

Empty house explodes in Vergennes Township

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Two people in a neighboring home were injured when the uninhabited house at 2936 Fallasburg Park Dr. NE in Vergennes Township exploded at around 3 am on Monday, Dec. 16.

The explosion could be heard several miles away. The home, owned by Kelsey Wold, was in the process of being remodeled, but it is now completely destroyed. Half-burned debris litters a large, snowy area around the site of the explosion and even hangs from the trees.

The people living next door were treated for smoke inhalation by Rockford Ambulance paramedics. That residence also suffered damage from the blast.

The incident is under investigation by the Michigan State Police, but it was most likely caused by a gas leak.



This house on Fallasburg Park Dr. exploded in the middle of the night on Monday, Dec. 16. The cause is under investigation.

Speaker at Alto Library



pages 10 & 14

Pink hog on Main Street



page 16

President makes stop in Battle Creek

J-Ad Graphics News Service

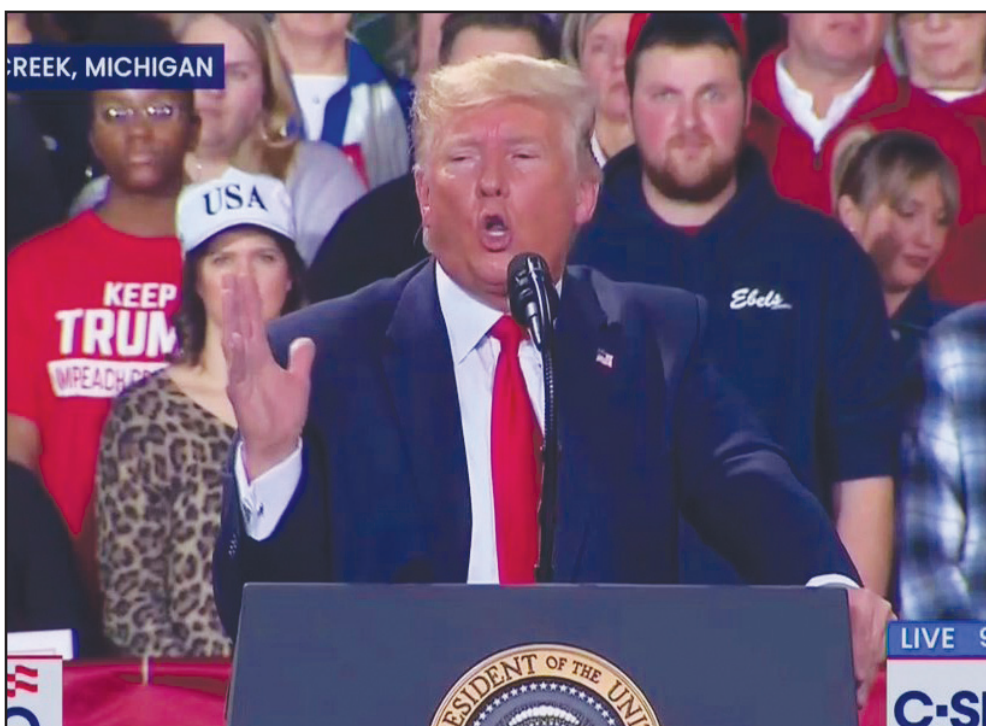
Dec. 18, 2019 will be remembered for generations as historic in West Michigan. That's the day thousands of people from Battle Creek surrounding communities, the Midwest and the nation converged on the Cereal City to see President Donald

Trump and Vice President Mike Pence lead a "Merry Christmas" and 2020 presidential election rally.

"This is a great day to be here in Battle Creek, Michigan," the president said. "This area and the state of Michigan was very instrumental in helping me

win the 2016 election, I think this area is going to be big for us in 2020 again ... and I ask everybody in here today and all the people freezing outdoors here today for continued support and for all of you to

Trump visit, continued, page 3



Pres. Trump in Battle Creek. [screenshot from C-Span broadcast of event]

Lowell city council Dec. 16 meeting report

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Dec. 16.

Comprehensive Engineering principal Ken Reigler provided the council with an update about the Lowell Showboat. Reigler said that the "construction documents" his firm has been preparing were "90 percent complete."

"I know there's a long history here with this boat, and I have to say this is taking the Lowell Showboat another step beyond what we've had in the past," Reigler said.

A potentially costly mistake was recently discovered in the Showboat plans. Speculation about the cost of this error ranged from \$20,000 to \$100,000.

"At some point in the beginning design and

engineering of the boat, there was a discrepancy that occurred between the committee and the engineer," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. "The second floor and the wheelhouse, we have learned, is now becoming an issue. The goal of the committee was eight feet ceiling height on the second floor [and] eight feet ceiling height clearance in the wheelhouse. The engineer gave us eight feet. The problem is with the bulkheads and the ceiling. Once they finish the ceiling and all that, you run the risk of about seven feet on the second floor, I want to say about seven feet and two inches on the third floor, and [in] areas where there's bulkheads on the second floor [it] is six feet [and] eight inches for clearance. We tried to

Meeting, continued, page 2

Ken Ayres' WWII POW diary



page 7

50¢



Meeting, continued

figure out who is responsible for this, because this was all done before I was involved in the design. This is all the committee, I was not a part of the design. We're trying to figure out what the solution is. My concern is that C. Fly [Marine Services, a nautical engineering company based in Madisonville, LA] can fix it, but the problem is that supplies and materials

are now being ordered for the boat and we're going to have to fix this relatively quick. My concern is it's going to be kind of a hefty change order cost with C. Fly, and not even knowing what might happen with Moran with the steel [fabrication]. I don't know who made the mistake, quite honestly. I'm still trying to figure out whether it was

the committee or C. Fly. I don't know who. If C. Fly made the mistake then it's my opinion that they should fix it at no cost, but if there was a miscommunication between them and the committee, I don't know."

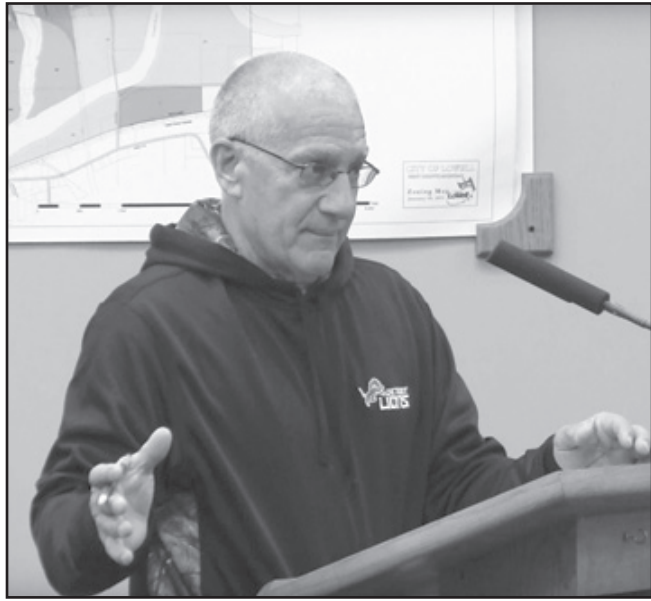
"I guess it was a lack of communication between the committee and C. Fly," said Lou D'Agostino, former head of the Lowell Showboat committee and owner of D'Agostino Construction. "We wanted a finished eight feet. I guess we did not make that clear to C. Fly. [...] There is a difference between finished height and rough-in height, so you do have to compensate from the beginning. Being part of this from the beginning, I would say it is the committee's issue. [...] What I think should happen is the city should contact C. Fly and find out, get their story. They've already got the committee's story. And then meet halfway. If the city has to pay more to the change order, then that's 'so be it.' You have a structure here and you don't want to skimp on it. You're too far along. It's \$2.6 million dollars.

a committee of volunteers. A local lady drew it all up. We're doing this all by the book, we're paying top dollar for everything, and apparently our amateur design went out for bids instead of having the architect design it properly. Somehow, we didn't have the right people in this at the beginning."

"Carol McGregor drew the original designs, and it clearly said 10 foot floor to ceiling," said Liz Baker, Lowell Showboat committee member and executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "She also put 12 inches in between for mechanical and whatever. On the second deck, it was clearly eight foot. C. Fly said that our drawings were vague but they never questioned us when they sent those drawings back to us. We were warned about C. Fly but we didn't listen, so there are a lot of things going on here. And yes, mistakes have been made, but... You know, Carol did an awesome job. I can show you those drawings yourself and you can see them."



Lowell city manager Michael Burns said there was a mistake in the Lowell Showboat plans. [YouTube image]



Former head of the Lowell Showboat committee Lou D'Agostino said that "a lack of communication" caused the error in the structure's plans. [YouTube image]



Lowell city council in discussion at their meeting on Monday, Dec. 16. [YouTube image]

cooling and snow melting systems, plus the swelling price tag for what is going to be a lot of wet, muddy, complicated work.

"I don't like the fact that you're talking about putting a gas line in between the sidewalk and the boat," said city councilor Marty Chambers. "Those are just inherently dangerous. They don't bend, they don't flex and they don't really like climate change."

"I do intend to use a flexible gas line, but I see your point," Reigler said. "There's going to be some challenges to this construction."

"We've got a budget to work with here, and the sky is not the limit," Canfield said. "We have a price point we need to get to, and I think we're in trouble, but we'll see."

The total budget for the project is currently set at \$2.6 million. \$1.5 million of that is going to Moran Iron Works of Onaway, MI who are building the frame. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

In other meeting action, the city spent \$9,119 on a brand new Ex-Mark lawnmower. The current lawnmower is 19 years old. They also approved \$20,850 to have Prein & Newhof do the engineer work for the replacement of cracked sewer pipes on Foreman between Hudson and Beech next summer and renewed routine contract agreements with Little League Baseball and Consumers Energy.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, Jan. 6. 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, Jan. 4.

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

We're too far along in this process to go backwards now."

"I have a problem here," said city councilor Gregory Canfield. "We've worked on this and we had

"She's not an amateur," said city councilor Cliff Yankovich.

Other aspects of the new Lowell Showboat discussed at the meeting included safety, heating,

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
December 9, 2019

Motions Approved:

1. Approved Committee appointments and terms.
2. Approved Grattan Township Regular Board Meeting schedule for 2020-2021.
3. Approved Grattan Township Calendar for 2020.
4. Approved Resolution 2019-023 for the KCDC maintenance of the Ratigan Drain.
5. Approved purchase of Lifepak AED.

Our next Township Meeting will be
January 13, 2020 at 7 p.m.

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

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Trump visit, continued

tell your friends that we're working hard to be in the White House for four more years."

The crowd at Kellogg Arena responded by chanting, "Four more years! Four more years!"

About 5,600 were in attendance. Battle Creek Fire Marshall Quincy Jones said Kellogg Arena can typically hold 6,500 people, but said he used his discretion when viewing the entering crowd and decided to stop letting rally ticket holders in when the number reached a bit over 5,600.

People began lining up for the rally as early as Tuesday evening. Some chose hotels, others slept in their cars. A few opted to set up tents to sleep in outside of the arena. One group reportedly drove overnight from Toronto.

By 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, roughly 500 people were waiting in line. That number doubled by 9 a.m. and grew exponentially

from that point forward. The parking garage where everyone was lined up was full by 11 a.m. The only source of heat for those in line were small heating poles and hand warmers. One person held up a sign that read "Frozen for Trump."

The process of letting people into the arena began at around 2:30 p.m., so some had been out in the cold for more than 12 hours just to guarantee themselves a spot in the arena.

Those who opted not to spend five-plus hours waiting in the line for the event spent their time viewing the inside proceedings on a large outdoor screen in Market Festival Square north of the arena.

The rally began at approximately 6:30 and ended just short of 10 p.m. Trump took the stage at about 8:15 p.m.

Michigan State Police officials estimated that another 8,000 to 10,000

people were outdoors for the rally.

MSP representatives said they were not aware of any violence during the evening between pro-Trump and anti-Trump people, and that the only "bad" thing they saw was a lot of people trying to stay warm outside in mid-teens temperatures accompanied by steady and sometimes gusty winds.

Snow began falling Tuesday night. The Battle Creek area received about 2 inches of snow before the rally, but the snow had stopped before 5 p.m. Wednesday.

As had been reported repeatedly by media in the week leading up to Wednesday's rally, the day was a historic one for Battle Creek, since it marked the first time both a sitting president and sitting vice president were in town at the same time (and in any town anywhere on the same day at the same time in the nation's annals).

Vice President Pence

was preceded on stage by up-and-coming Republican politician John James. Several other Trump campaign managers and aides for the 2020 election also spoke. Pence went on stage at approximately 8, and President Trump followed at about 8:15.

News media from across the region and nation, as well as from a reported 17 other countries were also at the rally to cover the event – with another event in Washington, D.C., also center stage in the eyes of the American public and the world Wednesday night.

Just a few minutes before President Trump was introduced onto the Kellogg Arena stage, the U.S. House of Representatives approved by vote an impeachment process against the president.

Trump spoke to the Battle Creek crowd regarding his dismay for the entire impeachment situation and process early in his speech; and, as is the

norm at most all political rallies, he then offered lots of positive information about his current presidency and the reasons he should be re-elected in 2020.

Calhoun County Sheriff Matt Saxton said that in total, when adding in all the local, area and regional law enforcement on hand – plus members of the Michigan State Police and the U.S. Secret Service and others – the total number security personnel on hand was well over 200.

Attendees inside the arena included mix of old and young, able-bodied folks, veterans and disabled, males and females and others – a fully varied cross-section of rally goers.

Only one incident of a spectator using profane words and body language occurred, and that female was escorted out of Kellogg Arena by security in less than a minute.

"Whatever political party you might be a member of, whatever your beliefs might be, whatever president a person supports or has issues with ... all I can say is, this was a great and historic day for the City of Battle Creek," B.C. Mayor Mark Behnke said. "And I'm proud Battle Creek was chosen as the site where both the president and the vice president of the United States decided to come and talk to the people, the voters ... and I'm proud of the way our citizens here acted with dignity in front of the rest of the state, the country and the world."

As had been reported previously, one of the main reasons Battle Creek was chosen as a site for the rally was because Calhoun County and West Michigan voters are considered to be critical in 2020 for the Republican party, just as they were for the 2016 election.

November police and fire incidents

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Police Department made 15 arrests during the month of November. These arrests included two for drunk driving, two for drug law violations, four for outstanding warrants, one for driving with a suspended

license and six that are described in the police department's statistics as "other arrests." That adds up to a total of 210 arrests made by Lowell Police during the first 11 months of the year.

LPD also responded

to plenty of misdemeanors during November. There were seven larceny calls, four dog/animal complaints, two malicious destructions, three disorderly conduct calls and 14 assaults. Lowell police issued 37 citations and notified five residents

about ordinance violations. Out of 150 traffic stops in November, they let 116 drivers go with a warning. Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 17 times and called other

agencies for assistance seven times in November. They were also called for assistance by citizens and motorists 32 times.

Lowell police were also dispatched to 12 accidents during November, none with injuries.

The Lowell Fire Department responded to 74 incidents during November; 23 in the city of Lowell, 30 in Lowell Township and 21 in Vergennes Township.



LPD also responded



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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 7:00 PM. The subject of the hearing will be:

Proposed Adult Use Marihuana Establishment at 1965 W. Main Street

An application has been submitted by Meds Café for an adult use marihuana establishment (a marihuana retailer) at 1965 W. Main Street SE (PPN 41-20-03-401-029). Adult use marihuana establishments are permitted in the C-3 zoning district only with special land use approval from the Planning Commission.

Copies of application and the City's Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Written comments will be received until the night of the hearing.

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.

Respectfully,

Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk

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Managing Fear
by Stan Popovich




Do your fears and anxieties overwhelm you?

Looking for all of the answers in how to manage your persistent fears and anxieties? Fear and anxiety can ruin your life if you do not know how to manage it. It's important to know what to do when fear is a factor in your life.

Here is a brief list of techniques that a person can use to help manage their everyday anxieties, stresses, and fears.

1. Take your fears apart. When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, divide the task into a series of smaller steps and then complete each of the smaller tasks one at a time.

Completing these smaller tasks will make the

stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.

2. Learn to relax. Sometimes we get stressed out when everything happens all at once. When this happens, take a deep breath and try to find something to do for a few minutes to get your mind off of the problem. A person can get some fresh air, listen to some music, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things.

3. Always remember to get all of the facts of the given situation.

Gathering the facts can prevent us from relying on exaggerated and fearful assumptions. By focusing on the facts, a person can rely on what is reality and what is not.

4. In dealing with your anxieties, learn to take it one day at a time.

While the consequences of a particular fear may seem real, there are usually other factors that can not be anticipated and can affect the results of any situation. We may be ninety-nine percent correct in predicting the future, but all it takes is for that one percent to make a world of difference.

5. Think of a red stop sign. At times, a person might encounter a fearful thought that may be difficult to manage. When this happens, visualize a red stop sign, which can serve as a reminder to stop thinking about that thought. Regardless of how scary the thought may be, do not dwell on it. This technique is great in dealing with obsessive and scary thoughts.

6. Get some help. Sometimes, it helps to be able to talk to someone about our stressful situations. Talking to a trusted friend, counselor, or clergyman can not only make us feel better, but they can give you additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem.

Overcoming fear and anxieties takes practice. In time, you will become better able to deal with your stressful problems.

LEGAL NOTICE

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PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

lived at 3517 Jefferson, Wyoming, Michigan, died 09/01/2019.

months after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Carol Meredith, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4

December 16, 2019

FILE NO. 19-206732-DE

Estate of ELIZABETH MARIE MERCER. Date of birth: 07/29/1958.

Jennifer M. Racine (P69709)
2905 Wilson Ave. SW Suite 214C
Grandville, MI 49418
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TO ALL CREDITORS:

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viewpoint

outdoors

current issues

Dave Stegehuis

Wildlife management in Michigan has from the late 1800's been a priority of state government as well as citizens with an interest in hunting wild game and fishing. Deer hunting went from unregulated market hunting to season dates, bag limits, and issuing a license to hunt. Deer numbers greatly increased after extensive logging operations stimulated new growth which provided ample browse and protective cover. Since then, regulations have reflected the size of the herd

as related to social issues and habitat availability.

In recent times, chronic wasting disease, bovine tuberculosis, and epizootic hemorrhagic disease have complicated the deer management process. Measures have been taken to slow down the spread of disease and hopefully eliminate the threat. Invasive species have invaded the Great Lakes and threatened our commercial and sport fisheries.

Wildlife all need food, water, and cover to sustain life and insure

future generations. Good forest management by public and private owners requires wildlife habitat maintenance and development. Government agencies provide assistance to private land owners to accomplish these objectives. A number of independent conservation organizations work on behalf of deer, pheasants, grouse, bear, turkeys, and wildlife in general to protect and expand habitat.

All of these organized efforts by public and private entities require funding. Private organizations rely heavily on donations and grants. Government wildlife management relies on hunting and fishing

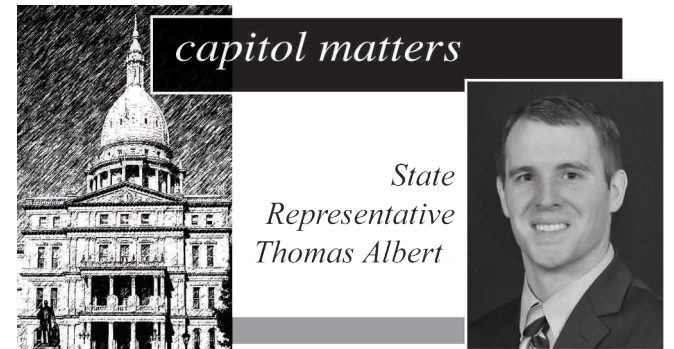
license fees as well as federal taxes on hunting and fishing related products. As a result, the continuous decline in the number of people participating in hunting and fishing has reduced the resources available for wildlife management. It also affects the state economy because hunting and fishing contributes billions of dollars to the state economy every year.

Crop damage and deer vehicle crashes puts pressure on game managers to reduce herd size in certain areas. Hunters want more deer. Be glad that you are not responsible for solving this dilemma.

There is currently a lot

going on with our natural resources in Michigan. There are also plenty of other critical social, economic, and political issues facing our state and country. Lets

not let our land and wildlife or our hunting and fishing heritage get lost in all the commotion. Pay attention and get involved.



capitol matters

State Representative
Thomas Albert

Merry Christmas to the great people of Michigan's 86th House District. I hope this advent season you are able to join with loved ones as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Who could have guessed that a child born of such humble beginnings would eventually die for our sins and offer salvation to all? God has given us many blessings, but none are as great as His Son.

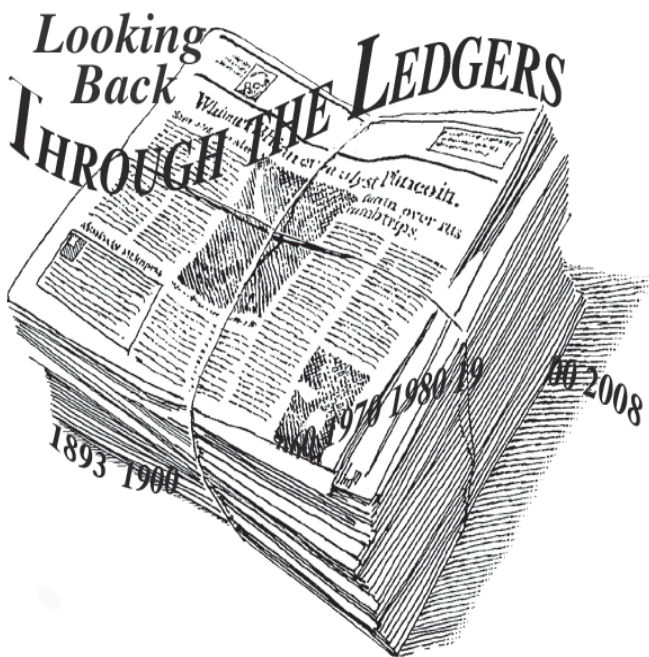
For those of us who are Christians this is a wonderful time of year. Not because of presents, but because we get to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The name "Jesus" in fact means "Yahweh saves." Seeing Jesus as a man born of a woman, named Mary, is easy to do because it is a historical fact. The part that takes

faith is believing that the Christ (Greek for "Christos" meaning "Messiah") was born of a virgin through the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, it takes faith to believe that by His resurrection Jesus conquered death and offered eternal life to all.

There seems to be pressure for those of faith to keep their beliefs private. The pressure for someone in elected office, such as myself, seems to be even greater. Fortunately, we live in a nation that protects and values our rights of religious freedom.

I do not say all this in an attempt to judge others or push a certain faith on all. We are all very fortunate to not only live in a country that protects one's faith, but also specifically prohibits

Albert, continued, page 6



125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 26, 1894

Lake Odessa had its first big fire Tuesday night Dec. 18th in which six of its business places were destroyed. As the village has no fire protection the blaze soon spread to the adjoining buildings and was finally stopped by the people making a gap by tearing out a small wooden building, between the burning one and the Miner Building and all energies in being directed toward saving the Miner building. The contents of most of the buildings were saved.

The West Michigan Electric Co. last Monday evening refused to accept the contract offered them by Grand Rapids to light that city. The city was manifestly unfair to the company in many particulars. While a great saving could be made for the city in contracting with this company, the conditions the city insisted on were such that no company could fulfill, for if they carried out one set of conditions they must violate another set. The treatment accorded them by the press of Grand Rapids was antagonistic to the taxpayers interests and was apparently an effort to force the contesting companies into an advertisement war. However, the city contract will not prevent the completion, in the spring of the plant.

The third burglary occurred at Elmdale one night last week, the first attempt was on Lott Brothers store and failing in this broke into the depot taking a razor a R. R. lantern and about 20 cents in postage stamps. A party was arrested in Grand Rapids and Agent Grant has been down there and identified him as a party who had been lurking around here recently.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 25, 1919

Coroner J. B. Hilliker announced last night that he will swear in a coroner's jury to probe the details surrounding the deaths of Clifford Tarbell, Ledyard Blake and Miss Gertrude Peterman, who were killed early Saturday morning when a Stutz car, driven by Lynndon B. Sager, Grand Rapids automobile salesman, plunged through the closed road barriers at Cascade, carrying a ton of concrete form, and dropped into the Thornapple River. In ordering an inquest, Coroner Hilliker declared: "There was no excuse for this accident. I found a quart whiskey bottle and it was partly filled."

The American Railway express and the United States railroad administration have been sued for \$35,000 damages by Marie Bartlett, a railroad engineer, was killed May 10. He was struck by an express truck which was pushed across the pavement in the Union depot train sheds by an incoming passenger train.

75 years The Lowell Ledger December 28, 1944

The New Year is yours to make what you will of it. It opens up to you new responsibilities, new opportunities, and perhaps new sorrows. To him who possesses vision, 1945 comes on the highest, the mightiest tide that has ever come flowing into our port of hope. There are those who will look mournfully into the face of the New Year. There are those who will say that the world is still in the midst of a terrifying dream. But they are the unfortunates without vision.

Mrs. Roselia Yeiter has received a letter from her son, Sam, who was among the first American troops to see action in the Mediterranean area, where the fighting has been tough and hard. Sam says that the plight of the Italian people is hard to realize.

The Junior Red Cross has received a very urgent appeal for old toothbrushes to be used in the Industrial Therapy department at Fort Custer. The carving out of costume jewelry and other articles, from the handles, assists the convalescent soldiers in regaining the use of the muscles of their hands and fingers.

50 years The Lowell Ledger December 25, 1969

One might better put to sea on a shattered plank than suggest we do away with the central basis of local

Looking back, 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.

HEALTH

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



happy birthday



- clostridium difficile colitis

Colitis (inflammation of the colon) can occur as a result of infection with the bacterium *Clostridium difficile* (also known as *C. diff*). The disease results form disruption or removal of normal healthy bacteria from the colon by antibiotics. The *C. diff* bacterium produces toxins that attack the lining of the colon and can cause severe damage to the colon itself. More commonly, *C. difficile* toxins produce diarrhea and abdominal discomfort. Unfortunately, it is resistant to most antibiotics. Complications of *C. diff* colitis include bowel perforation (a hole in the colon) and pseudomembranous colitis (patches of severe inflammation and pus in the colon). *C. difficile* is one of the most common infections that are typically acquired in health care institutions, along with MRSA. Hand washing and disinfection, isolation of infected patients, and appropriate

antibiotic use are the best ways to reduce the spread of these types of infection.

Risk factors for contracting *C. diff* colitis include treatment with antibiotics, hospitalization, nursing home residency, critical illness, immune system depression, age older than 65, disease of the bowel, or recent gastrointestinal surgery. Signs and symptoms of this colitis include watery diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain and cramping, nausea with or without vomiting, and weight loss.

Diagnosing *C. diff* colitis relies on the patient's history of frequent diarrhea for several days, typically in a person who is taking or recently took antibiotics. A stool sample is tested for the presence of the bacteria toxins. Other tests may be required if complications are suspected, including blood counts, blood chemistry, abdominal x-rays, or CT scanning.

DECEMBER 25

Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.

DECEMBER 26

Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.

DECEMBER 27

Mark Nyp, Jay Clark, Foster Skoog.

DECEMBER 28

Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.

DECEMBER 29

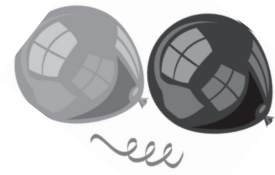
Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.

DECEMBER 30

Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew Trierweiler.

DECEMBER 31

Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.



Looking Back, continued

government financing, the local property tax. It serves a useful purpose without a doubt. Nevertheless, suburban communities, discovering that they cannot generate enough tax money locally to meet their needs, are searching for a better way to maintain both their schools and necessary local services.

Honest, swans is dumb! For proof, take that beautiful bird with the red beak, which was wading around Sunday morning in a small opening on icy Flat River. It was cold and ice was fast closing in on our friend, the swan. So much so that neighbors on Riverside and Elizabeth feared the bird would be frozen in and called police.

If you told someone that Howard Johnson runs a pretty good restaurant, folks from coast-to-coast would agree. But if you said that Howard Johnson runs a pretty good restaurant in Ada, you might get a few vacant stares! That's only because Howard Johnson...and Tom Johnson, too...have only recently opened the doors of their new Coach Stop restaurant on Ada Drive.

25 years The Lowell Ledger December 28, 1994

Secretary of State-elect Candice Miller announced she has selected David Conklin of Alto to serve as her director of public affairs and communications, effective Jan. 2, 1995. Conklin is presently the senior capitol correspondent with the Capital News Bureau.

Members of the Lowell Township Board, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals will get a little raise every time they attend a meeting beginning Jan. 1.

Not wanting another layer of bureaucracy to hinder the focus already established, Lowell's Downtown Development Authority committee said it felt a downtown steering committee would be counterproductive.

Albert, continued

the people from being subjugated into a belief they do not want to follow.

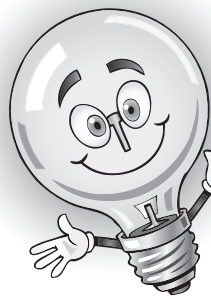
That being said, it seems today that a good number of people feel as if something is missing in their lives. If you happen to find yourself wondering what the Christmas season is all about, I am sure you will not have to look very hard to find the answer. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you" (Matthew 7:7).

For those who find a secularized version of Christmas empty, there is much more if you wish to seek it. This much more fulfilling version is evident in what the angel of the

Lord said to Joseph in a dream.

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it was through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means 'God is with us'" (Matthew 1:20-23)

To the people of the 86th House District, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

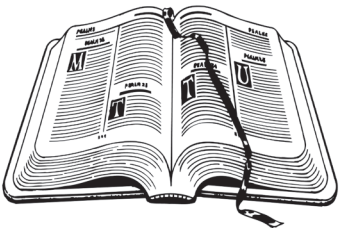


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area churches



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Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
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Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

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Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart



World War II P.O.W. diary of Sgt. Kenneth L. Ayres

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

January 25, 1945:

Tomorrow morn. 1,500 wounded (can't walk) are being evacuated up around Kiel someplace. As far as the rest of us, we don't know yet. We hear that Dixie Dean and his boys we liberated up around the Polish border. 1/10th of a loaf of bread per man tonight. And the usual 1/2 bucket (lately) of dry, sandy spuds. On top of that, I have a hell of a cold and feel like hell. Was deloused today (our barrack). Real shower.

Lou Aiello - St. Albans, N.Y.

Joe Korf - Sigourney, Iowa

MY PREDICTION ON THE WAR:

Thinking everything over and taking things as I have seen them and what I know of the German people after my short-lived contract with them, I believe that the war will end during the cold months...between Jan. 1 and Feb. 30, or not later than March 31st. If it is not over

Boy, some of the dishes we think of! There has been a lot of air activity going on the last couple of days. We have seen all kinds of old tubs go over...Jv-52 tri-engine cargo; JV-87 old dive bomber fix L. gear; JV-88 L.R. night fighter bomber; ME-210 fighter; FW-190 fighter; ME-109 fighter; Dornier-217 old fighter bomber and also a couple of trainers (double wing). They have really drug everything out...must be carrying supplies or evacuating big shots.

"MARY"

Her name was Mary, she was one of the best. But there came the night for her test. I looked at her with joy and delight, for she was mine for the rest of the night. She looked so pettry, so sweet, so slim. The night was dark, the lights were dim. I was so excited, my heart skipped a beat...for I knew that night I was in for a treat. I'd seen her stripped, I'd seen her bare...I'd felt all around her, I'd felt everywhere. We started off, she screamed with joy, for this was her first night with a boy. I got as high as soon as I could. I handled her well, the response was good. I turned her over, then right on her side. Then on her back, always I tried. It was a great thrill. She's the best in the land...that four-engine "Fort" of the U.S. Command.

February 2, 1945:

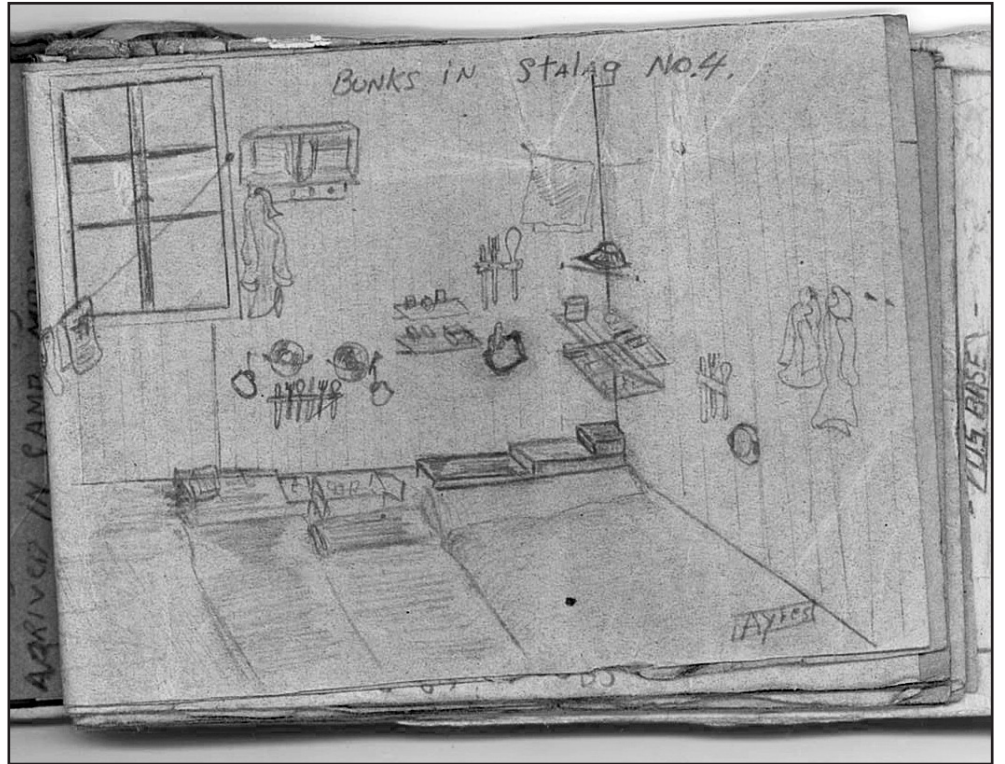
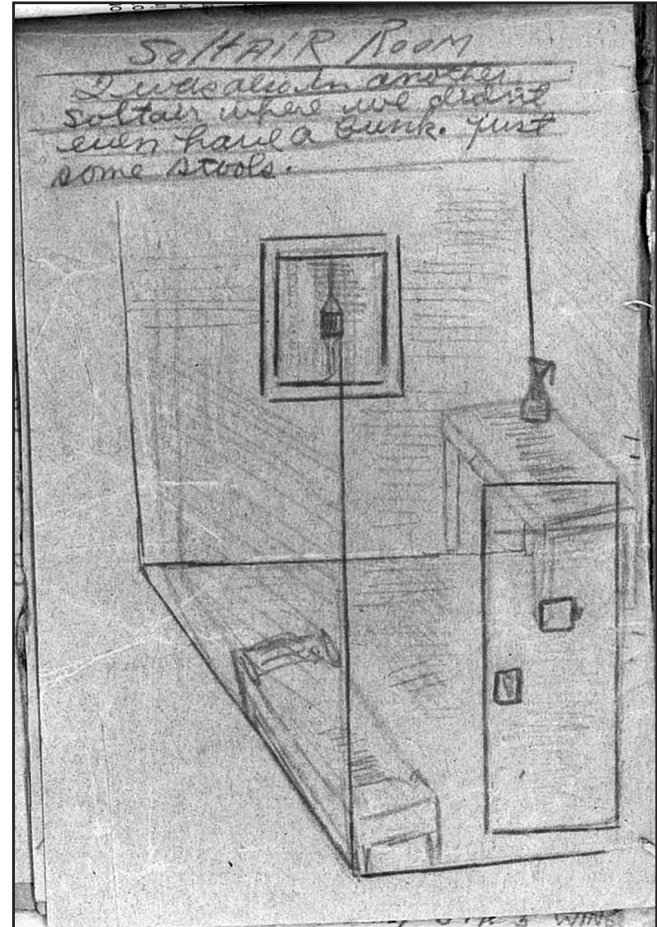
Another month and maybe the last one as a German P.O.W. (I hope). The weather has turned to rain. The compound is like a lake. The news has been the best I've heard since I've been down. They say the German Army is really folding. And the Russians are advancing like fire. The only thing bad now is that we get little food and coal has been cut to almost nothing. Today the rest of the Compound-D came over here. We now have 25 men in our room. And the Germans brought about 500 French, Belguims, ect., Sabatures into Compound-D after our boys moved out. After seeing them, I decided that I've got it pretty good. The men were old men, bent, ragged, so weak that when a couple fell down, they had to have help to get up. (We heard they have been on the march for 21 days and will leave here in the morn.) One little Frenchman, as round as he was tall, was brining up the rear...smoking a cig bout a foot long...waving and shouting French at us. Quite a little guy, seemed happy to see some Americans. He had a tam, coat and knickers on. Lot's of them had wooden shoes, but after seeing them drag (almost crawl), I seen

by then, it will continue on until late in the cold months of 1945. I don't believe the Germans will give up in the warm months. If they can survive this winter, they will fight another winter.

January 31, 1945:

Well, this ends another month. The wounded men who were suppost to leave the 26th, left yesterday morn. And 1,500 men frome Loger-D evacuate this morn. The men who are left over there, are moving over here tomorrow. And we are really sweating out evacuation ourselves. The Bird was extra good today. We figure if we can stay here three or four more days, the Russians will have Stettin, and we who are still left, will stand a chance to be liberated, as we will be cut off then. The weather is cold and plenty of snow. We don't get any bread at all anymore. Just our daily soup (water) and spuds. Red Cross is being cut to 1/4th parcel per man this Friday. We feel starved all the time. We don't have enough strength to do anything. All we do is lay in the sack and talk about food.

"Soltair Room" at Stalag No. 4. "I was also in another soltair where we didn't didn't even have a bunk, just some stools." - Sgt. Kenneth Ayres



"Bunks in Stalag No 4" - Sgt. Kenneth Ayres

where I am well-off. We can hear guns all the time now... don't know for sure where or what they are.

February 5, 1945:

Well, tonight we got the word. We leave tomorrow morn. at 10:00. We were laying in bed waiting for the lights to go out so we could get to sleep, when the German officer came and told the BK. leader. He said, 1 - We will walk 14 klm. the first day. 2 - We stand a chance of Russian bombing. 3 - Not to try to escape. A-loger leaves at 8am. Our loger leaves at 10:00. E-loger leaves at 12:00 noon.

March 14, 1945:

Up until now, I haven't had time or felt like, ect., ect., writing in the book. We left on the morn of the 6th (Feb.) and are still on the road. This is the 37th day. _____ is trying to have something done so our treatment is better. I haven't shaved since I started and had a chance to wash only three or four times. And brushed my teeth twice. Boy, all anybody ever talks about is food and good dishes they use to eat. Boy, a guy get's so damn hungry. Boy, I've thought of a hundred and one dishes that mother use to make. Bout everybody has lice or fleas, are dirty, got the G.I.'s...it's a mess. Yesterday was my sixth month as a P.O.W.

March 16, 1945:

Everything is the same. We haven't moved as yet. We sure hear plenty of bombing frome here. Yesterday we saw a formation of 13-17's go overhead. A pettry picture they were. Sounded like they were catching plenty of flak.

March 17, 1945:

Still here in the barn. Nothing new. Have a cold. Has been raining today.

Have been sitting around writing down things to eat. Boy, am I hungry.

Chicken & biscuits, steak & french fries, pork steak & applesauce, ham & pineapple sauce, Boston baked beans, scalloped potatoes & ham, red beans & beef, hamburg & buns, beans & weenies, weenies & sourkraut, weenies & buns, salami sandwich, roast pork & applesauce, roast beef & brown gravy, pork chops, mashed spuds, blogna, boiled spuds, corn beef hash (mash), fried blogna, fried spuds, guelash (red-bean

kind), meat pie dumplings, peas, carrots, spuds, ect., liver & onions, cinnamon rolls, icebox cookies, butter cookies, sweet pies...apple, peach, mince, plain cherrie, cherrie cream, banana cream, custard cho-lemon, carmel-butterscotch, elederberrie, blackberrie, rasberrie and puddings...carmel-butterscotch, cherrie cream, banana cream, elderberrie, custard, applegrunt, plum pudding, pineapple and upside-down cakes...apple, pineapple, cherrie, peach and long johns, doughnuts, coffee cake, fig nutons, coconut cookies.



Ken Ayres

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

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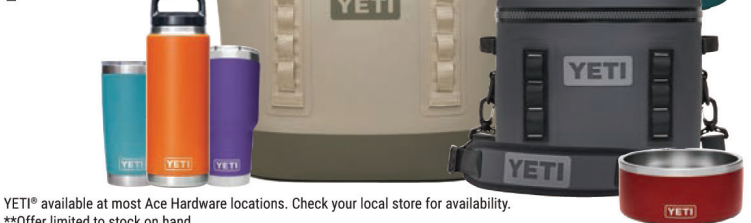
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Expatriot teacher to speak at Alto Library

by Daniel Sein
contributing reporter

Since childhood, Audrey McKenzie has believed in the power of education and the opportunities it affords each person in return. It should come as no surprise that these efforts and beliefs have driven her abroad, and she now finds herself in the position of shaping lives in the Dominican Republic. McKenzie will be presenting a speech reflecting on her time in the Dominican Republic and its culture at the Alto Library on Friday, Jan. 3 from 6:30 until 8 pm.

McKenzie was born in Jackson, MI in December 1994 and grew up in Kentwood, MI with her older sister Emily and their

parents, Brian and Nancy McKenzie.

“When I was growing up, my parents always held education as one of their highest standards in the household,” McKenzie said. “I loved school and worked hard at it and knew from a young age that I wanted to be a teacher.”

McKenzie graduated from East Kentwood High School in 2013, and in 2017 earned a degree in elementary education with a focus on English language arts from Hope College. After learning of the opportunity to teach abroad via Hope College, McKenzie took an adventurous step directly after graduation and is

currently entering her third year teaching middle school math at Santiago Christian School in northern-central Dominican Republic.

“Santiago Christian School is an American school in the Dominican Republic,” McKenzie explained. “When students graduate from high school, they are graduating with an American and a Dominican diploma. This piqued my interest, because a majority of Santiago Christian School

The dual diploma means that the future impact McKenzie is creating will not only effect her students futures, but ours in the US as well.

McKenzie explained how the education and accreditation process works in the Dominican Republic.

“The education system in the Dominican Republic is split into three levels,” McKenzie said. “Preschool (nivel inicial), primary school (nivel basico)

but this is prevalent all throughout the country. The students at Santiago Christian School are much more likely to be employed in the workforce. Part of this is due to their education at Santiago Christian School and the likelihood of them going on to college. Another factor is their likely employment in their parents’ socioeconomic status, the job market is much more favorable to them.”

how they are helping girls in this country who may not be able to get an education otherwise.”

The Santiago Christian School facility is comprised of PK-3 through 12th grade. The entire school is housed on one campus with different buildings for each age level. Audrey works long hours with about 15 other teachers, each specializing in one or two subject areas for the entire middle school level. Even though she holds a degree in English, she has found a new love teaching fifth, sixth and seventh grade math. She teaches six of these classes a day, two per grade level, with about 25 students per class. She even stays late some days for extracurricular activities such as running a homework club and sharpening her Spanish.

Although McKenzie is unsure of her plans for the future, she has a newfound confidence since making the leap and has expressed an interest in working toward a Master’s degree in math education.

“Teaching abroad has taught me much more about myself,” McKenzie said. “I am more confident about who I am as an individual and who I am as a teacher. I know how to stick up for myself and say what I want because I have learned that I have a voice. I know who I am, I know who I want to surround myself with and I know the person that I am becoming.”

The Dominican Republic is known largely as a tourist destination, which is a substantial source of its economic growth.

Speaker, continued, page 14



graduates are expecting to finish their education in the US. Our population of students comes from the upper class, wealthy families. When I began teaching I was shocked to find out that my students had nannies and chauffeurs. Our students are bilingual and multilingual. Almost all of the students’ first language is Spanish, either learning English at home or in Kindergarten, and French classes begin in sixth grade.”

which includes elementary and middle school, and secondary school (nivel medio) which is high school. Unfortunately, the public school system in the Dominican Republic is one of the worst in the world. While there are large gated communities in Santiago, there are also very impoverished neighborhoods two minutes down the road. How these coexist within such close proximity, I am not sure,

McKenzie is working relentlessly to make sure those opportunities do arise in her classroom. She pointed in the direction of the Mariposa Foundation, which she has grown interested in since learning of the initiative.

“The Mariposa Foundation is an organization that provides education to girls and strives to end generational poverty,” McKenzie said. “I love their mission and

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, January 13, 2019, at 7:00 PM concerning a proposed amendment to the City’s Zoning Ordinance. The following provides a summary of the proposed amendment and its regulatory effect:

The proposed amendment will revise standards in the C-1 Neighborhood Business District, C-2 Central Business District, C-3 General Business District, I-L Light Industrial District, and I Industrial District. The proposed amendment addresses site development requirements in the C-1, C-2, C-3, I-L, and I districts, the intent of the C-2 district, uses permitted by right in the C-2 district, special land uses in the C-2 district, and outdoor merchandise display in the C-3 district.

At the above time and place, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written comments concerning the proposed amendment may be mailed or delivered to the Lowell City Clerk, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 up to the date of the public hearing. Copies of the proposed ordinance amendment may be viewed at City Hall at the address noted above during normal business hours.

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days’ notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.

Respectfully,

Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk



Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) announces new executive director

The Board of Directors of FROM is pleased to announce the appointment of Wendie Preiss as Executive Director of the Christian non-profit organization. Preiss will start her new role on January 6, 2020 and will work with Dawn Broene, outgoing Executive Director, through February.

“The FROM Board is excited that Wendie will be the next leader of this great organization. We believe her experience, leadership skills and passion for the community will serve FROM well in the future,” says Ryan Kresge, FROM Board of Directors Chairperson.

Preiss’ appointment also comes with the support of Broene who stated, “I am excited that Wendie has accepted the position as Executive Director of FROM. She has a background in management of organizations and a heart of a servant leader. Her passion for the community and people of Lowell is

evident any time you talk to her. There is no question in my mind that she is the right leader for the future of FROM. I cannot wait to see what is in store for the future of FROM under her direction.”

Preiss has worked as a consultant to nonprofit organizations including Heart of West Michigan United Way, Michigan State University, and FROM in the areas of cultural intelligence, data analysis, and team building. Prior to owning her own business, she worked for Amway for 15 years in a variety of leadership and functional positions, including an assignment in Tokyo, Japan. She and her husband and their two boys (age 14 and 9) have lived in Lowell for five years. She began volunteering at FROM over a year ago in the Treasures Thrift Shop donation room and volunteered her time to do an analysis of store revenue and identify areas of growth.

When asked what she

was looking forward to about the new position, Preiss shared, “back in 2012, I attended a training that helped participants develop their personal sense of purpose. Mine is posted in my home office and reads ‘To make a positive, long-lasting impact. To help people live fulfilling, happy, and rewarding lives. To offer self-awareness, confidence, energy, and importance to others To root for the underdog. To improve the impossible.’ I am excited with how well this role aligns with my sense of purpose and values. I can’t wait to get started!”

The Board of Directors plan to have an open house for Preiss in January to officially welcome her and allow the community a chance to meet her. Details on the event will be available in the new year.

Broene, who has led FROM for over five years, turned in her resignation to the Board of Directors in October and says she plans



Wendie Preiss, new executive director of FROM. Photo courtesy of Flat River Outreach Ministries Facebook page.

to take this time to pursue a career in real estate, a long-held passion that she’s put on the back burner for a while now.

Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) is a nonprofit organization

focused on bringing together individuals, families, churches and businesses to respond to the needs of our neighbors in the greater Lowell community. Organized in 1998 by 13 local churches, FROM is

a Christian organization helping our neighbors in need by walking alongside them; helping them improve their quality of life. For more information, visit www.fromlowell.org or call (616) 897-8260.

Alto Lions entertained by Elvis Tribute Artist

The Alto Lions were recently treated to a performance by Liam Doyle, a local Elvis Tribute Artist.

Doyle is 16-years-old and loves to make people happy by performing as an Elvis Tribute Artist (ETA). He was first inspired by performances by ETA Jake Slater from Bellaire in 2017. Every ETA has a tremendous challenge performing as Elvis, who was possibly the greatest entertainer of all time. However, it’s an even greater challenge for Doyle who happens to have Down Syndrome. He doesn’t let that stop him though, as he is serious and determined to “Follow That Dream” of being an ETA. He has had years of speech therapy, orthodontic work, voice lessons, dance lessons and Taekwondo. He also loves to sing along with Elvis on Sirius-XM Elvis Radio and study Elvis’ dance moves on YouTube. He is working at Brody’s Be Cafe in Ada to earn money to buy more Elvis jumpsuits for his performances.

Doyle attended the premiere Graceland Performing Arts Camp for



Liam Doyle, a local Elvis Tribute Artist.

kids in Memphis in 2018 and again in 2019 and loved learning all about Elvis to be a better performer. He has performed for a variety of audiences including assisted living homes, talent shows, the Elvis Fantasy Fest in Portage, IN, the National Association

for Down Syndrome Fashion Show in Chicago, Lakewood, Colorado, where internationally known ETA Cody Slaughter invited him on stage for one song with him and most recently for the local Alto Lions Club.



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obituaries

CLEMENZ

Bruce E. Clemenz, of Ashburn, VA, passed peacefully on December 10, 2019 at the age of 83 at Fairfax Hospital with his wife of 59 years at his side. Born March 3, 1936 in Grand Rapids to Wesley and Esther Clemenz, graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and Northeastern University with a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering. He retired from IBM and Lockheed Martin Companies having worked as a Systems Engineer. In addition to his wife, Joann J. Clemenz, he is survived by daughters, Joy C. Heuer (Walt) and Kara C. Mathews (Carl); and grandchildren, Sarah, Bradley, Rachel and Erin. Volunteering, travel, and following sports were high on his list of activities. Inurnment will be private. A "Celebration of Life" will be held at Ashby Ponds Farmwell Hall, Ashburn, VA on Friday, December 27, 2019 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made in his name to Ashby Ponds Benevolent Care Fund, American Heart Association, University of Michigan, School of Engineering.



LADD

Gerald Edward Ladd, age 47 of Lowell, passed away Monday, December 16, 2019. We know you are now at peace, in your church on the lake. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Angi; children, Haley (Ethan

Gross) Ladd; parents, Gerald A. and Pamela Ladd; brother, Andy Ladd; sister, Angela Ladd; grandson, Everett Gross; nieces and nephews, Xandra, Anthony, Ayden, Esmerelda and Cecelia. Jerry served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Forrestal. Visitation will be Saturday, December 28, 2019 from 1:00-3:00 PM at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331 with funeral services at 3:00 PM. Pastor Darren Signs presiding. Interment Ft. Custer National Cemetery, 15501 Dickman Rd, Augusta, MI 49012. Memorial contributions may be made to Croton Sportsmen for Youth & Disabled Veterans, 8521 E. 80th, Howard City, MI 49329.



Certain disability payments and workers' compensation may affect Social Security benefits

Many people working nowadays have more than one job. This means they have several sources of income. It's important to keep in mind that having multiple sources of income can sometimes affect your Social Security benefits; but, it depends on the source.

Disability payments from private sources, such as private pensions or insurance benefits, don't

Security disability benefits. If you receive Social Security disability benefits, and one of the following types of public benefits, your Social Security benefits will not be reduced:

- Veterans Administration benefits;
- State and local government benefits, if Social Security taxes were deducted from your earnings; or



Two wrongs don't make a right, but they make a good excuse.

-Thomas Szasz



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Word search grid with circled words:

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- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

You can read more about the possible ways your benefits might be reduced at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10018.pdf.

Please be sure to report changes. If there is a change in the amount of your other disability payment, or if those benefits stop, please notify us right away. Tell us if the amount of your workers' compensation or public disability payment increases or decreases. Any change in the amount or frequency of these benefits is likely to affect the amount of your Social Security benefits.

An unexpected change in benefits can have unintended consequences. You can be better prepared if you're informed and have financially prepared yourself. Visit our benefits planner webpage at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners for information about your options for securing your future.

Vonda Van Til 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.

office hours:
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Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

15% OF HAMMOND WHOLESALE PROFITS - are donated to non-profit charities. New appliances, furniture and mattresses. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.^{TFN}

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

USE SEAL N HEAL® - to seal wounds on dogs & cats with a bitter taste to prevent gnawing, allow healing. At Tractor Supply. (www.happyjackinc.com)

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.^{TFN}

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads & must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

NEW DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BUYER'S GUIDE & NEWS - Ads must now be in by noon on Thursday.

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

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

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 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.^{TFN EOW}

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

help wanted

NEED EXTRACASH? - 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.

wanted

DOG WANTED - Male or female, 1-3 years old. Will consider a puppy. 616-822-8945.

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

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WORK WANTED - Double D's Tree & Handyman Service. 40' & 70' bucket truck, tree trimming & removal, gutter cleaning, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates.

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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.

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misc.

ALTOAMERICAN LEGION - No dinner scheduled for Fri., Dec. 27 and no breakfast scheduled for Sun., Dec. 29.

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

WE DO OUR BEST - to get the Buyers Guide delivered, but if you are having problems, please contact our office at 897-9555 or email your address, phone # & cross streets to classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com.

Community Calendar AND ONGOING EVENTS December

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.

TEEN ZONE - Mondays from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Teen-only fun for you & your friends at the library. Stop by for activities that may include board games, food & more. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

SATURDAY CRAFTERNOON - Saturdays, 1 pm, now thru February 29. Come enjoy open crafting at the library! Bring your current project and see what others are working on. Hot beverages provided. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

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 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

CODING FOR KIDS - Thurs., Dec. 26, 1-4 pm. Using simple-to-use visual programming language based on Google's Blockly and littleBits coding kit, the camp is suited for children learning to code for the first time. Sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. For children grades 3-8 only. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITY - Dec. 26 from 11 am - noon. For ages 5+ Gingerbread cookie decorating. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITY - for family fun through Jan. 4. Stop in and join life size Candy Land beginning Dec. 26 and you may start your game at anytime. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITY - Dec. 26 from 11 am - noon. For ages 5 & up - Gingerbread Cookie Decorating. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

HARRY POTTER ESCAPE ROOM - Mon., Dec. 30, 1-7 pm. Pre-registration opens Nov. 13 & 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 & late entry is not possible. All seats of no-shows will be filled with waiting participants 5 minutes before the session. Children ages 10 & up are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

WINTER BREAK MOVIE - Dec. 30 from 1-3 pm. Showing "A Christmas Story" rated PG. Free popcorn & water. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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.

ART LAB - Third Tuesday of the month from 4-6 pm. A monthly art exploration with a different theme each month for ages 5 and up. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

NEEDLERS - Meet the second & fourth Tuesday of the month from 5 to 8 pm at Franciscan Life Processing Center, 11650 Downes St. NE, Lowell.

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

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 p.m. 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.



Speaker, continued

However, it should also be noted that the Dominican Republic was first home to the native Tainos, who moved from South America into what was then known as "Hispaniola" in AD-650. After the arrival of Christopher Columbus and the subsequent mass assimilation and genocide, it became the site of the first permanent European

settlement in the Americas, the oldest continuously inhabited city and the first seat of the Spanish colonial rule in the 'New World.' The country, currently home to 10,300,000 people, was most recently occupied by the U.S. in 1916 and has endured four different republics and a civil war. The capital of Santo Domingo, population

around 3 million, has changed hands countless times.

Within the last three decades, the Dominican economy has switched from major dependence on agricultural commodities like sugar, cocoa and coffee to a diverse mix of services, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and trade. This service sector now accounts for 60 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product, manufacturing is approximately 22 percent and the remaining GDP consists of telecommunications, finance and tourism, which make up less than 10 percent of the whole. Government corruption and income inequality are the major issues Dominicans face. In addition to its economic problems the Dominican Republic also receives and sends large masses of international and Haitian migrants, which it has trouble supporting. Currently a large Dominican diaspora exists in the United States, who continually send billions of dollars back home to struggling family members.

McKenzie has witnessed the growth of her students over the past three years and calls them family, expressing that the Dominican Republic feels

like her home, albeit very different from American culture. She went on to say that, as an American, the Dominican people have been inquisitive about her appearance and intent at first, but that due to their cultural emphasis on family and the value of interpersonal relations, they have proved to be nothing short of incredibly sweet

and welcoming throughout her stay.

McKenzie said she wants nothing more than for her work to inspire her students to realize their worth and potential as successful individuals, and for Americans to realize that the Dominican Republic is growing in many positive ways. She said she has experienced empathetic,

beautiful people who carry with them a unique multi-faceted culture, even in the face of their history's many trials.

"I think that the more the Dominican Republic grows, the more job opportunities that will arise," McKenzie said.



LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of Eugene Lipinski
Guardianship File No. 19-206,759-GA

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

Dated: December 20, 2019

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his son, Adam Lipinski 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 January 15, 2020, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 204-8332

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 Linda Schaub
Guardianship File No. 19-206,760-GA

matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 15, 2020, 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 20, 2019

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

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her son and any other unknown children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the

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SUDOKO

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Level: Beginner

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!

GET COOKING WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

GET COOKING WORD SEARCH

AL DENTE
 BASTE
 BRAISE
 BROWN
 CARMELIZE

CHOP
 CUBE
 DASH
 DICE
 DREDGE
 DRESS
 FILLET
 FOLD

GLAZE
 GRATE
 JULIENNE
 KNEAD
 MARINATE
 POACH
 PUREE
 ROAST

SEAR
 SIMMER
 STEW
 WHISK

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Puerto Rico on December 24, 1971. I began my career acting in advertisements on television. I got my start in the music industry when I became part of a boy band. I've since had a successful solo music career.

Answer: Ricky Martin

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cooking.

O T E S V

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Stove

			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					

CLUES ACROSS

- Hair care product
- Looped
- It's present in all living cells
- Choose
- South Dakota
- Cash machine
- Of the pia mater
- Ancient Egyptian documents
- Layers at the back of the eyeballs
- Not perceived
- Look over
- Improve a tire
- Time zone
- Main branch of Islam
- Bark of the mulberry tree
- Sea eagles
- Records heart muscle activity (abbr.)
- Famed Hollywood producer
- Yuck!
- Reject outright and bluntly
- ___ 500, car race
- Small heap or pile
- Type of degree (abbr.)
- Contagious skin disease

- Erases from a surface
- In an enthusiastic way
- Begin again
- Intricately produced pattern
- It flows NW to the Seine
- Be obliged to repay
- Southeast
- Slip in
- Leisure time activity
- Breastbones
- Sun up in New York

- Peter's last name
- Outlying suburb of London
- Used to cut steak
- Deep inlets
- Type of tree
- Done openly and unashamedly
- Indigenous person of N. Africa
- Confessed openly
- A way to separate with an instrument
- Influential journalist Tarbell
- Manning and Roth are two
- One who cares for horses in India
- Something to believe in
- Form of "to be"
- Atomic #73

CLUES DOWN

- More cloudy
- Main course
- Protect with plastic
- Equally
- Rebukes
- Friend to a salesman
- Warms up
- Overshadow
- Interior lineman in football
- San Antonio hoopster
- Comedian Cook
- Time zone
- First PM of India
- Performing perfectly
- A way to hide
- Former NBA commissioner

Giant pink hog shows up on Main Street

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

An 18 foot long, 800 pound, neon pink hog showed up at the corner of Main and

Broadway in downtown Lowell on Friday, Dec. 20.

The hog, a.k.a. "Wasted Wilbur," was part of a traveling protest against the

possible repeal of Michigan's term limits law.

"We have some politicians and some lobbyists who are ganging

up to strip the Michigan voters of their term limits," said Grand Rapids resident Scott Tillman, the giant hog's owner and the coordinator of a group called "Don't Touch Term Limits!" "On Nov. 20 a group of former politicians and current lobbyists filed a lawsuit to overturn Michigan's term limits."

Since they were created in 1992, Michigan has been one of 15 states that puts term limits on its legislators. Six additional states used to have them, but they were overturned. In Michigan, the limit is three two-year terms for house members (six total years) and two four-year terms for senate members (eight total years), and the

governor is limited to two four-year terms of office.

"A lot of voters got together and gathered signatures, and we amended the Michigan constitution for that," Tillman said. "It was done by a lot of people. It's extremely self-serving that they would gather together like that to go against the will of the voters. It is astounding to me, the self-serving nature of trying to do that. These politicians and lobbyists need to get it into their heads and understand that these are permanent. You can't go against hundreds of thousands of people. Term limits are what we want."

Wasted Wilbur the giant hog also showed up in Ionia and Sunfield on Friday.

According to a poll conducted by Pulse Research this October, 69 percent of Michigan voters oppose changes to term limits. The issue crosses party lines, 75 percent of Republicans, 65 percent of Democrats and 68 percent of independent voters said the current limits should remain in place.

"Lee Chatfield, Mike Shirkey and the [Michigan] Chamber of Commerce are only coming after term limits to get more time at the trough," Tillman said. "Reps Albert and Calley should make it clear they are citizen legislators, not career politicians, by standing up for the voters. We will do everything in our power to stop this undemocratic power grab and defend the will of Michigan citizens."

Despite his massive size, Wasted Wilbur is surprisingly light.

"It only weighs 800 pounds," Tillman said. "There's a metal frame under there that was welded into the general shape, then we added expanding insulating foam and we had an artist in Grand Rapids turn it into this. It's very representative of the politicians and lobbyists feeding at the trough. If they stay there longer and longer, they're just going to get more fat and bloated."



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Scott Tillman and "Wasted Wilbur" his 800 pound, 18 foot long hog that is part of a traveling protest against the repeal of Michigan's term limits for legislators.

Jolly, Happy Christmas

Hats off to you, our valued customers and friends, at Christmastime! We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your goodwill and support year-round. We certainly do appreciate it.

Here's hoping you and your loved ones enjoy a most merry season. May it be filled with all of the special things that make the holidays so magical and memorable.

Best Wishes!



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City Manager - Michael Burns
City Clerk - Susan Ullery
Treasurer - Suzanne Olin

Councilmembers: Greg Canfield, Mike DeVore, Marty Chambers, Cliff Yankovich, Jim Salzwedel



We wish you and yours all the best at
Christmastime and in the New Year.
Happy Holidays!

From all of us at
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