although a little nervous around strangers.

Sgt. George W. Thorne of Alto is a prisoner of the Germans. In a letter to the home folks dated September 8 he stated that he was well and getting along all right and hoped to see them soon.

While Vern Armstrong was slicking things up around his gas station corner last Saturday morning he noticed a number of nails along the Main street side of the curb, his attention having been called to the matter by a lady who lives in the vicinity. Mr. Armstrong investigated further and with the aid of a magnet, loaned by Otto Wisner, a total of 3 or 4 lbs. were picked up in the street. The nails which had been in a cardboard box were evidently jarred off a passing truck or car. There might have resulted a good many punctured tires, had it not been for the timely discovery.

50 years The Lowell Ledger December 4, 1969

The second phase of a program designed to improve M-21 between Lowell and Grand Rapids has been approved by the Michigan State Highway Commission. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 1973 on widening and reconstruction of 4.7 miles between I-96 and the existing four-lane dual highway in Ada.

Arnold Wittenbach, who has served for the past eight years as a member of the Lowell city council, announced today that he will not seek re-election in 1970.

The Lowell Light and Power Commission has notified the city council that its hydro station and dam located on the Flat River, north of Lowell, should be put up for sale. In addition, the poles and wires leading from the hydro plant to the city, should be disposed of, the Lighting Commissioners said.

25 years The Lowell Ledger December 7, 1994

With declining profit margins and the inability to turn that around, out of his hands, Mike Hinkley, owner of Hinkley Drug Store, decided the timing was right to sell the independent pharmaceutical store.

The Lowell Chamber of Commerce's 1994 Christmas parade float winners found success in using the "Real McCoys." St. Mary's School, which has finished in the top three in each of the last five years, earned top honors and \$100 with their nativity scene. It included children in angel and shepherd costumes.

The purchase of an additional computer for City Hall's front office was given the okay by the Lowell City Council. In addition to being used for word processing, the computer can be networked with the Kent County Treasurer's office for property tax checks and payment processing. It can also be networked with the Versys system for utility billing payment processing.

to the editor

Letter to the Editor,

A year of propaganda over a proposed city income tax to fix Lowell's roads went down in flames at the ballot box. This time the city manager and the city council didn't get their way. A gimmick was offered to bring about a city income tax by offering a chance to lower the city's property tax by 5 mills if a city income tax was voted in. But the 5 mills would be replaced by revenue from a city income tax. It has been made known that some opponents to a city income tax believe that even with a 5 mill property tax reduction most working households will likely see their overall tax bill increase. I look at the proposed city income tax as just another way to continue to spend freely on anything that comes before the city council because I see no ordinance stating that the revenue from a city income tax would go strictly for road replacement. It's been suggested that the city income tax proposal was misunderstood. Well that could be, but one thing I'm positive about and that is many constituents in Michigan have had to make

cuts in their lifestyle when they have a loss in income for whatever reason and it shouldn't be any different when it comes to running a municipality. There are many ways to make cuts in the way the city is run if needed to, even though the city manager and the city council might not think so. But I don't believe any substantial cuts are needed at the moment. All they need to do is tighten their belt on the way the city operates. I could have retired in splendor with what the city spends on lawyer fees. They need to quit spending on every idea or new project that comes along like the fiasco over the new defunct Lowell bio digester. It surely will be interesting in what the city manger and disciples, the city council, will do next.

James Howard
Lowell Township

Dear Editor,
In light of voters' rejection of Proposal 1 in the recent Lowell election, alternate funding for road

Letters, continued,
page 6

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.

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- DECEMBER 10**
Bill Fluger, Barbara Decker.



At Your Local Library

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

Letters, continued

repairs has turned in a direction that concerns me. One of the resources considered for the chopping block was the beloved Engelhardt Library. I am dismayed by this idea. Since I'm not alone in this feeling, I want to speak up to my community.

Personally, my kids and I visit the library up to three times per week. It's a space for them to safely explore, play, discover new books and activities, and meet new friends.

It is a solace in any season. After park visits or hikes in summer, we can retreat and unwind in the peaceful, cool library. We especially love it in winter, when the kids can feel cooped up at home. The library is a place we can go without any pressure or requirement to spend on products and services. Everyone needs access to current information via internet and print. The library is suited for all, regardless of learning

abilities, reading levels, or class.

Moreover, the library staff knows us and the rest of the community by name. They don't care in which part of the district we live or whether we've contributed by property taxes, but that we simply show up as much as we can. Each one of them invests their energy to create the best possible experience for all of us, including well-curated, topical titles for discussion; engaging and educational activities for kids of all ages; friendly guidance to numerous and essential resources.

I understand this change may not be imminent, but this is an opportunity for us, collectively, to lift up our public resources instead of eliminating an already meager, but crucial service. I urge all readers to find a way to support your local library branch, even if it is with a simple visit.

Mary McLaughlin Lowell

- carbon monoxide poisoning

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas, that's produced by the incomplete combustion of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. Appliances and engines that run on natural gas, liquefied petroleum (LP gas), oil, kerosene, coal, or wood may produce carbon monoxide.

Each year, hundreds of people die from carbon monoxide produced from their household furnaces, ranges, water heaters, and space heaters. Thousands more are treated each year in the emergency room for accidental poisonings. The initial symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They

include: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness.

To protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide gas, install carbon monoxide detectors in your home, R.V. and/or boat. Have your home heating system, including chimneys and vents, inspected annually. Never burn charcoal or portable fuel burning camping equipment inside a home, garage vehicle, or tent. Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers to heat your home. If you suspect that you may have carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside into the fresh air immediately, then call 911.



Gingerbread Lane

Come and create a Gingerbread house. All supplies provided. Space is limited: first come, first served. This is a youth program so all seats will be available for children. Doors will open 15 minutes before the program begins. Thurs., Dec. 12 at 10 am.

Harry Potter Escape Room

Pre-registration is open and is required. Visit kdl.org/events to register. Challenge your brain during the holiday break! Sign up with your family or friends or meet new friends for a collaborative 45-minute challenge. Each person must be registered individually. Sessions in Harry Potter start promptly at the top of the hour and late entry is not possible. All seats of no-shows will be filled with waiting participants 5 minutes before the session. Children ages 10 and up are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Mon., Dec. 30, 1 pm - 7 pm.

business matters

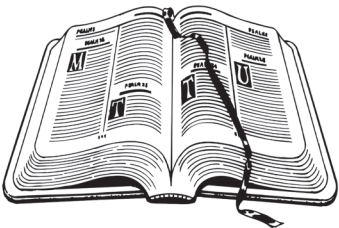


Greenridge Realty announced that Philip Hooker received Realtor of the Month in November.

This award recognizes Hooker for his outstanding success and achievements.



area churches



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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www.goodshepherdlowell.org

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Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
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Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • 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**

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Pastor Ryan Landt
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
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Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
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St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
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World War II P.O.W. diary of Sgt. Kenneth L. Ayres

Prisoner of War: Sept. 13, 1944 - May 2, 1945

November 8, 1944:

Another day is done. It has been raining off and on all day and for the past few days, it's been cold & wet. Trying hard to turn to snow. We received a stove the other day, not much fuel but enough to take the chill off the room at night. We now have 20 men in our room again. Our new man was moved to a diff. room. Nothing has happened to write about. Except...our potatoes have been cut 10%. Really makes things nice. We get far frome enough now, and we get another cut...oh well. Some Red Cross is suppose to be on its way here and some was received the other day so the supply shouldn't run out for a couple weeks now. Not much more to write about... have a headache.

Have given up hope of being in the States by then. Had a pack of Phillip Morse cigs the other day. First since I left the States. Also a Lucky Strike. We get Chesterfield, Camel, Old Gold and other dime cigs in the Red Cross. The days seem short here and the nights never end. Can't sleep worth a darn usually. We got the news of who was elected president of U.S.A. on the 9th. Was glad F.D.R. won! Blacky & myself are going to raffle off a sweater for cigs. Also, it rained steady all day yesterday. Guess that is about all. Also mailed a letter the fokes and one to MaryAnn & Junior today. That makes the second letter to the fokes and about three cards. Guess that's all for now. Feel petty good except I'm hungary as all hell, as usual!

November 13, 1944:

Just another day. Nothing to write about. Two months today, I was shot down. We got some Hungarian cigs today, plus ten U.S. cigs for the last couple of days. All sorts of rumors have popped up concerning the war. One was "...that there is a peach conference going on...". Another is "Russian paratroopers have landed in Danzig. The Russian Drive is on again." where the rumors come frome, I don't know. Most of them are never right, but they sound good anyway. And they keep everybody going and hoping. And that's bout all we can do. Just plug along frome day to day...and hope.

November 17, 1944:

Once again, a day has come and passed. Nothing to write about, as usual. The Canary was around yesterday. Said the Yanks have begun the big drive again. Also, the Russians. Said something about the G.I. Bill of Rights. Tonight we had bout a half cup of spuds to eat. Red Cross will be all gone unless new supplies come in. The weather is cold as all hell! We have finally seen the light. We don't expect to be out of here until after Christmas now. Sometime in 1945. What a life! Not enough to eat to keep a bird alive and living like hogs. Might add that the camp is now under the German Army instead of the Air Force since the 15th or closeby.

November 20, 1944:

Another day has passed and it has brought forth a few roomers, which I'll write down. 1 - It's roomered that F.D.R. made a speech saying that the war will be over by 1945. 2 - That the Yanks are 30 miles from Danzig. 3 - That we will go on full Red Cross

parcel in a week or so, as a lot of Red Cross has arrived and more is coming. Hope they are all true. We are just sitting around arguing about food. Horseman says he can eat a full Red Cross box at one sitting. Also says he can eat a gallon of milk, dozen eggs and 1 1/2 lbs. of ham or bacon. B.S.!! Weather was a little warmer today but still cool. Have had quite a bit of snow but none has stayed. That's about all there is to write about.

November 23, 1944:

Another day just like all the rest. Nothing to write about. A few roomers now & then. A boy in the barrack next door bet \$100. that the war will end the 25th of this month. Have ate all my bread and am just as damn hungary as ever. Took a bath last night and nearly froze before I got done. Also shaved. I could sure stand a haircut! they say we are going to get another cut in bread. If we do, the Jerrys may as well keep the damn wood for all we'll get. Seem to have a headache most of the time now. Not much more to write about.

...WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A GOOD HOME COOKED MEAL!!!!...

November 27, 1944:

Nothing whatsoever to write about. For the past few

days there hasn't been any roomers about the war. We did get a full Red Cross parcel this week. Sure made everyone feel good. But to balance things up, we got a 50% cut in spuds. Three more days until Thanksgiving Day. There has been talk about what is going to happen to the P.O.W. when we get home. The roomer is...1 - Hospital or rest camp (maybe both) 2 - Then a 30-day leave. 3 - Return and receive a 90-day temporary discharge to find a job. 4 - If you get a job at the end of 90 days your return and receive a permanent discharge. No one knows how true this is. We will just have to wait until we get home. That's about all there is to write about.

November 30, 1944:

Thanksgiving Day! Well, another day is about past. It was Thanksgiving Day



Ken Ayres

today. We did get an extra meal today. Bout 1:00 in the morn., we had some millut. Then bout 3:00, we had soup and at 7:00 spuds. Quite a Thanksgiving! The All Stars played bk. 8 in football in the afternoon. All Stars won. Also had a band...six guys with horns marched up and down the field playing. Quite a homecoming game. Not much more to write about. Have had a headache for the past few days. Sort of a dull one.

This special feature will be continued in upcoming editions of the Lowell Ledger



Examples of European money that Ayres brought back with him from his time in WWII.

November 12, 1944:

Tonight is is snowing. First snow we have had. It's getting plenty cold up here, as low as 50° below zero. Things seem to be getting rougher everyday. Today we were told that frome now on, we will not get spuds on every third day. And our bread ration is going to be cut again. As it is, we get far frome enough bread or spuds. Also, the Jerries are now taking the covers off all the Red Cross cans...just something to make it more unpleasant for the prisoners. Might add that for the last month, we have been locked in about 4:30pm instead of 6:00, like it used to be. Of course, it gets darker a bit earlier than it did then. Two months tomorrow, I was shot down. Still hope to be in Yanks hands by Christmas.



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To be considered, all proposals must be submitted online by December 20, 2019.

Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell Area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

National Adoption Month: Kandace Beaman's story

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

"Becoming a foster parent starts with a lot of soul searching," said Kandace Beaman.

Even though she and her husband had three biological children of their own, they decided several years ago to become foster parents. The day their license to foster came through, they were also asked to take in two children. They only had those two children, a seven-year-old boy and two-year-old girl, for five days, but fell in love with them instantly.

Beaman says she still remembers everything about them, as well as all of the children she has fostered, and relished every moment with them until they went back to their own relatives.

She remembers it being a long, grueling journey. Most foster kids do not feel safe with new families due to the trauma they've been through. It can take a long time for them to open up and feel comfortable. She would always explain to her foster kids that they just needed someone to take care of them while their own parents were learning to become better parents.

"Mom and dad need someone to teach them how to get better at what they do," she'd tell them.

She never spoke

negatively about the foster kids' parents and remained in contact with them after they went back home. She didn't ever want the kids to think to themselves, "I came from someone bad, therefore I must be bad too."

Beaman and her husband fostered four children before deciding to adopt. She said she knew when she started fostering the three kids that she eventually adopted, that they would become her own.

"I'm not sure if it was God speaking to me or just my heartstrings tugging on me, I just knew," Beaman said.

Beaman has remained in contact with all three of her adopted children's biological mothers. She fostered Tori for about two years before adopting her. They refer to her daughter Tori's biological mom as "Miss Dawn" and her son Kamden's biological mom as "Miss Heather." She has never met any of their fathers.

Statistically, children in foster care are fatherless, and fatherlessness contributes highly to the foster care issue. Kamden's biological mother Miss Heather contacts Beaman every year on Mother's Day to thank her for everything she has done for her son. She said that kind of situation is rare, most parents that have lost their parental rights do not understand why. She added that approximately 80 percent of children in the foster care system will eventually get adopted.

Beaman's three biological children and her three adopted children all have a very close bond. They consider each other complete brothers and sisters, one big, happy family. Each one of the adopted kids has added their own kind of blessing to the family.

"My dining room table when all six kids are home is the happiest place on Earth because there's nothing but laughing," Beaman said.

Unfortunately, they experienced fatherlessness again in their home when Beaman and her husband divorced a few years ago. Although there was trauma involved, they have not let it control their lives or decide who they're going to be. Even though it has been a painful road, Beaman knows that if she hadn't been married to her ex-husband, she might not have been able to adopt alone.

"So, as angry as I am at the situation, I have to be thankful at the same time," Beaman said.

She also added that there are people who foster and/or adopt on their own as a single parent.

"I believe that fostering has helped my biological kids grow in ways I'd never imagined," Beaman said.

Beaman's oldest daughter struggled quite a bit at first because of the foster kids behaviors. Now, as a young adult, she accepts everyone for

who they are and treats everyone with kindness. Beaman said that she got a lot of push-back from her family, friends and even some teachers, who said that the fostering was detrimental to her own kids. But she stuck with it, persevered and could not be more proud of the family she has been raising.

"If I did not have all six of my kids, something would not feel right, something would be missing," Beaman said. "We are family and we stick together and take care of each other."

Tori, Beaman's first adopted child, was two years old when she came to their family. She is now in eighth grade. She is very musical and loves to sing. Some of her biological relatives were singers and in bands. Her grandmother was a gospel songwriter and some of her songs were recorded in Nashville. She is a straight-A student, has a lot of friends and is very joyous, but she still has some struggles with trust. She knows that someday she will meet her biological mom and her half sister. Beaman feels that any biological family members that are a good influence on the kids' lives should be welcome to visit with them.

"We can always add another chair at the table," Beaman said. "I always say that you can never have too many people to love you."

Elizabeth (Lizzie), has at least 15 full and half siblings that are spread from Michigan to Florida. She experienced a very traumatic first 13 months of life in her biological home. Her biological father was

somewhat nurturing, but he was killed when she was seven months old. Lizzie's biological mother would disappear for several days at a time. Lizzie is now 11 years old. Because her father was more of a nurturer, she is drawn more to men and trusts them more. She has sensory processing disorder and is currently being tested for some other issues.

"I, however, don't want people to know Lizzie by her struggles, but rather by her joy and her love that she has to share, and by her magical hugs," Beaman said.

Kamden was born in a meth house with three different drugs in his system. He came to Beaman's family when he was seven weeks old. At first, therapists thought that he would have some physical and learning disabilities. However, he is now 10 years old and in the fourth grade. Beaman feels that someday he may be a pastor. She said he has a wisdom about him, he's very intuitive when it comes to people, shows compassion towards everyone he meets, he's very funny and loves to make people laugh and feel loved.

"God has molded everyone in my family and used each of the kids that have spent time in our home," Beaman said. "They have all touched our hearts and helped us to grow. I could tell you about all of the logistics, the training, the heartache... But most of all what I want people to take from my story is the joy that one gains from having this experience."



LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of Larry Mulder Guardianship File No. 19-206,619-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his children, Kaitlin, David Mulder, Brent Mulder, and any other unknown children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on December 30, 2019, at 10:00 A.M. at Kent

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

Dated: December 1, 2019

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 401-5242

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of Oswald Munyamashara Guardianship File No. 19-206,580-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his children, Bonane Mbanjimber and Pascal Nshimiyamana, and any other unknown children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on December 18, 2019, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate

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

Dated: December 1, 2019

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 248-1038

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

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~ Steven Morrissey



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Lowell High School's annual holiday play Dec. 12-14

by Sierra Hieshetter
contributing reporter

The Holiday Season is upon us and with the snow and cheer comes one of the most festive traditions in our community, the Lowell High School Holiday Play.

This year the LHS Theatre Department is performing The Merrie Christmas Show by Lindsey Price, in which a group of travelling players showcase holiday traditions from around the world. This year's production is directed by High School Drama and Theatre Tech teacher Laurie Summerfield.

Summerfield's favorite part of directing the show is "watching students take on a different persona, growing into their character."

The cast and crew have roughly thirteen rehearsals to pull the production together. Summerfield stated that "It's usually a time thing as far as struggles. Either the cast or my schedule gets in the way of the fun." Despite the tight time constraints, everyone is excited to put together a great show. Senior cast member Emma Organek said, "it's really fun to be able to put on a show with each other and give the audience, and especially the kids, a little holiday magic."

This production will be involving a new facet of the drama department. This year the high school has a Theatre Technologies class, taught by Summerfield, that is taking on a lot of the behind-the-scenes work for the show. The class is designing the sets, lighting cues and costumes, then collaborating with the crew of the show to put it all together.

"My favorite part of being part of this play would be the fact that this cast can bring holiday cheer



The cast and crew rehearsing a scene.

to everyone who comes and sees it," said senior cast member Esther Darling. The show is full of holiday cheer and merriment that everyone can enjoy. The production has elements of audience participation, as well as continuing the tradition of giving children from the community the opportunity to act on the High School stage. The production is a great way to expose the younger members of the community to theatre.

The Merrie Christmas Show opens on Thursday, December 12 at 7 pm, with shows Friday, December 13 at 7 pm and Saturday, December 14 at 10:30 am. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

"The Christmas show is always super cheerful and happy, and It's also a great way to get yourself in the Christmas spirit," says senior cast member Katelynn Sikkenga. The Merrie Christmas Show is certainly no exception to that statement. Full of festive fun and holiday cheer, The Merrie Christmas Show is a production the whole family can enjoy.



The cast of The Merrie Christmas Show.

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Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Boys basketball ready for 2019-2020

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

The Lowell varsity boys basketball team tips off the season on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at home against Forest Hills Eastern. The Red Arrows will look to build on an 8-13 season last year which ended in an overtime contest to eventual

district champion Dewitt.

The team returns four major contributors from last season, seniors Braiden Hamilton, Nolan Cusack, and Logan DeKok along with junior Brett Spanbauer who all got significant minutes last year. They'll

be joined by seniors Caleb Clark, Jake Cleaver, and Brock Gemmill. Two freshmen will join the team this year, Dawson Douma and CJ Steinbach. Rounding out the team are juniors Nate Clark, Reid Reynolds, Troy Taylor, Brad VandenHout,

and Landon Grant who will join the team after spending their year on junior varsity last season.

These additions will look to fill the void of the departures of the members of the class of 2019. Lowell lost several key parts of

the team from last year including three-year varsity player Robby Schneider to graduation.

Lowell will be looking to win their first conference championship in boys basketball since 1978. A very strong group of teams in the OK White this year will make that tough. Forest Hills Northern completed an undefeated season last year and will be among the top contenders again this year.

"Our goal is always to compete for a conference title and prepare for the state tournament. In order to do that we have to compete every day in practice and

grow as a unit. To this point our staff is pleased with the progress in both areas," head coach Travis Slinger told us. "We have a strong early-season schedule that will prepare us for the OK White, which is one of the most talented leagues in the area again this year."

Early non-conference games for the team will include Forest Hills Eastern, Coopersville, East Grand Rapids, Byron Center, and Grand Ledge before moving into conference play.

"As a whole, we are enthusiastic about the future of the program. Elementary participation through the ABL and travel teams has continued to grow. We have some talented student-athletes at our sub-varsity levels that are showing promise and a passion for basketball. Our varsity teams have established a reputation for their grit and toughness that is setting a positive example for future Red Arrows," coach Slinger said.



Senior Braiden Hamilton during a game last year.

The Red Arrows take on the Hawks of FHE on Dec. 10 at home. Tip off is at 7 pm.

RED ARROW WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a home game

12/11 at 1 pm at Detroit Catholic Central
12/14 time TBA Grappler Gold

BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE

1/9 at 6 pm at Grand Rapids Union*

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a home game at LHS

12/18 at 7 pm non-conference quad at Rockford

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a game at LHS main gym

12/10 at 7 pm at Forest Hills Eastern

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym

12/10 at 7 pm Forest Hills Eastern*

12/13 at 7 pm at Coopersville

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER

12/13/19 TBA CCCAM Meet at Charlotte

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena

12/6 & 12/7 TBA Petoskey Showcase

12/13 at 8 pm Forest Hills Northern at Patterson

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia

12/7 at 8 pm Wyoming Invitational at Eastbrook Lanes

12/11 at 3:30 pm Hudsonville*

BOYS & GIRLS SKIING

All held at Cannonsburg, unless noted

1/7 at 4:30 pm Race #1 - GS

Lowell resident wins national cross-country championship

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell resident Kateri Mills was part of the national champion women's cross-country team at Madonna University in Livonia, where she is a junior studying nursing.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national championships took place in Fort Vancouver, WA on Friday, Nov. 22.

"They have been to nationals all three years that she's been there," said her mother, Lisa Mills. "Last year they were ranked fourth when they went, and they came in second. This year they were ranked second, and they won nationals."

Mills and her husband Neil flew to Washington to attend the competition.

"We took a chance and bought tickets," Mills said.

"It was a beautiful scene at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. It was blue skies, and 40 degrees for the race, which is perfect. We were so blessed, it stopped raining on Monday, the team got there on Tuesday, my husband and I arrived on Thursday, they ran on Friday, everybody came home on Saturday and the rain came back on Sunday. The team went to Mount Hood and Multnomah Falls. We also went through the little town called Astoria where the movie 'Goonies' was filmed. I found a sand dollar, it was cool."

Mills ran cross-country for West Catholic High School and has done so every year she has attended Madonna University.

"She's a spitfire, a ball of energy," Mills said. "This was quite the accomplishment."



Kateri Mills with her parents, Lisa and Neil.

Red Arrow **SPORTS**

Season preview - Lowell girls basketball

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

The winter sports season is already upon us with hockey games in full swing, and basketball games set to tip-off this week.

The Lowell varsity girls basketball team is ready to go, their season started on Tuesday against East Grand Rapids. The Lady Arrows are looking to build off an 8-13 season last year and are coached by Heath Kent, who is entering his fourth year at the helm of the program. Lowell will have a hard time replacing Division One honorable mention all-state player Regan Coxon, who graduated last year, but they have several players looking to step up this year. The team returns four seniors: Molly Frederickson, Jena Lyon, Kyleigh Rau and Audrey Conrad. "For Molly and Jena it'll be their third year on varsity. All four of them saw significant minutes last year and have been doing a great job so far this season," coach Heath Kent told us.

Three freshmen will be competing at the varsity level this season; Lexi Howell, Summer Havey, and Aubriegh Oswald. Oswald already has varsity experience having been a part of the state runner-up varsity volleyball team this fall. "All three of them have played with us since the summer and will be counted on to contribute this season. Along with our four juniors

Jillian Weston, Addison Bruwer, Faith Stepek and Bailey Wolters who all bring something different to the table, they will make up this year's varsity."

The Lady Arrows tipped off the year on Tuesday against East Grand Rapids. Next week, they'll head to Forest Hills Eastern (12/10) and host Coopersville (12/13).

"I'm really looking forward to this season, we've had great chemistry so far this year, the girls have been working hard to get better each day, and through our scrimmages we've gotten better each one. We're still not at full strength with Aubriegh playing on our volleyball team and Addison recovering from a broken hand, but once we get everyone up to speed I think we'll be fun to watch."

Lowell will be looking to return to the top of the OK White Conference for the first time since the 2017-2018 season this year. "I think our league is wide open this year and I think that if we continue to work to get better each day that we'll be in the thick of things at the end of the season. A lot of the teams in the conference graduated some key kids last year who've been around for a long time so it'll be fun to see which kids step up to replace them." added coach Kent.



Audrey Conrad passes the ball during Heroes Night last season.

Coach Kent added that he's most looking forward to the 2020 Heroes Night Game. Each year the Lowell basketball programs host a doubleheader where each player plays for a military or first responder member. Similar to Pink Arrow, there is a pre-game honoree ceremony. "It's great to be able to honor those who do so much for our communities, the kids get to wear special uniforms, and it's just a special night."



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obituaries

LAMBERT

Col. Keith A.D. Lambert, age 82, passed away unexpectedly on October 8, 2019 at his home in Leesburg, Florida. Lambert was born to Cloyd Leroy Lambert and Alice Catherine Forrest on October 2, 1937 in Flint. He grew up in Shepherd, with brother, Hugh Lambert and sisters, Phyllis McAvoy and Geraldine Cazier, all who have preceded him in death. He was a multi-athlete and honor student when he graduated from Shepherd High School in 1955. He went on to get a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University where he was also enrolled in the ROTC program. Following college, he entered the United States Army as an officer. Lambert served two terms in Vietnam and rose to the rank of Colonel when he retired 30-years later. During his active duty, he was a member of the US Army Green Beret/US Airborne. He married his college sweetheart, Mary Karen Stayer and they had three kids, all born in Landstuhl, Germany: Karisue Lambert Ruel, Kevin Keith Lambert and Keane Scott Lambert. After many moves, the family settled in Lowell in 1975 on a 60-acre horse farm. Raising horses, collecting antiques and a weekend carpenter were some of Lambert's most notable hobbies. He could build anything and undertook remodeling an 1858 farm house while working a full-time job as a human resource manager at Rapistan in Grand Rapids, while also maintaining active status in the US Army Reserves. He added a master's degree to his accomplishments and taught business classes at Grand Rapids Community College and Phoenix University. After retirement, Lambert enjoyed traveling, was an avid tennis player, collector of unique finds and artifacts, and was a Deacon at his church, New Life Church. He and his current wife, Janet Wierda Lambert moved to Leesburg, FL, 13 years ago. One never to fully retire, Lambert was an active substitute teacher in the Orlando School District and worked part-time at Disney World and Universal Studio at the time of his death. Lambert is survived by his wife, Janet Wierda Lambert; daughter, Karisue Lambert Ruel of Napa, CA and Cary, NC; sons, Kevin Keith Lambert of Newaygo, Keane Scott Lambert (Grace) of Ada, and Christian Vera of Grandville; seven grandkids, Samantha Sue Lambert of Austin, TX, Heather Nichole Ruel Morales (Juan Morales) of Raleigh, NC, Corbett Addison Lambert of Grand Rapids, Rejean Grant Ruel of Raleigh, NC, Kayleigh Sinclair Lambert of Phoenix, AZ, Chance Vaughn Lambert of Grand Rapids, Hannah Michelle Lambert of Atlanta, GA; one great-grandchild, Mia Rae Morales of Raleigh, NC; his first wife, Mary Karen Thomure of Lowell; stepdaughters, Kimberly Berkhardt (James with kids, Austin, Breen, Mylon and Mackenzie) and Brenda Evola (Michael with kids, Samantha, Charlene and Kaitlyn); plus many nieces and nephews. A full military service was held on October 24, 2019 in Leesburg, FL. Immediate family and friends held a Celebration of Life at Shots on the River in Belmont on November 30, 2019.

Social Security covers disabled children

Children are our future — we share our knowledge and talent with them — we pass on our values to them knowing they will share those gifts. Social Security safeguards children all year long, but we'd like to take this opportunity to share information about our programs that provide direct support to children.

The latest information available says that in 2018 the Social Security program distributed about \$2.7 billion each month to benefit about 4.1 million children on average each month because one or both of their parents are disabled, retired, or deceased. Those dollars help to provide the necessities of life for family members and help make it possible for those children to complete high school. When a working parent becomes disabled or dies, Social Security benefits help stabilize the family's financial future.

Children with disabilities are among our most vulnerable citizens. The Social Security Administration is dedicated to helping those with

qualifying disabilities and their families through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which is separate from the Social Security program. To qualify for SSI:

- The child must have a physical or mental condition, or a combination of conditions, resulting

in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must severely limit your child's activities; and The child's condition(s) must be severe, last for at least 12 months, or be expected to result in death.

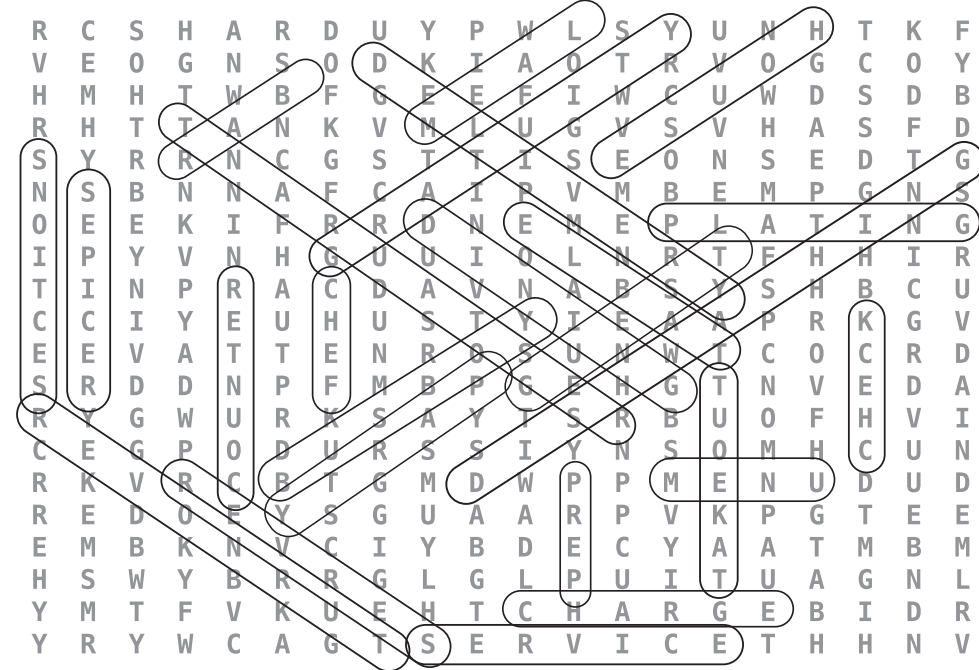
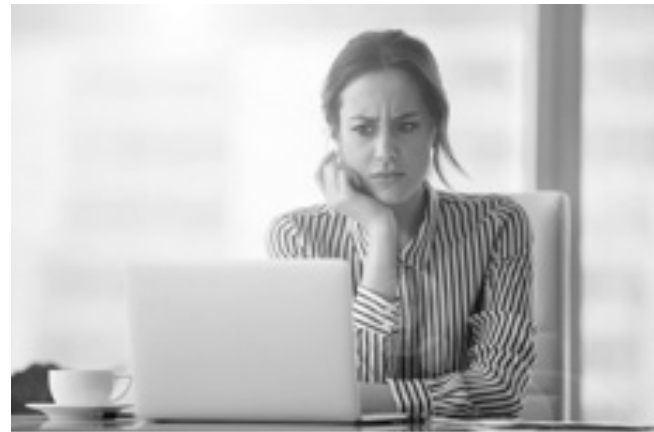
illnesses and conditions. The Compassionate Allowances program is a way to quickly identify people with diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet the standards for disability benefits under the Social

Security and SSI programs. Thousands of children receive SSI benefits because they have one of the conditions on the Compassionate Allowances list at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm.

Keep in mind, Social Security and SSI are two very distinct and separate programs, and eligibility for each is different.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids to learn more about all we do to care for children. Social Security is with you and your children throughout your life's journey, securing today and tomorrow. If you know a family who needs our help, please share these resources with them.

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 vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.



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2003 HONDA PILOT - leather, good condition inside, needs motor. Asking \$1,500 obo. Call 269-838-6590.

2008 FORD ESCORT - \$2000, call after 5 pm, 897-5220.

FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR - New, blemished in freight. Cost \$2688,; sell \$850. 1 year warranty. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

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!

PIONEER POLE BUILDINGS - Free Estimates - Licensed and insured - 2x6 Trusses - 45 Year Warranty Galvalume Steel - 19 Colors - Since 1976 - #1 in Michigan - Call Today 1-800-292-0679.

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. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

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

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 & must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

sales

MRS. CLAUS ANNUAL BAZAAR & CRAFT SHOW - 175+ booths. Sat., Dec. 7, 9 am - 4 pm. Ionia Middle School, 438 Union Street & Lincoln Avenue (M21, 4 blocks east of M66). Lunch & snacks available. FREE ADMISSION. Door prizes all day. Sponsored by the Ionia County Commission on Aging.

CRAFT OPEN HOUSE - Sat., Dec. 7, 9-4 pm. 1950 Parnell Ave NE at 2 Mile. Wood gifts, toys, decor, fabrics & bottles, bird feeders.

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).

APARTMENT FOR RENT IN LOWELL - 2 bedroom, 1 bath, laundry hookup, referral, background check. No pets. No smoking on premises. \$900/month, \$500 deposit. Call 616-813-8937.

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. All Vets Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday of each month at Keiser's. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

help wanted

FRANKLIN METALS - A rapidly expanding family-owned scrap company with 60+ years in the same location is hiring: shift lead, experienced furnace operators, furnace room labor, millwrights/mechanics, CDL-Drivers, heavy equipment operators, general labor. We offer generous wages based on experience, 401k, vacation, tuition reimbursement, flex schedules, major medical, dental, vision & prescription coverage for the employee & all eligible family members. Please stop by our Lake Odessa facility & drop off a resume' or fill out an application at 609 Tupper Lake Street, Lake Odessa or email your resume' to info@Franklinmetals.com. Franklin Metals is a drug free employer.

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

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

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TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Open Mon - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm. 5400 Ivan Road, Saranac, call for a quote on auto repairs - 642-9180.

NOREEN K. MYERS, ATTORNEY AT LAW - Compassionate, experienced, effective legal representation. Specialties include: wills & trusts, work related injuries, employment discrimination. 307 E. Main, Lowell, 897-5460.

services

PATRIOT STONE - kitchen & bath countertops & vanities. We fabricate, sell & install. Granite & quartz. Call for information, Steve Misner, 616-329-7274.

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

SNOW PLOW SERVICE - Lowell, Saranac, Alto area. 28 years experience. 10% discount for early signup. Please call 616-808-0276.

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger now offers this service! Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 5 p.m. & Fri., 8-noon. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions.

misc.

IF YOUR PHONE NUMBER WAS WRONG IN THE LOWELL CITY DIRECTORY LAST YEAR - Call us or drop us an email with the correct information and we will get it in the 2020 Lowell City Directory. Phone 897-9561 or email to: lowellcitydirectory@gmail.com

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees...I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: \$3500 incl. all filing fees AND FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

Community Calendar 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.

FAMILY YOGA - Saturdays at 11 am. Family yoga is an all-ages activity with a focus on the benefits of mindfulness. Together we will engage in the fun poses, learn how to breathe, be creative with yoga activities/games & relax. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

ATTENTION SENIORS - Every Friday evening seniors get together for conversation, food, dancing and music. Cunningham Acre, 4980 W. Pepper Lake Rd. on route M-50, 1 1/4 miles W. of Lake Odessa. For more information contact Betty at 616-374-7512.

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-centered, Biblically-based 12 step program for people with hurts, hang-ups and habits. Meets every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Impact, 11840 Fulton St., 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 Tuesday of the month from, 5 to 8 pm at Franciscan Life Processing Center, 11650 Downes St. NE, Lowell.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - at Wittenbach Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes, Lowell. Stewardship projects, trail maintenance - adopt a trail! and community events (night hikes, luminary hikes, Winter Fest, Maple Syrup days & more!) Anyone interested in these opportunities please email Courtney Cheers: ccheers@lowellschools.com

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, 3116 Alden Nash SE, Lowell.

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

SENSORY TODDLER TIMES - Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30. Dec. 3 - Feb. 18. (except Dec. 24). Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

FAMILY STORYTIME - Thursdays at 10 am, Dec. 5 - Feb. 20 (except Dec. 26 & Jan. 2). Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

WITTENBACH WEGE CENTER - 11715 Vergennes, Lowell. Trails are open dusk to dawn, 365 days a year.

STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION? - Lowell Serenity Club is available for all in need of relief and hope. LSC offers 12 step meetings, 365 days a year. Meetings daily 8-9 pm, Mon. - Fri. 12-1 pm, Tues. & Fri. 4:30-5:30 pm and Sat. & Sun. 10-11 am. 101 E. Main St., Lowell, 616-550-6688.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - A monthly support group for those diagnosed with breast cancer to learn and share together. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month from 6-7:30 pm. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

FREE MOVIE NIGHT - Second Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. Free movie & popcorn at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding. 616-794-1450.

FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER RIVER VALLEY RAIL-TRAIL - Meets second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Pere Marquette depot, 100 Depot St., Belding. Meetings are broadcast on Google hangouts. FMRVRT.org/Facebook: FMRVRT

TECH SESSIONS - 2 - 4 pm by appointment on Thursdays. One-on-one assistance with basic computer, tablets, smart phones, downloadable library material, etc. Please call to schedule an appointment, Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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

LEGO CLUB - First Tuesday of the month from 4-6 pm. A monthly club for kids to build theme lego creations. For ages 5 & up. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

FROM'S MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET - is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm; donate gently used medical equipment or borrow equipment including wheelchairs, walkers,

crutches and more. QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

MINECRAFT - 1st Monday of the month at 4:30 pm. Get your Minecraft fix & show off your world-building skills. The library has a limited number of computers & licenses for Minecraft. First come, first served. No registration required. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

MUSIC & MOVEMENT - Wednesdays, 11 a.m. Kids age 5 & under are invited to sing & dance to favorite storytime songs. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding. 616-794-1450.

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.

CANCER - NEW MEMBER MEETING - Every Tuesday, 5-5:30 p.m. Introductory meeting for those who wish to join the cancer support program. Please register in advance. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT - every Tuesday at 10 am. Enjoy songs & dance in this active program for children ages 0-5. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

ALPHA FAMILY CENTER OF LOWELL - 519 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



MPSC receives \$100,000 grant to enhance excavation damage prevention program

The Michigan Public Service Commission has been awarded a grant of \$100,000 by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to enhance the MISS DIG 811 underground pipeline damage prevention program.

The MPSC will use the grant money for education and awareness through MISS DIG 811, the non-profit organization that operates the free statewide underground utility notification system.

The grant will allow MISS DIG 811 educators to travel to areas with higher damage rates to educate, train and provide awareness to school-aged children, the public, excavators and facility locators and owners.

Additionally, the grants will allow the purchase of a customized van and trailer, booklets, promotional materials, a generator and a TV to create a traveling learning station designed to educate Michigan families and children about the importance of calling 811 before any excavation.

"Hitting utility lines with a shovel, backhoe or other equipment can have deadly consequences and interrupt vital utility service," said MPSC Chairman Sally Talberg. "We're pleased to use this grant to further educate Michiganders about how critical it is for them to dial 811 before they dig. Each year thousands of utility lines are damaged because individuals and contractors don't call ahead, even though it's required by law and saves lives."

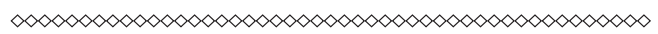
The focus of the funding will be on homeowners, who annually account for more than 25 percent of damage to underground utility lines each year. MISS DIG 811 will target schools and trade shows to reach homeowners in the areas of the state with the highest numbers of damage incidents, which include Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties in southeast Michigan and Kent County in west Michigan.

Measured by the number of leaks caused by excavation damage per 100 miles of pipeline, Michigan performed better than the national average every year in the 2010-2018 timeframe. Still, there were 4,054 excavation damage incidents to pipelines statewide in 2018, each representing danger to the public.

PHMSA's State Damage Prevention grants are designed to not only establish comprehensive state programs to prevent excavation damage to underground pipeline facilities, but also to improve damage prevention programs in states like Michigan where these programs already exist.

Effective, efficient damage prevention programs are essential to protecting the nation's pipeline transportation system and for improving public safety. State Damage Prevention grants encourage states to incorporate elements associated with effectively preventing damage to underground utilities, according to PHMSA.

For more information about MISS DIG 811, go to www.missdig.org.



Benson announces beginning of online voter registration and availability of eNotary services in Michigan

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced on Cyber Monday that Michiganders can now register to vote or update their voter registration online at Michigan.gov/VoterRegistration.

In another major announcement, Benson said that offering electronic (eNotary) and remote notarization services is now an option for the state's more than 113,000 notaries public. Both programs represent steps forward for Michigan in using technology to provide modern and convenient services to residents.

Online voter registration begins

The secure, web-based online voter registration tool is available to citizens with a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID card. Michigan residents without these documents can learn more about how they can register to vote by visiting the site. All other methods of voter registration, including registration by mail, will remain available. Michigan also began implementing automatic voter registration in September as part of driver's license and state ID card transactions.

"This fast, convenient, cost-effective and secure option to register to vote will enable many more people to participate in democracy, and help Michigan's clerks maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date voter rolls," said Secretary Benson.

Residents who know they're not registered to vote at their current address can access the voter registration tool directly by visiting Michigan.gov/VoterRegistration. Users will then be asked to verify their eligibility and provide identifying information including their driver's license or state ID card number. After they verify their identity, users

will have the opportunity to register to vote or update their voter registration if they are already registered.

If residents are not sure whether they are registered to vote, they can visit Michigan.gov/Vote to find out. If they are not registered, the site provides a link to the online voter registration tool.

Online voter registration is available on any web-connected device, including tablets and smart phones. Additional features will be added in 2020.

By implementing online voter registration, Michigan joins 37 other states that allow citizens to register to vote online. Legislation providing for online voter registration was enacted by the Michigan Legislature in 2018. Other states that have implemented online voter registration have seen several benefits:

- Cost savings: Online voter registrations replace paper applications, saving money on printing, mailing and processing time.
- Increased accuracy: Online voter registrations are entered electronically and matched to data the state already has on file for applicants; this eliminates typos and other transcription errors, as well as missing information on voter registration forms.
- Updated voter rolls: By allowing a convenient method of updating voter registration, online voter



registration will help keep the voter rolls up to date by facilitating more frequent voter updates throughout the year.

- Convenience for voters: Online voter registration allows voter registration in real time from any web-connected device. Research in some states has found that young voters are particularly likely to take advantage of online voter registration.

eNotary services now available in Michigan

The Department of State commissions notaries public. They are officers appointed by the Secretary of State to attest to the authenticity of a person's signature, administer oaths and witness acknowledgements. Notarization on a document certifies that the person named on it appeared before the notary, displayed valid identification and was in the presence of the notary at the time of execution.

In an electronic notarization, the document being notarized is digital and the notary uses electronic signatures (a digital representation of a person's actual handwritten signature executed by that individual with the intent to sign). A remote notarization is conducted through audio and visual equipment; the signer is not in the physical presence of the notary public. The document being notarized is digital and the notary uses electronic signatures.

The Department of State has approved four eNotary vendor systems for use in Michigan, three of which also offer remote notarization services. These vendors have met state requirements such as demonstrating to department staff the notarial services platform and certain security features like tamper-evident documents and an audit trail:

- eMortgageLaw – Offers electronic notarization services
- Nexsys – Offers both electronic and remote notarization services
- Pavaso – Offers both electronic and remote notarization services
- NotaryCam – Offers both electronic and remote notarization services

The approvals are effective immediately and notaries can contract with the vendor of their choice, which will require a fee. The Department of State does not provide access, training or determine costs of these systems. Use of eNotary vendors is optional and no action is needed on the part of notaries in order to continue performing traditional pen and paper notarizations.

Michigan amended its notary law in 2018 to be in line with other states that have authorized electronic and remote notarizations. To do this, the Secretary of State was authorized with the assistance of the Department of Management and Budget to allow vendor systems to be used in Michigan to conduct electronic and remote notarizations.

More information is available by visiting the notary public site at Michigan.gov/SOS.

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
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

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

					9			
			7		3			
	1		4	2				7
6	2		4	5				
	7							
9			6		1			7
		4	1					6
		9				5		
	5			9	3	4		2

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

RESTAURANT WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

RESTAURANT WORD SEARCH

COUNTER DELIVERY

MENU PARTY

SERVICE TABLE

DINING

PLATING

TAKEOUT

DISHWASHING

PREP

TURNOVER

BAR
BUSBOY
CHARGE
CHECK
CHEF

GRATUITY
GUEST
HOUSE
MEAL

RECIPES
RESTAURANT
SECTIONS
SERVER

Guess Who?

I am singer born on December 2, 1991 in New Jersey. I made a name for myself by posting original songs and covers to a YouTube channel. I was signed by Ellen DeGeneres' record label and the rest is history.

Answer: Charlie Puth

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to restaurants.

N D R I E

□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Diner

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12		13			14			
15						16			17			
	18				19	20			21			
					22	23			24			
25	26	27	28	29								
30							31					
32								33	34	35	36	37
				38	39	40		41	42			
				43				44				
	45	46	47									
48					49			50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63					64		

CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- America
- Language spoken in Chad
- Type of field (abbr.)
- Reagan's Deputy AG
- Negative
- Mother of Hermes
- Summer and Winter Olympics gold medal winner
- In shape
- Oh my goodness!
- People of Guinea or Sierra Leone
- A form of "to be"
- Succulent plant
- Estranges
- Honest
- Showing conviction
- High schoolers' test
- Implant
- Acknowledgment
- Cash dispenser
- Transferred to another
- Superhero group
- Photographers
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Power to perceive
- Heavy cavalry sword
- Israel's first permanent UN delegate

- Everything
- Afflicted
- Language spoken in Chad
- Pioneering MC Kool Moe
-
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Keyboard key
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- Type of degree
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Large, predatory lizard
- River in Romania
- Biased
- Parties
- TV's used to need one
- Philly football player
- Recognized ethnic group of China
- Gradually disappear
- Large, dark antelope
- Vegetarians won't eat it
- Takes the energy out of
- Body part
- Succeed in achieving
- Where golfers begin
- Computer memory
- One who buys and sells securities
- Midway between north and northeast
- Quiet and rather dull
- A limb on which to walk
- It precedes two
- Of she
- Commercials
- Necessary for sewing
- Infectious viral disease
- Expression of good wishes
- Some are contact
- More plentiful
- Secret political clique
- Behind the stern of a ship
- Supernatural force
- Altar in Orthodox churches
- Swiss river
- Impartiality
- "Luther" actor Idris
- They resist authority (slang)
- Criticize

E-sports have become an incredibly popular activity

If e-sports continue their upward trend in popularity, they could make sports played by people obsolete. Perhaps not, but they are on track to, someday, get much higher viewership ratings.

E-sports involves playing multiplayer video games competitively. Successful e-sports players can make millions of dollars. Popular e-sports games include Fortnite and Overwatch, basically video games where you shoot enemies like zombies with weapons.

According to the promotionsindustrywebsiteinfluencermarketinghub.com, eSports are undergoing “tremendous growth” right now and could end up with five times the viewers of the last Super Bowl.

“Since 2016, there has been a significant increase in eSports viewers, both



occasional viewers and enthusiasts (i.e. viewers who watch it regularly). Between 2016 and 2017, there was a 19.3 percent increase year over year. In 2017, there were 192

million casual viewers and 143 million enthusiasts, making the total audience 335 million. In 2018, the year-over-year growth rate had slightly dropped at 13.8



percent although that's still a sizable increase. In 2018, there were 215 million occasional viewers and 165 million enthusiasts. So the total audience size grew to 380 million. By

2021, Newzoo predicts that the annual growth rate will be approximately 14 percent. They also predict that the number of casual viewers will grow to 307

million. And that there will be 250 million eSports enthusiasts, making the total audience 557 million.” [source: <https://influencermarketinghub.com/growth-of-esports-in-2019-stats/>]

According to CBS Sports, when you add up everyone who watched it live on the TV, on the CBS website, on the NFL app, on the Verizon app, on ESPN Deportes and “other digital properties,” about 100.7 million people watched the Feb. 3, 2019 broadcast of Super Bowl LIII.

Meanwhile, a July 2019 “Fortnite World Cup” tournament was broadcast online to over 2.3 million eager viewers on YouTube and Twitch, making it the most-watched competitive gaming event of all time. [source: <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/competitive/en-US/news/the-fortnite-world-cup-a-record-setting-tournament>]



by Stan Popovich

Some people have a difficult time in managing their depression. Sometimes, their depression and fears can get the best of them. When you're in this situation, it is important to know what to do so that your depression doesn't overwhelm you. Here is a short list of techniques that a person can

use to help manage their depression.

1. Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking. When encountering thoughts that make you fearful or anxious, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity

Does depression get the best of you?

and common sense. Changing your thinking can help you manage your fears.

2. Take a break. Some people get depressed and have a difficult time getting out of bed in the mornings. When this happens, a person should take a deep breath and try to find something to do to get their mind off of the problem. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the local newspaper, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things. Doing something will get your mind off of the problem and give you confidence to do other things.

3. Use Self-Visualization. Sometimes, we can get depressed over a task that we will have to perform in the near future. When this happens, visualize yourself doing the task in your mind. For instance, you and your team have to play in the championship volleyball game in front of a large group of people in the next few days. Before the big day comes, imagine yourself playing the game in your mind. By playing the game in your mind, you will be better prepared to perform for real when the time comes. Self-Visualization is a great way to reduce the fear and stress of a coming situation.

4. Carry a small notebook of positive statements with you. Whenever you come across an affirmation that makes you feel good, write it down in a small notebook that you can carry around with you in your pocket. Whenever you feel depressed, open up your small notebook and read those statements.

5. Take advantage of the help that is available around you. If possible, talk to a professional who can help you manage your fears and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem.

6. Learn to take it one day at a time. Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or coming month, try to focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your problems.

Stan Popovich is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear Using Psychology, Christianity and Non Resistant Methods." For more info go to Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com/>

Social Security expands office hours nationwide

Wednesdays to return to full public service hours; agency to hire 1,100 direct service employees

Starting on January 8, 2020, Social Security offices nationwide will be open to the public on Wednesday afternoons, Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, announced. This change restores Wednesday public service hours that were last in place in late 2012. “I don't want someone to come to our office at 2:30 on a Wednesday only to find our doors closed,” Commissioner Saul said.

In another move to improve service to the public, Commissioner Saul announced in his Open Letter to the Public at www.ssa.gov/agency/coss-message.html that the

agency is hiring 1,100 front line employees to provide service on the agency's National 800 Number and in its processing centers. The agency is currently bringing onboard 100 new processing center employees and approximately 500 new teleservice representatives for the 800 Number. An additional 500 hires for the 800 Number will occur later in 2020.

“Improving service is my top priority. Increasing full public service hours at our nationwide network of more than 1,200 field offices is the right thing to do and will provide additional access,” Commissioner Saul said. “The hiring of a thousand new employees to provide service through our National 800 Number and an

additional 100 hires to process people's Social Security benefits at our processing centers around the country are steps in the right direction in our mission to greatly improve the service we provide.”

Currently, a field office is generally open to the public from 9:00 am to noon on

Wednesdays. Beginning on January 8, 2020, offices will remain open until 4:00 pm on Wednesdays, with typical field office hours from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

While the agency continues to improve both the access to and the experience with its services,

it is important to note that most Social Security services do not require the public to take time to visit an office. People may create a my Social Security account, a personalized online service, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Through their personal my Social Security account, people can check personal information and conduct business with Social Security. If they already receive Social Security benefits, they can start or change direct deposit online, and if they need proof of their benefits, they can print or download a current Benefit Verification Letter from their account.

People not yet receiving benefits can use their online account to get a personalized

Social Security Statement, which provides earnings history information as well as estimates of future benefits. Currently, residents in 40 states and the District of Columbia may request a replacement Social Security card online if they meet certain requirements. The portal also includes a retirement calculator and links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.

Many Social Security services are also conveniently available by dialing toll-free, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call Social Security's TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

