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### Thanksgiving Open Table



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### ABCs of history



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## Nov. 16 city council meeting highlights

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 16.

City manager Michael Burns provided the council with an update about the Showboat. The boat's liability insurance is currently covered by the contractor doing the construction work, so before the facility opens, the city will most likely have to procure some sort of "specialty" insurance, such as that offered by Lloyd's of London.

"If the Showboat stayed on the city's insurance, the liability insurance would be relatively cheap," Burns said. "It would be covered through the harbor, which is Tokio Marine, which is our insurance carrier. [...] The issue you have is basically

you're putting a building on water. The barge doesn't meet nautical standards, so they can't carry it like a boat. It's creating some issues."

Burns said he conferred with city attorney Jessica Wood last week, who advised that it would be legal for the city to form a non-profit organization to run the Showboat once it's operational.

A potential industrial and retail development near the Lowell freeway exit will not occur unless sufficient water service can be provided. Currently, the township leases these services from the city, but now they want to either build their own plant or renegotiate their agreement with the city. Burns said he attended the



Lowell city council discussed the Showboat, the pandemic, a vacant seat, marijuana shops and more during their meeting at city hall on Monday, Nov. 16. [YouTube screenshot]

first of seven "task force" meetings about a proposed water and sewer service agreement between the city

and Lowell Township on Tuesday, Nov. 10. "No matter what happens, at the end of the day we're

still going to be working with each other on whatever  
Council, continued, page 4

## New interim pastor at Evergreen Missionary

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. SE, has a new part-time interim pastor, pastor Douglas Connelly of Davison, MI.

"I have been a pastor for 40 years," Pastor Connelly wrote in an email to the

connection between pastor and congregation that seemed to lead us further, and he has come on board as our lead pastor. [...] God has brought to us exactly what we needed. We've had multiple new families join our congregation and are

and 'The Book of Revelation for Blockheads.' Another of my books is 'Angels Around Us,' available on Amazon. I also do some speaking at Bible conferences and churches, but my heart is in the local church."

Pastor Connelly has agreed to stay at Evergreen for one year, starting in September, while they procure a permanent pastor.

"My wife, Karen, and I are here in the Lowell area from Saturday through Tuesday, and then [we] travel back to Davison each week," Pastor Connelly said. "Karen and I have come to love the people at Evergreen Church and really enjoy our ministry here. The pandemic shutdown in April and May seems to have been a 'reboot' for our church. Some of the regular folks have come back and several new families have become part of our fellowship since we started live services in June. Our worship service is at 11 am and we have a kids ministry at the same time."

Pastor Connelly's focus during his time at Evergreen is going to be on getting through the pandemic while simultaneously increasing community involvement.

"We are slowly restarting ministries as we are able during the ongoing health crisis," Pastor Connelly said. "Right now we are focusing on our weekly gathering

and our kid's ministry but want to see a youth outreach developed in time. We are trying to help people in our church family who

may have needs and we are participating in community outreach programs like Flat River Outreach Ministries."

## Lowell Police Department activity in October

The Lowell Police Department made 12 arrests during the month of October.

So far, they have made seven arrests in September, six arrests in August, seven in July, five in June, seven in May, zero in April, 10 in March, 13 in February and 12 in January for a total of 79.

One of the October arrests was for driving on a suspended license, three were for outstanding warrants, four were for alcohol violations, one was a drug law violation, one was for drunk driving and two were described on the police department's monthly statistics sheet as "other arrests."

LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors

during October. There were six larceny calls, one disorderly conduct, two dog/animal complaints, one malicious destruction, three breaking and entering complaints and nine assaults. Lowell police also issued three ordinance citations. There were 85 traffic stops in the city in October; 60 of those drivers were released with a warning.

Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 17 times and called other agencies for assistance three times in October. They were also called for assistance by citizens and motorists 65 different times.

Lowell police were dispatched to six accidents, none with injuries, during October.

Ledger. "Most recently I was at a Missionary Church in Sterling Heights for 13 years and then was at Davison Missionary Church near Flint for five years. I retired from Davison but was asked to be the interim pastor at Evergreen until they could secure a permanent pastor."

"Pastor Doug originally came to us as an interim to help us out for the summer," associate pastor Mick Tiede wrote in an email to the Ledger. "His first Sunday [here was] the first Sunday of May. But there was a

excited about what God is doing in this new phase."

Connelly is a prolific author and a sought-after public speaker.

"My passion is to teach the Bible in a practical, life-changing way," Pastor Connelly said. "In the course of my ministry I have also had the privilege of writing more than 30 books and Bible study guides. I have written several 'Life Guide' study guides for Intervarsity Press. I have also written books for Zondervan like 'The Bible for Blockheads'

# Former elections director says no "illegal votes"

Michigan's highly respected former State Elections Director Chris Thomas put it bluntly in an appearance on the "MIRS Monday Podcast" last week: "I did not see any illegal votes."

Thomas called assertions that illegal votes were being counted at the TCF Center in Detroit "vastly incredible," saying that the media coverage of what took place at the TCF Center simply didn't represent the orderly process he saw.

"I read the papers, and I'm reading about a place that I don't remember," Thomas said. "That's not the way I saw it."

The former director of the state Bureau of Elections

was asked about whether there were so-called partisan watchers at each table, a persistent claim from Republicans about last week's vote counting.

Thomas said there were enough watchers for each table, but the problem was that watchers from both parties were congregating in the aisles, slowing the movement of the ballots and ballot workers through the process.

"If you want to look at the TV video, that showed lots of people congregated in the pathways," Thomas said. "Those were challengers from both parties, who were not standing at a table like they are required to. Sorry, the chaos and confusion

was not the people sitting at the tables, it was the people wandering around, not going to the assigned table as the law and Secretary of State guidelines or guidance [require]."

Thomas said part of his assignment was challenger relations.

"A lot of it was explaining exactly what was going on," Thomas said.

Thomas was hired in mid-September by Detroit Clerk Janice Winfrey to serve as a special consultant to the city as it worked to cope with what were expected to be record numbers of mail-in absentee ballots.

"I was involved in the processes, you know, discussing how they're

going to lay things out, and some of the different things done with the absentee voter counting boards," Thomas said.

Thomas said the process at the counting tables seemed to run smoothly.

"From the process of what the tables were doing, I thought they did a great job," Thomas said.

The TCF Center had 134 counting board tables. Each board table represented a unique ballot type that had to be tabulated. When Thomas was on the ground during the counting process at the TCF Center, he noted that, for the first time, Michigan used an "E-Poll Book" with the absentee counting board.

"The objective there was to try to push towards better accountability of voters being checked in rather than searching through lists that were done alphabetically to check people off," Thomas said, adding that that process worked well.

Thomas said the single largest issue was one that always occurs in counting ballots, handling so-called overvotes. He said that overvotes occur when, for example, a voter clearly filled out an oval for a presidential candidate on their ballot, yet accidentally dragged a mark or rested their pen on another candidate's name.

At the TCF center, for the first time, they scanned the overvotes or extra marked

ballots and put them up on a large television screen for the adjudicators to review and make a determination. A Democrat and a Republican each looked at the screen and participated in the adjudication to determine if the completed oval or the mark was the vote.

Another issue with overvotes occurs when a voter either votes for a presidential candidate or votes straight party, then writes in a name. In the state, to be a write-in candidate, a candidate affidavit has to be filed. Without that, the write-in votes mean nothing.

"Mickey Mouse is still pretty popular with the write-in people," Thomas said.

# HFA estimates state took in \$535 million more this fiscal year than last



A report issued Tuesday by the House Fiscal Agency found that, after calculating October cash collections, which complete the fiscal year, collections in FY 2019-20 exceeded collections over the prior fiscal year by \$535 million.

For October, the HFA reports that net tax revenue totaled \$898.9 million in October. When comparing net income tax,

collections were up \$209 million this year over last.

Gross income tax collections in 2019-20 were \$416.0 million higher than a year ago, as withholding payments exceeded the prior year's amounts by \$522.5 million, and more than offset higher refunds and lower quarterly payments.

The single business tax, Michigan business tax, the state's corporate

income tax and insurance company taxes brought in \$67.8 million more in FY 2019-2020 than in FY 2017-2018. The uptick was due primarily because MBT collections were less negative than projected.

The state collected a total of \$1.06 billion in consumption taxes last month from the sales and use of tobacco, beer, wine and liquor. The state took in \$126.9 million more on these taxes than the prior fiscal year.

It was also revealed in the HFA revenue report that revenues from state education tax and the



real estate transfer tax in October were \$1.08 billion and \$43.6 million respectively, General Fund/General Purpose revenue for October was estimated to be at \$1.132 billion (about \$190.8 million above August Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference estimates) and School Aid Fund revenue was estimated to be at \$2.040 billion in October.

...

### What the world really needs is more love and less paperwork.

~ Pearl Bailey (1918-1990)



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## Lowell Township asks area residents to complete parks survey

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell Township leaders are working on an update to their "Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan."

In order to make the best parks plan possible, they are asking area residents to complete a survey with questions about the current facilities and visions for the future.

"We need input from the residents on what they would like to see in parks and recreation in our community," said Lowell Township supervisor Jerry Hale.

You do not have to be a township resident to respond, because township residents are not the only people who use the parks.

"Input from non-residents is okay, as people from the greater Lowell also use the parks," Hale said.

To take the survey, visit [surveymonkey.com/r/lowellparksplansurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lowellparksplansurvey). It takes about eight minutes.

## BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLANNING COMMISSION

On Tuesday, December 1, 2020 the Planning Commission for Bowne Township will hear public comments related to the following request. The public hearings will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto concerning the following:

### 1. ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT

An amendment to the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance Section 10.02 - Manufactured Housing Community District (R-5) is proposed. This amendment will create a provision for site condominiums as a use-by-right.

The amendments are available for review and written comments will be received until 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.

Bradley S. Kotrba  
Planning & Zoning Administrator  
(616) 988-3526

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# LOWELL SHOWBOAT donors and sponsors as of Nov. 18

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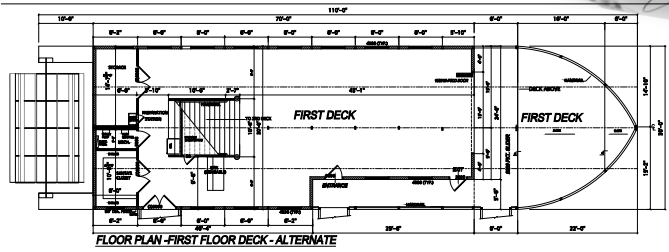
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# business directory

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**NEWSPAPERS Outperform Direct Mail in Michigan**  
the lowell ledger

Michigan consumers prefer to receive advertising inserts in printed newspapers – higher than those who prefer to receive them through direct mail<sup>1</sup>

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than direct mail.<sup>2</sup>

**79%** Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days<sup>3</sup>

**17.2%** of adults made a purchase in the past 90 days as the result of a direct mail flyer<sup>4</sup>

**82%** of consumers use coupons received through newspaper inserts<sup>5</sup>

**33%** of Michigan adults prefer receiving coupons from direct mail.<sup>6</sup>

**50%** of Michigan adults did not buy anything as the result of a direct mail piece in the past year<sup>2</sup>

**86%** of adults look at newspaper inserts to get the best deals<sup>3</sup>

Direct mail lacks the **effective reach** of newspaper advertising.

## Council, continued

we need to do to move ahead," Burns said.

"For an informational meeting, without really taking a direction, I thought it was really, really good," said mayor Michael DeVore, who also attended. "I don't think it's going to take six more meetings to get a plan in place."

There was one case of COVID-19 among city hall staff recently, but the person in question was infected while on vacation and never actually entered the building, so only that specific employee had to quarantine.

Any city employees who are able to work from home will do so, those who show up to work will be screened for the virus daily and Burns said he discussed a plan with police chief Christopher Hurst for what they'll do if the entire police department is ever forced to quarantine.

Neither the city nor Lowell Light & Power will be charging late fees or shutting off anybody's utility services while the pandemic rages on. Anyone seeking city services should call city hall at 616-897-8457 to make an appointment.

"I don't want to turn people away, that's not our intent," Burns said. "I would say about 90 percent of our services could be done online."

Five people applied for the seat on the council vacated by Greg Canfield last month: Jake Davenport, Tina Dickerman, Michael Gadula, Leah Groves and Katie Rademacher. They originally planned to interview the candidates at a special meeting on Monday, Nov. 23, but a scheduling conflict required this to be canceled. Instead, the interviews will begin at 4 pm on Monday, Nov. 30. The public will be able to observe over the Zoom app. Check the city's website or social media accounts for details.

The council voted to pay \$21,900 to Williams & Works for engineering design services relating to the proposed resurfacing of Jane Ellen St. According to a Nov. 11 city memo written by public works director Dan Czarnecki, the company's services would "include soil borings to determine the existing base materials, survey work to identify existing features and help set the limits of the work and design of the street work to be completed. They will also prepare all construction documents and will bid the work for the city of Lowell."

"The existing pavement is worn out and falling apart," Czarnecki said



Jake Davenport is one of the five applicants to replace Greg Canfield on the council. Canfield resigned last month. [file photo]

during the meeting. "We recently swept the streets, and I received many, many calls from irate homeowners because we kicked up a lot of pavement and made it even worse. So the road is in need of resurfacing."

The city will receive a \$141,500 grant from the MDOT Surface Transportation Program Small Urban Funds Program to be used on the Foreman St. sanitary sewer project. The estimated cost of that project is \$172,900.

The council discussed a perceived glut of recreational marijuana stores opening in the city. Meds Café opened eight months ago, the first adult use marijuana store in the history of Kent County. A second pot store had its debut last week and more are in the works.

"The ordinance we have in place is a very solid ordinance," Burns said. "Our ordinance is being followed by a lot of other communities that are allowing this."

"We spent a lot of time on planning and putting that all together," said councilor Marty Chambers.

City councilor Cliff Yankovich explained why the city allows an unlimited number of recreational marijuana retail outlets to open in town.

"The best legal advice that we could get advised us not to put a limit, because putting a limit would be asking to be sued," Yankovich said. "It's like if we said you could only have three hair salons in Lowell, or pick your business. Do I want to see 20 pot stores in Lowell? No, I don't, but I don't think that's going to happen."

The council's discussion also touched on some

outdated but persistent misinformation about marijuana stores and marijuana users. According to the US Centers for Disease control, 22.2 million Americans use marijuana every month. The 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that 47.8 percent of adults over age 26 have used marijuana at some point in their life. Cannabis is legal for medical use in 35 states and recreational in 15 more. Michigan voters passed medical marijuana in 2008 and recreational in 2018. The majority of Lowell residents voted in favor of recreational marijuana, 984 'yes' to 689 'no.'

"A lot of people are afraid that marijuana shops are attracting criminal elements and we're going to have knife fights in the parking lot or something," Yankovich said. "Have there been any kind of incidents?"

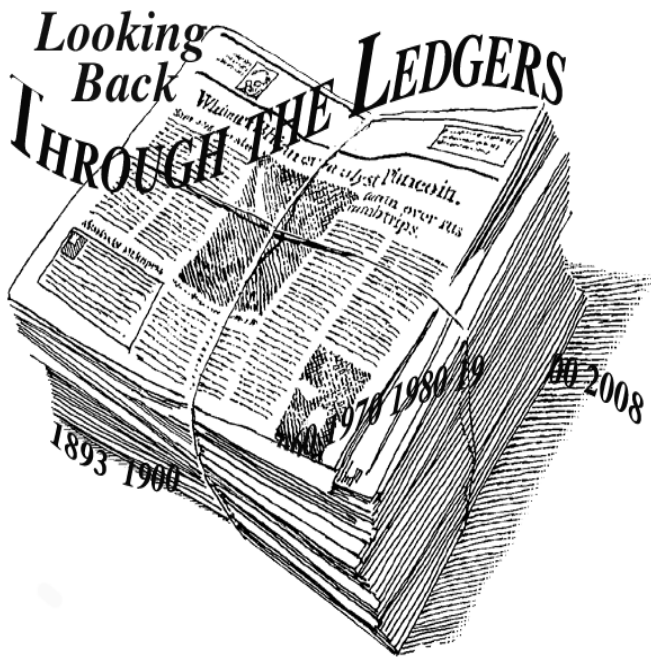
"To my knowledge, to date we've had three calls at Meds Café since they opened in March," Burns said. "Two of them were car accidents and one was an employee issue."

Finally, the council had a closed session to discuss labor negotiations between the city and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

To comply with recent public health orders, the city council's next regular meeting is scheduled to take place via the Zoom app at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 7.

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

# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger November 22, 1895

An society young woman of Jackson donned a full suit of men's clothes and promenaded the streets with her beau, smoking a cigarette. The police ran the couple in. On their promise to be very good hereafter, they were discharged.

Fire at Grand Ledge destroyed Rossman's harness shop, valued at \$2,000; Brown's barber shop, \$300; damaged Robinson's dry goods stock, \$3,500; Stanton & Son's dry goods, \$500; Schumaker's building, occupied by Stanton & Son, \$1,000.

Several Grand Rapids detectives, who have seen Oscar Smalley since his return from Oklahoma, say that he is not the man who accompanied Detective Powers' murderer when the murder was committed.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 25, 1920

According to local officers, Mrs. Ray Gibson made a complete confession late today that her husband and brother-in-law, Lawrence Gibson, they had stolen large quantities of grain from the barns of Ionia county farmers and that they had also stolen a truck and quantities of auto supplies.

As athletic supervisor for Kent county rural schools to direct recreation of the pupils of these schools will be engaged shortly, if a recommendation to be made by County School Commissioner A. M. Freeland at the next meeting of the county school officials is acted favorably upon. The proposal to engage such an athletic supervisor follows the distribution of athletic equipment among rural schools of the state by the state athletic board of control, the equipment being purchased with funds of the state boxing commission. These funds are derived from the 10 per cent of all paid admissions to boxing and wrestling matches held in the state and from boxers, wrestlers' and referees' fees.

A mile and a quarter northwest of the court house George Buckingham, construction foreman, and several crews of workmen have swung into the construction of an oil refinery, which, when completed, will surpass any of its particular type that ever has been built.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger November 22, 1945

The 775 students of Lowell will be offered tuberculin tests on Nov. 27, 30 and Dec. 3. They will be given by the staff of the Anti-tuberculosis Society and all positive reactors will be sent to Grand Rapids radiologist for chest xrays. The whole projects will be financed with Christmas Seal funds.

The car belonging to Reuben Lee was stolen from the garage at the farm home on US 16 last Friday night by 3 boys ranging in age from 11 to 14 years, who had escaped from the Boys Vocational School at Lansing.

Howard Acheson of the Army Air Forces, received his discharge Oct. 31, from Patterson Field, Ohio. He is now an apprentice carpenter in Grand Rapids and his family is living in Lowell for the time being.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger November 26, 1970

The Lowell Light and Power Board has submitted to the Lowell City Council a new rate schedule which will increase the cost of electricity in Lowell for the first time since 1955. The increase will amount to about 6% across the board with the average bill going up about 60c a month.

Bernard Olson, former Lowell City Manager, has been named administrative assistant to the Mayor of Milan, Michigan. He will take over his duties at Milan, a city of 4,000 with 28 employees at once.

Phillip H. Schneider, who amassed a tire fortune and left a million dollars to help Lowell area's needy, has the first memorial to his generosity in the form of a senior citizen housing development. The City of Lowell and Lowell Township inherited over a million dollars from the estate of Phillip H. Schneider, whose will directed that income from the money be used for "human welfare and human suffering in time of need."

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger November 22, 1995

The county does not believe Bowes Road can be relocated without using a portion of the rental property owned by Jim and Barb Barber. The Barbers disagree and the city of Lowell is looking for another opinion.

As a seventh-grader Marsha LaHaye was turned on to what was then known as home economics. The presentation of the 1995 Merit Teacher Award to LaHaye indicates that the Michigan Life Management Educators were so turned on to the instructional skill of this year's recipient. LaHaye has been teaching life management/home economics at the high school level for 22 years now – the last 17 in Lowell and the first five in Tawas.

Lowell Charter Township's Cumberland lift station will soon be upgraded with new equipment. The Lowell Charter Township Board agreed paying \$8,628 to replace the current control panel and add generator capability. "Instead of just fixing it we decided to expand it enough to come in with a generator if need be," said township clerk Carol Wells.

## Rep. Albert selected to lead Michigan House Appropriations Committee for 2021-22 session

State Rep. Thomas Albert was named House Appropriations Committee chair for the upcoming 2021-22 legislative session by Speaker-elect Jason Wentworth, filling an important leadership position tasked with crafting the state of Michigan budget.

"I am grateful for this new opportunity to serve the people of Michigan," said Albert, of Lowell. "There are challenges ahead, but I am committed to ensuring we do the best job possible for our state's families, job providers and taxpayers."

Albert was recently elected to his third term in the Michigan House. He currently serves as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, leading a subcommittee related to the state prison system. He also serves on panels related to School Aid, Military and Veterans Affairs and State

Police, and Agriculture and Rural Development. In 2017-18, Albert chaired the House Financial Liability Reform Committee.

A former investor for the State of Michigan Retirement Systems, Albert has expanded and continued his expertise on state financial matters during his time in the Legislature. His legislative work has helped improve the finances of the state retirement system.

"We must do all we can to safely navigate COVID-19 while preserving our economy," Albert said. "That is the key to maintaining support for K-12 education and the essential services Michiganders rely upon every day. I look forward to working with anyone willing to help guide our state through this pandemic to brighter days ahead."

## 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

## M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Johnathan G. Meier, D.O.    Laura E. Kass, PA-C  
 Wayne A. Christenson, D.O.    Kaili M. Walker, PA-C  
 Tracy L. Lixie, D.O.    Alexandria Clum, PA-C  
    Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

### - dry skin

Dry, itchy skin is a common condition this time of year. As the weather gets colder, the air gets drier and your skin becomes dry and itchy. Humidifying your home can help to keep your skin moist. You can either get a stand-alone portable humidifier or have one added on to your furnace.

Excessive hand washing and bathing can also cause your skin to become dry. Limiting the number of times you wash your hands can help. Using a waterless hand sanitizer is just as effective at killing germs, but won't dry your skin as much. Limiting the time you spend in the shower or tub can also help. People with dry skin should consider bathing every other day in the winter. Taking quick, luke-warm showers will also help to minimize the drying

effects of hot water. Mild, hypo-allergenic soaps are less drying than scented and colored soaps.

Moisturizers are an important part of treating dry skin. They should be used two to four times daily. A moisturizer should also be hypo-allergenic. They work best when they are applied to the skin right after bathing or hand washing. If a hypo-allergenic cream or lotion moisturizer does not seem to be helping, other over-the-counter treatments can be tried. A one percent hydrocortisone cream is available over-the-counter and could be used for up to one week. Another option is a 12 percent lactic acid based lotion which may help some severe forms of dry skin. If none of these treatments seem to help, see your health care provider for an evaluation.

# ABCs of Lowell history

The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced this year as a way to share some of the many fascinating stories from Lowell's past. It was initiated in part by the pandemic shutdown which led the Museum to seek alternative ways to share local history with the community. The series will continue with a second round of the alphabet.

### G is for Gates

In 1938 the Lowell Garden Lore Club proposed the "Gateway to Lowell" project. The State Highway Commissioner gave his approval and soon it became reality. The west gates were completed in 1939 and then work began on the east gates.

The gateway project consisted of two pairs of monumental markers, one pair to be placed at the east village limits and one pair at the west village limits on both sides of Highway M-21. Made of fieldstone, the columns were to be nine feet high. A stone wall from each column led to a shorter column. They were arched away from the road, giving a gateway effect. The name 'Lowell' was to be on the taller column, and the garden club added landscaping, making the city gates a beautiful sight. The gates were even lit at night.

The west gate was located west of West Avenue which was the edge of town, near where the Calvary Christian Church educational building is today.



The west gate into Lowell, as this location west of West Avenue, which was the edge of town.



The Lowell Board of Trade helped with the project both in funding and publicity. E. C. Foreman, chairman of the Village Improvement Committee headed up the Gateway project. The project was to serve multiple purposes. It was hoped that motorists would slow down, realizing they were entering a village, and it added to the beauty of the road and of Lowell.

The gates were a tangible way of defining Lowell. In 1951 the Lowell Ledger described the Village Christmas scene, "From the west gate of the village to the east gate there are lighted windows, Christmas trees, decorations indoors and out, and Santa Claus beams down on the snow blanketed village street as though in approval of the lighted arch and the sparkling scenery throughout Lowell." In 1953 a crèche was set up

on the Foreman lawn at the West gate and decorated, all coordinated by the Garden Lore Club. Recorded Christmas music was played from December 18 until Christmas.

Though the gates were 10 feet from the road, vehicle accidents were a problem for the gates. During their existence, both the east and west gates were damaged by multiple accidents. The accident scenes frequently caused heavy damage. One slippery Sunday in April of 1952 the west gates were hit in two separate accidents. Because of this, the same Garden Lore Club that in

1955 recommended to the city council that the west gates be removed after yet another accident.

Today a re-creation of a gate is located outside of the Foreman building in Recreation Park, along Broadway Street, with an added plaque honoring E.C. Foreman.

Those entering the city today are still welcomed by attractive and welcoming signage, but Lowell no longer has its "gates."



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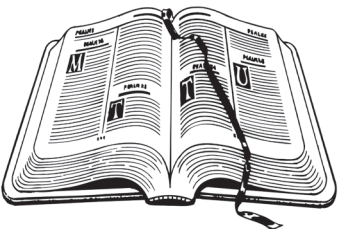
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# area churches



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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St. Mary Catholic Church</b></p> <p>402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Website: <a href="http://www.stmarylowell.com">www.stmarylowell.com</a></p> <p>Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am                  Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm</p> <p>Prayer &amp; Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm                  RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">897-7168 • <a href="http://www.fbclowell.org">www.fbclowell.org</a>                  Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor</p> <p>Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship                  Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries</p> <p><b>SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM</b> (Nursery provided)  <b>LIFE GROUPS .....</b>11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)  <b>Awana</b> (K-5 during school year) <b>Wednesday, 6:15 PM</b></p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOVEMBER 19</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ken Mulder, Jamie Zoodsma, Marlene Nash, Lewis Powell, Betsy Maki.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOVEMBER 24</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sabra Nicole Kinsley, Ryan Moore, Jenny Decker, Heather French.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOVEMBER 20</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brian Brown, John Butler Sr., Michelle Wernet.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOVEMBER 21</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michael Hewitt, Tammy Gildner.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOVEMBER 22</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lu Green, Carla Briggs, Andrea Richmond, Karrie Burt, Joshua Gerard, Dylan Olin, Arlene Sytsma.</p>	

# Debating geographic region of Board of Ed members

On Thursday afternoon the Senate Education and Career Readiness Committee pondered the topic of whether the legislature should force political parties to select State Board of Education candidates on a regional basis.

The proposal came in the form of SB 0025, sponsored by Sen. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan). McBroom said he started the conversation back in 2013 with then-Rep. Andy Schor. The two discussed the way that the State Board of Education was elected and how almost all of its members were from southeastern Michigan.

“Maybe, if we were lucky, we’d get one member from another part of the state,” McBroom said.

Under McBroom’s plan, the state’s parties would have to select Board of Education nominees from

eight rotating regions, utilizing the eight regions of the state identified by the drafters of the state’s 1965 constitution when they were pondering the establishment of a citizen-run redistricting commission (later found unconstitutional).

“It was a convenient source for dividing up the state into eight regions, so I took it,” McBroom said.

McBroom argued that SB 0025 would accomplish the same thing as requiring the eight seats to be held by regional representatives with the benefit of not requiring a constitutional amendment, which is a larger political hurdle.

McBroom said that, when a colleague was upset that the plan wouldn’t ensure a GOP-dominated State Board of Education, he responded “I’d take a UP Democrat over a Detroit Republican anytime.”

McBroom contends that there are significant differences on a regional basis that aren’t fully represented in the Board’s deliberations. For example, he noted that southeast Michigan has fewer districts, but the districts have far more students. In the Upper Peninsula there are many districts but with far lower pupil counts.

McBroom said he has had members suggest getting rid of the State Board of Education, but he still supports having a board.

“I divided the state up into regions,” McBroom said. “It goes to the party conventions and it simply tells them, when they nominate their candidates for the school board, that there be a rotating region for these regions. Democrats would have to choose someone from one of these regions.”

Those candidates would then run statewide.

Sen. Dana Polehanki (D-Livonia) asked if it didn’t amend the Constitution, would it merely be a suggestion to the state’s two major parties.

“It would be binding on the conventions, the party conventions,” McBroom said. “It forces the parties to go out and be more diverse in their selection of candidates on an every-other-year basis.”

McBroom argued the two parties generally give more attention to state House and Senate races as well as Congressional races. When it comes to filling State Board of Education seats, they look for candidates from populous areas who can self-fund, thereby narrowing the geographic diversity of board members.

The panel took McBroom’s testimony on the bill Thursday.



State Sen. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan)

# Older adults can cope with COVID-19 social distancing by mastering videoconferencing, telemedicine

Older adults can now get help to learn how to navigate technology such as videoconferencing and telemedicine that has become more necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Aging & Adult Services Agency at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is announcing a partnership with GetSetup, a mission-driven education technology company dedicated to creating economic and learning opportunities for older adults. The partnership creates a new free resource for Michiganders age 60 and over as the state continues to face the pandemic.

“It’s critical to keep older adults who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 safe during the pandemic,” said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. “However, it’s also important for them to maintain social connections and be able to meet their needs from home. Technology can help, and this initiative will help older Michiganders become more comfortable with that technology.”

Older Michiganders can access more than 150 free online group classes designed for and led by older adults. Offerings include classes on how to use a smartphone or tablet, how to use services like video conferencing, Gmail,

Facebook, grocery delivery and telemedicine, as well as virtual social hours.

An internet connection is all that’s needed to access GetSetup.

“We realize that now more than ever, our older adults are at home and may need assistance learning how to use video services to communicate with loved ones, learn how to do things like ordering groceries or household items online, finding exercise classes or even learning to access services like telehealth,” said Dr. Alexis Travis, senior deputy director of the Aging and Adult Services Agency. “Older adults are at greater risk for complications related to coronavirus and have had to follow public health guidelines closely, including social distancing. We believe this platform will help reduce social isolation by empowering

older adults when it comes to using technology while providing a safe place to learn, grow and make friends.”

GetSetup.io is a pioneering social platform where seniors can learn about a variety of topics through a live, interactive peer-to-peer teaching model. The platform currently offers classes on essential life-changing skills, from professional development to technology, health, wellness and hobbies. It also offers casual social hours. Its expert guides hold graduate and master’s degrees in business, music, science, and more.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and make our interactive learning platform available to more than 2.5 million older adults across the state,”

said Lawrence Kosick, co-founder of GetSetup. “Older adults experience loneliness and social isolation more than any other age group, but at GetSetup we see the health benefits of continuous learning and socialization. Through GetSetup, older Michiganders now have a way to learn and connect

with others online, as well as find new economic opportunities helping teach their peers.”

As part of the program, GetSetup will run classes 10 hours a day to make it easy for Michiganders to take a class anytime they like from the comfort and safety of their homes. The classes are available free

for the next six months. This initiative is supported in part by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

Information around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.



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# The Rottier family's rewarding adoption journey



by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Noelle and Dan Rottier, already the parents of two biological children, adopted three more kids and have also acted as foster parents for two young people who were eventually reunited with their birth mother.

“Right now we have five kids, all adopted or biological,” Noelle Rottier said in a phone interview last week. “Calli is 13, Andilynn is 11, Ben is seven, Jalynn is six and Kemani is also six. It’s always fun at our house! Kemani moved in when he was four months old, Ben moved in when he was two and Jalynn moved in when she was four. They are all so different. Now they are stuck with us! [...] I had always wanted to adopt. A friend of ours did foster care, so we saw from the outside what

that looked like and we thought we could do it. We were involved with that amazing thing one time when we fostered two boys who are now back home with their mom and are still there today. Then we fostered three more kids and were able to be an adoptive home for them. They lived with us before parental rights were terminated by the judge.”

Rottier said those interested in adopting or fostering children should ignore sensational “movie of the week” type stories about foster care and adoption, because they are either unrealistic or focused on the most sordid situations.

“Each kid and each story are so different,” Rottier said. “So many people think they know what

foster care and adoption are, and so much of that is not accurate. They only repeat the stories with interesting plots or terrible endings, regular peoples’ stories don’t get shared very often.”

The reality of their family isn’t some shiny “Brady Bunch” scenario either. For example, even if they’re the best of friends or closest of relatives, it is inevitable that any children who live together will fight and bicker at some point.

The Rottier clan is no exception.

“The best part, for me, is when everybody gets along and they are respectful to each other,” Rottier said. “Nobody here feels like they don’t belong based on if they’re biological or adopted. Blood doesn’t matter, the biology of the relationship doesn’t matter. That is a cornerstone of our faith, too. We just love one another. And that goes for everybody in our support system. Grandparents,

aunts, uncles, they’ve all welcomed these kids with open arms and open hearts. I am so thankful they have done that.”

Time management is probably the family’s biggest struggle, and on-call babysitters are essential. Both parents work full time, and the three adopted kids all have varying levels of trauma associated with their early upbringing. Rottier said she is very careful not to let the needs of their adopted

kids overshadow their two biological daughters.

“Three are in elementary school and the older two are in middle school, and with COVID right now they have hybrid schedules,” Rottier said. “The biggest challenge is just getting them up and getting them ready for the day, for school. My husband and I both work full time, so we rely a lot on grandparents and friends that are around. Having a huge support system is definitely essential.”



The Rottier family: parents Noelle and Dan with Calli, Andilynn, Ben, Jalynn and Kemani.



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# Open Table to provide free Thanksgiving meals

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell's OpenTable will once again be providing free Thanksgiving meals to area residents. The demand for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving meals for the community.

This year, the meals will include roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy,



A group of volunteers at a previous Thanksgiving Open Table.

meals has not changed, but the number of volunteers is limited this year thanks to the pandemic.

Each year since 2007, a group of about 60 volunteers from First Congregational Church of Lowell, 865 Lincoln Lake, have cooked and served about 250 free

cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, rolls, stuffing and pie, all prepared and cooked by volunteers in the commercial kitchen at the church.

Donors of the fresh ingredients to be used by the cooks include King Milling, Heidi's

Farmstand and Bakery, Sage's Meat Processing, Meijer and FROM.

"This year we are operating with only 20 volunteers [and] two days to reduce contact with others and to better social distance," said volunteer

coordinator Katy Mork.

This year, the meals will be served curbside for pickup and can then be taken home to enjoy with family. They will be available between noon and 2 pm on Thursday, Nov. 26.

To take advantage of the event or to volunteer, call 616-897-5906 or send a message to lowellopentable@gmail.com.

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# Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

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## Ideas for thanking your family

It's almost Thanksgiving. And although 2020 may have been a difficult year for you, as it has been for many people, you can probably still find things for which you can be thankful – such as your family. How can you show your appreciation for your loved ones?

Here are a few suggestions:

Invest in your children's future. If you have young children – or even grandchildren – one of the greatest gifts you can give them is the gift of education. You may want to consider contributing to a higher education funding vehicle.

Be generous. Do you have older children, just starting out in life? If

so, they could well use a financial gift to help pay off student loans, buy a car or even make a down payment on a home. You can give up to \$15,000 per year, per recipient, without incurring gift taxes. Of course, you don't have to give cash – you might want to consider presenting your children with shares of stock in companies they like.

Review your insurance coverage. If you weren't around, it would leave some gaping holes – financial and otherwise – in the lives of your family members. That's why it's essential you maintain adequate life insurance. Your employer might offer a group plan, but it may not be sufficient

to meet your needs. There's no magic formula for determining the right amount of coverage, so you'll have to consider a variety of factors: your age, spouse's income, number of children and so on. Also, you may want to consider disability insurance – if you were unable to work for a while, it could cause a real problem for your family's finances.

Preserve your financial independence. When your children are young, you take care of them. But you certainly don't want them to have to do the same for you – so it's essential you maintain your financial independence throughout your life. You can do this in

at least a couple of ways. First, consider investing regularly in your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. The greater your resources during your retirement years, the less you may ever need to count on your family. And second, you may want to protect yourself from the devastating costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. A financial professional can suggest a strategy to help you cope with these expenses.

Create an estate plan. To leave a legacy to your family, you don't have to be wealthy – but you do need a comprehensive estate plan. You'll have to think through

a lot of questions, such as: Have I named beneficiaries for all my assets? How much do I want to leave to each person? Do I need to go beyond a simple will to establish an arrangement such as a living trust? For help in answering all these issues, you'll want to work with an attorney.

By making these moves, you can show your loved ones, in a tangible way, how much you value them – and that can help you keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive all year long.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

# Live the Life You Want

## Why do we follow the crowd?

by Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS  
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

I find human behavior fascinating and not just because of my work. I regularly read the latest studies related to mental health, behavior, and neuro-science. So, when I came across a recent social psychology study on following the crowd, I knew this was a topic I wanted to write about. Social psychology is the study of the way we interact with others and research in this area shows we don't have as much control over our behavior as we would like to believe.

**Obedience to Authority**  
We know as we grow

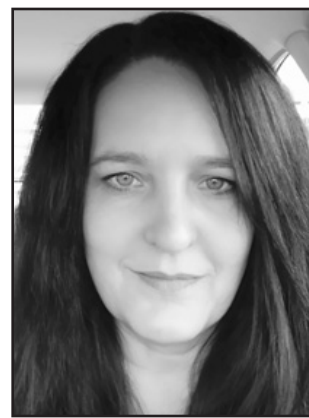
and develop into adults that we learn from those around us (family, friends, teachers, clergy, religious affiliations etc.) and from our environment. We learn what is socially acceptable and what is not, especially from authority figures. This made me think back to the 1961 Milgram experiment.

Stanley Milgram, a psychologist at Yale University, conducted an experiment focusing on how far people would go in obeying instructions if it involved harming another person. The results were shocking, no pun intended.

Milgram partnered 40 males, ages 20 to 50. The paired experiment partners

were introduced and one was taken to a room and had electrodes attached to his arms (the student), and the other (the teacher) and a researcher went to a room next door that contained an electric shock generator and a row of switches. The teachers were given a single 45-volt sample shock to help them understand how a shock would feel at that level. The student was given a list of word pairs to learn. The teacher then tested him by naming a word and asking the student to recall the partner word from a list of four possible choices.

The teacher was told to administer an electric shock every time the student made a mistake and to increase the level of shock with each wrong answer. The student was not really shocked and had been instructed by researchers to mainly give wrong answers and then scream and protest when the teacher flipped



Melissa Spino  
MA LLPC CDMS

the switch pretending they were really being shocked. There were 30 switches on the shock generator marked from 15 volts (slight shock) to 450 (danger – severe shock). Can you guess what happened? 65 percent of the participants (26 out of 40) continued to inflict shocks right up to the 450-volt level, despite the students screams, protests, and at the 330-volt level, nothing but a disturbing silence. All the participants continued

to shock the student up to the 300-volt level. Good thing the student was not really being shocked. From this experiment, Milgram concluded that obedience to authority is ingrained in us from childhood.

A French study showed that when participants had only a slightly negative attitude toward a specific topic that their negativity increased when they learned other group members had this same view. So, this shows that our beliefs may be strengthened when we are around others with similar views.

### Social Proof

The principle of social proof states that we look at what those around us are doing to help us decide how to act. The thought is that if others are doing it, that means it's okay and we will be accepted. The "When in Rome" attitude. Social proof is used regularly on us to influence behavior.

Marketers use it daily in advertisements. They know they don't have to prove their product is good, they only have to convince us that others think it is good. Because if it's popular it must be good, right? I know I've tried products that were hyped as being fantastic and for me they were not. Social proof can also be used in more helpful ways. It has been used to help people overcome their fears (Albert Bandura - Fear of Dogs study) and even to stop environment theft (Cialdini - Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park study).

There are always some that don't follow the crowd. But for many social proof is the norm. So, the next time you look to base a decision or behavior on what someone else is doing, maybe instead dig a bit deeper and make sure it is a good fit for you.

## LEGAL NOTICE

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Rapids, MI 49503 via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

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Dated: September 28, 2020

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VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 109 E. Main St. Suite 11 Zeeland, MI 49464 (616) 633-0196

# Consumers Energy offering free smart thermostats

Consumers Energy is contributing to a cleaner future. The energy provider started its first winter giveaway this month as part of its commitment to help Michiganders through the COVID-19 pandemic. Smart thermostats can help customers save 10 percent or more on their energy bills, reduce energy waste, and help the electric grid by moving energy use away from peak times.

The free thermostats are available to businesses Consumers Energy serves. Businesses can see if they qualify at ConsumersEnergy.com/marketplace, where they can also purchase other energy-saving products. Residential customers can see if they qualify by visiting

ConsumersEnergyStore.com.

This past summer, Consumers Energy for the first time provided nearly 50,000 smart thermostats for free to Michigan households and businesses. Consumers Energy has helped Michigan residents during the pandemic in other ways, too, according to a Nov. 12 press release, providing \$12 million to help customers with their energy bills and nearly another \$5 million through its charitable foundation to Michigan nonprofits.

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Red Arrow

- VOLLEYBALL

# SPORTS

## Volleyball regional champions, MHSAA postpones remainder of tournament

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

What should be a celebratory week for the Lowell volleyball team has turned into a week of uncertainty. Lowell volleyball are regional champions, turning two shutouts of high-powered No. 4 in the state, Byron Center, as well as Rockford in the regional finals.

Lowell advances to the state quarterfinals against Portage Central, but at the time of this writing there is no idea when that will be. That is because with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recent statewide restrictions due to COVID-19, the volleyball season has officially been put on hold for the next three weeks.

“We understand the need for action, and we will explore all options to complete our fall tournaments when restrictions are lifted. We will assess everything over the next three weeks relative to fall and winter sports and come up with a plan that keeps us connected to our goal, for months, of having three seasons that are played to their conclusions,”

MHSAA executive director Mark Uyl said in a statement.

“We are definitely bummed that we won’t get to finish out our season this week, but we are looking forward to getting to finish our season at a later date and still have the opportunity to compete for a chance to win a State Title,” head coach Jordan Drake said.

The Red Arrows started last week with an impressive showing against Byron Center, winning in straight sets against the Bulldogs. Jenna Reitsma had 17 kills to lead the Arrows as well as 13 digs. Sophie Powell added 26 assists as Lowell advanced to face the host Rockford Rams.

Against the Rams at their home court, Lowell also won in straight sets. Reitsma had another strong game with 29 kills and 15 digs. Sydney Zandsta added 11 digs and Emily Struckmeyer had three blocks. Powell had 34 assists. It was the second straight regional championship for the Red Arrows.



Lowell High School volleyball - Regional Champions! (Photo courtesy Lowell High School Athletics).

With the quarterfinals ahead, and a lot of unknowns, the Red Arrows are optimistic they will have a chance to compete again soon and hopefully for a state title. The winner of Lowell and Portage Central’s quarterfinal match will face a stiff test against

either Ann Arbor Skyline or Novi. On the other side of the bracket, state No. 3 Bloomfield Hills Marian is likely the favorite to advance to the finals. They knocked off defending state champion Mercy in five sets on Thursday.

“This season has been

a roller coaster of a ride for all of us, and I have no doubt that this group of athletes we have will find a way to overcome another obstacle and be the best team that they can be when we are allowed on the court again. We had a team zoom meeting yesterday and the

team was in good spirits and ready to do what they can to continue to get better in this time away from each other,” Drake concluded.



## Lowell High School announces Student of the Month for October

Lowell High School is proud to announce that Sierra Hieshetter, 12th grade and Nolan Jannenga, 10th grade, are the Lowell High School October Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be



Sierra Hieshetter

nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Hieshetter and Jannenga. The students receive a \$20 Meijer gift card and a certificate.

Hieshetter was nominated by Nathan Masterson and Jessica Jenema and they write, “Sierra is very dedicated to doing her best in every situation. She has a

maturity that brings new thoughts to the class to help everyone excel. Her organizational skills are phenomenal as she balances work, school, and extra curriculars such as the school play this trimester. Her hard work and positive attitude make her a joy to have in class.”

Kathy Homer nominated Jannenga and she writes, “Nolan does a great job staying on task, completing his work, and setting high standards for himself. I absolutely love and appreciate that he is so involved in classroom discussions. It has been a difficult year with the many transitions that the students



Nolan Jannenga

have had to go through, and Nolan has done a great job dealing with each transition and adjustment in the class and schedule.”

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 20-208170-DE

Estate of ANDREW LEE  
CANNON. Date of birth:  
01/24/1986.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Andrew Lee Cannon, who lived at 24 Garland Street SE, Kentwood, Michigan, died 09/14/2020.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

presented to Perry Cannon, 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 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 10, 2020

Jennifer M. Racine (P69709)  
2905 Wilson Ave. SW Suite 214C  
Grandville, MI 49418  
616-530-2332

Perry Cannon  
5479 Kies Street NE  
Rockford, MI 49341  
616-884-5027

# obituaries

## COOK

Gerald "Jerry" Cook, age 64 of Lowell, passed away November 10, 2020. Jerry enjoyed hunting and woodworking. He had an appreciation for Western, especially John Wayne films. Jerry will be remembered as the fun loving Uncle. He was preceded in death by his mother, Olive Cook. Jerry is survived by his father, William "Bill" Cook; brothers, Bill Cook, Steve (Perry) Cook, Ken (Robyn) Cook, and Tim Cook; sisters, Linda (Len) Hamp, and Barb Cook; several aunts, nieces and nephews; along with many great nieces & nephews, and cousins; and special friend, Toby Jones. A private family burial will take place at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial Contributions in Jerry's honor can be directed to: Diabetes Foundation, American Heart Association, or the Humane Society.



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## DIETZ

Verna May Dietz, age 94, of Lowell, passed away Saturday, November 14, 2020. The daughter of Harry Paul & Mary Elizabeth (Mackinotsh), she was born May 14, 1926 in Mancelona, Michigan. Verna worked for 33 years at Nelson Metal. Her favorite pastimes included playing Bingo and going to casinos. Verna was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin Dietz; daughter, Bonnie Dietz; seven sisters; and one brother. She is survived by her children, Bette Jack, Jack (Sharon) Dietz, Connie (Harry) Dearden, Dawn (Joe) Lown, and Brenda Dietz; 15 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; 7 great-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral Services will take place privately.



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# How to replace a missing Social Security card online

If you need to replace your lost or misplaced Social Security card, our online application makes getting a replacement card easier than ever.

Requesting a card replacement online is available if you live in the District of Columbia or one of the 45 states that can verify state ID information for us. If you're only requesting a replacement card and you're making no changes, you may be able to use our free online service.

All you need to do is create a personal *my Social Security* account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) and meet certain requirements. Opening a personal *my*

*Social Security* account is easy, convenient, and secure. We protect your information by using strict identity verification and security features. Once you have a personal account, simply follow the instructions to request a replacement Social Security card.

You can apply for a replacement card online, if you meet all of the following requirements:

- Are a U. S. citizen age 18 or older with a U.S. mailing address (this includes APO, FPO, and DPO addresses).
- Are not requesting any changes to your card (including a name change).



• Have a valid driver's license or state-issued identification card.

In many cases, you may not need a replacement card; often, simply knowing your Social Security number is enough.

If you do need a replacement card, please visit our website at [www.ssa.gov/ssnumber](http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber) to find out if you can take advantage of this convenient online service.

# USDA: Yields higher than 2019, but lower than expected

As harvest progresses, Michigan farmers report their corn is not yielding as well as anticipated, said Marlo Johnson, director of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Great Lakes Regional office.

The November crop production report is based on conditions as of Nov. 1. Some highlights of the report include:

-Michigan corn production is forecast at 317 million bushels, up 34 percent from last year. The yield is forecast at 160 bushels per acre, up 13 bushels from last year but down 7 bushels from last month.

-Michigan's soybean

yield is forecast at 48 bushels per acre, up 7.5 bushels from a year ago and unchanged from last month. Production is expected to be 105 million bushels, up 51 percent from 2019's weather-devastated crop.

-Michigan sugarbeet growers anticipate a yield of 28.3 tons per acre, down 0.3 tons from last year. Production is forecast at 4.36 million tons.

-Nationally, corn production for grain is forecast 14.5 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the previous forecast but up 7 percent from 2019. Based on conditions as of Nov. 1, yields are expected to average 175.8 bushels per harvested acre,

down 2.6 bushels from the previous forecast but up 8.3 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 82.5 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 1 percent from the previous year.

-U.S. soybean production for beans is forecast at 4.17 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the previous forecast

but up 17 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of Nov. 1, yields are expected to average 50.7 bushels per harvested acre, down 1.2 bushels from the previous forecast but up 3.3 bushels from 2019. Area harvested for beans in the United States is forecast at 82.3 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 10 percent from 2019.

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The December Board of Review will meet as follows:

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 2:00pm

MCL Section 211.53(b) of the General Property Tax Act, PA 260 of 1893, provides for corrections of clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact relative to the correct assessment figures and the corrections of Principal Residence Exemptions, these shall be verified by the local assessing officer and approved by the board of review at a meeting held for that purpose, to be held on any day of the week of the 2nd Monday in December.

On **December 15, 2020**, a meeting will be called for this purpose at 2:00pm in the City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331, to conduct business as provided for in Section 211.53(b), Michigan Compiled Laws.



City of Lowell Clerk  
Sue Ullery

Posted November 13, 2020

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NEWSPAPER REPORTER WANTED - The Lowell Ledger is looking for a news/feature reporter with strong writing skills and can meet a deadline. This is a stringer position. Please send writing samples and brief resume to: The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

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services

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with letters filled in.

Grid of puzzle solutions with numbers filled in.

Large grid of puzzle solutions with words circled and highlighted.



**MPSC, Attorney General urge Michiganders to not fall victim to phone scammers threatening to shut off utilities**

The Michigan Public Service Commission and Attorney General Dana Nessel today joined with utilities, government agencies and other advocates across the country in recognizing Utility Scam Awareness Week, which helps educate the public about common tactics swindlers posing as utility companies use to defraud people of money.

Utility Scam Awareness Week, Nov. 16-20, is sponsored by Utilities United Against Scams, an organization of U.S. and Canadian utilities and trade organizations formed to help combat fraud and inform and protect customers.

The MPSC typically sees a rise in complaints this time of year from Michiganders on the receiving end of calls in which scammers threaten to shut off service if customers don't take immediate actions that include making payments by gift cards, Bitcoin or other forms of payment. The increase in complaints also includes instances where callers manipulate caller ID to make it appear as if a utility company is making the call — commonly referred to as caller ID spoofing.

“We want Michiganders to know that utility companies do not use coercive scare tactics over the phone to force customers to pay bills, and they won't tell you your service will be shut off immediately without a payment,” said MPSC Chair Dan Scripps. “That kind of behavior is a dead giveaway that the caller is a scammer.”

Utility companies also will not:

Endorse or require a prepaid debit card, gift card, Bitcoin or other cryptocurrency for payments;

Collect payment at customers' homes or businesses; or

Ask for Social Security numbers, bank account or credit card information by phone.

“If you get a call or a text message like this, hang up right away and verify the person contacting you is who they claim to be,” Attorney General Nessel said. “If you have any doubt about a caller, or suspect the call may be fraudulent, contact your utility using the phone number on your most recent bill and ask to speak to a customer service representative. You should also file a complaint with my office so the proper authorities can respond accordingly.”

What's more, utility companies will not use coercive tactics to try to get into your home. They require employees

or contractors to wear company identification badges employees will be glad to show if asked.

“It's up to Michigan utility customers to be vigilant and recognize when callers are not who they say they are,” said Orlene Hawks, director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. “I'm pleased that the MPSC takes an active role this week and year round to help utility customers be on guard against scammers who often target vulnerable people, including seniors.”

The MPSC urges customers to be mindful about providing their account numbers or personal information such as name, address, date of birth or Social Security number. Utility customers who have mistakenly provided bank account information to someone they suspect might have been an impostor should call their bank and local police department. They also may file a complaint with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at [www.michigan.gov/agcomplaints](http://www.michigan.gov/agcomplaints) and the Federal Trade Commission at 877-382-4357.

**Permanent injunction granted in litigation led by AG Nessel, others over CARES Act funding for public schools**

The lawsuit co-led by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra against U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and her attempt to divert millions of dollars in COVID-19 relief funding from public schools is officially over.

Judge James Donato - of the U.S. District Court Northern District of California - on Nov. 9 approved a permanent injunction, formally closing the case on DeVos' efforts to rewrite a section of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act that would have diverted more than \$16 million in funding away from



public schools in Michigan. Following his order to grant the permanent injunction, Judge Donato on Wednesday entered a judgment in favor of all plaintiffs.

“This pandemic has greatly impacted students across the country. The CARES Act is imperative as it provides critical funding for our public schools and the resources teachers need to continue safely teaching our youth,” Nessel said. “This permanent injunction sends a clear message that the publicly funded CARES Act dollars should be used as Congress intended – to educate our public students, and not to serve the political agendas of a select few.”

Donato in August issued a preliminary injunction in the lawsuit that joined two similar orders by courts in the District of Columbia and Washington State, which also challenged DeVos' effort. In response, Secretary DeVos penned a letter in late September in which she acknowledged defeat, stating

her Department would not appeal the court's rulings.

Under the order, the district court will retain jurisdiction to enforce the injunction, and the Department of Education waives any right to request reconsideration or to appeal the permanent injunction.

The injunction prohibits the U.S. Department of Education from:

Requiring states and local education agencies (LEAs) to calculate the share of CARES Act funds for private schools in a manner inconsistent with Title I's calculation for equitable services to private schools;

Requiring that CARES Act funds supplement, rather than supplant, other fund sources;

Restricting the distribution of CARES Act funds to only those public schools that participate in or are eligible for Title I; and Taking any adverse action against districts or schools that relied on the original guidance or interim final rule before the preliminary injunction entered.

Nessel and Becerra led a coalition of states that filed suit on July 7 against DeVos and her Department for issuing the rule that would have unfairly limited the ability of public schools to use federal funds provided under the CARES Act.

In their litigation, Nessel and Becerra were joined by the attorneys general of Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia, as well as the City School District for the City of New York, Chicago Board of Education, Cleveland Municipal School District Board of Education and the San Francisco Unified School District.

**DNR reports licensing system is online; hunters must carry licenses when going afield**

After experiencing technical issues Saturday, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources licensing system is performing as expected.

At around 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, the licensing system began experiencing slowness and timed-out transactions as some customers tried to purchase licenses. The DNR continues to work with the system vendor, Sovereign Sportsman Solutions (S3), to determine the cause of the issues, which affected S3-supplied licensing systems in other states, too.

As of Saturday afternoon, Michigan's licensing system was successfully processing transactions as expected, and more than 45,000 hunters have purchased licenses since then. The DNR wanted to ensure the vendor's system was selling licenses without issue for 48 hours before making this announcement.

Hunters who were unable to purchase licenses or deer tags due to Saturday's system slowdown should do so online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](http://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or at a local retailer as soon as possible to comply with state law. The DNR does not have the authority to waive a license as a requirement for hunting.

Successful hunters who used a homemade deer kill tag as instructed must consider their purchased, official tag to be invalidated and not use it to take another deer.

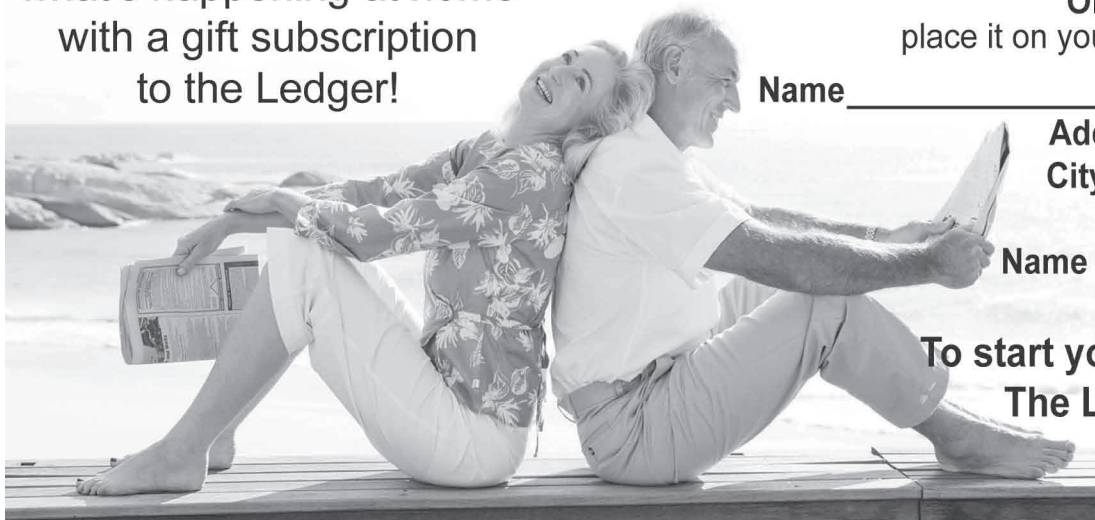
Michigan's firearm deer season opened statewide Sunday morning. For more information on deer check stations, safety and other resources, visit [Michigan.gov/Deer](http://Michigan.gov/Deer).

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# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

			7			4	8	
								3
5	2			3				
1		6			7			
2						1		
	8			9				7
	5		8	2				4
9			4					1 8
7				5		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!

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

DIABETES WORD SEARCH

ASYMPTOMATIC ENDOCRINOLOGIST

KETOSIS

AUTOIMMUNE

EYE DISEASE

LANGERHANS

BASAL RATE

FRUCTOSE

LEVEL

BLOOD

GLUCAGON

NEUROPATHY

CALORIES

GLUCOSE

PANCREAS

CARBOHYDRATES

HORMONES

SWEETENER

ANTIBODIES

DEHYDRATION

INSULIN

## Guess Who?

I am a musician born in California on November 18, 1962. I have been the lead guitarist for a heavy metal band for several decades, and I was ranked #11 on Rolling Stone's All-Time Best Guitarists list.

Answer: Kirk Hammett

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to diabetes.

T M O R N I O

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Answer: Monitor

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Autonomic nervous system
- At or near the stern
- Adenosine triphosphate
- Polynesian garland of flowers
- Chinese revolutionary
- Green veggie
- Large group
- Swiss river
- Semiaquatic mammal
- Wrongdoers
- Home to Disney World
- Spanish doctors
- Newborn child
- Absence of difficulty
- Large, stocky lizard
- Earned top billing
- A long wandering and eventful journey
- Water (French)
- Brew
- Winged horse
- A usually malignant tumor
- Alfred \_\_, American actor
- Austrian river
- A reminder of past events
- Connected with
- Status
- Dean residence
- Egyptian city

### CLUES DOWN

- Speak up
- More informative
- Where passengers sit
- Gathered
- Supervises flying
- Home of the Blue Jays
- Public statement of regret
- Lockjaw
- Indian city
- Patriots' Newton
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Sun up in New York
- Eggs in female fish
- Stood up
- NBA legend Willis
- Calendar month (abbr.)
- Exercise regimen \_\_-bo
- The 8th month (abbr.)
- \_\_ Paulo, city

### CLUES ACROSS

- Tall deciduous tree
- Affirmative
- Notified of danger
- NFL game days
- Archaic term for "to"
- Plant pores
- Canned fish
- Phil \_\_, former CIA
- Connects with
- Of the skull
- Time zone (abbr.)
- When you hope to get there
- Hindu goddess
- Land
- Pitching stat
- Field force unit
- Lakers' crosstown rivals



Alpena is the home of the world's largest cement plant.

# Meet Charlie West, the new LL&P general manager



by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell Light & Power has a new general manager, Charlie West, a Tennessee native with years of experience in utility management.

“For me, Lowell was

a very attractive place to pursue an opportunity,” West said. “I think this is a very strong community with a great location, and this utility is extremely well-supported by its

residents. I will continue to look for ways to make Lowell Light & Power a premier utility, but ultimately what we are here to do is to serve all of our customers here in the Lowell area.”

West’s first day on the job was Wednesday, Nov. 4. He is replacing outgoing GM Steve Donkersloot, who has held the position since 2016 and worked for the utility since 2010. Donkersloot recently accepted the position “director of strategic energy resources and services” with the Lansing-based Michigan Public Power Agency.

“I, along with the LL&P board, are extremely

excited about Charlie and everything we know he will bring to the table,” said Donkersloot, whose last day will be Friday, Nov. 20. “He’s a fantastic person who has a great understanding of the electric industry. [...] I know that Lowell Light & Power will be in excellent hands with Charlie.”

West’s most recent position was quite similar to his new job.

“I was on the management staff as the vice president of business and strategic development for the Paris Board of Public Utilities in Paris, TN,” West said. “It was another public utility, and I handled a lot of our



Charlie West

business and strategic operations, financial forecasting, managing administrative functions and a lot of leadership on projects that looked to the future of that utility. As the electric market and electric industry have evolved over time, it was my role to stay in touch with emerging technologies and emerging opportunities that could help position the utility to be in the ‘ready and waiting’ state for significant changes in the industry. My responsibilities here are very similar, but coming into the general manager’s position, a lot of those roles will be expanded a bit. The general manager is looked to for overall management of the facility, obviously, but also to make sure the utility is well-positioned for an evolving industry. I think the electric industry is right on the precipice of significant changes. It’s exciting. I truly have a passion for public power, and I am thrilled for this opportunity. It’s exciting to take the baton from Steve and continue forward with a lot of the things that he has gotten in place and see what new things we can get accomplished. Steve has set a tremendous direction for Lowell Light & Power.”

West has relocated to Lowell with his wife Whitney and their two children, one year old Lily

and five year old Leah. West said the whole family is looking forward to their first chance to play in the snow.

“My wife and I are a great team,” West said. “We love spending time outdoors with the kids, just going for walks and exploring. Whitney is very adventurous, and she always makes sure we take full advantage of any opportunities that a community offers to families. When I got out of college, I did a lot of contract work mapping out electric systems for utilities, so we’ve traveled quite a lot. We’ve lived in East Tennessee, West Tennessee, just outside of Binghamton, NY and then back to West Tennessee. We’ve moved quite a bit, but we expect this to be our permanent home. This will be the first really cold winter the kids have ever seen, so we’re excited. I am sure we will find lots of ways to spend time outdoors in the winter. We don’t get much snow in Tennessee, so that will be something brand new for the kids.”



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