

Lowell museum gets \$15,000 cultural grant

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Last week the Lowell Area Historical Museum announced they were the recipients of a \$15,000 grant from the State of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The MCACA grant is one of the largest we have received,” said museum executive director Lisa Plank. “The museum has been fortunate over the years in the support we have received from many local granting agencies including the Lowell Area Community Fund, Look Fund, LCTV, Rotary, Lowell Women’s Club and the Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan. These grants are written for specific projects such as exhibits, the interpretive boards around town and much more. The MCACA grant is somewhat unique in

that it supports operational expenses. This enables us to help pay for the research that goes into projects as well as the physical end products that the public sees.”

The museum was one of 597 applicants to compete for the funding, which they will use to support arts and cultural programming, create and maintain exhibits work and provide public and school programs. This year, the museum hasn’t had as many in-person visitors as they normally would, so they have worked to create unique online and social media content.

“Physical visitation has been slow since the pandemic began,” Plank said, “However, the Museum has increased its online offerings, including the weekly ‘ABCs of Lowell History’ posts featuring a

topic in Lowell history each week. These online posts are engaging up to 5,000 people weekly. Since the shutdown in March we have reached over 82,000 people with the Facebook posts and another 10,000 have read the direct email posts. [...] We have also been working with the schools to offer our school programming to them online. Teachers are receiving links to videos produced by the museum doing the programs. This enables us to still provide local students with the history content that we do in ordinary years.”

The lack of visitors has given them time to plan all sorts of stuff for 2021, including public signs and a new publication.

“In 2021 we will unveil an additional four interpretive boards in the Lowell Township park, adding to the eight already there,”



Lowell Area Historical Museum, 325 W. Main, is open every Thursday from 1 to 4 pm or by appointment by calling 616-897-7688.

Plank said. “The ‘ABCs of Lowell History’ project will be printed as a booklet as a result of high public demand. We are also hoping to hold the grand opening of our new exhibit, ‘Building History: Robert and Ernest Graham’ once large gatherings can safely be held. We hope to be able to resume in person

programming at some point next year as well. In the meantime, we are working on more online resources, education projects and public exhibits.”

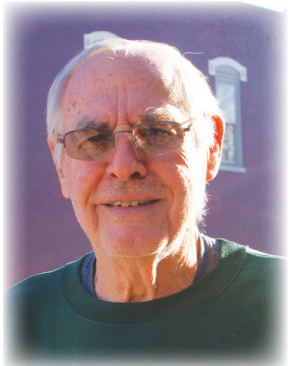
The museum is open every Thursday from 1 pm until 4 pm and by appointment. They will be closed the week of Christmas and New Year.

Liam Doyle: Elvis Tribute Artist



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Lowellian's new memoir



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Haunted spots around town



page 2

Dairy Discovery's "Giving Good" campaign to feed the needy

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Three local nonprofits - Dairy Discovery, Flat River Outreach Ministries and the Holy Family Food Pantry - have teamed up to create the “Giving Good” campaign, with a goal of feeding 50 area families.

“FROM and Holy Family

are connecting us with the families and individuals in need of food this holiday season,” said program director Melinda Smith. “They are helping us make the connections so we can deliver to as many families as possible. They are taking

entries from the families and for every package we sell we can draw an entry to provide that family with the meal package.”

The campaign was designed by Dairy Discovery, and they are providing the food from their specialty shop. There are two different meal package options available, priced at \$33 and \$59. The meal packages will provide a couple or a family the ingredients for approximately five meals. Meal packages include locally raised beef and pork, locally produced milk, Wild Thyme soup mix and other local items.

“We are providing the food from our own beef we raise and cheeses and pork we also bring in,” Smith said. “The sale of the packages covers the cost of the food for us to provide at cost.”

To participate, simply purchase one of the two meal package options provided by Dairy Discovery.

Dairy Discovery, with help from FROM and Holy Family Food Pantry, will deliver the meal package



The food in the meal packages will include locally raised and produced meat, dairy and other items. [Photo provided by Dairy Discovery]



to local families in need during the month of December.

“Dairy Discovery will be making the deliveries,” Smith said. “We asked on the entries if, depending on transportation needs, families are either able to pick up at FROM or Holy Family or if they would prefer us to hand-deliver to them.”

They are over halfway to their goal of 50 meal packages, but they would not mind exceeding that goal. To learn more

about the Giving Good campaign or to purchase a meal package, call 616-868-6735 ext. 2 or on the dairydiscovery.org website, click on “Giving Good.”

“We all need something good to be a part of and this event is especially helpful during these trying times,” Smith said. “2020 has been a challenging year, and we want to help as many families in our community as possible this Christmas. Help us share the holiday spirit of giving and helping our neighbors.”

50¢



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Lowell tourism expert describes best local haunts



Candice Smith-Fleszar

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

Tours Around Michigan is a tour guide company based right here in Lowell. Run by Candice Smith-Fleszar, the company provides tours for many individuals, showing off this state to anyone who is interested.

Smith-Fleszar is a tourism and communications professional with more than 30 years of experience in media, public relations and branding. Smith-Fleszar began sharing stories as a television news producer in Grand Rapids and Indianapolis, IN, and a reporter for WGUV Public Radio. She has worked in international communications for Amway, and she also consulted in branding and public and media relations for small businesses and organizations.

Tourism is a passion

that married her love of storytelling with her high level of customer experience. This work quickly resulted in her receiving Certified Tourism Ambassador of the Year for Kent County and a WAVE [Way Beyond Visitor Expectations] award for best attraction.

Smith-Fleszar began her own tourism business, Tours Around Michigan in early 2018. Through the company, she has given tours across the lower peninsula, with many trips to Traverse City, Muskegon and her specialty, Grand Rapids. She prides herself as a tour guide on her research and extensive knowledge of local history.

Smith-Fleszar has focused much of her energy compiling stories about Lowell's history. She has knowledge of many of

Lowell's greatest historical figures such as Madeline La Framboise, a famous fur-trader, Ann Rule, a true crime author who was a coworker with Ted Bundy at a suicide hotline center in 1971, and Glendon Swarthout, an author who lived in town.

Some of the most interesting stories are not about the fascinating people this town has produced, but stories of the unknown: Lowell's ghost stories. With a town that has over 200 years of history to its name, many ghost stories

located, a few in some of Lowell's best known stores.

According to Smith-Fleszar, one ghost story resides in the "Fans in the Stands" building on Main Street, where a ghost has been long-sighted in the building. The ghost is described as an eight to ten year old Native American girl who is playful.

The LowellArts building that was formerly the Hallmark store is also rumored to be haunted by a supposed former owner of the store, who has been heard walking around the

spotted in the basement, with multiple people seeing the man.

204 W. Main St., home of Lavender and Lace Boutique, was said to be a funeral home at one point in Lowell's history before becoming a hair salon. Reports from the time it was a hair salon say that there are stories of the owner seeing someone leaving out of the corner of her eye when no one else was in the building, along with moments where hanging mirrors would inexplicably start swinging

previous owner of the home has been heard coming in at 3 am, stomping his boots and hitting the wall. Then, at 6 am, he can be heard leaving.

The Oakwood Cemetery and Civil War memorial have had many ghost stories, with people seeing shadowy figures and homeowners in the past saying that their children couldn't sleep because they felt like someone was watching them through the windows.

These are just a snippet of the stories that Smith-Fleszar is able to tell, with many other stories coming to her as time goes on. While there aren't any planned ghost tours in Lowell for Tours Around Michigan, if the interest is there, she would be happy to customize an experience.

For more information on Smith-Fleszar and Tours Around Michigan, you can visit her on toursaroundmichigan.com or various social media platforms, including Facebook at Tours Around Michigan, Twitter at [ToursAroundMI](https://twitter.com/ToursAroundMI), Instagram at [toursaroundmichigan](https://www.instagram.com/toursaroundmichigan), and on Youtube at Tours Around Michigan.



Candice Smith-Fleszar leading a historic tour through Grand Rapids.

have come up through the years at many places you know and love.

There are quite a large number of ghost stories around town, especially on Main Street, where some of the oldest buildings are

building on floors where no one was residing.

216 W. Main St. is where the Flat River Antique Emporium is currently located. In the past, it has been reported that a man with a blue baseball cap was

as if someone lightly pushed it.

The ghost stories don't just stick around Lowell's historical main street though. Many stories have persisted across the town. There's a fairly recent story coming from Tractor Supply, talking about how a ghost has taken up residence in the store, knocking things off shelves, even throwing a tire at an individual.

A historical townhome south of Main Street had an occurrence where a



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~ Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)

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Liam Doyle, the 17 year old Elvis Tribute Artist from Alto



Liam Doyle

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Alto resident Liam Doyle is only 17 years old and has Down Syndrome, and he is also one of the Lowell area's most in-demand Elvis Tribute Artists.

Doyle performs at talent shows, weddings, events,

fundraisers, private homes, birthday parties, Christmas parties, Valentine's Day parties and has even done his act at Graceland.

"Liam loves to wear Elvis t-shirts, and everywhere we go it starts conversations with somebody," said

Doyle's mother, Cheryl. "Everybody has a story about Elvis! For example, we were in Walmart about a year ago, and the clerk said that when she was 14 years old she used to press Elvis's laundry for him."

Doyle naturally resembles Elvis and, after many, many, many hours of practice, he is able to sing and move almost exactly like the King. The effect is amazing and slightly surreal.

"I had to practice a lot. The whole day, every day," Liam Doyle said. "'Suspicious Minds' is my favorite song. I sang it 50 times!"

Incidentally, one should never refer to Doyle or anybody else dressed like Elvis and singing Elvis songs as an "Elvis impersonator." Folks in that line of work eschew the term due to perceived negative connotations. Doyle isn't doing an "impersonation" of Elvis, he is performing a tribute to his favorite singer, therefore the preferred terminology is "Elvis Tribute Artist."

Doyle first discovered Elvis about four years ago when, during an episode of "Full House," actor John Stamos dressed up like the King and sang some of his songs. After investigating the real Elvis, Doyle was hooked. He has an aunt who lives in Tennessee near Memphis, so by now he has been to Graceland about five times and has also visited the "Sun Studio" in town where Elvis made his earliest rock and roll recordings.

"The trips to Graceland cemented it, and now he is head-over-heels for Elvis," Cheryl Doyle



Doyle with ETAs Diogo Light, Cote Deonath, Taylor Rodriguez and Dean Zeligman during an "Elvis Tribute Cruise" in Jan. 2020.

said. "Graceland is like his Disneyworld. He was part of the first performing arts camp at Graceland in 2018, and he helped give a tour of Graceland to a group of kids."

"Graceland is like a dream come true," Liam Doyle said. "The Jungle Room! He liked watching football and had a wall of TVs. I liked when Elvis

reacted to his fans the way he moved around on stage, just everything about him."

Unlike a lot of people, Doyle's favorite period of Elvis is the 1970s "white jumpsuit" era. He owns more than one of the glittery, Elvis-style outfits, and he wears them when he recreates an Elvis concert of that era.

"When I put it on, it feels like I put on Elvis's," Liam Doyle said. "There is so much excitement from that."

"My husband and I had nothing to do with encouraging him to go in this direction, but he has this dream and he's making it happen," Cheryl Doyle said. "He's doing this because he likes to make people happy. He loves the reactions from the crowd when he sees people smiling."

Look up the "Liam Doyle: Elvis Tribute Artist" page on Facebook for more information or to hire Doyle for your event.

...

Ambition is a dream with a V8 engine.

~ Elvis Presley (1935-1977)



ETA Cody Slaughter invited Doyle on stage during a show in Lakewood, CO in Oct., 2019.



Doyle singing Elvis' hit "Can't Help Falling In Love" to a bride at her wedding reception.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PLAN REVIEW

A draft of the new City of Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Plan will be available for public review and comment for a period of one month beginning Monday December 21, 2020 at Lowell Township office 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell MI 49331. The plan will also be available for view on the Township website www.lowelltwp.org. The new Community Parks and Recreation Plan is a guide to park and recreation development over the next 5 years.

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.



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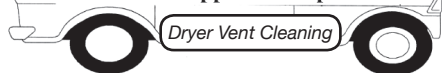
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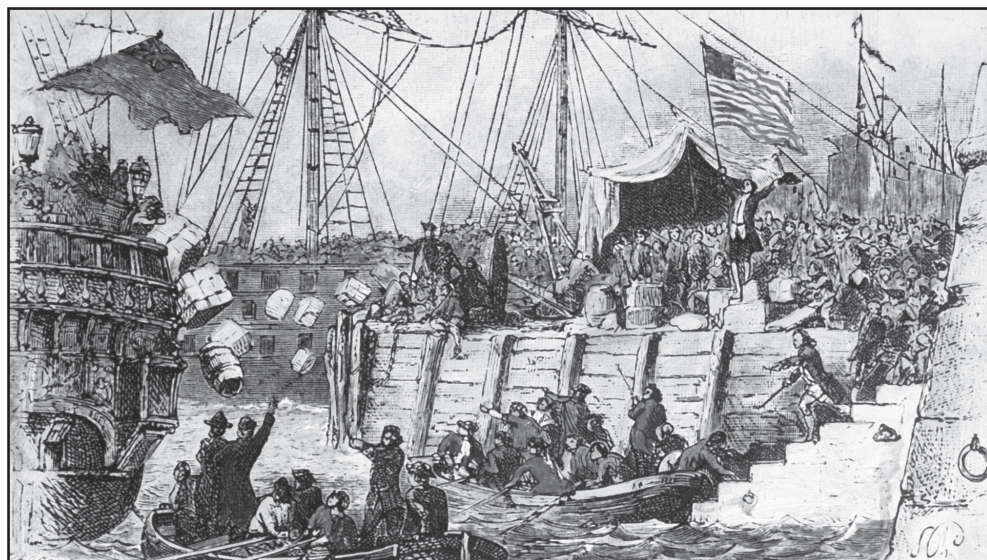
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Thursday, Dec. 16, 1773: The Boston Tea Party

As a protest against unfair, onerous British taxation, between 30 and 130 members of the Sons of Liberty, some disguised as Mohawk warriors, spent about three hours destroying 342 chests (weighing 92,000 pounds) of tea into Boston Harbor, worth about \$1,700,000 in today's money.

The Sons of Liberty was a secret revolutionary organization active between 1765 and 1776. Although it is unknown who exactly took part in the Tea Party, the group was founded by Samuel Adams and other members included John Hancock, Paul Revere, Benedict Arnold and Patrick Henry.

Drinking tea was considered unpatriotic in the US for a very long time after the incident, directly leading to the popularity of coffee.



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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 20, 1895

Many of the Ledger's distant readers have been watching the progress of the movement in Lowell toward a public lighting plant. For their benefit, this issue of the paper has been delayed, that it may convey the first news of the all-important election. In spite of a steady rain all day long a remarkable interest was shown in the contest, 431 votes being cast.

Ed. White of Ada was in Court Hicks twice during the last week. His first offense was assault and battery committed on a Grattan young lady. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$10 or 15 days in jail. He paid. Shortly after he was arrested again, charged with stealing a whip from the barn of E. D. McQueen. Again he pleaded guilty and this time Squire Hicks, with a smile that was childlike and bland, remarked, "\$25 and costs or sixty days on the stone pile." Can you hear him pound?

Robert Maker, a fireman on the Ann Arbor road, stepped into the caboose to get a drink of water, and in the darkness dipped his cup into a bucket of strong lye. A physician pumped him out. He may recover.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 23, 1920

Mr. Atkins, new proprietor of the Ford garage, former Kreiser stand, had a narrow escape from death or serious injury, while driving in the storm one night last week. At the foot of Ada hill, going west, he plunged into a truck, stalled without tail light and smashed in the side of his new Ford sedan, covering himself, wife and baby with broken glass, but luckily cutting none of them.

Lowell will have a community Christmas tree, arranged under the auspices of the Lowell Literary and Clover Leaf clubs. It will be placed on Main street bridge, and will remain in position through the holiday season. The tree will be profusely decorated with electric lights.

A Lowell-Ionia bus line service was started by John Stair and continued for several days; but late last week one of the bus wheels was broken, and the service stopped until a new wheel can be built. The bus is to run in connection with the Lowell-Grand Rapids line and should prove a convenience for Lowell, Saranac and Ionia people.

75 years The Lowell Ledger December 20, 1945

Coming in the wake of winter is that bugaboo we call influenza. Six states already have reported a large number of cases and influenza throughout the nation is higher than the average of the past five years. And even if it has not reached epidemic proportions, it can, and we in Lowell are not wanting any part of it here. Care of oneself during these cold months when the needed sunshine may have to come in capsule form and the diet is different from summer standards, all depends on each of us in order that we don't add to the influenza total.

John M. Phelps has received his discharge from the Army Air Force at Lowey Field Colo, after three years in the service. He and his wife are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Devener in Edgley, N.D., until after the holidays.

Announcement has just been made that George Story and Claude Thorne, both well known businessmen of Lowell, have formed a partnership to market and distribute Gasoline, Motor Oils, Fuel Oil and Lubricating products. The new company, to be known as the Lowell Oil Co., will sell Mid-West petroleum products. To facilitate efficient storage and handling, a modern bulk storage plant has been erected at the North village limits.

50 years The Lowell Ledger December 24, 1970

William S. Doyle offered his resignation as President of Lowell Showboat at their meeting last Tuesday; he has been head of the Showboat for the past six years.

The newly elected trustees of the Fallsburg Covered Bridge Centennial met for the first time Tuesday, December 15, at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce offices and duly nominated and elected the following officers. Pres., Clynis Benson; Vice-President, Leonora Tower; Treasurer, Charles Lippert; and Secretary, Gould Rivette.

The Lowell Police Department is presently investigating the theft of approximately \$3,000 in checks and cash from the Standard Service Station located at 403 W. Main Street in Lowell.

25 years The Lowell Ledger December 20, 1995

Brent Grover and his two children Erin and Brad had the love and generosity of the Christmas season shared with them Saturday. Attired in elf-like caps, members of the Saranac Paper & Pen Poetry organization delivered presents, a Christmas tree and tidings of great joy to the Grover home.

Of all people, a potential developer could be the answer to Lowell Township residents' prayers – a traffic light at the intersection of Alden Nash and Cascade. The installation of a light at the intersection would happen if approval is given for a proposed development near I-96 and Alden Nash.

Lowell Police Department's new sergeant used to be its investigative detective. Lowell Police Chief Jim Valentine announced that Steve Junewick will fill the sergeant position vacated by Al Eckman.

Social Security and small business

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, about 30 million small businesses in the United States employ tens of millions of people. Running a small business can be a 24-7 endeavor. Managing employees, inventory, scheduling, on W-2s, electronic filing, and verifying Social Security numbers. Small business owners can also take advantage of our Business Services Online at www.ssa.gov/bso/bwelcome.htm. You must register to use this free service, which also offers fast and



services, and marketing can be challenging.

If you're a small business owner, or you work for one, we can help make your life easier with our suite of services. Our business services allow you to file W-2/W-2Cs online and verify your employees' names and Social Security numbers against our records.

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

We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

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- deep vein thrombosis

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is the formation of a blood clot in a vein deep under the skin. The most common sites of DVT are the lower leg and thigh. They can also occur in the pelvis and arm.

Causes of a thrombus (blood clot) include slow blood flow, an injury to the lining of a vein or having blood with an increased tendency to clot. Prolonged bedrest after surgery or because of an illness or injury of a deep vein from a fracture or surgery can lead to a DVT. Estrogen in birth control pills or hormone therapy makes blood more likely to clot. Clotting risk is also higher during pregnancy. Cancer and some inherited blood disorders increase the risk of blood clots. Other factors that can increase the risk of DVT are long-term medical conditions, such as heart disease, older age, obesity, and having a history of a previous DVT.

The most common symptoms of DVT occur at the site of the clot. They include swelling, warmth, pain or tenderness and redness of the skin. DVT can also occur with no symptoms. A blood clot or part of a clot in a deep vein can break off and travel through the bloodstream. An embolus (loose clot) that travels to the lungs is called a pulmonary embolus (PE). Most PEs are treatable, but a large PE can completely block blood flow to the lungs and is life threatening. Symptoms of a PE include sudden shortness of breath, pain with deep breathing, fast heartbeat, coughing up blood, lightheadedness, and fainting.

Anticoagulants (blood thinners) are used to treat DVT. These medications make it harder for the blood to clot, so they prevent a DVT from becoming larger. Compression stockings can also help reduce pain and swelling from a DVT.

engagements

Webb - Gordon

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Webb of Lowell are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Ann, to Seth Alan Gordon, son of Randy and Tracy Gordon of Swan Lake, Montana. Julie is a graduate of Western

Michigan University and is a Regulatory Analyst at Progressive Consulting. Seth graduated from Montana Tech. and is employed as an Engineer with Chevron. A July wedding is planned.



Seth Gordon and Julie Webb

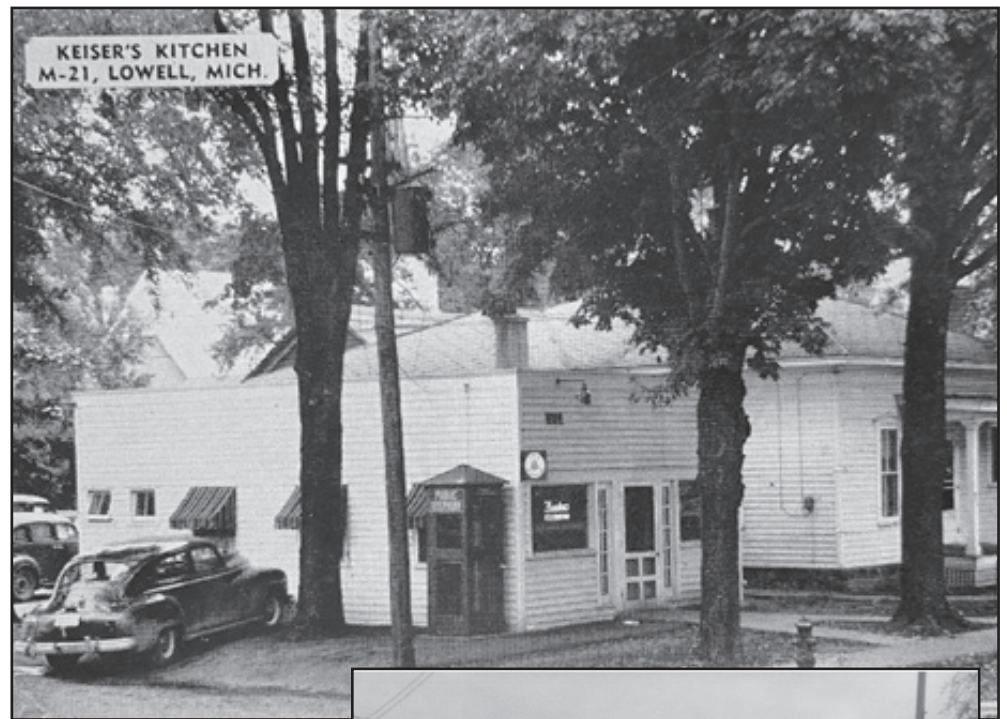
ABC's of Lowell history

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.

K is for Keiser's Kitchen

Keiser's Kitchen has been a part of Lowell for 75 years. That is a lot of food and satisfied customers. In 1945, Frank Keiser built a small restaurant named Keiser's Kitchen next to his home at 521 West Main. His slogan was "Fast Service for Busy People." He served up the best burgers and malts.

Frank Keiser died in 1957 and Letha Keiser died in 1982. Frank and Leitha Keiser's children grew up working at the restaurant. It was no wonder that all three grew up to work in the food



Above: Keisers in the late 1940s.

business. Daughter Darlene managed the business while son Don managed a restaurant in Los Angeles. Larry worked in the food business in Flint before returning to Lowell and purchasing the restaurant, but later sold it to Darlene,



Keisers in 1988 after the fire.

whose daughter-in-law hamburger and malt shop Trudy, widow of her son for teenagers, Keiser's Blair, is the current owner. Kitchen quickly grew into a

While it started as a **ABC's continued, page 12**

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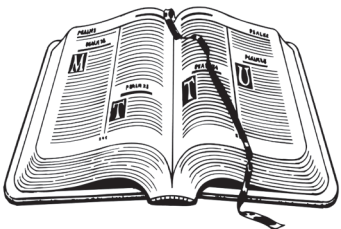
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DECEMBER 17

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Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Julie Alberts, Heather Walendzik.

DECEMBER 19

Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.

DECEMBER 20

Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo, Morgan Taylor.

DECEMBER 21

Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki, Debbie Walendzik, Eric Koepfel.

DECEMBER 22

Jason Seeley, Cody Soyka.

No House session due to COVID-19 investigation

A complaint filed by a House employee that involves COVID-19 workplace safety is being investigated by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the agency confirmed Tuesday.

MIOSHA spokesperson Camara Lewis didn't say when it was filed, as she said the agency cannot provide information on an open investigation, but she confirmed that it was COVID and workplace safety-related in nature.

Lewis said the investigation could take weeks or months to complete, and that MIOSHA has the authority to issue penalties to all employers in its jurisdiction.

According to its website, MIOSHA has issued 44 citations to businesses for a serious violation of the general duty clause due to COVID-19 workplace safety violations.

The news comes after the House last Tuesday canceled voting and committees

for Wednesday and Thursday due to a positive COVID-19 test from a staffer. The House originally planned to move forward with voting and committees later in the week after canceling voting and committees for Tuesday.

House Speaker Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) announced a session would still take place, but with no attendance taken and no voting.

The staffer had nothing to do with the House Oversight Committee hearing last week, and her positive result is not related to the hearing, Chatfield said. She also may not have even been in close contact with many representatives given the timeline.

"Some representatives who have been working

closely with that person are now choosing to test and isolate pending results," Chatfield said. "Because of that, we will no longer be holding a session or committee on Wednesday or Thursday. [...] Those who have been in contact with the staffer have already been informed and are currently isolating and getting tested. We are asking everyone to stay home, stay healthy and get tested while the Business Office conducts their usual contact tracing."

The news came a day after Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical executive, and Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said that, based on "very clear" guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, anyone



who was at the House Oversight Committee should quarantine until Saturday due to guest Rudy Giuliani's recent positive COVID-19 test.

At least 10 members of the legislature have contacted COVID and one

likely died from the virus, although the number of infected members is likely higher. The House is not providing data on the number of legislators and staffers who have tested positive.

Road agencies formulate joint COVID-19/storm response plan

While West Michigan road agencies continue to take steps to reduce COVID-19 exposure and prevent infection in the workplace, they also are planning contingencies should a workforce of one agency, or multiple agencies, be compromised by increased cases of COVID-19.

"The pandemic poses unique obstacles for helping one another and sharing resources, so we came up with strategies to assist across jurisdictions that aligned with safety procedures identified in each agency's COVID-19 response plan," said Jerry Byrne, KCRC's deputy managing director of operations.

Should a workforce be severely compromised, neighboring agencies would assist during storm response efforts to ensure that the region's main

transportation arteries - the highest volume, highest speed roads - are cleared first. Therefore, motorists and residents may see trucks and other equipment from outside jurisdictions operating on their network roads.

"It is vital to the safety of our residents and emergency personnel that the highest volume roads throughout the region receive priority," Byrne said. "This means that there may be delay in lower volume, residential streets, and you could see another agency's plow trucks on your street."

Byrne emphasized that the joint storm response plan is a contingency plan and may not be necessary. Should agencies need to enact it, Byrne said that each would strive for a seamless deployment of resources to minimize delay.

Rep. Albert selects Dave Greco III as senior budget advisor



Rep. Thomas Albert

Rep. Thomas Albert - the incoming chair of the Michigan House Appropriations Committee for the 2021-22 legislative session - today selected Dave Greco III as his senior budget advisor.

Greco will fill a pivotal role in Albert's efforts to craft a budget plan working in conjunction with legislators and the governor's administration.

"I have worked with Dave before and know he's a great person for this important job," said Albert, of Lowell. "He brings incredible experience and a history of helping Michigan families, taxpayers, workers and job providers to this new role. He has a great skill set and work ethic, and he's excited to get to work for the people of Michigan."

Greco returns to the House after serving as director of regulatory and environmental affairs at the Michigan Manufacturers Association. He previously worked for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

In earlier work at the Michigan House, Greco served in numerous roles under previous Speakers Bolger, Cotter and Leonard, having most recently served as associate legal counsel and deputy policy director. Greco was also the policy advisor to the House Financial Liability Reform Committee in 2017 when Albert chaired the committee.

Albert was appointed as the next House Appropriations chair by Speaker-elect Jason Wentworth.

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Lowellian's memoir presents a dog's view of his life



Ray Kleefisch

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Ray "Bergie" Kleefisch, born and raised in Lowell and currently a resident of Rockford, has written a new book, "Living in High Clover," published by Rosedog Books of Pittsburgh, PA.

The new hardcover is a memoir of his early years and beyond, but told through a very unique lens.

"I wrote a book about Lowell and growing up," Kleefisch said. "I tell the story from the standpoint of my dogs, they're telling the story of the things that went on. My dogs are on

the cover. One of them, Tippy, just showed up one day and spent the rest of her life with us. She was good at herding cows, but one day she made the mistake of trying to herd a pig and it bit her eye out."

Kleefisch was a local paperboy back in those days, he could be recognized as the one who always had a special helper come along.

"I had a paper route in Lowell, on the other side of town, and my dog would ride in the basket with me all around town," Kleefisch

said. "I'd put my bike down, she'd jump in my big paper route basket, I'd tip it back up and go get my papers, then she'd ride with me all the way as I delivered the papers. It was the best job I ever had!"

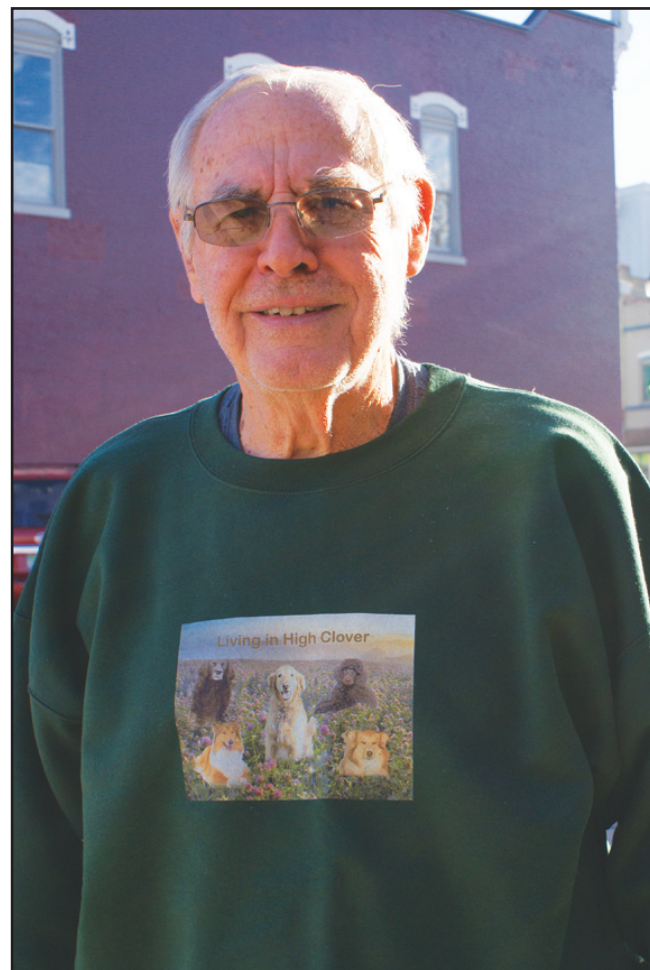
Kleefisch grew up in the house at 923 Hudson St. and attended Lowell High School. After graduation, he attended Western Michigan University and the University of Virginia and then worked as a teacher, coach and assistant principal at Cedar Springs Public Schools for 28 years. Kleefisch also served in the US Army for 28 years, both active duty and in the reserves.

"I tried to put something in the book about identifying the miracles in everyday life," Kleefisch said. "I don't mean like the Virgin Mary coming out of the sky, but little things that happen in life that you just kind of pass over. For example, I put in here how my neighbor's car came loose in the driveway and it was rolling down the hill.

It was going to go across the street, between two houses and down a ravine. I was in high school. I ran over and put my foot on the brake, but I missed the steering wheel and grabbed the horn ring, pulled it right out. Both of my feet went under the car, but the door was open and it hit me on the shoulder and spun me around. The car went by without touching me, and instead of going down the ravine it ran into my neighbor's house. Well, at least I saved it from going down the ravine!"

Another incident described in the 42-page text was the time Kleefisch lost one of his beloved pet dogs in the icy Flat River.

"One of my dogs got stuck on a chunk of ice," Kleefisch said. "She was trying to cross the river there, got on a chunk of ice and was floating down the middle of the river. They had the fire department there, they had the police all lined up along the river trying to get that dog back in, but I don't think they



Ray "Bergie" Kleefisch

ever did find him."

"Living in High Clover" is available by calling 800-788-7654, sending a message to bookorders@rosedogbooks.com or by

visiting rosedogbookstore.com.

Kleefisch plans to donate the book's profits to a nonprofit organization in Cedar Springs.

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Ensign	4"x8" brick with up to 3 lines of text containing 16 characters in each line. Your name on the donor recognition plaque	\$250
Swabby	4"x8" brick with up to 3 lines of text containing 16 characters in each line.	\$125

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Girls Basketball

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Hoopsters season ends with a 16-4 record

1922

The Girls' Basket Ball season was opened minus the services of three veterans, Helene Fineis, Inez Klahn, and Alice Eastman, who were lost through graduation.

The game with Caledonia was the beginning of a very successful season for the girls. Although many handicaps appeared during the season, such as illness, vaccinations, and small floors; they were mostly overcome and the obstacles pushed aside. The end of the

season showed a record of 16 games with the loss of 4.

It would not be fair not to mention some of the games; as the first game with Coopersville was won during the last 3 minutes of play; the defeat of Hastings, which had not happened for 4 or 5 years preceding; and the complete victories over Grandville.

Much credit for the success of this year's team is given to Miss Lancaster. In special training and leadership, she spent many hours of work with the girls.



Lowell's District Champions!

1989



The girls also helped Coach Ken Akers to set a record of his own. On October 24, the Red Arrows defeated Wyoming Park and gave Akers his 100th varsity win.

The 1989 Girls Basketball team began its season with high expectations and few question marks! The Red Arrows set several school records for girls basketball, winning the OK White Conference with an outstanding 12-2 record and the first district championship in the school's history.

The team set new school records for the most wins (18), the most consecutive wins (7), the highest point total for a single season (1106), and the best defensive effort for a season (held opponents to an average of 37.3 points per game.)

Erica Hackenbruch set a new all-time rebounding record with 261 rebounds for the season. Erica and Kim Marvin paced the Red Arrows with 278 and 293 point respectively. Three Lowell players were named to the OK White All-Conference team - Junior Erica Hackenbruch and seniors Kim Marvin and Tonya Stepek.

Lowell's first showing at state meet ends at semifinals

2006

History was made this year during this riveting season when the girls' team won a fourth straight conference championship, a third straight district championship, and made it to the Final Four in Class A state competition. The girls' basketball program has grown together to make

this possible as a team and as a family. in the beginning of the season they weren't ranked by the press and exceeded expectations by being as successful as they were. The team was led by seniors Kelsey Crowley, Lindsay Trierweiler, Amanda Geelhoed, Brittany Lyman and Brittany Bueche.



A basketball season won't begin with a jump ball

The earliest possible start date for a varsity basketball game in the state of Michigan is now set for Jan. 4, 2021, but ballgames beginning that soon is unlikely. When they do start, there won't be a tip-off.

Visiting teams will open ballgames by inbound the basketball whenever the season begins. That is one a few alterations to rules released by the National Federation of State High School Associations in recent months to change games to make them less likely to contribute to the spread of COVID-19.

In a year without a pandemic, the high school varsity girls basketball season in the state of Michigan would have begun competition the last night of November. The boys would

hit the hardwood in the first full week of December.

With new state health department orders released this week, varsity basketball teams and other winter sports teams in the state of Michigan won't have the go-ahead until at least Dec. 21 – when most school districts are beginning the holiday break. That list of winter sports also includes ice hockey, wrestling, competitive cheer, boys and girls bowling, boys and girls skiing, and boys swimming and diving in the lower peninsula.

The elimination of a jump ball and opening a basketball game with the first alternation possession and a throw-in is the only true game-play alteration to the NFHS rulebook that affects the game other than personal

protective equipment, off-court and officials social distancing and sanitization considerations. A coin toss will determine which team will receive the ball to start an overtime period.

Teams will have a few extra seconds to catch their breath as 30-second timeouts will be eliminated. Each team will be provided up to five 60-second charged timeouts during regulation. Intermissions after the first and third quarters may be extended up to two minutes if mutually agreed upon by both coaches before the start of the game. Otherwise, they will remain one minute according to the MHSAA.

There remain three weeks left in the MHSAA's 11-player football tournaments, two



rounds remaining in the state 8-player football tournaments, the final

three rounds of the state volleyball tournament and the lower peninsula

swimming and diving finals to complete from the fall calendar.

Minimum wage increase unlikely to take effect in Jan.

The Michigan Bureau of Employment Relations, Wage and Hour Division today announced the state's scheduled minimum wage increase is not expected to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021.

Michigan's Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act of 2018 prohibits scheduled minimum wage increases when the state's annual unemployment rate for the preceding calendar year is above 8.5%.

The state's 2020 annual unemployment rate, which is determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Dept. of Labor, is calculated by using both average labor force and unemployment levels for January through December.

While Michigan's

October unemployment rate continued its downward trend and is 5.5%, the annual average from January through October currently sits at 10.2% and is highly unlikely to dip below the 8.5% threshold when BLS releases the final 2020 unemployment numbers for Michigan.

If, as expected, the annual unemployment rate does not fall below 8.5%, then effective Jan. 1, 2021:

Michigan's minimum wage will remain at \$9.65 an hour.

The 85% rate for minors age 16 and 17 remains \$8.20 an hour.

Tipped employees rates of pay remains \$3.67 an hour.

The training wage of \$4.25 an hour for newly

hired employees age 16 and 17 for their first 90 days of employment remains unchanged.

Per statute, future increases to the minimum wage rate will occur in each calendar year following a calendar year for which the unemployment rate for this state, as determined by the BLS, is less than 8.5%. See MCL 408.934(1) and (2).

Michigan's minimum wage rate will next increase to \$9.87 in the first calendar year following a calendar year for which the annual unemployment rate is less than 8.5%. See MCL 408.934(1)(h).

Visit Michigan.gov/WageHour for more information regarding minimum wage.

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obituaries

ANCHORS

Dennis Raymond Anchors of Lowell passed away Wednesday, December 9, 2020. The son of Raymond and Jeanne (Randall) Anchors, Dennis was born May 1, 1947 in Pontiac. A graduate of Northville High School, 1965, Dennis received his bachelors in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Michigan State University (1969). In 1972 Dennis moved to Lowell to pursue the Anchors Sales Company partnership with his father. Since moving to Lowell Dennis was actively involved in the community with Lions Club, Boy Scouts, Moose Lodge Golf and Bowling League, and a lifetime of volunteering with his kids' sporting events. Shortly after arriving in Lowell Dennis met the love of his life, Debra, and captured her heart with one simple question "Would you like to dance?". Dennis was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 44 years



Debra Rickert Anchors; children, Deanna (Jason) DeGarmo, Dara (Chris) Sundberg, Douglas (Rebecca) Anchors, Danielle (Kyle) Barense; and sister, Penny Anchors (Richard) Irwin. Surrounded by his eleven grandchildren, Grandpa was the most fun showing his magic tricks, playing "Bad bad cookies", "No one can escape from this hold!", Spin-around spin-around in the pool, Elbow smash, Sleeper hold, You can't hurt steel, and the secret password for everything, "Pibbs". Dennis was deeply loved by his family, friends, and community. Though there is a hole in the hearts of many as he leaves this world, his spirit lives on through the stories and shared memories from those whose lives he touched. We will celebrate Dennis' life on his birthday May 1st, 2021, in Hawaiian shirts, of course. Details to follow in the new year.

FLIER

Dorothy Flier, age 95, of Lowell, passed away Saturday, December 12, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Flier; and son, Robert Gessler. Dorothy is survived by her children, Jerry (Lori) Gessler, Jim Flier, and Daniel (Dianna) Flier; many grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren. Dorothy worked at Deisel Tech in Grand Rapids, and Kent Community Hospital and was a proud member of the UAW. Private services were held by the family.



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FORD

Donna Jean Ford, age 90 of Lowell passed away peacefully Friday, December 11, 2020. She was preceded in death by her parents, Cora and Adelbert Ford; and infant sister, Lillian Ruth. She leaves behind many loving cousins and friends. Donna's family and friends will remember her as a compassionate caretaker. Her big heart and caring spirit watched over her parents, birds, kitties, deer, flowers and more. As a resident of Lowell her entire life, she dedicated most of her free time helping local clubs and



charities. Donna's greatest love was books, collecting and reading. And then a passion for travel. Enjoying decades of international trips! Followed by Sunday afternoons watching some Lions' football. Although she was offered an academic scholarship for business college, she chose to keep close to home and worked at Wittenbach Sales and Service for 25 years before moving on to Dan Vos Construction in 1979. At Dan Vos, she ran their Accounting Department until her retirement in 1995. Her organization skills and clever ideas brought improvements to all the organizations she touched! Donna was cherished and supported by her many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. We would like to give thanks to the loving staff at Green Acres of Lowell. And special thanks to caretakers Diane and Pastor Roger LaWarre, lifelong friend, Diana Bittrick and cousins Kim and Chris Kropf. Donna had a beautiful soul and will be missed by all! Visitation with the family will take place Thursday, December 17, 2020 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331, funeral services will follow at 11:00 AM, with Pastor Brad Brillhart officiating. Funeral services will be livestreamed on the church Facebook page by searching @lowellfirst. Interment will take place at Alton Cemetery. Masks and social distancing will be required for those attending in person. Memorial Contributions in Donna's honor can be made to the West Michigan Humane Society, 3077 Wilson Dr NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534 or the charity of one's choice.

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GUSTINIS

Adam Gustinis, age 50, of Grand Rapids, passed away Wednesday, December 9, 2020. He was preceded in death by his father, Adam Joseph Gustinis; grandparents, Charlie and Mary Thuston, Letha Thuston, and Michelle Overholt. Adam is survived by his son, Grant (Elizabeth) Gustinis; mother, Julie (Mike) Owen; brothers, Tony Owen (Hannah Zambrano), and Andrew (Matt) Larter; sisters, Tammi (Richard) Denman, Tamber (James) Philpott, Tianna Owen (Jordan Strunk); grandfather, Arlan Overholt; several aunts and uncles; four nieces; and four nephews. Adam was an avid movie buff and was an amateur photographer. He loved to



be around family and enjoyed his mother's adventurous holiday ideas. A memorial service will take place at 4:00 PM, Friday, December 18, 2020 at Townsend Park, 8280 6 Mile Rd NE, Rockford, MI 49341.

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ABC's, continued

full service family restaurant and four additions were added. They even boasted of their meat room, where they ground their own hamburger!

In 1971 they advertised renovations and a new décor. The side door awning was also taken down. The announcement was cleverly worded; "remember the awning that used to greet your head as you entered Keiser's Kitchen through the side entrance?! Well, your headaches are gone!"

On January 13, 1988, a fire in the night completely destroyed the Keiser's Kitchen restaurant on West Main. Thankfully no one was in the building or injured during the fire. The Keiser family had long since moved, and their house had been torn down to make way for their growing restaurant.

After the fire, Keiser's

Kitchen moved to a new location in the former 'Showboat Restaurant' building at 700 East Main, where it is still operating today under the leadership of the third generation of the family.

Do you remember the collection of clowns in the dining room? Clowns became the décor after Dr. Westcott gave Darlene the first clown. Customers kept gifting her clown sculptures and paintings. Only two original Red Skeleton clown paintings survived the fire; they hang in the back of the west side of today's restaurant.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum has in its collection an ice scraper from Keiser's Kitchen, 521 West Main Street, and the slogan "food so great you'll scrape your plate!"

Top ten sites of Social Security for 2020

Our online services often allow you to do business with us without visiting a local office or calling. Here are our top 10 webpages of 2020:

1. Open your own personal *my Social Security* account, where you can verify your earnings, get future benefit estimates, obtain benefit verification letters, update your Social Security information if you receive benefits, and more, at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. We continue to add new features to make doing business with us easier than ever.

2. Need answers to your Social Security related questions? Our Frequently Asked Questions page is the authoritative source at www.ssa.gov/faq.

3. Our hub for Social Security news and updates is our blog at blog.socialsecurity.gov. You can use social media to easily share these informative articles with friends and family.

4. You can complete and submit our online application for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes at www.ssa.gov/retirement.

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

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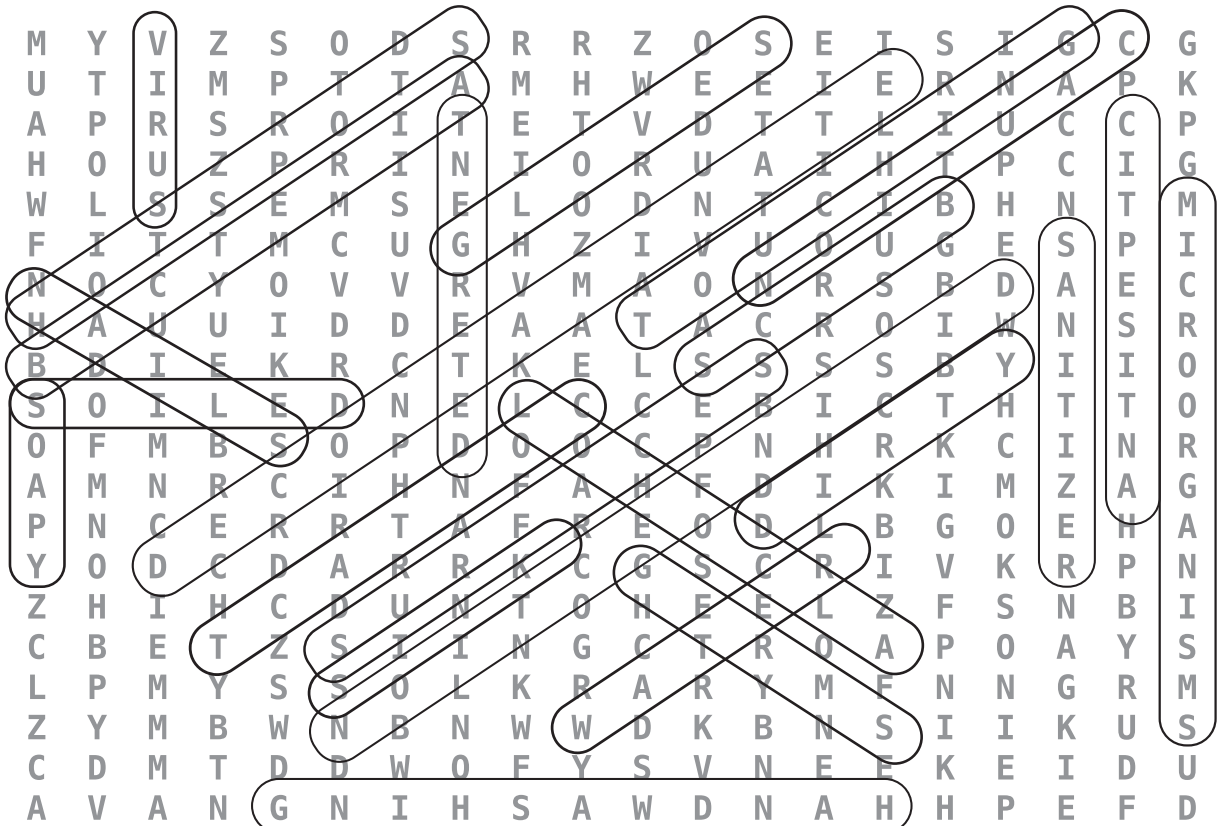
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with letters in black and white cells.

Grid of numbers from 1 to 9 in a 9x9 layout.





Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

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Are You Still Planning to Retire Early?

Have your retirement plans changed because of COVID-19? If so, you have plenty of company. Nearly 40 percent of those planning to retire say the pandemic has disrupted their intentions, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. You might have been thinking about retiring early – can you still do so?

Even without a crisis, it's not a bad idea to

review your important life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

Your retirement lifestyle – Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you're anticipating during your retirement years. If you think you'll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not

be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there's no "right" or "wrong" way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that different lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

Sources of retirement income – Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you'll have to assess all your sources: Social Security, any other pensions you might receive, and your investment portfolio, including your 401(k) and IRA. The amounts you receive from these sources

will depend on a variety of factors.

For Social Security, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will "top out" when you reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you'll need to establish a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking Social Security earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

Your feelings about work – Your goals are not

static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can be just as productive working at home, so, even when we've gotten past COVID-19, we might see a sizable shift in the geography of the workplace. In any case, if your feelings about work

have changed in some way, leading you to think you could work longer than originally planned, you'd likely gain some financial advantages. You'd make more money, for starters, but you'd also keep building your 401(k) and IRA, and you could even possibly delay taking Social Security.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that's right for you.

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

Live the Life You Want Why is letting go so hard?

Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

When I work with clients, I regularly suggest they need to "let go" of habits, behaviors, thoughts, anger, etc. Yet, letting go seems to be one of those things that is easier said than done. Not being able to let go keeps us stuck where we don't want to be. Below are

some suggestions you can try to help you let go.

Are there benefits to not letting go?

Some may believe this to be true. They may want to continue playing the role of the victim. They may like the attention they get from others or not want to do the work involved in changing

unhealthy behaviors or situations. They also don't have to face their fears and can stay in their unhealthy but safe bubble. So, you need to determine if you believe there is some type of benefit to staying stuck where you are and not letting go.

Ways to let go
Think about what

you're finding difficult to let go. Is it a past trauma, something that you have done or not done causing you guilt or shame, an unhealthy relationship? Are you trapped in the past while your mind replays past injustices, hurts, feelings of guilt or shame, losses, or trauma? It may be a situation due to your choices or something you had no control over. Regardless there are steps you can take to let it go so you can move towards the life you want.

Sometimes to move forward and let go you have to look back and process these feelings. Look at the situation from different views. For instance, you feel like all your relationships are one-sided and you feel you do most of the giving. You feel taken advantage of and may feel anger towards others (spouse, friend, family, work). You feel like you are always being taken for granted. Look at any patterns in your relationships and behaviors and then process-analyze the patterns and work to change them. Letting go of these past unhealthy or undesirable behaviors may strengthen your relationships.

Accepting past situations for what they are makes it easier to let go. What happened, happened.

It can't be changed or erased. What you can do is accept that it happened and work to let it go. This does not mean you are saying what happened is okay. But



Melissa Spino
MA LPC CDMS

struggling against it being unfair or unjust feeds the memory and emotions.

Forgiveness may be one of the steps you take to let go. It could be forgiveness of another, of yourself, or both. I personally, don't feel forgiveness is necessary in all situations and sometimes not forgiving someone is empowering and helps you to move forward. Forgiveness doesn't mean what happened is okay. Also, feeling the need to forgive someone because it's the right thing to do isn't going to help you let go and move forward either. Forgive only if it is the right thing for you to

do to help you truly let go, because holding resentment emotionally binds you to the person that hurt you.

Focus on what you can truly change. Focusing on things that already happened and that you can't change just continues to keep you locked in unhappiness. Focus your energy on what you can change.

Practice mindfulness. Focus your thoughts on the present moment. This can be difficult if you are not used to it. Many find mindfulness easier to learn through mindfulness exercises and meditation. When we focus our thoughts on the present, past hurts have less control over us.

Practice self-care. I'm not just talking about getting enough sleep, eating healthy, getting exercise, and the occasional pampering we all deserve. This includes setting healthy boundaries, listening to our needs and wants, saying no, and not doing things out of guilt.

Hopefully these tips will get you started on a path to letting things go for your own mental health and wellbeing. This article is not intended to diagnose or treat.

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Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports



FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

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!

HAND HYGIENE WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

HAND HYGIENE WORD SEARCH

ALCOHOL
 ANTISEPTIC
 BACTERIA
 CAUTION

CONTACT
 DECONTAMINATE
 DETERGENT
 DIRTY
 DISINFECTION
 GERMS
 GLOVES

HANDWASHING
 HOT SPOTS
 MICROORGANISMS
 NAILS
 SANITIZER
 SCRUB
 SINK

SOAPY
 SOILED
 SURFACES
 TOUCHING
 VIRUS
 WATER

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Missouri on December 15, 1949. I had my first acting role in a stage production in 1969. I am best known for a TV gig in the 1980s that followed Florida police detectives.

Answer: Don Johnson

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to hygiene.

F C E U T A

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

Answer: Faucet

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						69						70		

CLUES ACROSS

- Popular pickup truck
- Profoundly wise men
- Camera company
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Passerine birds
- Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- Popular kids channel
- Dodgers' skipper
- Removes
- The Atlantic is one
- Badgerlike mammal
- Foulness
- Luke's mentor ___-Wan
- Commercial
- A type of gin
- Temptress
- Shuts in an enclosed space
- Milligram
- Actress Adams
- Strive to equal or match
- Health insurance
- A detective's source
- Small American rails
- Alfred __, Brit. poet
- Crest of a hill
- Atomic #52
- ___ Caesar, comedian
- Breaks apart

- Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- Worker
- Chemical compound
- Disgraced newsman
- Born of
- Chemical substance
- Supernatural powers
- Clothes
- Indy footballers
- Moves forward
- Midway between south and southeast

- 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- One point east of southeast
- Belgian city
- Praise excessively
- River in France
- Edible lily bulbs
- Quarterbacks take them
- Organic compound
- Tears down (Brit.)
- Beloved Hollywood alien
- Unconscious
- Missouri
- Firemen use them
- Pig noise
- Greatly dismay
- Imitator
- Moves by turning over
- Boxing's GOAT
- Swarms with
- Margarines
- Feudal superior
- As fast as can be done
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Chinese city
- Tell on
- United

CLUES DOWN

- Driver
- Bone cavities
- Menacing
- Where coaches patrol
- Greek mythological figure
- War-based board game
- Midway between northeast and east
- 18-year period in astronomy
- Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
- Large bodies of water
- Eurasian ryegrass
- Perform on stage
- Greek island

Michiganders urged to get flu vaccine this winter



Dr. Joneigh Khaldun of the MDHHS.

This is National Influenza Vaccination Week, and the staff at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is reminding Michigan residents it's not too late to get vaccinated.

Since COVID-19 and flu are likely to spread simultaneously this winter, all Michiganders age 6 months and older should get their annual flu vaccine if they have not already, staff said.

"As we continue fighting to eradicate COVID-19, it's crucial that all Michiganders get their flu vaccine to protect themselves and keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said. "As the weather gets colder and people spend more time

inside, I urge everyone to get their flu vaccine, and make sure your kids get one, too. ... it's quick, simple and crucial in helping us fight COVID-19."

"Nearly 3 million Michiganders have received the flu vaccine this season," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health and chief deputy for health for MDHHS. "It's great progress, but there's still more work to be done. We need to prevent a surge of flu cases while we are in the middle of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. National Influenza Vaccination Week serves as reminder to those who have not received the flu vaccine that there's still time to protect themselves and

their family against flu and serious flu complications, like pneumonia."

The state is more than 66 percent toward its goal of 4.2 million flu vaccinations this season. Although the nation recorded 39 to 56 million estimated cases of the flu, 18 to 26 million medical visits due to the flu and nearly half a million hospitalizations during the 2019-20 flu season, according to data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, only 31.6 percent (about 3.2 million) of Michigan residents reported receiving a flu vaccine last season. Michigan ranks 38th in the nation for flu vaccination coverage and falls below the national average of 51.8 percent.

Despite its comparison to the common cold, the flu is a serious and potentially deadly disease, especially for children, older people and those with chronic health conditions. Last season, 195 children died from the flu in the United States, including six children in Michigan.

The Department of Insurance and Financial Services also reminds Michiganders that flu shots are an essential health benefit under the Affordable Care Act and are covered with no out-of-pocket costs by most health plans in Michigan. Consumers with questions about their coverage should contact their insurance providers, and if they cannot get the information they need or have additional questions, call DIFS for assistance 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 877-999-6442 or email Michigan.gov/HealthInsurance.

"Getting the annual flu shot is an important step to protect your health and the health of those around you, especially this year when flu symptoms may be confused with COVID-19, and DIFS is committed to ensuring that cost and coverage are not barriers that keep Michiganders from getting vaccinated," DIFS Director Anita Fox said. "Expanding access to health insurance and health care is critical to the health of our state, and our consumer service representatives are available to answer insurance coverage questions and concerns."

While flu activity indicators have been low so far this flu season, some flu activity has been reported throughout the state. It's essential to continue to take all precautionary measures such as social distancing, wearing a mask, washing our hands thoroughly and especially getting a flu vaccine to protect ourselves and our healthcare resources as COVID-19 continues to spread, Dr. Khaldun said. It takes about two weeks after the vaccine is administered before the body builds up enough immunity to prevent the flu. Michiganders should get their flu vaccine now to protect themselves before activity increases in Michigan.

Many flu vaccine options are available this season, and residents should speak with a healthcare provider about which is best for them.

An ample supply of flu vaccines is available at many locations throughout Michigan, including doctor's offices, pharmacies and local health departments and can be found online at Vaccinefinder.org. More information about flu activity in Michigan is available at Michigan.gov/Flu.



2020 was not a typical year, so it would be pretty depressing if we tried to do our typical 'Year in Review' section. But instead of running page after page about the pandemic and the election, we are going to focus on all of the positive, inspiring stories from the past year.

Many exceptional events occurred this year, including books by local authors, new businesses, a new Lowell Showboat, achievements in school academics and sports and plenty of examples of people getting through a bad year the best way possible.

This special section will be published in the Wednesday, Jan. 6 edition of the Lowell Ledger.



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