

Massive traffic jam at Christmas parade



Roger MacNaughton



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Traffic in downtown Lowell was in a huge snarl last Saturday during the “Winter Wonderland” holiday parade at the Fairgrounds.

Turn to page 7 for the full story and pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

ABCs of history:
Jakeway Elevators



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Single mom Leah Groves is new city councilor

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Leah Groves, a 30-year-old single mother of two boys, was unanimously voted onto the Lowell city council last week.

Groves has worked in childcare most of her life, starting when she was a teenager, in private homes and professional daycare facilities. She is currently working on the certification to become a postpartum doula, then plans to open her own business.

“Recently, I started studying to become a certified doula, which is like a birthing coach,” Groves said. “The doula helps create a birthing plan and is essentially an individual who advocates for mom. You can have a doula in a hospital setting or in a home setting. I am currently creating a postpartum doula business. A postpartum doula is a different certification, which I just went through. Once you’ve given birth or are home from the hospital, that doula will come in and she can help create some postpartum plans. It can involve things like support in the home, giving mom and dad new resources or connecting them to agencies that can help them. It’s essential, and it’s been long overlooked, so I think it’s about time we started paying attention to our new mamas.”

Groves moved to Lowell about 16 months ago. She grew up in a small Michigan town and has also lived in New Jersey and Grand Rapids.

“I grew up on the east side of the state in a town called Commerce,” Groves said. “There is a farm and a movie theater and a lot of suburbs. I lived there from when I was born until I was 21, when I moved away. I went to Walled Lake schools and graduated from Walled Lake Northern in 2008. I took a year and went to Western Michigan University to study special education, but decided that was not the path I was going to take. I truly love being a childcare provider, so I took a live-in nanny position in Hoboken, NJ.”

Groves said that she is much happier and feels more comfortable living and raising her boys in a small town like Lowell.

“I lived in Alger Heights in Grand Rapids for about seven years,” Groves said. “I was married, but unfortunately we got divorced. I was looking for a small town near my boys’ dad, so they could grow up near both mom and dad. I found a house in Lowell last August. So far, I love it here! It’s been really nice for me to live in a place that I find manageable as



Lowell city councilor Leah Groves with her sons Lleyton and Beck.

a single mom. I don’t feel overwhelmed here. Things are close by, I don’t have to go far to get what I need. I just felt the whole town was really inviting.”

She said she applied for the vacant council seat because... well, why not?

“I saw a posting on Facebook that said there was an open seat on the city council,” Groves said. “I clicked on it just to see what was happening, and I read that the qualification was that you had to live here for a year. I tried to think of all the reasons that I shouldn’t apply, but I couldn’t come up with one! I didn’t know if I would even be considered, but I applied. It felt good to

go after something where I feel like I can be an asset.

Groves envisions being an approachable city councilor who will listen to citizens and then do her best to find answers and solve problems with them.

“My main goal is to connect to the community,” Groves said. “I haven’t been here very long and I already feel like I have made some really good connections. I feel like I’m a good listener and a good validator, so I would like to provide that for Lowell’s citizens. I also feel like, since I haven’t been here very long, I don’t have preconceived ideas of what should happen or about what has happened in

the past.”

Groves, along with city councilors Jim Salzwedel and Marty Chambers, will be up for reelection in Nov. 2021. Mayor Michael DeVore and councilor Cliff Yankovich will be on the Nov. 2023 ballot.

“I am so hyped up to start learning,” Groves said. “To get involved, to learn the processes, to know the ins and outs, to ask questions and find the answers, to have my ideas challenged. It has been a long while since I’ve been in an environment where I feel like I’m really going to grow, and I’m going to learn something that is going to benefit myself and the people around me.”

City council meeting



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50¢



Council discusses Showboat, finances at meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 7.

The meeting lasted one hour and 48 minutes and took place over the Zoom app.

Accountant Peter Haefner of the Grand Rapids accounting firm Vredeveld Haefner presented the results of the most recent audit of city finances, which he described as “a clean opinion” and “very positive.”

“We didn’t identify any opportunities for improvement in your system of internal controls,” Haefner said. “We didn’t find any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, which I think is a positive, for sure.”

The council heard an update from Showboat fundraising committee member Mark Mundt, who said that 80 bricks have



Screenshot from Lowell city council's Zoom meeting on Monday, Dec. 7.

been sold and \$485,000 has been raised so far through their efforts.

“We have a little less than \$300,000 left to raise,” Mundt said. “We’ll get there one way or another, I reckon.”

City manager Michael Burns said that the Lowell Area Chamber

of Commerce presented the city with a \$403,000 check representing the proceeds from Showboat naming rights, \$29,000 in brick sales and the past two Rotary auctions. There is also \$150,000 on the way from the Lowell Area Community Fund and \$17,000 from the

revealed.

“We would have two representatives from the city, they would have two representatives from the Chamber and then the other three could be whoever,” Burns said.

The council discussed changes to MERS, the Municipal Employees’

state of Michigan to file a corrective action plan to correct this problem. Last year I was able to request a waiver that was granted. This will no longer be the case. However, we should be in a position to file the plan and work our way out of it. The next 20 years for the city are going to be difficult in addressing this. In 2038 and 2039, we are looking at a contribution of roughly a third of today’s general fund revenues toward the unfunded pension liability.”

To address this, city staff, including those belonging to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union, have agreed on changes to the pension plan. See image for details.

The council discussed an “excess fund balance” of approximately \$1,000,000 the city is currently carrying, as well as an additional \$198,000 in “revenues over expenditures” that was generated during the last fiscal year.

“I would suggest the council consider taking two actions with the \$198,000 in excess revenue over expenditures,” Burns said. “The first thing I would recommend is to take \$125,000 of this and make a principal payment towards the unfunded pension liability. I would take the remaining \$73,000 and set it aside for the future fire truck payment.”

The council voted to no longer assess a \$5 a day fee whenever somebody neglects to file a “property transfer affidavit” with the local assessor within 45 days of transferring ownership of property.

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting is scheduled to take place via Zoom at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 21.

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

Beginning on January 1, 2020, the Unions and the City have agreed to a change to the pension multiplier and your contribution going forward. If employees were hired before July 1, 2020 their future pension multiplier will be bridged from 2.5% to 2.0%. Employees full final average compensation (FAC - last three years consecutive of your last ten years) will not change. Nor will the years of service required to retire change. The benefit amount for anything accrued going forward will be reduced. As a result, the employee contribution will reduce from 7% back to 5% of their wages.

In addition, all new hires after July 1, 2020 will be placed in a defined contribution plan. The City will contribute 10% of the employee’s base wage and the employee will contribute 6% of their base wages to a retirement account you can select by MERS.

Explanation of changes to employee pension plan from Dec. 3 city memo.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2021. Application forms and instructions are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell Charter Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Englehardt Public Library, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building and online on the City and Township websites. The LCTV Endowment Fund is a nonprofit fund established in late 2007 from the sale of the assets of Lowell Cable Television and is invested and administered by the Grand Rapids Community Fund. The LCTV Endowment Fund supports and promotes projects that benefit a broad segment of the Lowell area community, enhances the quality of life in the area, encourages cooperation among the communities and qualifies as a one-time capital improvement.

2021 grant applications should be submitted to the Lowell City Clerk’s office, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The deadline for submitting 2021 applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2021. Questions should be directed to Susan Ullery, City Clerk.

Chamber of Commerce, for a total cash in hand of \$1.2 million.

“We’re getting there, we’re a lot better, we’re in good shape,” Burns said.

The composition of the nonprofit board that is being created to manage the Showboat was also

Retirement System.

“The city currently has approximately a \$3.4 million unfunded pension liability that, quite frankly, nobody here created,” Burns wrote in a Dec. 3 city memo. “Since we are now 60 percent funded, we are triggered by the



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Local musician Roger MacNaughton releases Mackinac Island artist in residence CD



Roger MacNaughton

Way back in the summer of 2019 when things were normal, local musician Roger MacNaughton was chosen by Mackinac State Historic Parks to participate in their “Artist in Residence” program. During his time on the island, he was charged with creating at least one original musical composition and he participated in two live concerts. Eventually, MacNaughton ended up with a whole album, “Mackinac, I’ve Come Home,” now available for purchase.

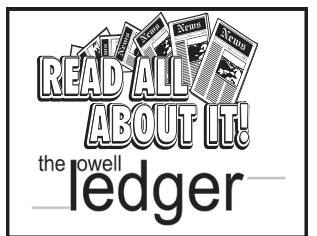
“I’ve always found Northern Michigan to be particularly inspiring,” MacNaughton said in a press release. “I spent a magical two weeks immersing myself in the slower pace of the island and connecting with the breathtaking scenery.”

The new CD contains 11 original instrumental compositions plus two songs with vocal tracks. In addition to MacNaughton’s signature keyboards, the album features Tami Hjelm and Kyle Rasche on vocals, Susan Mora on violin and Andrew Plaisier on cello. Track titles are evocative of MacNaughton’s seclusion on the island, they include “The Island Beckons,” “There’s Something About This Place,” “Carriage Ride” and “Mackinac Under Moonlight.”

MacNaughton has worked in the Lowell area as a musician, teacher, composer and producer his entire life. He began his professional career in the 60s as a member of the Headhunters garage rock band while still a Lowell High School student, has performed all over the

Midwest with groups like Stillwater and Alive & Well and has worked as a studio musician and producer for decades. His original compositions have won four first place awards at ArtPrize and he has earned first place in both the International Music Aid Awards and the Song of the Year contests.

A copy of “Mackinac, I’ve Come Home” would be the perfect gift for any Michigander. It is for sale in town at the LowellArts Artist Market and available online at RogerMacNaughton.com or through his official Facebook page.



Sound Check concert series ending, more to come

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell’s newest live music venue Sound Check has been open for a couple months now, and there are still two shows left in their first concert series.

“The concerts are going great,” said Lowell United Methodist Church worship director Davin Risk. “We have growing viewership each week and are getting lots of other local artists that want to do concerts here. Last week we had Liam Doyle performing. He is a local Elvis Tribute Artist who is 17 years old and also happens to have Down syndrome. Liam has overcome a lot in the past year to prepare himself for the concert.”

Look for a profile of Liam Doyle in next week’s Lowell Ledger, on newsstands Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Because of the pandemic, there cannot be an audience, so all of the concerts have been broadcast online.

“It’s been really great to interact with the viewers during the live shows,” Risk said. “People comment about the songs as they are happening. It is a great blend of original music and covers, so it gives people a variety.”

There is still \$3,500 outstanding on this project. Generous individuals should send their donations to Lowell

United Methodist Church at 621 E. Main, Lowell MI 49331.

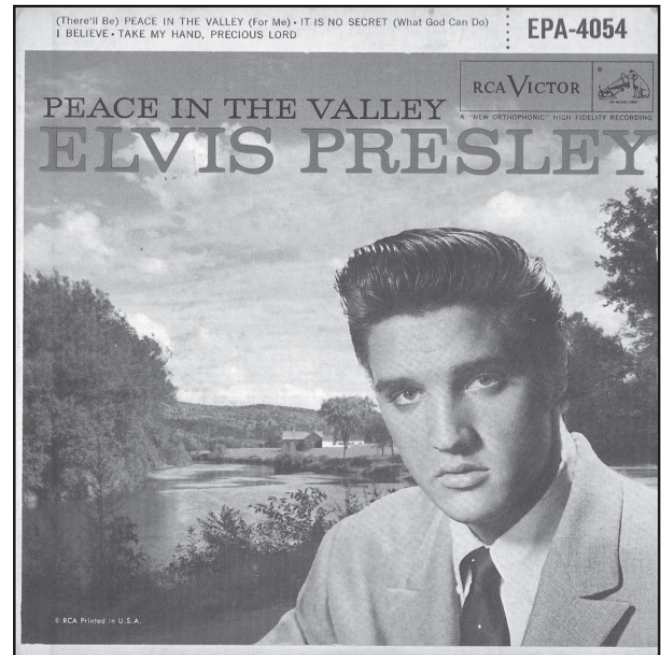
“This is part of our existing building, just repurposed,” Risk said during a September interview. “We’re going to host open mic nights, band performances, trivia nights, old fashioned hymn sings and more events for the community. It is going to be the home of our contemporary worship service for the church on Sunday mornings.”

They are currently looking for bands and solo acts for their next concert series. Interested parties should contact the church office at 616-897-5936 or

office@lowellumc.com.

“We are already booking the next round of shows for a January/February series,” Risk said. “Those interested in performing can email soundchecklowell@gmail.com. We really would like to do a whole series showcasing the talents of those who are differently-abled. We look forward to working with Brody’s Be Cafe [7267 Thornapple River Dr., Ada] on that series.”

For more information about Sound Check, visit their website, soundchecklowell.com, or look for them on social media.



Liam Doyle, a teenage Elvis Tribute Artist, performed at Sound Check last Friday. Doyle will be profiled in the Wednesday, Dec. 16 edition of the Lowell Ledger.

Yep we cover Retirement



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the lowell ledger

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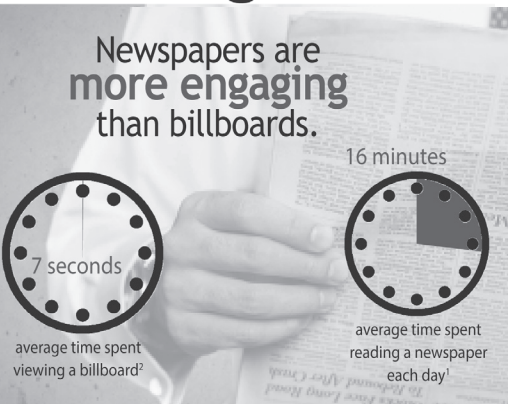
16 minutes average time spent reading a newspaper each day¹

Newspaper ads result in more purchases than billboards.

79% Eight in ten newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days³

2.3% 2.3% of adults made a purchase in the last 90 days as the result of a billboard ad⁴

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



Only about 33% of MI residents stayed put on Thanksgiving

Close to a third of all Michiganders didn't go anywhere on Thanksgiving, according to a Facebook-connected mobility tool. State health officials said that was not good enough, as Michigan grapples with controlling the COVID-19 spread.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer earlier this week said,

and therefore reduce the spread of COVID-19," Sutfin said.

Unacast's Social Distancing Scoreboard reported that Michigan as a whole saw a 25-40 percent reduction in mobility on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, which then dropped to a 40-55 percent reduction on Thanksgiving

mobility on the holiday itself, as well.

The state published a number of COVID-19 data updates on Tuesday, including one slide that indicated that stay-at-home levels have recently increased, but that data only ran through Nov. 21.

Asked last Thursday about what the data specifically



“too many people traveled for Thanksgiving” and last Thursday said the “concerning amount of activity that happened around Thanksgiving” could make this month and the next “spreading events, sadly.”

According to the COVID-19 Mobility Data Network, the percentage of people who stayed put in Michigan went up between Wednesday, Nov. 25 - the day before Thanksgiving - and Friday, Nov. 26. This was true for most of the country, as well.

For Michigan, the data indicated 22 percent of people stayed put on Wednesday. On Thursday, that went to 32.77 percent, with the percentage bouncing toward 25 percent after, and then rose closer to 30 percent by Sunday, Nov. 29.

As of Nov. 30, Michigan ranked eighth among the states in terms of people staying put, according to the COVID-19 Mobility Data website.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services spokesperson Lynn Sutfin pointed out that a third of people staying put means two-thirds didn't.

“During a case surge, we are looking for a large improvement in reduction of mobility to reduce interactions between people

itself, before jumping back to the 25-40 percent mobility range for the rest of the weekend (through Sunday).

Sutfin pointed out that Unacast ranked Michigan's ability to social distance as a “D” on those days, with a 25-40 percent reduction in mobility, with the Thanksgiving grade registering as a “C.”

According to another mobility tracker provided by Google, Michigan's Nov. 29, data shows residential mobility trends increased five percent compared to the baseline, while there were decreases of 29 percent for transit stations that day. Sutfin said there was an increase in residential

showed for Michigan travel over Thanksgiving, Gov. Whitmer said she was going off of national mobility statistics. Gov. Whitmer also urged people not to travel for Christmas and said there's a possibility the next month will be a “spreading event” because of the holidays.

“We know millions of Americans traveled around Thanksgiving,” Whitmer said. “We know that there were a lot of people traveling in Michigan.”

Khaldun added that while decreased mobility was evident in early November, national data shows that people did travel over the holiday “in ways that they hadn't since before when this pandemic started.”

...
Everybody knows that pestilences have a way of recurring in the world, yet somehow we find it hard to believe in ones that crash down on our heads from a blue sky. There have been as many plagues as wars in history, yet always plagues and wars take people equally by surprise.

~ Albert Camus (1913-1960)

viewpoint

outdoors

participate

Dave Stegehuis

At a time when many of us are living somewhat virtual lives, deer hunters have the opportunity for real life experiences. Deer hunting goes well beyond the harvesting of an animal.

Preparation is always a big part of any type of hunting. Gathering and checking out equipment, scouting hunting areas, and planning logistics require a fair amount of time and attention before the hunt.

Some folks process their own venison from field to frying pan. At our house processing is a family

tradition, similar to hanging lights for the Christmas holiday.

From a conservation perspective, public hunting is the most practical and economical way to bring deer numbers in line with available habitat. Hunting license fees generate funding for game management and other conservation projects. These efforts benefit non-game species as well. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in the deer herd in recent years. This disease is fatal to deer and is spread through

exposure between animals and contact with the soil. Hunters submit specimens to be tested for the presence of the disease. Management policy intended to control CWD is established using the collected data.

Food insecurity is a problem faced by many of our fellow citizens. The need has been addressed by many different organizations around the state. Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger is a non-profit which gives hunters the opportunity to donate all or a portion of their deer for processing and distribution to local charities and organizations which provide meals for adults and children in communities

across the state. Last year over 84,000 pounds were donated. To donate, go online to Sportsmen Against Hunger or call 586-552-6517 to locate a participating processor where you can drop off your deer. Non-hunters can donate money to help with processing costs.

You can experience all of these hunting related activities as well as spending time outdoors enjoying nature with very real sights, sounds, smells, and excitement in an increasingly virtual world. Be a participant.

to the editor

Dear Editor,

I'd like to address the "Planning Committee of the City of Lowell." I was at the Lowell Meijer store Dec. 1st afternoon and there were only three (3) checkouts open. After waiting in line nearly 30 minutes, along with 10 or more customers in each lane, all complaining about Meijer and being the only grocery store in Lowell. (It's not the first time this has happened). Meijer needs some competition from another full service grocery store, maybe they'd even lower their prices in comparison to Ionia prices. How about taking care of your Lowell residents with a necessary store rather than another pot store, or maybe Lowell residents need to take their business out of Lowell. Come on planning committee start thinking of the people in your town.

Mary Kay Wierenga

Dear Editor,

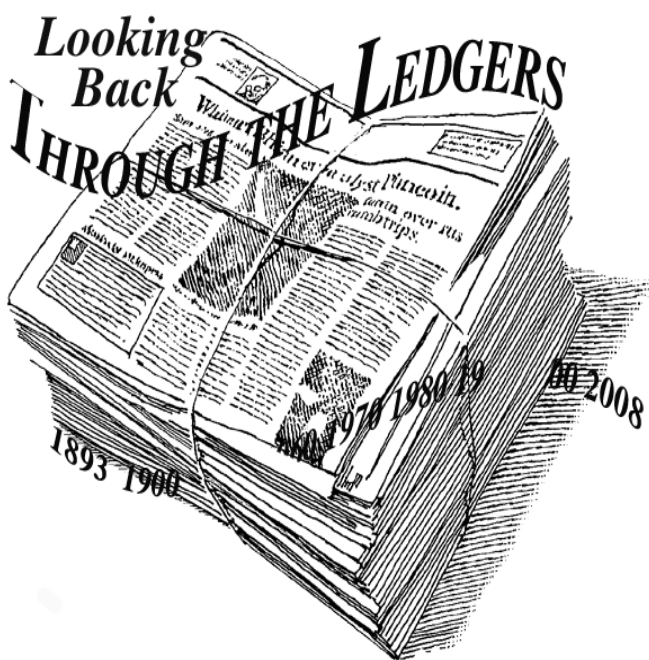
Spirit of the Season 2020

Is it me or are you noticing a renewed spirit in your daily travels, whether it is in your virtual world or the everyday adventures of reality.

Yes, the year 2020 has been like no other in my existence and probably for most of you too. The year began with the promise of an economy buoyed by the lowest unemployment for young and old, people of color, men and women, every class. Then along came the scourge, creeping onto our shores, threatening to disrupt every phase of American life, and it has made a good job of it. Thousands of our citizens, your neighbors and perhaps you, have been adversely affected by the COVID-19.

Businesses have been challenged to survive in punishing shutdowns. Our children have endured yoyo schedules in their search for education. Students of all ages have seen their desire for learning turned on its head. Let us not forget the yeomen efforts displayed by caregivers, be they the professionals that service the needs of the sick, or the Mom's and Dads who are forced to juggle schedules to nurture children confined to homes for their 'virtual classrooms'. Educators of all persuasions are cast into roles that many are uncomfortable with and perhaps not equipped for. They have very difficult responsibilities, but then we

Letters, continued, page 11



125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 13, 1895

A rag buyer was going the rounds the other day, and he stopped at Mad Anthony's and bought a sack of rags. Soon after the rag man left, there arose such a fearful squalling in Mad Anthony's house that the neighbors went in to investigate. It was found that among the pennies left by the rag man were two of the old fashioned sort with eagles on; and the terrible grip put upon them by Mad Anthony had set them to screeching until the humane agent had to be called in to preserve the peace. Mad Anthony posted a letter the other day; but as none of the post office folks could decipher the address, it was held for better directions. Then it was found that when some t's were crossed and i's dotted it was quite legible, Mad Anthony explained that he thought he might as well "save" the extra ink.

Warrant was issued in United States court Monday for the arrest of Edwin C. Reid of Allegan upon the charge of sending obscene matter through the United States mails. Reid is the well known editor of the Allegan Gazette. In his issue of Nov. 23 he described in detail and at some length a nasty local scandal, giving particulars which, in common decency, might better have been left untold. To make matters worse he called the muses to his aid and in salacious verse dilated upon the foul facts of the case.

We are informed that "down the river" a man has

built a hut of cornstalks and is camping out this biting weather, and husking corn. He has an old cook stove and sits up nights to keep up fire. We should think a little "corn juice" would be acceptable in his case.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 16, 1920

Proprietors of moving picture theaters should, in their own financial interests, heed the wide-spread charges that the movies are in part responsible for the wave of crime that is sweeping over the country, particularly for that portion of it that is chargeable to young people. They will be wise who heed the warning before the storm of indignation comes that may not distinguish rightly between offenders, big and little. It should be a matter of pride and respectable proprietors to select none but responsible exhibits, with an eye to those that are meritorious and uplifting.

Evidently, President-elect Harding is not one of the know-it-all kind. Preparing himself for his coming great responsibilities, he is calling into consultation eminent men of his own party, and even William Jennings Bryan, aside from President Wilson, America's greatest Democrat, has accepted an invitation to confer with the president to be. Such a disposition augurs well, and argues well for the future.

Jail records in Kent county were smashed Thursday when Sheriff Peter Viergever announced he was housing 46 prisoners. The largest number heretofore has been 38. The jail received eight new prisoners Thursday, seven of whom were awaiting sentence in superior court. Eleven prisoners are being held for the federal authorities and 18 are serving jail sentences.

75 years The Lowell Ledger December 13, 1945

Skipper Bruce C. Walter, who has been serving the Pacific area for the past eleven months and who arrived in this country on Nov. 23, spent a 48 hour leave with his wife and children, returning to the Naval hospital at Great Lakes Sunday night. Bruce has been suffering from an acute skin infection. All are hoping that he will soon be home for good.

The Ledger has been informed that the Lowell Post of the American Legion is planning the erection of a

Looking back, continued, page 14

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

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

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Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. Kaili M. Walker, PA-C
Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. Alexandria Clum, PA-C
Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

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.

J is for Jakeway Elevators

Charles E Jakeway was born on May 14, 1860, in Grattan Township. The Jakeway name took many written forms, including 'Jaques' and 'Jaqua.' Family members were early settlers of Kent County and can still be found living in the area today. Charles married Ella Francisco, daughter of Charles and Cora (Barto) Francisco, early Grattan pioneers.

Charles made his living buying and selling produce. Soon after the Pere Marquette Railroad line came north out of Lowell in 1900, he built an elevator at Mosley. He bought potatoes from area farmers and shipped them to Lowell, where he also built an elevator on the Pere Marquette Railroad along South Broadway south of Main Street. Mosley was alive with farmers and wagons. The town sprang up when the train came through and a depot was built 'in the middle of the woods.' Mosley was located a half mile down Four Mile, east of Lincoln



Lowell Jakeway Elevator on the right.

Lake Ave. It was not uncommon to see wagons full of potatoes backed up towards Lincoln Lake Ave.

Work was a family affair. Charles and Ella had two daughters, and in 1894 it was boasted in the newspaper that six-year-old Blanche Jakeway had picked up and put in crates, ten bushels of potatoes in two hours using a two-quart pail.

A newspaper ad at the end of 1913 shows their business success: "Charles E. Jakeway Produce Business - Bean business alone came to \$40,000 and Pickers having earned in that time \$1800. Other Produce - Potatoes, Wool and Seeds came to alone \$25,000 Lowell and Mosley, Michigan"

On October 14, 1916, tragedy struck. Charles Jakeway's life was taken

when his car was hit by a "flyer" train when crossing the Grand Trunk tracks south of Lowell. Charles was with his father-in-law, Charles Francisco, when they were hit. A freight train on a side track completely blocked sight of the oncoming train. The debris field was quite spread out, and death was instantaneous. A double funeral was held, and Jakeway was buried in Lowell's Oakwood Cemetery and Francisco was buried in the Alton Cemetery. Lowell businesses all closed during the funeral out of sorrow and respect.

In 1917, Mrs. Jakeway sold the Lowell elevator to C. H. Runciman. Runciman was a school superintendent on the east side of the state. One day he read a newspaper ad

which offered the Jakeway Elevator in Lowell for sale. He came to Lowell, purchased the elevator and continued to sell beans, potatoes and seeds. In 1931, he established the bean company and expanded from there until he became known as "Mr. Lowell" for his business, community and Showboat involvement.

Today all that remains of the Jakeway Mosley elevator is the crumbling foundation. The Jakeway Lowell Elevator was torn down at some point. The present structure on the site was built by King Milling about 1962 and has been resided with tan siding. King Milling now calls this the C-Mill and it is where whole grain products are produced.

- schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder that can be disabling. People with this disorder may:

- hear voices that others don't hear
- think that other people control their thoughts
- think that people are "out to get them"
- have trouble making plans, speaking, expressing feelings or feeling happy
- have trouble making decisions, paying attention, and remembering

About 1 in 100 men and women have schizophrenia. Men begin to show signs in their late teens or early 20's. Women usually start to show signs when they are in their late 20's or early 30's.

People 45 years or older rarely get it.

Some clues that someone in your family may have schizophrenia include his/her avoiding family and friends, changes in school or job performance, changes in sleep habits, and being irritable.

Fortunately, current treatment of schizophrenia is very effective. Most newer medicines have improved outcomes for the schizophrenic patient. Community programs can help these individuals be independent or hold down a job.

Contact your doctor if you think a loved one may be suffering from schizophrenia.

area churches

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897-7060
Pastor Ryan Landt
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
Sunday School.....11:20 AM
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
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St. Mary Catholic Church

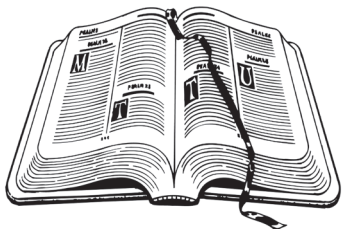
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
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Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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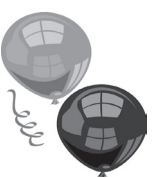
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Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship
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LIFE GROUPS11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
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WORSHIP
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Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



DECEMBER 9

Allen Metternick, Sara Triplett, Deb Schuitema, Alison Nugent, Ben Nugent, Noah VanLaan, Sharlene McClure.

DECEMBER 10

Bill Fluger, Barbara Decker.

DECEMBER 11

Dave Rhodes, Kathryn Zalewski, Amber Waldron, Mike Kline, Billie Fallstrom.

DECEMBER 12

Brad Briggs, Matt Newhouse, Sally Hacker, Charlie Young, Margaret Milanowski Alter.

DECEMBER 13

Chrys Thaler, Jeff Bowne, Michelle Fyan.

DECEMBER 14

Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth, Perry Beachum.

DECEMBER 15

Karen Latva, Tammy Baird, Roger Brown, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin Ellis, Danielle Brenk, Marea Borg, Kimberly Kline, Kelly Potter, Tom Kehoe.



Incredible amount of traffic for annual Santa Parade

by Brendan A Sanders
contributing reporter

It was an extremely unique “Winter Wonderland” for the Lowell community as the annual nighttime holiday event moved from a traditional parade to a drive-through event to fit COVID-19 protocols.

On Saturday, Dec. 5 from 6 pm to 8 pm, over 480 cars drove through the Annual Nighttime Santa Parade as the community showed up to see many businesses show off their floats and displays.

Traffic was a major issue during the event as the fairgrounds quickly became overwhelmed with people coming out to see the Christmas floats, along with the arrival of Santa. The parade was promoted as an event on Facebook gaining significant traction

in the lead-up to the event, with over 1,300 people saying they were going and a further 12,000 people saying that they were “interested” in the event.

“The Annual Santa Parade tonight far exceeded our expectations,” the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce posted on Facebook soon after the parade was closed. “There was no way we could have anticipated or planned the turnout that resulted in a gridlock in all directions. Our goal was to bring cheer and happiness to our community. Because of the unprecedented turnout, Lowell Police and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce made a hard decision to close the parade early. We truly are regretful

for those that waited and ultimately were turned away. Our entries spent hours planning and building their displays and they were all exceptional. We are very proud of our community for coming together.”

Cars flooded out onto the street, backing up traffic throughout the town and up to the highway. Halfway through the two hour event, the cars were split from a single line into two lanes to accommodate the abundance of people who came out to see Santa.

Many cars that came through the parade had decorations of their own, with lights brightening the cabins of the vehicles. Some trucks carried occupants in the beds of their vehicles

so that they could get a full view of the displays that surrounded the event.

There were about ten holiday displays for the community to look at. Multiple fire trucks were stationed at the beginning of the parade, and two more were at the bend back towards the lights at Bowes St. At the end of the parade, the Kent County Youth Fair royal court was stationed next to two Christmas turkeys. Multiple people were dressed up in costume for the occasion,

with the Grinch making an appearance along with many other favorite community mascots.

According to Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker, Miss P’s Catering won the display competition and the \$150 prize. Second place and a \$100 prize went to Curiosity Corner’s display, while third went to Tuckertown Forge.

Santa himself was stationed at the end of the parade, originally sitting at the bed of his old red truck.

Yet, upon seeing the number of people coming through the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus got up and began greeting people in the middle of the two lanes of vehicles and continued greeting people through the end of the parade.

The event was a unique attempt to accommodate the unusual circumstances that the year has presented. The community’s overwhelming support for the Annual Nighttime Santa Parade shows that the Lowell community truly has the Christmas spirit.

Rep. Chirkun was tested for COVID before hunting trip, but friends were not

The day before Rep. John Chirkun (D-Roseville) headed up north to do some hunting with four of his buddies, the former sheriff’s deputy did what he felt was the right thing. He got a COVID test to make sure he was not going to spread the disease to his pals.

If only the other four guys had done the same thing. If they had, one of them would have tested positive, probably would have stayed home, and would not have infected everyone else in the cabin.

That is not what happened. Instead, all five of them got COVID, then two of them passed it along to their spouses when they got home, including Sharon Chirkun.

Last Wednesday, the 13th day of his ordeal, the Macomb County Democrat

reported he never had a fever but had sinus problems and a cough, and the worst was over in a couple of days. One of his buddies up north was admitted to the hospital because he was dehydrated but then released.

Sharon Chirkun is “a couple of days behind me,” he reported, but she is doing well and they are checking oxygen levels every day to stay on top of it.

“I’m doing well,” Rep. Chirkun said.

Now Chirkun is even more determined to convince his GOP colleagues to mask up, and he’s surprised that many of them still don’t comply with the epidemic-related orders.

On Wednesday, Dec. 2, the state reported 6,955 more COVID-19 cases and 81 deaths bringing statewide cumulative totals to 373,197 cases and 9,405 deaths.

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2020 Look Memorial Fund grants announced

The 2020 Look Memorial Fund annual grants have been determined. This year, a total of \$27,812.25 will be distributed to five local organizations.

FROM will receive \$12,000 for branding and marketing, the Vein Observatory will receive \$7,450 for a new well, the Lowell

Area Historical Museum will receive \$2,500 to print a “The ABCs of Lowell History” booklet, Lowell’s Open Table will receive \$2,000 for a commercial freezer and the Lowell Police Department received \$3,862.25 that will be used to purchase three new automated external defibrillators.

The Look Memorial Fund has been donating money to community projects since 1983. It was started by Helen Look Daily and Dr. Orval McKay when she had the idea to give a large financial endowment to the city of Lowell.

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Kent County Youth Fair Court with Santa Claus.



LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals
must be submitted online by
December 18, 2020.

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

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



Great Clips





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Century 21



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Hockey Team

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Icemen Win Regional

1977

The Red Arrows sharpened their blues as they prepared to do battle in 1976 in their new home, but even new surroundings couldn't stop the hard-hitting Arrows from improving their season record to 13-4-1 and placing second in their league. Because of their fine performance, the icemen have again skated to a playoff berth.

Led by the coaching of Al Rowe

and Jim Grant, the Arrows posted their finest season ever. Captain Mark Ries and alternate captains Doug Blocher and Steve Ries added that winning edge as the Arrows froze many opponents.

The Arrows received much support through net minders. Their hard work on signs and cheers made the games a little more enjoyable for players and fans alike.



Lowell-Caledonia ends season with loss to Rockford

2008



This year's team, to say the least, played their best. The boys started out a little behind their game, but after defeating Spring Lake they had pulled it all together. Defeating nearly every team there, the variety boys ended the season as the Tier 3 Conference Champions for 2008. They proved themselves to be a true team.

Hockey team caps off a winning season

2016

Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian ice hockey capped off a winning season that included a Tier 3 conference championship and a hard fought loss to Kalamazoo United in the first round of regional competition. Kalamazoo scored twice early before Logan Propst and Nick Vantil found the back of the net for one apiece to tie the game at 2-2 moving into the second. The back-and-forth battle continued in the second with LCSC landing on top 5-3 moving into the third after goals from Brian Hoekzema, Propst and Owen Radtke. Despite a goal from Austin Whaley in the third, Kalamazoo stormed back with four goals to claim the 7-6 victory. LCSC hockey ends the season with one of the program's top finishes at 15-8-2, just shy of the club season record set in 1977.



Letters, continued

then we ask much of them anyway. No, we should all be thankful for the doctors, nurses, retail staffers, utility workers, food service folks, all, who have worked diligently, in an attempt to keep some semblance of normality in all our lives.

Yes, it has been a trying year, but I see glimpses of hope that look to be just over the horizon. Members of 'Big Pharma' as it is labeled of late, have worked tirelessly to bring this virus under control with the promise of vaccines that will remedy the threat. Much of the work was accomplished here in the USA and as often happens,

we don't receive the credit that is due, but nonetheless we persevere for the benefit of all mankind, and for that I am proud of the country and its citizens.

Well, back to the spirit of things, are there more holiday decorations, you know lights and ornaments, popping up in your neck of the woods? I do think the answer is yes! Folks are upping their game outside their homes and communities are erecting displays that are new or have been shuttered away, many a light pole is now adorned with symbols of the season. And those businesses that we spoke of earlier are doing their

best to invite you in to see their offerings, please give them a look. I also note the increased traffic in our communities of Amazon vehicles with their smiles adorning the trucks, the numerous 'Browns' of UPS, the patriotic colors on USPS and the swift FEDEX contingent. Surely, the deliveries will generate excitement in many households.

And now to the people that care for our needs and desires of everyday life in our great country. I believe, no I know, that behind those troublesome masks are smiles of welcome. I look above the mask into the eyes of folks and I see

happiness, even in the most tired. It is difficult to discern one's personality when it is cloaked in a mask, but rest assured it is there just waiting to brighten your day. So be thankful this season in spite of all the challenges, you, no we all, are very fortunate and Happy Holidays.

Roger Royer

Dear Editor,
Dear Santa Parade Committee,

You created an exceptionally creative idea to keep the magic of Christmas alive during the pandemic. Our children were extremely excited to see the drive-through parade. They patiently, excitedly waited

for 50-minutes in the car as we made a half mile drive to the fairgrounds. Every minute, they asked if we were there yet. They could see glimpses of Christmas lights from the road and knew we were close. It was almost their turn. As we arrived at the entrance after the long wait, we were told by the parade staff and police we were not allowed to enter. We were instructed to look at lights in other parts of town and come back in 20-minutes or so, despite the fact cars on the other side of the road were still being admitted to see the parade. My children were beyond

disappointed as we drove away. Despite the planning and effort of many people to hold a special event for the community, this parade created disappointment and sadness for my children who were denied entrance. While this outcome was certainly not anyone's intent during the planning stages, future members of the event team should consider the impact of their actions on the youngest members of our community for whom this event was meant to be magical and bring joy, especially during an already difficult time.

*With disappointment,
Shane and Genevieve
Risner*

Live the Life You Want The angry driver

Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

Some people finding driving relaxing. Really, I'm told they do exist. Some find it a stressful, white-knuckle activity. Some find it so frustrating, their frustration and anger turns into road rage. There are many reasons someone may experience anger or road rage, but I think for many it's based in fear - fear from a close call or someone not driving safely putting others in danger. Since there will likely be more traffic due to the holidays let's all work to be more respectful on the roads.

Ways to Work Through Road Rage

Let's explore some driving situations that often lead to road rage and discuss ways to stop it from happening.

- A car pulls out in front of you or cuts you off. Before getting too upset,

do some deep breathing and logic it out. Would someone really do that on purpose? Highly doubtful. So, what reason would they have to drive like that? Maybe they are rushing to pick up a sick child, are late for an important appointment or meeting, have an emergency, or just were not paying close enough attention? It happens. In, fact you may be guilty of this too. If it didn't result in an accident then how much impact did this really have on you? Is it worth the spike in your blood pressure and the feelings of anger? No. So, let it go and be thankful that you were paying attention and avoided a possible accident.

- The tailgater. Tailgaters overestimate their skill and believe they can stop, swerve, or control their vehicle if the person in front of them has to hit the brakes quickly. Sadly,



**Melissa Spino
MA LPC CDMS**

that is not always the case. Some may tailgate to try and push the person in front of them to move over or go faster. Before reacting with anger, logic it out. Maybe they have an emergency and feel the need to push you to get out of the way because they are worried and afraid. Whatever the reason, getting upset, cussing them out, slowing down, hitting your brakes, or giving them a rude gesture isn't going to make the situation better or

change their behavior. You don't know this person. You don't know the reason for their behavior. You becoming upset is letting a stranger control your emotions and reactions. Instead, if possible, get in another lane and let them pass or even pull over and let them pass. What's important is you getting to your destination safely.

- The parking space stealer. I just had this happen to me. I was waiting patiently for a spot to open at a very busy store. Someone pulled up, saw me waiting, and took the spot anyway. What I found amusing is that this person got out glaring at me. They were already acting angry toward me maybe assuming I was going to react in anger? The person looked surprised when I just smiled, waived, pulled away and found another spot. I don't know

why they behaved that way. Maybe they were on a break from work and only had a short amount of time to get in and out of the store or were picking up a prescription or supplies for a sick family member and had to get back to them quickly. Whatever the cause, I chose to be respectful and assume they had a good reason.

Getting upset may cause the brain to release flight or fight hormones into your body. These include adrenaline which results in an increased heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing rate. So, if you regularly get angry when driving you may be triggering your fight or flight response (sympathetic nervous system) over and over which is not healthy for your mental or physical health and can make your

feelings of anger worse. Deep breathing, processing frustrating situations with logic, or playing calming music can all help with feelings of road rage.

My point with this article is that there are always reasons, some understandable some not, for a person to drive in what we feel is an aggressive or unsafe way. Sometimes we are going too get upset from another driver's actions, especially if it scares us. But that doesn't mean we have to respond in an aggressive, disrespectful way. Let's all work harder to give people the benefit of the doubt that they have a good reason for how they are acting and be respectful even if they are not.

This article is not meant to diagnose or treat. It is for informational purposes only.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 20-208277-DE

Estate of MARIE Z. ALLER. Date of birth: Nov. 1, 1930.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Marie Z. Aller, died Oct. 9, 2020.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Anne M. Harrington, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500,

Grand Rapids and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 4, 2020

John D. Mitus (P-31244)
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obituaries

ELZINGA

Robert James Elzinga, age 73, of Lowell, passed away Friday, December 4, 2020. The son of Herbert and Virginia (Hosley) Elzinga, he was born July 19, 1947 in Grand Rapids. Bob graduated from Lowell High School in 1965. He was Lowell's all-time top point scorer in basketball and is currently third place overall in Lowell history. Bob was awarded a full-ride scholarship for basketball to Central Michigan University but after his freshman year, he transferred to Michigan State University where he completed his BA in business in 1970. After college, Bob worked for the state of Michigan as a bank examiner. He joined his father at the Lowell State Savings Bank where everyone knew and loved him as their banker! Bob still enjoyed working and was the CFO of Heidi Christine's



Salon and Spas. He was very active in his community, serving on the Lowell Planning Commission and Lowell Rotary Club, serving as President of the club. Bob was recognized as Rotary Man of the Year and received the Paul Harris Fellow. In retirement, Bob and Patty spent their winters in Venice, Florida. He enjoyed golf at least 3 days a week with his friends, children and grandchildren when they would visit. He golfed in Michigan during the summer with his lifelong golf buddies! Bob was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Patricia "Patty" Elzinga; children, Heidi (Craig) VanderKolk, Betsy McConnell & fiancé, Brian VanderKooy, Eric Elzinga, and Cris (Michelle) Elzinga; grandchildren, Maryanna O'Connor, Patrick VanderKolk, Andy VanderKolk, Keegan McConnell, Jonah McConnell, Brody McConnell, Lily Elzinga, Brayden Elzinga, and Macie Elzinga; brother, John Elzinga; niece, Becky Elzinga; and many other family and friends. He was deeply loved by his family and everyone who met him. Bob was a mentor to many and a brilliant businessman who will be sorely missed! Due to the current situation with Covid-19, we will be doing a Celebration of Life in June. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions in Bob's honor to Spectrum Health Hospice 750 Fuller Avenue N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



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KOERT

Jerry Kenneth Koert, age 83, of Ada, passed away Tuesday, November 24, 2020 with his family by his side. He was preceded in death by his parents, Casey and Dorothy Koert and brother, Gary Koert. Jerry is survived by his sisters, Betty Boaz, Linda Lee Koert and Cheryl (Kenneth) Fitzsimmons; nieces, Allison (Jim) Rapson and Elizabeth (Stephan) Carnesi; great-nieces and nephews, Amanda (John) Kozar, Alexandria (Shawn) Carley, Isabelle (Nate Stahl) Rapson, Robert Rapson, Pierre, Jackie and Jane Carnesi; 4 great-great-nieces and nephews. He worked at J.C. Penney for 37 years. Jerry loved his horses and was a great U of M fan!!! A memorial service will be held at a later date when restrictions are lifted.



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REED

Renee Reed, age 66, of Holland and formerly of Belding, passed away Friday, December 4, 2020 at her home. Renee graduated from Lowell High School and Montcalm Community College and worked as a Veterinary Assistant at Belding Veterinary Hospital.



She was creative, artistic, and a Master Gardener; she also volunteered her time and talents with the Belding Area EMS, Belding Historical Society and the Belding Thimble Club. Renee was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, Jerry Reed; and sister-in-law, Janette Kalbfleisch. Renee is survived by her husband of 33 years, John Reed; step-daughters, Amy (Adam) Simon of Charlotte, Lindsey Reed of Lansing; grandchildren, Ava Simon, Ryan Reed; parents, Eugene (Joy) Smith of Grand Rapids; sister, Ann Newell of Lowell; sister-in-law, Joanne Cudd of Durand, MI; and brother-in-law, James (Louise) Reed of Swartz Creek; and several nieces and nephews. Visitation was Monday, December 7 at Langeland-Sterenber Funeral Home, 315 E 16th St., Holland. Burial will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery, Holland. Private family funeral services was planned for Tuesday, December 8 and will be recorded. Memorial contributions may be made to Interim Healthcare Hospice and the American Cancer Society. Condolence messages may be left online, and the funeral recording accessed at www.langelandstereberg.com.

RICE

Philip Luther Rice, age 91, of Lowell, Michigan, passed away Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020. He was the son of William Johnathan Rice and Gertrude Namoni Morrison, he was born September 8, 1929 in Sioux City, Iowa. His father, William lost his cabinetry business during the Great Depression and moved his family to a farm in Big Rapids, Michigan sight unseen. As they traveled family slept in the fields along the side of the road. Upon arrival they became members of St. Mary's



Catholic Church where the children attended school. Phil graduated from Big Rapids High School in 1948 and married Donna Mae Wilson in 1955. Uncle Phil's working years began as a boy on the family farm. He was a day laborer in Mecosta County and worked as a roughneck in the oil fields. His longest commitment in Big Rapids was to Miller Orchards just down the road from their new home. Eventually they moved to Grand Rapids where Phil had a number of different construction and landscaping jobs. Finally, because of all their hard work they were able to buy their "forever" home on thirty acres in Lowell. In his eighties he worked maintenance at Schneider Manor in Lowell. Uncle Phil and Aunt Donna did not have children of their own, but they did have many nieces and nephews. Some of those children they brought into their home during different family situations. He was the "fun" uncle always laughing, telling jokes and family stories. Lake Cadillac was the site of our Rice Family Reunion. Uncle Phil would show up every year with a watermelon tucked under his arm. He would be first in line at the food table, a habit that was repeated at most family gatherings and community potlucks. Being one of nine children there must have been a worry that he might not get his fair share. Phil was greatly influenced by the Great Depression for his entire life. He was frugal to a fault and shared that philosophy with Donna. Buying a new automobile became a challenge. There just aren't that many stripped-down cars with stick shifts in the showroom. It was said that if he could order it without a backseat he would. They enjoyed Schneider Manor and Jody Haybarker, its manager. She was a kind, trusted friend, and a wonderful conversationalist. This was where they would go for coffee and companionship. Phil was curious, smart, and sharp his whole life. He

was so lucky to be able to enjoy his later years. He was interested in other people's opinions and loved to talk history, politics, sports, and philosophy. He had a wonderful memory for world events and geography. He liked books about our presidents and other world leaders. Uncle Phil would make yearly winter visits to California to spend time with his nephew Darreld. They traveled and hiked the beaches, mountains, and parts of Mexico. Their friendship continued right to the end with morning phone calls to Heather Hills Assisted Living. His niece Doni would travel down to Lowell and fill their pantry every fall. She lovingly prepared and canned fruits, vegetables, sauces, and relishes from her garden. The word free would catch Phil's attention and niece Laurie was always available at her Salon for a short and sensible family haircut. John caregiver and in-law was there for him, it could be a ride to his doctor, lunch at Denny's, help with his bills and taxes or a nice long phone conversation about the state of the world or the Tigers or even the Lions. Another nephew, Steve (his birthday partner) made regular phone calls which were so important during the lockdown. Joe, his med tech filled an empty place with conversation and companionship. It was a one on one connection that the rest of us couldn't provide. Last but not least, neighbors Kathy and Bryan who provided a physical connection when we couldn't be there, providing transportation, mowing his lawn, snow plowing his driveway and keeping an eye on his home. Philip Luther Rice was the last of his generation. He is preceded in death by his wife of sixty-four years Donna Mae and his ten siblings Peter, William, Lois, Paul, Mary, Gertrude, Helen, Anna, Josephine and Genevieve. He is survived and blessed by numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. According to his wishes there will be a small family gathering this summer to scatter Phil's ashes.



ROTH
GERST

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SMITH

Linda Marie Smith, 64, of Ionia, passed away Saturday, November 28 at Butterworth hospital in Grand Rapids. On a freezing cold March 9, in 1956, a baby girl was born to Richard and Betty Northrup. Linda had a lazy eye, a cleft palate, and an indomitable spirit that destined her to overcome barriers. While the many corrective surgeries she had to endure left her with a dislike for healthcare, she learned it was important to help those who couldn't help themselves. It also taught her that she did not like being on the receiving end of such assistance. She grew up surrounded by relatives, both the Northrups and her mother's Lake family, which instilled in her a desire to take care of others. She helped care for children, helped in the family bakery, and in her teens decided to strike out on her own, ever the independent woman. She worked as a waitress and volunteered her time providing respite care for foster children. Linda graduated from Saranac High School in 1974, and continued to happily forge her own way, making lifelong friends, Joella and Sheila. On July 4, 1978, she had a date with a man that she wasn't at all sure was suitable for her. Jack L. Smith, Jr. was in the military and frequently had to fly on a plane, something she despised, but his dogged persistence won her over. At the age of 23, she gave birth to her own baby girl, Kate, and decided to take Jack more seriously. They were married in November of that year. She moved from Lowell, MI to Fort Campbell, KY, then to Bad Kissigen, Germany, before finally spending three years in Fort Benning, GA. It was during this station that Jack was killed, and she went from military wife to military widow, a mantle she never took off. She decided to move back home to Michigan to raise her daughter closer to family. As a single mother, Linda worked to show her daughter that a woman can achieve anything she puts her mind to, but should always keep an eye out for the less fortunate. She worked at a bakery again, forming a sisterly bond with a coworker, Karen. This bond continued after she left

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wanted

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words highlighted in black.

Grid of numbers from 1-9.

Large word search puzzle with words circled in the grid.

Looking Back, continued

home of its own when building conditions permit. It is understood that \$16,000 has already been subscribed towards the project which is to have a total cost of around \$40,000.

Officials of the Association of American Railroads warn that passenger trains throughout the nation will be more crowded than even the most jam-packed troop transports during the coming Christmas holidays. The officials say that persons endeavoring to travel at Christmas will be caught in mad races to even find standing room on trains.

50 years The Lowell Ledger December 17, 1970

Police were alerted last Wednesday when a juvenile voice on the phone said, "You'd better clear everybody out of the building, there is a bomb set to go off in approximately 10 minutes." The call was to the American Legion Bowling Alley where a league was bowling and many were in the audience. After the call at 9:08 p.m., Lowell Police cleared the building and began a search which took 3½ hours.

Following the complaint of several motorists, a local man was arrested and charged with being drunk and disorderly at 11:40 p.m. on Friday, December 11. The police report states that Dannie Dwayne Crowder, 25, was walking in the middle of the road on west Main

Street 'daring' passing motorists to run over him.

A 15-inch snow fall on Thursday night closed schools and kept thousands from their jobs. The snow was a record 24-hour fall; the record of 14 inches in 1914 was broken and the snow continued to fall Saturday night with another 4 inches coming down.

25 years The Lowell Ledger December 13, 1995

The population in Lowell Charter Township may increase substantially during the next few years if a proposed apartment complex is approved by the township planning commission. The proposed site for the development is between Alden Nash and Cumberland Manor, north of M-21.

A full-time gifted and talented coordinator will begin serving the Lowell School District within the next two months. In its early construction stages, the coordinator will serve Alto Elementary and Cherry Creek elementary students by encouraging learning enrichment activities.

The new year will bring a new location for Arctic Inc. Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. Owners Evert and Catherine Bek opened their business eight years ago at 1002 W. Main. Their new location will be at 1301 Bowes Road. That change is expected to take place by the first of the year.

Obituaries, continued

for a few new jobs, eventually settling on work as an antiques dealer, where she met her dear friend, Vern. Many visitors to Flat River Antique Mall will remember her as the knowledgeable and quick-witted dealer at the register. During Kate's first year at Michigan State, Linda's parents passed away suddenly, and Linda took over care of her nieces. She had loved these girls since birth, and was able to raise them the same way she had raised Kate. Her girls loved having friends over, baking at the holidays, and yard sailing in the summers to help supply "the booth". Linda had a way of making memories out of the mundane, and for creating inside jokes that could cause uncontrollable laughter even years later. She was passionate about many things, but the women in her life and her love of them was utmost. We hope to live our lives as a tribute to who she was and who she taught us to be. She provided light, laughter, and love to everyone she met, and will be deeply missed by too many to name. She spoke her mind and followed her own path, fiercely stubborn from the beginning of her life until the end. She died surrounded by loved ones who held her hand, and cried as they told her how much they loved her. There will never be anyone like her, and the world is a darker place without her. Linda is survived by her beloved girls, Kate (John) Smith-Buckler and Jasmine Weitzel; her nephews, Dylan and Aiden; her very best friends, Joella (Don) Miller and Karen (Tom) Weeks; and numerous aunts, cousins, and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack; parents, Richard and Betty (Lake) Northrup; and friends, Sheila (Chris) Soyka and Vern (Bill) Sanders. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your local animal shelter or women's shelter. Cremation has taken place and there will be no services at this time. Arrangements in care of Lake Funeral Home in Saranac. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

THUSTON

Letha Mary Thuston, of Lowell, born May 7, 1925 in Barry County; went to be with her Lord December 6, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charlie Thuston; parents, Winiford & Alice Casey; sisters, Izola (Clyde) Wilkins, and Emmajean Bigelow; brothers, Charles Casey, and Dale Casey. Letha is

survived by her children, Kenneth (Joyce) Thuston, Larry (Char) Thuston, Carol (Brian) Hoag, Mary (Douglas) Coverston, Linda Strathern, Julie (Mike) Owen, and Deb Higbee; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. If you would like, you may pay your respects

Friday, December 11, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson Lowell, MI 49331. Private funeral services will take place immediately following on December 11, 2020; services will be livestreamed on the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home Facebook page, starting promptly at 11:00 AM with Rev. Brad Brillhart officiating. Interment will take place at Evergreen Cemetery in Lansing, Michigan. Masks and social distancing will be required. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Letha's honor can be directed to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE, Suite 300 Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or <https://faithhospicecare.org/donate/>.



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

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!

ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

AMBIANCE
 APPETIZER
 CATERING
 CELEBRATE

COCKTAILS
 DECOR
 DINNER
 ENTERTAIN
 EVENING
 EXCITEMENT
 FAVOR

GUEST
 HOLIDAY
 HOSTESS
 LEFTOVERS
 MENU
 PARTY
 PLAYLIST

PREP
 SEATING
 SETTING
 SILVERWARE
 VENUE
 WELCOME

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Georgia on December 10, 1985. I gained fame as a child star on a popular family sitcom and also as a child model.

I went on to be the headliner in a Disney series and its spin-off. My name is a type of bird.

Answer: Raven-Symone

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to parties.

V T D I N E I

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Invited

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
			22							23			24
25	26	27		28				29			30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42			43		44			
		45					46		47		48		
49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56				57	58	59	
60					61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

CLUES ACROSS

- Skateboarders love them
- Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
- Former Ohio State great Michael
- Not dirty
- Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
- A Spanish river
- Pig meat (French)
- Famed astronomer
- Floating ice
- Broadcast
- Aquatic mammals
- Some are bath
- Hip hop trio
- NY Giants' #56
- Small European viper
- Neither
- Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
- Loud noise
- Second year high schooler
- "__ in comparison"
- Golf score
- Raise
- Pastas
- Easily manageable
- Fathered
- Pouch

- Institute legal proceedings against
- News organization
- Unruly group of people
- Fasten or secure
- Sheets of glass
- Doubled
- Foolish person
- Rooney and Kate are two
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Advice or counsel
- Large wading bird
- Famed British physicist
- Narrow ridges (Swedish)
- Field force unit
- Lying face downward

CLUES DOWN

- Proof of purchase (abbr.)
- Soap ingredient
- Blackbird
- Single steps
- Tin
- Books have lots of them
- Made of fermented honey and water
- You can get it in a bed
- Room for communal meals
- Early Syrian kingdom
- Provokes dry amusement
- Use with "thou"
- Mollusk
- Grain storage units
- Not a car, not a truck
- Ooze
- N. Vietnamese ethnic group
- Tennis pros group
- Something that's not what it's purported to be
- E. Indian trees
- Beloved December holiday
- Regions
- Metric unit of length
- Peter's last name
- Beige
- 18-year period in astronomy
- Where golfers begin
- Basketball stat (abbr.)
- Frocks
- Soda comes in it
- On approval
- Trims by cutting
- Small finch
- Language Bura__
- Nothing
- Imbecile (British)
- Tropical Asian plant
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Small freshwater fish
- Indicates position
- Data processing

No changes to state capitol firearms policy this year



The chatter in Lansing was that before the legislature left town for good it would take action on a new policy regarding guns in the capitol. Instead, the issue is on hold until the new legislature is sworn in.

The State Capitol

Commission was set to meet Dec. 14 to kick the issue around, but this is the same day as the Electoral College vote. Therefore, the commission scrubbed the session and decided not to find another date before the end of the year.

The Capitol Commission, the body in charge of overseeing the maintenance of the capitol building, has not met since Sept. 14 when it twice rejected weapon bans until they could talk out the issue more with legislative leaders.

The commission was then supposed to meet in mid-October. That meeting was delayed to November, then delayed to December. Now the commission is delaying it until 2021.

While no one would confirm any of this, it was felt the commission would do something on the gun issue rather than keep the status quo, but what "something" would consist of was never nailed down.

Democratic legislators want a flat ban on firearms in the capitol, after many of them felt threatened during an April 30 protest when several armed men openly carried firearms around inside the Capitol and within the Senate gallery.

Republican legislative leaders, however, want nothing to do with restricting people's right to bear arms in the capitol,



At least three of the alleged Gov. Whitmer kidnapping conspirators participated in an armed "Second Amendment/Police Chief Bukala" march through Lowell on June 20. Members of the same militia group were also spotted carrying firearms inside the state capitol.

Pictured above are members of the "Michigan Liberty Militia" that day: Unidentified man with "Boogaloo" patch, unidentified man, William Null with "Boogaloo" patch, unidentified man, group leader Phil Robinson, Eric J. Molitor and Michael Null.

which they consider "the people's house."

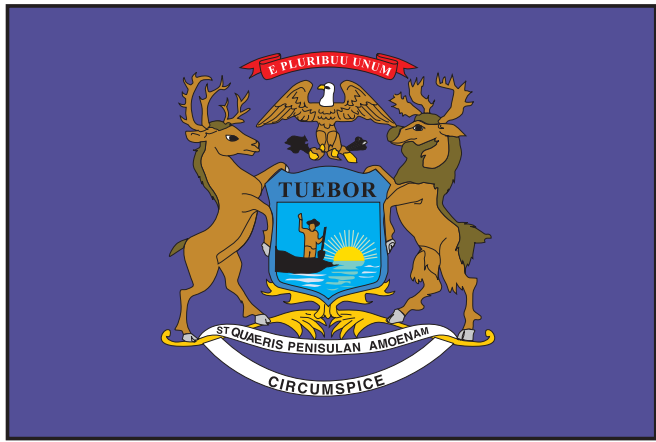
Stuck in the middle is the typically non-political

Capitol Commission, who would rather the legislature deal with it. The attorney general

has the authority to ban firearms within the building but doesn't want to get involved in the issue.

House Speaker Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) and Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) are publicly trying to shy away from the issue, particularly since some of the armed April 30 protestors ended up being charged in the alleged kidnapping plot against the governor.

One idea was to ban the open carrying of weapons into the capitol, but Republican legislative leaders were not interested in this. Instead, since April 30, the House and Senate have refrained from holding sessions on days when rallies were scheduled.



Letters to Santa

This year we are collecting letters to Santa from Lowell area children. Each letter will be published in the Buyer's Guide & News on Dec. 20. Any child that sends Santa a letter will get a personalized letter back from Santa at the North Pole. (please include your address in your letter)

Letters can be mailed to: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331
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