

Gary's Country Meats



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Old Theater, new owners



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Recycling cemetery flags



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50¢



Warehouse on Godfrey damaged by fire

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Area Fire Department were called to a building fire at 533 Godfrey on Tuesday Nov. 16.

According to a press release from the fire department, a 911 caller observed flames and smoke.

“The first LAFD engine was on the scene in four minutes and found a fire coming from a roof top HVAC unit as well as smoke coming from the interior of the building,” said LAFD chief Shannon Witherell in a press release. “Ada Fire Department was called as part of our automatic mutual aid set up [and we] also

requested Cascade Fire respond with an engine. A request for an engine from Alto was also made. Crews quickly made access to the roof as well as in the building. The fire was contained to a small area of the building and the roof top unit. The official cause of the fire is currently under investigation. Crews were on scene for three hours. There were no injuries during this incident.”

That building has not been in operation since 2016. At the time of the incident, it was being cleared out to be used as warehouse space.



533 Godfrey the day after the fire.

School board recall town hall meeting at Englehardt library Nov. 29

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

A local parents group called “Lowell Kids 1st” is preparing to collect signatures for a recall of three members of the Lowell Area Schools board of education: treasurer Gary Blough, trustee Jessica Curtis and secretary Pat Nugent.

“The petition language is the same for all three board members involved in the recall, and states that they have violated Michigan law MCL 380.10,” said Lowell Kids 1st leader Stefanie Boone, a resident of Ada.

The law in question states, “It is the natural, fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care, teaching and education of their children. The public schools of this state serve the needs of the pupils by cooperating with the pupil’s parents and legal guardians to develop the pupil’s intellectual capabilities and vocational skills in a safe and positive environment.” [http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-380-10]

“Over the course of many, many months, concerned parents and members of the community have attempted to reach out to and communicate our concerns with the board of education, to no avail,” Boone said. “They are non-responsive at board meetings and unavailable between

meetings. This is nothing personal. The board is simply not doing the job they were elected to do, and have left us with few options other than recall.”

Gary Blough was elected to the board in 2010, and his term expires in Dec. 2022. Blough is a farmer and a retired postal worker. He has an associate’s degree in business administration from Grand Rapids Junior College and worked for 36 years as the chief financial officer and co-owner of Growing Dairy and Crop Farm.

Jessica Curtis was appointed to the board in Nov. 2020, and her term expires Dec. 2022. She graduated from Lowell High School in 1999, then received a bachelor of science from Central Michigan University. Curtis works as director of sales and marketing at Viotron International.

Pat Nugent was elected to the board in June 1998, and his term expires in Dec. 2022. Nugent earned a bachelor of arts in history education from Michigan State University and a master of education degree in secondary education from Grand Valley State University. Nugent is a teacher at West Catholic High School in Grand Rapids.

The board members appealed the recall, which

has delayed the process by 40 days. Therefore, Boone and her group must wait until Dec. 15 before they can begin collecting signatures.

“The board filed an appeal in an attempt to stall our petition efforts for 40 days, which means the first day we can begin collecting signatures is Dec. 15,” Boone said. “We have until Dec. 31 to turn in over 3,000 signatures for each of the three board members. We will do our very best, but the board did their very best to stop us too. We will be having signing events, details to be announced, as well as door-to-door.”

The first of three planned town hall meetings has already taken place, the next one will be in the community room at the Englehardt library at 6 pm on Monday, Nov. 29.

“We do not have speakers lined up,” Boone said. “It will just be a few of the leaders of our Lowell Kids 1st group, and more of an informative, introductory question and answer time for any and all who would like more information regarding Lowell Kids 1st and the school board recall effort. [...] Please feel free to check out our website, lowellkids1st.com, for more information and details about our specific concerns. It is updated fairly regularly as well.”

Huge crowds attended 2021 “Christmas Through Lowell”



Story and photos on page 8!

David and Lisa Reed to rehabilitate historic “Old Theater” on Main Street

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

David and Lisa Reed are the new owners of the Old Theater, until recently known as “Larkin’s The Other Place” and originally named the Strand Theater.

“This opportunity was appealing to us for a few reasons,” said David Reed. “We felt like Lowell was missing out on some things that could be going on, like live music and things like that. The comedy shows that Larkin’s was doing were fine, but we thought there could be more done with it. We’re talking about things that we can do to make better use of it, and to use it more often. We would like to bring in

some live music and do things like that there. We definitely want to do some concert type things, talent shows or acting, whatever we can do to help bring the community together. We’re interested in social dancing like the country line dancing that used to happen. Swing dancing, we’re interested in that too. We’d kind of like to partner with somebody on that. We had our first comedy show last Saturday night, and we have another one scheduled for Dec. 11. We’re not sure yet who the comedian will be, I have to talk with the coordinator. We’re having only clean comedy. Larkins

is still involved, they’re still serving alcohol during the shows at this point. That may or may not change in the future, I’m not sure, but for now, that’s the plan through next May, when the shows are scheduled through.”

“We’re kind of looking to provide a venue that falls somewhere between the local Moose Lodge and the Showboat at its current price with its new renovations,” said Lisa Reed. “A few years back you would also have had the Grand Volute. I feel like there needs to be a niche somewhere in between. The museum right next door would love to have some space available to them for some of the educational programs that they run through the schools. They’re kind of getting to the point where the museum itself is a little a little crowded. They also bring in special speakers every now and again, and they’ve used different venues around town, but to have it right next door to the museum would be phenomenal. The superintendent from the performing arts department with the Kent County Youth Fair has already said they would love to have a location where they could have workshops throughout the school year to help the students know what it feels like to be on stage before they get to fair and have to be on stage, to give them a chance to use a microphone and hear their voice before they get up behind a microphone. That’s the whole idea with the fair: repetition, training and exposure. And in the performing arts department, the current fairground has not provided a real easy way to do that.

Really, the opportunities are endless, and we’re going to be learning a lot along the way. There’s going to be a learning curve. We know that we can’t make everybody in the community happy. There’s no way on Earth that anyone, anywhere could make everybody happy! There’s definitely two different sides to every fence everywhere today. But we do want to rally behind a culture of

people who feel like they’re missing out on some options like family-friendly films, family-friendly music or family-friendly comedy. The world can sometimes be a raunchy, dark place, and we want to help there be another option, a lighter, brighter opportunity.”

The Strand Theater opened on June 12, 1928. Built by Harvey J. Callier, who sold his home (“the old Garstone place at the west end of Main Street,” Lowell Ledger, Oct. 27, 1927) to fund the venture. It was originally promoted as “Michigan’s most beautiful small theater” and used for vaudeville, movies and countless other professional performances, as well as for school plays and the occasional LHS graduation ceremony. According to a 1976 retrospective in the

Ledger, comedians Laurel and Hardy, Siamese twins Daisy and Violet Hilton and the WLS National Barn Dance from Chicago were among the most notable personalities to appear on the Strand stage. It was updated occasionally over the years, a wider “panoramic” screen was installed in the 1950s and the restrooms and lobby were improved in the 1960s. After several years of decline, the theater closed for good in Dec. 1985. According to contemporary news reports, the Strand was a victim of the VCR and cable television. The final movie screened during that original era was “Teen Wolf” starring Michael J. Fox. Larkin’s “The Other Place” opened in the summer of 1989, primarily as an outlet for local



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BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On Monday, December 20, 2021 the Bowne Township Board of Trustees will hear public comments related to the following request. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto concerning the following:

1. 6180, 6200, and 6280 Rezoning

Mr. Brent Feyen of Exxel Engineer the representative of the property owner, has submitted an application for re-zoning of parcels 41-24-03-100-023, 41-24-03-100-024, and 41-24-03-100-025 from R-1 Rural Residential and C-2 Commercial districts. The adopted 2017 Bowne Township Master Plan identifies these parcels for industrial and general commercial land use.

The application and plans are available for review and written comments will be received until 4:00 P.M. Monday, December 20, 2021 at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.

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Planning & Zoning Administrator
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“Old Theater,” continued

as an outlet for local community theater.

The Reeds said they will pace themselves and plan to remodel during the spring and summer as scarce building materials become available.

“The building definitely needs some updating and some repairs, and over time we will renovate,” said David Reed. “I’ve been a commercial facilities manager for 22 years, so I’m familiar with commercial buildings and their upkeep and repair and all those things, and I think that it definitely could use some updating. It’s had some recent repairs. There was a structural issue with one of the trusses in the building that was repaired when Mike Larkin owned it, after a big snow event. It was a big deal, but they did a good job repairing it, and now there are just some cracks and things that need to be repaired and plaster that needs to be worked on.”

“We’re hoping to do both the interior and the exterior,” said Lisa Reed. “The inside needs heating and cooling, it needs plaster control, updated electrical to make it safe and comfortable, and I would say more attractive. We want to do it in a way that reflects 1928 and the Art Deco time period. Because the building doesn’t have air conditioning, it hasn’t gotten much use in the summertime in the last few years, so we’re going to focus on insulation and efficiency first, use it throughout the winter if we can, and then come spring there might be a ‘closed for remodeling’ time period. Then we can focus, in the summer months, on some of the biggest, messiest changes that will allow it to be usable more quickly.”

“The theater’s got a big dome in it, like 15 or 18 feet across, and I’m hoping to get that lit again,” said David Reed. “The building is 50 feet wide, and it’s a little less than a third of the building, so it’s pretty big. We started working on it a little bit and got some of it to work, but it needs a lot more work and probably to be updated. It’s got like a hundred light bulb fixtures in it, and I’m not sure if that’s even enough light to really light it up properly if you were to put all those bulbs in it.”

They also plan to solicit any grant funds that might be available to people who are renovating historic buildings for public use.

“Now that we’re the owners, we can apply for some grants and things that weren’t available before we were the owners,” said David Reed. “You have to be the owner or leasing a building before you can apply for that stuff, so now that we’re set with that, we’re going to start working

on some of that stuff.”

“We’d like to work with the Downtown Historical Commission and find any local historic grants that have money available for people who are doing a historic facelift,” said Lisa Reed. “In the historic district, there is money available to help people keep the outside of the building matching its surroundings. We’d like to respect that and work with any grant money available.”

David’s full time job involves getting disabled farmers back to work after they suffer a debilitating injury, including the procurement of specialized equipment, tools and technology.

“I grew up in Williamston, east of Lansing, and then we moved here in 2004,” said David Reed. “Lisa and I have been involved in music, and she’s been involved in acting and things like that. Lisa was in the Easy Idle String Band when it first started, she was a founding member of that with Dave Simmonds. I was also in that for a

while, but haven’t been for the last few years. We used to put on hoedowns at our house. Every year we’d have a fall hoedown with live music and dancing, and square dancing... if it was appropriate.”

“I was born and raised in the Lansing area and relocated to Lowell about 16 years ago,” said Lisa Reed. “I spent the first few years of that in the country at a homestead raising the kiddos and home educating. I had a business major, but I took being a mom pretty seriously and raised five kiddos, primarily in the home education circle but also in the public schools, and we attended Ada Bible Church for most of those years. I have been doing historical reenacting, drama productions and education for over 30 years. David and I were bluegrass performers in a band for 10 years, so we know that there’s a need for some venues for live music, specifically in the wintertime. Outside festivals are very common during the summer, but then where does everybody

go when they don’t want to stay home in the winter?”

The Reeds intend to maintain the tradition of renting the marquee for personal messages and recommend calling the theater office at 616-897-0007 to facilitate this. David said he just purchased a big

block of new letters from a place that was going out of business.

“We have a website called theoldtheater.com, and we are developing the Facebook page,” said David Reed.

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Volunteers recycle worn flags from cemeteries

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell resident and retired teacher Betsey Hamm is the founder and executive director of Learning from Scratch, a non-profit “upcycle store” located inside the Comprenew Building, 1454 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids.

Their most recent project has been to collect worn and damaged flags from cemeteries, especially after patriotic holidays like Veterans Day, and then recycling them. This year, they’re collecting the flags from Chapel Hill at the corner of 28th Street and Patterson in Grand Rapids.

“Betsy discovered this many years ago as she was driving by a cemetery,” said Learning from Scratch volunteer Eric Stacey. “Every year they just clear the graves in the whole cemetery, they clear all of the artificial flowers that were put out there and things like that, and they just put it all in a dumpster. She was driving

by and saw American flags sticking out of a dumpster, and something about this bothered her! Putting the American flag in the dumpster is not the proper way to retire a flag. It’s not a respectful way to do it. So Betsy talked to the manager of the cemetery and said, ‘Could we collect those flags?’ There’s hundreds of flags, we recover about 300 flags every year. We sort through literal van loads of the artificial flowers and everything else they’ve cleared off the graves, and after sorting through all that and salvaging the flags, we turn the flags over to a local Boy Scout group so they can do the proper retirement ceremony.”

At Learning from Scratch, Hamm, Stacey and a crew of volunteers work six days a week accepting various unwanted items from about 30 manufacturing companies such as Herman Miller and Steelcase. They

clean, sort, package and sometimes slightly modify the material to make it usable. If they did not accept this material, it all would be dumped into a landfill. The items include yarn, cardboard in various shapes and sizes, lids and caps, CDs, carpet samples, foam, felt, textiles, loose puzzle pieces, wallpaper, plastic flowers, yarn, tile, silk, fabric, string, pillows and cigar boxes. Some they donate to schools and other non-profits, some they sell in their store, the majority is stored in the basement. Nothing is placed on the shelves until it’s thoroughly inspected and they’re 100 percent certain it’s clean and safe.

For more information about Learning from Scratch, visit learningfromscratch.org, send a message to info@learningfromscratch.org or find them on social media. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10 am until 6 pm.



Betsey Hamm working her way through a pile of discarded cemetery waste, searching for US flags.

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Santa visits, other holiday events in Lowell this December

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The annual “nighttime Santa Parade and Christmas festivities” event will take place at 6 pm on Saturday, Dec. 4.

The parade will start at Riverside Dr. and continue east on Main St., ending at the Lowell United Methodist Church.

This year’s parade theme is “Light it Up with the Magic of Christmas,” and the entries will be judged based on use of the theme, creativity, diversity, music and lights. The first place winner will get \$150, second place is \$100 and a third place showing will net \$50. There will also be a Peoples’ Choice Award. The top ten floats will be chosen by the parade judges, then the general public will vote for their favorite entry on Facebook. The entries will be posted by 10 pm on Saturday, Dec. 4. To vote, go to the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce page on Facebook. The poll will remain open until 8 am on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Also on Dec. 4 will be the 38th annual Rogue River Artisans Fine Arts and Crafts show at Lowell High School from 9 am until 4 pm, with more than 100 artisans on site. Admission is \$2, proceeds from that will fund “Red Arrow special activities.”

The Friends of the Englehardt Library are having a used book sale in the library’s community room from 9:30 am until 5 pm. Hardcover will be \$1 and paperbacks \$.50.

Heidi’s Farmstand, 11999 Cascade Rd., will host a live nativity scene with five characters and a free donut and hot chocolate for people who interact with the characters. That will take place from 11 am until 3 pm, visit heidisfarmstand.com for more details on that.

The Chamber of Commerce building on the Riverwalk is hosting “Rudolph’s Craft Workshop,” put on by the Curiosity Corner Preschool for kids ages 2 to 6 from

2:30 pm until 4:30 pm.

Santa Claus himself will be in attendance at the pancake supper at the King Building, 225 S. Broadway, from 4 pm until 6 pm. The cost for this is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. Donations benefit the Kent County Youth Fair, and Santa will pose for pictures after he finishes his pancakes.

Santa visits on the Showboat are returning this year, with hot cookies and cocoa provided, plus photos by Bruce Doll. There is a suggested \$2 donation. Santa will be on the Showboat on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 2:30 until 4 pm, Saturday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 18 from 10:30 am until 1 pm and Wednesday, Dec. 8, Wednesday, Dec. 15 and Wednesday, Dec. 22 from 5:30 pm until 7 pm. Santa visits are sponsored by the Lowell Women’s Club, YMCA, Flat River Outreach Ministries, Lowell Rotary and Gilda’s Club of Lowell.

There will be a “Nite of Christmas Cheer” event on the Riverwalk from 5:30 until 7:30 pm on Friday, Dec. 10. That will include Santa visits, hot dogs, roasted chestnuts, horse and carriage rides, live reindeer, hot cocoa and cookies. Sponsors include Arctic Heating & Cooling, the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Lowell Area Fire Department.

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viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor,

I'd like to respond to the front page article about the Kent County Youth Fair. Sadly we have lost six key people who spent years volunteering and heading up critical committees. It takes an immense volunteer effort to put on the fair. We are grateful for the years and countless hours these people devoted to keeping our fair "for the kids" as our former manager Ron

Wenger always said.

Transitioning to a new location is going to take many hands. Public money has enabled us to get this far. The fairboard meetings are open to the public and there is room on the agenda for public comments. Our fair has existed to serve the generations of families and their kids yet to come, and the general public, our "customers."

Volunteer signups are

taking place now and positions are open to continue critical areas. Just some of them are sponsorship, camping, entertainment, publicity, parking/shuttle, technology, fair manager and marketing just to name some. Plus programs like HandiCapable Day and Reading for Rides. It was announced that our fair will be in Lowell next year. Please consider volunteering to help the community enjoy a great Fair here in Lowell in 2022 and at the new grounds.

2021 was our 87th fair. That is a lot of fairs. Our fair was never about

making money or spending money and now there are public funds available. Our focus was always "for the kids." The exhibitors, their families, their clubs and our community should hopefully have the most input during this planning phase. This certainly includes the general public who come to the fair for all the other activities and entertainment and programs. "Many hands make light work," the old saying goes. And more volunteers are the answer.

Maruszka Hufstader
Lowell

Letters, continued, page 10

outdoors

wish for snow

Dave Stegehuis

Many people leave Michigan during the winter, so they can do the same things they did in the summer here. Others may look forward to winter as an opportunity to participate in activities which require cold temperatures and snow. Cross country skiing is one such activity. Folks who ski get excited about a fresh new snowfall instead of dreading hazardous traffic and shoveling the driveway and sidewalks.

Cross country skiing provides a reason to get outside and get some exercise at a time when sitting around the house may seem like a good idea. People who are normally sedentary or have medical concerns should check with a doctor before pursuing the sport.

Trails are found all across both peninsulas. Many ski resorts have both downhill and cross country areas. State, county, and municipal agencies develop and maintain trail systems. There are trail map books available, and the internet, of course, has the information regarding trail locations and descriptions. Individual

loops are usually posted with markers designating the degree of difficulty. This allows a skier to choose a trail which suits one's level of confidence. Trails accommodate children, young adults, as well as seniors.

Basic skiing technique is easy to learn by taking a class or watching on-line videos. Some ski for speed while others meander through the winter woodlands taking in the sights and sounds of winter in the Michigan backcountry. Compared to other sports, cross country requires a modest investment. Equipment can be rented at some locations and ski shops typically provide helpful advice as well as equipment.

The majority of public trails are free to use, and you will probably be alone at many backcountry locations. At more popular ski areas, the loops farther from the trail head or lodge will be less traveled. Seek out a few trails and discover the winter landscape beyond the pavement while getting plenty of fresh air and exercise. Wish for snow.



125 years ago Lowell Ledger November 27, 1896

This edition of the Lowell Ledger is missing.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 1, 1921

A jury in circuit court returned a verdict of \$2,542 in favor of the plaintiff in the damage suit of the estate of Vincent Lesinger vs. Ferdinand Schriener, growing out of the death of Lesinger, who was kicked by a horse after he drank some moonshine at Schriener's place.

Twelve days was long enough to break Mrs. William Spark's dream of a happy married life, according to the testimony presented in circuit court when the husband obtained a divorce. They lived together less than two weeks, constantly quarreling throughout their honeymoon, it was said. At the end of the 12 days, the wife returned to her parents' home and resumed her maiden name.

J. J. Dyer, assistant attorney, of New York is here looking for heirs of Louis Nelson, who died in New York and left an estate of \$100,000. Nelson was a lumberman in this district in 1870. It is believed his mother and brother are in the Upper Peninsula of Northern Wisconsin.

75 years The Lowell Ledger November 28, 1946

The Michigan State Medical society, one of the most progressive state medical groups in the Nation, has added another "First" to its long list of achievements. During World War II medics found that 7,000 Michigan youths were ejected for military service because of cardiac trouble, due largely to rheumatic fever. Records also prove that rheumatic fever kills more children than any other disease.

A two-year-old bull elk who tired of life in the wilds of Otsego county is going to see plenty of civilization. When he came into the fields to live with domestic cattle he was such a nuisance the farmers called on Conservation Officer Leo Marlatt and district game supervisor Otto Failing for relief. Marlatt and Failing, with some assistance, roped the elk and delivered him to the Traverse City zoo where he will see and be seen by city folk.

After weeks of delay, the army has started mailing out millions of terminal leave bonds to former GI's. By Christmas, as department officials state, it is expected that the bulk of a current backlog of some 4,000,000 claims will have been paid. Most payments are in five-year treasury bonds, but cash is used for odd sums.

50 years The Lowell Ledger December 2, 1971

National attention is being focused upon the treatment of the senior citizens of the country; recent columns in the papers have listed many shocking living conditions for the elderly. In Lowell some of the nursing homes have been found to be very satisfactory, but the majority are nothing more than places in which to die.

A Federal Grant made it possible for Sergeant Jim Hutson of the Lowell Police Department to attend an extensive training session for Investigators. "It was like going back to school," Hutson commented, as he received his certificate of completion for having successfully fulfilled two hundred and forty hours of investigating training conducted by the Region 8 Investigator's School.

Oscar Sterzick, 77-year-old of Lowell who was lost deer hunting in Dickerson County in the UP last week, is in fair condition at the Kent Community Hospital in Grand Rapids. Sterzick, who has been hunting in the Dickerson area for 15 years, got lost on November



We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

HEALTH

M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

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

ABCs of Lowell history

The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced last 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 fourth round of the alphabet.

G is for Gee

For over fifty years Gee's Hardware was a fixture in Lowell. Owner Merle William Gee's motto was "If we don't have it, we'll get it for you." His goal was to



operate a first class hardware store dealing in merchandise of quality and giving prompt and courteous service.

operate a first class hardware store dealing in merchandise of quality and giving prompt and courteous service.

Gee's Hardware anchored the west end of the Lyon block beginning in 1914. The buildings on this block are the most architecturally unified in Lowell. In 1883 John and Maria Giles purchased the corner lot and constructed a grocery store. After Giles Grocery the building became

of the fixtures in the store were made by the store's staff.

In 1937, James sought a solution to properly display farm goods in order to efficiently serve the farming community. He opened a department in the basement just for farmers. The display room was 50 X 20 feet and was called simply, 'Basement Store'. While he added

new merchandise, much of it was already in stock, but had been displayed in random places. Separating all the farm products made things more convenient for both the shoppers and the staff. The basement even had a cash register for quicker check out. The in-store freight elevator made handling heavy merchandise an easy task.

Gee's Hardware added a unique feature to the west side exterior of the store. Tourists were always stopping to ask directions so a map of the area with an arrow indicating the exact location of Gee's store was painted on the outside.

The entire town was shocked and grieved with the Gee family when James died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1951. Merle loved his store and worked faithfully as his health permitted. To celebrate his 50 years in business, neighbor Cary Stiff

organized a salute to Gee. Ball Floral did a beautiful window display and fellow merchants stopped in all day to offer a salute. He died on Monday, May 3, 1965. Though Gee had been in failing health for a while and had help running the store, he had been in the store the Saturday before his death.

One fun fact regarding Merle Gee is that he was most likely the only Lowell Businessman at Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Service in England.

Though he had lived elsewhere and had traveled the world, Merle Gee loved Lowell. He said of Lowell, "Lowell is a successful town and a good place to live. The people of this community are neighbors in the fullest sense and have always shown a willingness to "standby" in times of general distress and individual sorrow. May they always prosper."

- vertigo

Vertigo is the feeling that you are moving while you are standing still. Sometimes this feels like you are spinning, or that everything else is spinning around you.

Vertigo can happen to anyone. The most common kind of vertigo is called benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV). Another kind of vertigo is acute vestibular neuronitis, which is caused by swelling of a nerve in your ear.

A third type of vertigo is Meniere's disease. This is a disease of the organs that give you your sense of balance and direction. It is thought that this is the

result of a viral infection. Symptoms of Meniere's disease include vertigo, hearing loss, ringing in the ears and perhaps nausea and vomiting. If your health care provider thinks you have Meniere's disease, you may need a referral to a specialist for additional care.

If you have vertigo or persistent dizziness, you should talk to your health care provider. The treatment of these symptoms depends on the cause, so there may be testing that needs to be performed. There are medications to help relieve vertigo, there are also physical therapy exercises that can help.

Terry Buck Family says...

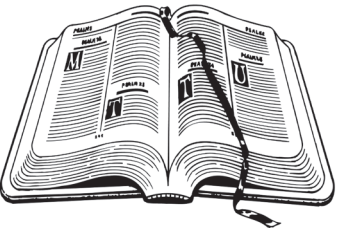
THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who was there for us before and after our dads passing. God truly sent us help when we needed.

A special thanks to Pastor Pete and Day Bible Chapel, Lake Funeral Home, Saranac American Legion, Tom and Cherie Hagen and to all who came out and celebrated dads life.

The Entire Buck Family

area churches



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org

Pastor Alyssa Anten
 Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
 Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 6 PM

Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive
 616-897-5906

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

10305 Bluewater Highway
 (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21

Sunday Services - 10:30 am
 www.gslc.church

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
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CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

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897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
 Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
 LIFE GROUPS11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
 Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060

Pastor Ryan Landt
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
 Website: calvarylowell.org

Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
 Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays7 PM
 Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820

Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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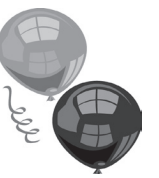
897-5938

www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

WORSHIP

Traditional Service: 9 am
 Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



NOVEMBER 24

Sabra Nicole Kinsley,
 Ryan Moore, Jenny Decker,
 Heather French.

NOVEMBER 28

Shelly Hildenbrand,
 Lee Miller.

NOVEMBER 25

Pat Vezino, Amy Swift,
 Shawn Ayres Hazel, Megan
 Hewitt, Lorri Myers.

NOVEMBER 29

Gail Thomet, Kelly
 Sauber, Scott Swanson, Tara
 Propst, Ethan Pearson.

NOVEMBER 26

John Erickson, Josie
 Emmette.

NOVEMBER 30

Jason Craig, Todd
 Ryder, Joe Kiczenski, April
 McClure.

NOVEMBER 27

Bonnie Vezino, Kim
 Harding, Marty Chambers,
 Chad Uzarski, Elizabeth
 Spies, Heather Burrows,
 Aaron Rittersdorf, Josh
 Spencer, Aiden Malone.



Rising COVID and flu cases causes face mask advisory for holiday season

With the increasing rise in COVID-19 and flu cases, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will be issuing a face mask advisory and offering guidance to keep loved ones safe and prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses during the holidays.

MDHHS will issue a Public Health Advisory that recommends everyone over the age of 2 should wear a face mask at indoor gatherings regardless of their vaccination status. In addition, establishments should implement a policy to ensure that all persons entering or seeking services, including employees, wear a mask. This face mask advisory will remain effect until further notice.

“The increases in case counts, percent positivity and hospitalizations have us very concerned,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “We are issuing the face mask advisory and are

looking to Michiganders to do their part to help protect their friends, their families and their communities by wearing a mask in indoor settings and getting vaccinated for COVID-19 and flu as soon as possible if they have not already done so.”

In addition to the MDHHS advisory, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also issued recommendations for safe gatherings including getting vaccinated, wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands. Mask wearing is considered an effective mitigation strategy and is recommended for all in public indoor settings in areas of high transmission and indoors for those who are not vaccinated. Practice social distancing when possible, especially in places where the vaccination status of those around you is unknown.

“COVID-19 cases are

high as we head into the holidays, and we must take every measure we can to keep our families and loved ones safe – which starts with getting vaccinated,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are available to children ages 5 and up, and boosters are available for eligible Michiganders. The holidays can be a time to spread great cheer and we recommend taking measures including wearing a mask indoors to not spread COVID-19 to loved ones.”

It is also encouraged to get the flu vaccine which can be administered at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine. If you or family members are unwell, remain home, get tested and let close contacts know as soon as possible if you test positive for COVID-19. If you are infected with COVID-19, seek treatment with monoclonal antibodies.

Notably, getting vaccinated supports every effort to relieve the burden on Michigan hospitals, where the challenges caused by the continued pandemic response, increases in high acuity, non-COVID patients, overcrowding and understaffing have reached a critical point in areas of the state. Hospitals work to ensure that available supplies and personnel are used efficiently and effectively. Should a facility need to move into crisis, standards of care then routine practices are modified, procedures cancelled, resources conserved and items in short supply may be reallocated. The goal of all hospitals is to avoid reaching that level of crisis standards of care.

“What we’re seeing is truly unprecedented,” said Dr. Darryl Elmouchi, president of Spectrum Health West Michigan, who shared that Spectrum Health currently has 370 hospitalized

COVID-19 patients — 86 percent of those patients are unvaccinated. “Our teams are tired but working hard to care for their communities. We’re counting on people to help us by getting vaccinated or getting a booster dose if eligible, wearing masks and being smart about holiday gatherings.”

If you are considering traveling, it is recommended that you be fully vaccinated or delay travel until you are fully vaccinated. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the completion of their primary vaccination series: two weeks after the second dose for a two-dose mRNA vaccine series or two weeks after a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

In addition to getting vaccinated, you should get tested for COVID-19 before and after you travel. If members of your family are unable to be vaccinated, CDC offers safer travel

tips including wearing a mask, avoiding crowds and washing hands often.

MDHHS follows CDC guidance in offering the following special considerations for holiday gatherings:

Immunocompromised people should take all precautions of unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask.

Choose to wear a mask if a member of your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated.

If you are gathering with groups from multiple households from different areas across the state and country, consider additional precautions like getting tested for COVID-19 to reduce the risk of spreading to loved ones.

To maximize protection from COVID-19 for age-eligible children and adults, get vaccinated as soon as you can. To find a vaccine near you, visit [VaccineFinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org).

Booster doses authorized for all ages 18 and up

Following FDA approval, recommendations from the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the endorsement of the CDC director, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is urging all eligible Michiganders to get a Johnson & Johnson, Moderna or Pfizer booster vaccine if they have received their primary COVID-19 vaccines.

“Vaccines are the way out of the pandemic, and now we can protect ourselves further from COVID-19 which is currently surging in our state,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “There is an ample supply of vaccines available, and we urge all eligible Michiganders to get their booster dose as soon as possible.”

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may prefer the vaccine type they originally received and others may prefer to get a different type of booster vaccine. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots. Consult your healthcare provider if there is a question which vaccine is appropriate for you.

Michiganders should bring their COVID-19 vaccine card or immunization record with them when getting their booster dose, which are available at any vaccine provider. Downloadable immunization records are accessible free at the Michigan Immunization

Portal. To obtain their record, Michiganders must create a MiLogin account at Michigan.gov/MiImmsportal and upload a valid government issued photo ID such as a driver’s license, state ID or passport. If you do not have records in the portal contact your healthcare provider or local health department.

As previously recommended, Michiganders with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This additional dose is intended to improve the response of people who are immunocompromised to their initial vaccine series.

To date more than 5.6 million Michiganders aged 5 and up have gotten at least their first dose of one of the three safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines.

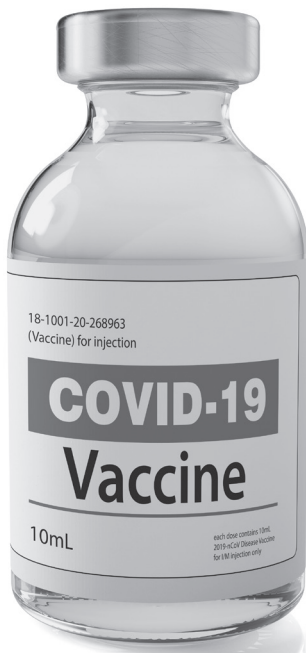
Michigan is making good progress on boosters and third doses, with over 1.1 million administered to date, making the state 7th nationwide in booster doses.

From January to Nov. 5, unvaccinated Michiganders accounted for 88 percent of

COVID cases, 88.2 percent of hospitalizations and 87.7 percent of deaths. Many Michiganders are still in need of the extra protection provided by booster doses, including residents of long-term care facilities where outbreaks can spread quickly

and extra protection is strongly recommended.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine. For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/coronavirus.



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BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLANNING COMMISSION

On Tuesday, December 7, 2021 the Planning Commission for Bowne Township will hear public comments related to the following requests. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto concerning the following:

1. SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT – 7200 Snow Avenue SE (41-24-07-100-012)

Michwave Technologies, Inc. for the erection of a wireless communications tower to be located at 7200 Snow Avenue SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. The applicant is asking to install a 130 ft. tall lightweight guy-wire stabilized tower. The tower and guy wires will be anchored to the ground and extend no greater than 60 ft. from the base of the tower. The tower will utilize approximately 1200 watts of DC electric power, and the antenna will be broadcasting within the unlicensed wireless WiFi spectrum frequencies and has received approval from the regional airport authorities.

2. SITE CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT AND SITE PLAN REVIEW – 6132 Timpson Avenue SE (41-24-04-103-010)

Mr. Zachary Beachum of JCZ Ventures, has submitted an application for the creation and development of a 21.5-acre 13-unit site condominium development located at 6132 Timpson Avenue SE. The establishment of a site condominium requires review and approval of the Planning Commission at a public hearing.

The applications and plans are available for review and written comments will be received until 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.

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

Big crowds return for Christmas Through Lowell

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Vendors reported that crowds at last weekend's Christmas Through Lowell event equaled or surpassed events from the pre-pandemic era.

"It is a busy place today, Lowell is hopping," said Beryl Bartkus, owner of Ability Weavers, 215 W. Main. "I would say it's pretty equivalent with it 2019. Of course, it's way busier than it was in 2020. We are we're happy to see everybody back and doing their thing."

Dennis Rower from Kentwood was in the greenhouse at Heidi's selling his handmade wooden "live edge" tables, benches and furniture.

"Live edge means it's not made with a finished edge, which is a little different," Rower said. "These are sturdy, lifetime pieces. I harvest the wood myself here in Lowell. A friend of mine allowed me to harvest a lot from his home, and then we live on a wooded lot, the last half acre is all woods. We have probably 20 walnut, lots of cherry and white oak."

"It's busy, wonderful and excellent," said Paula Hunt of Curators of Fine Crafts on Segwun. "There are five crafters here, and we're selling all kinds of crafts. We have a wide variety of items and a wide variety of price ranges, from Christmas ornaments to cinnamon rolls to home décor. It's been very busy, I think we've outdone previous years. The weather has been beautiful and it's just been great. I think nice weather helps. And last year people missed it, so they were excited to come back this year and be a part of it."

"It's going really, really well, we've been steadily busy and I'm loving it," said crafter Donna Tyler. "I have a lot of homemade things, crocheted items, some treats, but my best sellers are my scrubbies, they're very nicely made."

"It's going great, we are making lots of sales to lots and lots of people," said Sue Clay of LowellArts. "We had



Local author Emma Palova will be featured in next week's Lowell Ledger.

a lull at lunchtime because everybody was probably at Flat River Grill or Main Street BBQ or something, but yeah, it's going great. Perfect weather."

"Having all these artists in one venue is really nice," said Amy Johnson of LowellArts. "People like the idea that they can buy smaller things from artists that don't cost so much and they're one of a kind."

There was a huge crowd enjoying the Lowell Women's Club luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce building on the Riverwalk.

"It's going very well, we're really busy," said LWC volunteer Carol Webb. "It's been one after the other, and we're selling out of everything. We're serving soup, sandwiches, pulled pork and homemade pie, made by the Lowell Women's Club members. This is a fundraiser to collect money for the scholarships that benefit the LHS senior girls who are members of the Lowell Women's Club."

Local author Emma Palova was set up at the museum with a table full of her books and information about her various other projects.

"It's going well. It's cold, but we've been steadily busy," Palova said. "Of course, we had that pause because of COVID, so I'm happy to be back after two years, and it's good to see everyone back. The vendors really, truly have a camaraderie. By now [Saturday afternoon] the museum has had more than 100 visitors. Yesterday was awesome as well. People are interested in my latest book, which is about our family immigration saga from socialist Czechoslovakia to the US. I've been selling a lot of those. I also have a new podcast 'For the Love of Books' that's really hitting it. I will have Lisa Plank from the museum on it and Nicole Lintemuth from Bettie's Pages. Check it out, here is a link to the podcast: emmapalova123.podbean.com."



Loom demonstration at Ability Weavers.



The busy scene inside the greenhouse at Heidi's.



Christmas Through Lowell, continued



Local crafter Donna Tyler.



Woodworker Dennis Rower.



LowellArts Artist Market



LowellArts Artist Market

Letters, continued

Dear Editor,

Regarding last week's headline, "Bruce Doll" resigns from KCYF, new board members elected" I would like to explain a couple things that are not correct. First, no new board members were elected to the board at the November 10, 2021, board meeting. The elections took place at the annual meeting on November 3, 2021. During the elections, myself, and Denise Stain were voted off the board after a combined 31 years of service to the fair. At the end of the November 10th board meeting, board member Duane Watson resigned and was replaced

by Sydney Gladding, a junior board member who also was voted off the board at the annual meeting. So, I did not resign, I was voted off the board.

The article said that I was the entertainment coordinator, which I was but I also was the sponsorship coordinator, the advertising coordinator and the tech guy. The many committees that the fair is made up of are all volunteer positions. I encourage people to volunteer, especially all of the new faces that were at the annual meeting to vote for board members.

- Bruce Doll
Lowell

FROM's annual Christmas distribution

FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries) will be putting on their annual Christmas Distribution December 9 - 11. These programs will provide food for a festive Christmas meal and a chance for families to shop, free of charge, for presents for infants to high school seniors.

Nearly one in three people in the Lowell area either do not have enough or barely have enough to make ends meet at the end of the month, according to a 2020 study done by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Christmas Toy

Store and Food Basket helps meet that need. New this year to the program, FROM is excited to offer all registration online, something they feel will make the programs more accessible to families.

"We're really excited about offering registration for our Christmas Food Baskets and Toy Store online," Monica Light, Program Manager, said. "Online registration will be an easier and more equitable option for our community. Of course, anyone who can't sign up online is welcome to either register during Food Pantry hours, or by calling FROM and signing up over the phone."

Families can register online now through December 1 by going to www.fromlowell.org/christmas-distribution/ or by calling FROM at 616-897-8260.

Do you want to help with the Christmas Distribution this year? There are three ways to get involved:

- Shop the Christmas Distribution Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/cfYu2QV>

- Sign up to volunteer for the Christmas Distribution! If you're a new volunteer, please fill out the form found here: <https://fromlowell.org/>

volunteer/ or call FROM at 616-897-8260

- Give financially to FROM and ask it to go to Christmas Distribution. Your gift allows FROM to purchase items still needed for the distribution.

Your gift today helps bless the more than 650 families FROM serves in our community each year.

"I truly believe that we live to serve, and we are blessed to be a blessing to others," Clint, a FROM volunteer, said. "...we are a community that helps community."

Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

What to know about early IRA withdrawals

While you're working, you may be contributing to an individual retirement account (IRA), which can provide a tax-advantaged way to save for your future. So, is it ever a good idea to tap into your IRA before you retire?

Ideally, you should leave this account intact

until your retirement. After all, you could spend two or more decades in retirement, so you'll need a lot of financial resources. Still, life is unpredictable, so there may be times you'll consider taking money from your IRA. You'll need to be aware, though, that if you withdraw funds before you

turn 59½, you will generally trigger a 10% penalty. Plus, you'll be taxed on whatever you take out, thereby losing, at least in part, the benefits of tax-deferred earnings offered by a traditional IRA. (With a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your contributions free of taxes and penalties, but the earnings may be taxed and penalized if you take them out before you're 59½.)

If you need to withdraw funds from your IRA before you're 59½, you may be able to avoid the 10% early withdrawal penalty if you meet an exception, such as one of these:

Paying for college - You are allowed to take penalty-

free withdrawals to pay for tuition and other qualified higher education expenses for you, your spouse, children or grandchildren. However, since the withdrawals may be considered taxable income, they could reduce the student's eligibility for financial aid.

Buying a first home - You and your spouse can each withdraw up to \$10,000 from your respective IRAs to buy your first home. To qualify as a first-time homebuyer, you (and your spouse) need to have not owned a home for the two years preceding your home purchase.

Having a child - Following the birth or adoption of a child, you and your coparent can each withdraw up to \$5,000 from your respective IRA without paying the 10% penalty.

Covering medical expenses - You may be able to avoid the early withdrawal penalty if you use the money to pay for unreimbursed medical expenses (for you,



your spouse or dependents) that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. You may also qualify to take a withdrawal without penalty to pay for health insurance premiums if you are unemployed. In the case of a disability, the 10% early withdrawal penalty also may not apply.

These aren't the only exceptions to the 10% withdrawal penalty, but they do cover many of the common reasons that people may consider an early withdrawal from their IRAs. And if you do need to take an early withdrawal, consult with your tax advisor to determine your eligibility for avoiding the 10%

penalty.

Keep in mind, though, that you do have ways to potentially reduce the necessity of withdrawing from your IRA early. One proven technique is to build an emergency fund containing at least three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. You might also consider opening a line of credit. A financial professional can help you explore other options, as well.

Ultimately, if you can leave your IRA intact until you retire, you'll be helping yourself greatly. But if you do need to tap into your account early, at least be familiar with the possible drawbacks - and how you might avoid them.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Guide and News

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897-9555

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
KENT COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 21-210289-DE

Estate of JEFF ALAN
HUBBARD. Date of birth:
06/20/1959.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Jeff Alan
Hubbard, died 09/26/2021.

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

presented to Virginia
Hubbard, personal
representative, or to both
the probate court at 180
Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite
2500, Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the personal
representative within 4
months after the date of
publication of this notice.

November 13, 2021

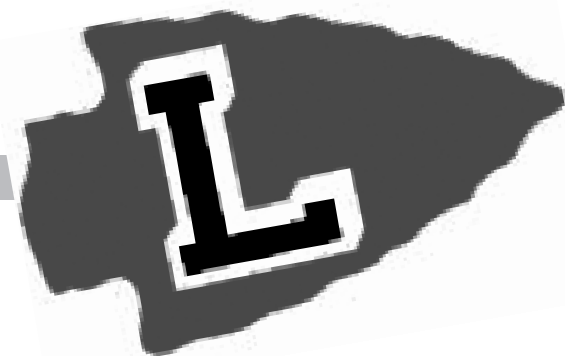
Karen S. McFadden
(P-57043)
403 W. Main
Belding, MI 48809
616-794-1220

Virginia Hubbard
12955 Morgan Mills Ave.
Gowen, MI 49326

Red Arrow

SPORTS

- SPORTS RECAP



2021 LHS varsity fall sports recap

Cross-country

The 2021 boys cross-country team placed second in the OK White, placed third at the regional finals and qualified for Division 1 team state finals. The team earned MITCA Sion 1 Academia All State. Cole Weston, Sawyer Fowler, Jackson Fowler and Benjamin Bromley earned OK White All Conference and Keegan Cater earned Honorable Mention.



The LHS ladies placed fifth in the OK White and fifth at the Division 1 regional competition. Annika Sandman set a new school record with a time of 18:14.6. Annika Sandman and Katrina Sandman qualified for individual state finals, Annika places 18th and is All State. Annika and Katrina both earned OK White All Conference and both named to Division 1 Academic all State.

Girls golf

The 2021 girls golf team placed fifth in the OK White Conference and placed in Top four in MHSAA Regional. Elle Sluss qualified to place in MHSAA Division 2 individual state finals as a freshman. Emma Jo McCormick and Elle Sluss earned Honorable Mention All Conference. Madison Liley earned MIGCA division 2 individual All-State Academic honors. The team earned MIGCA division 2 Academic All State.



Volleyball



The 2021 girls varsity volleyball placed fifth in the OK White Conference. Emily Struckmeyer was named to the OK White All Conference, Layna Waselewsky and Aubreigh Oswald named Honorable Mention.

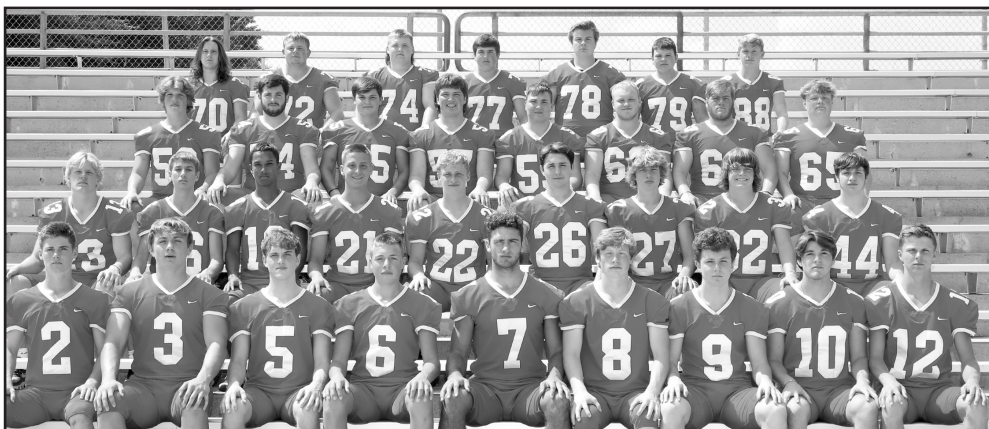
Emily Struckmeyer earned MIVCA Individual Academic All State; AVCA All-Region team Midwest Regional and first team AVCA Best and Brightest; MIVCA All-Region. The team earned MIVCA Team Academic All State.

Equestrian team

The 2021 equestrian team were crowned MIHA Division B district and regionals champions and placed third in the Division B state finals.



Football



The varsity football team finished 4-6 overall and 4-3 in OK White conference for a fourth-place finish. The team qualified for the MHSAA Division 3 tournament based on strength of schedule points.

Carter Blough and Josh Rau earned MHSFCA first team all region. Ethan Post, Nate Cleaver, Cole Vandervest, Sam Kaminski and Will Compton earned MHSFCA individual Academic All State.

Carter Blough, Ethan Krieger, Carson Crace, Josh Rau and Ethan Post were named OK White All Conference and Bryson VanderMeulen and Bryce Balabuch were named Honorable Mention.

MHSFCA team Division 3 Academic All State with an average GPA of 4.0 for top 11 academic student-athletes.

Boys varsity Tennis

The boys varsity tennis team finished sixth in the OK White Conference. Ty Knottnerus was named OK White All Conference. The team earned MHSTeCA Team Academic All State with an average GPA of 3.39 ranking 15th out of 70 teams in Division 2.



David Kaczanowski, Winton Garrelts and Ty Knotnerus earned MHSTeCA Academic All State honors.

Boys varsity golf



The 2021 boys varsity soccer team finished seventh in the OK White Conference. Lincoln Homolka was named OK White All Conference and David Foster was named Honorable Mention.

Nate Ryan, David Foster and Bryce Thompson were named MiHSSCA All District. Nate Ryan also was named MiHSSCA All Region and Honorable Mention All State. Danton Goulet and Ben Mika earned Academic All State recognition.

THANKS
for supporting local business!

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports
the lowell ledger

obituaries

BLOUGH

Let me tell you about my husband, best friend, an innovator, and adventurer. His motto was "good enough is not good enough". He always pushed himself and others to be all they could be. He overcame many obstacles to become world-renowned in the metal polish and buff industry for over 55 years. Everyone who met Art looked up to him. He was a man's man. He was a motorcycle champion in Enduro and Ice Racing worlds. He loved to travel especially by motorcycle including a couple of rides to Alaska and back. We then began exploring the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean, by sailboat and tugboat in addition to many other great adventures. Art died peacefully at home with his family on Friday,

November 19. Proceeded in death by his parents Louis and Mollie, three siblings Carmine, Roger, and Dale. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Veronica; children June (Orlando) Velez, Amy (Steve) Beemer, Matthew Blough, Austin (Alaina) Blough; grandchildren, Trenten, Keegan, Isabelle, Nathan, and Hans; siblings Joan (Denny) Sisson, Ruth Ann (Roger) Rowley, Phyllis (Jerry) Huver, Angela (Scott) Slaughter, Martha (Rob) Fuhst; many nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews; and many wonderful friends. Visitation will be held 5 to 8 PM on Monday, November 22, and one hour prior to service on Tuesday, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI, 49331. Services will be at 1 PM on Tuesday, November 23, at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Dr. Roger LaWaare will be officiating. Interment at Lake Forest Cemetery in Grand Haven, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary, 8935 Thompson Rd, Lake Odessa, MI 48849.



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EVANS

Rose Mary Evans, age 68 of Saranac, Michigan, passed away on November 17, 2021. Rose was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Joyce Schlieve. She is survived by her husband, Dan Evans; sisters, Deb (Kurt) Biemers, Penny (James) Oswald; and sister-in-law, Chris Evans. Rose graduated Lowell High School, class of '72. She worked at Cumberland Manor and during her free time she enjoyed oil painting. Funeral services will be held at a later date.



CALTON



Gene Calton of Lowell, passed away peacefully at home on Friday November 19, 2021. He was born on January 17, 1939, in Milwaukee, WI, and was the son of Marion and Irene

Cooper Calton. He was preceded in death by his wife of 27 years, Betty G. Calton; stepdaughter, Jackie Sheldon; and siblings, Donald, Danny, Raymond, Carl Calton, and Mary Bloomfield. He is survived by his special partner in life, Grace Brake; daughters, Jeannie (Raymond) Valentine of Lowell, Angie Calton of Lowell, Mary Jo (Carl) Perrin of Comstock Park; sons, Fred (Jill) Calton of Wyoming, Donald Calton; stepdaughter, Patricia (Dale) Lake of Henderson TN; stepson, Carl David (Joanne) Miller II of Lowell; siblings, Eddie Calton of Danville, IL and Evelyn Burke of Urbana; his favorite fury friend, Butkus; several nephews and nieces; as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren. A private family service is scheduled to be held. The family is requesting masks to be worn and to practice social distancing during the service.



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JANKOWSKI

Bernard John Jankowski age 86 of Lowell passed away November 16, 2021. He was born November 10, 1935 in Omaha, Nebraska the son of Bernard Joseph and Mary (Basko) Jankowski. During his life he enjoyed fishing and hunting, and was a very talented craftsman, woodworker and builder. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Johanna I. Jankowski. He is loved and will be missed by his children, Timothy Jankowski of Lowell, Melissa (Brad) Stiles of Ionia, Raymond (Shannon) Hayes of North Carolina and Ramona (Paul) Audi of Rhode Island; and grandchildren, Nicholas and Logan Stiles, Ryan Wilson and Colton Ferguson, and Rebecca Audi. His devoted sisters, Peggy (Jim) Hardy of Saranac and Joanne (Ed) Ridgway of Grand Rapids; and lots of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and son, Michael Scott Jankowski. His children wish to give a special thanks to his caregivers at Fountain View of Lowell and his Hospice care team. Cremation has taken place and Memorial Services were held at the Lake Funeral Home in Ionia on Saturday, November 20. Those wishing may make memorial contributions to his family for funeral expenses. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com



CARLSON

Jean Margaret Carlson passed away on November 19, 2021 at Maple Ridge Manor in Lowell, MI at the age of 97. Jean was born in Lake City, MN on August 19, 1924 to Walter and Florence Cornell-Copp. She married Ralph D. Carlson in Lake City in 1944 who preceded her in death in 2001. After high school graduation in



1942, Jean worked for the FBI in Washington DC as a radio operator. Upon Ralph's discharge from the Navy in 1946, they moved to Lake City where they owned the Echo Perfection Printers business until 1962 and raised their family there. Jean shared her quilting talents by making quilts that were donated to

many organizations in need. Additionally, Jean enjoyed Ham Radio operations, supporting Scouting as scout leader for many years and was a member of the Lowell United Methodist Church. She is survived by four sons, James of Norcross, GA; Jerome (Colette) of St. Cloud, MN; Jeffrey (Donna) of Belmont, MI; Dr. Jay (Robin) Carlson of Springfield, MO; daughter-in-law, Jennifer Carlson of North Tonawanda, NY; 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, two step-granddaughters, and her sister, Joann Haugerud of Seattle, WA. In addition to her husband, Ralph, she was preceded in death by her parents, her son, Jon; her sister, Arlene Shea; and brother, Neil Copp. A private family service will be held at a later date in Lake City, MN.

STIVER

Neil Alan Stiver, age 68, was born on March 25, 1953, and passed away on November 18, 2021. Neil was born and raised in Muskegon, Michigan and lived in Lowell, Michigan since September 13, 1980, when he married Kathy Jo (Cross) Stiver. Neil met Jesus, his Savior in person this past Thursday following a brief illness at his home. He left behind Kathy, their son, Alan Stiver with his wife Katie (James) Stiver along with their children, Brad, Luke, and Isabelle; their daughter, Amanda (Stiver) Bowman with her husband, Daniel Bowman along with their children, John, Anna, and Aria; Neil's older brother and wife, Russell and Beth (Johnson) Stiver; and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents Herman and Juanita (May) Stiver. Neil and Kathy have been members of First Baptist Church of Lowell for 41 years. However, since churches reopened in the pandemic, they have been attending Smyrna Bible Church. He graduated from Orchard View High School and Muskegon Community College. Neil worked at Our Daily Bread Ministries in Grand Rapids, Michigan for 48 years. He had planned to retire in 1-1/2 years at the age of 70 with 50 years of service at ODB. God had another plan for him! Neil was very much a history buff with a big interest and knowledge concerning the Civil War. Many family vacations centered around trips to battlefields in other states (along with those states' major zoos and Sea World when in Ohio!) He was an accomplished photographer, and each trip was well documented. He especially loved taking pictures of all nature's passing seasons and birds which he showcased on canvasses. Neil and Kathy's favorite vacation spots were in northern Michigan. That will be missed along with the great loving bond of friendship they shared. Neil has been cremated and the family will have a memorial service at a later date. Please contact the family if you would like to attend. Memorial contributions may be made to Alpha Family Center of Lowell, 519 E. Main Street, Lowell, 49331.



Donna Hahn

May 3, 1930 - November 22, 2006

Mom and Grandma,

We love you and miss you everyday.

Bob & James Hahn;
Anita, Dave,
Patrick, Collin &
Alex Roth; Gretchen,
Paul, Adam &
Shanice Jones



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Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

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for sale

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

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

help wanted

Investment Strategist

sought by Lifeworks Advisors LLC (Grand Rapids, MI) w/ a min. of a U.S. Master's deg in Finance + 12 months' exp as quantitative strategist for fin'l technology companies. Must possess: Knowl of fin'l mathematics: probability, stochastic processes, linear algebra; & prgmg languages: R, Python, SQL, VBA. Capacity to implmt derivatives-based strategies: hedging & synthetic asset creation, puts, calls, futures, binomial trees, Monte Carlos. Knowl of statistical inference & machine learning in the context of fin'l time series. Understanding of force affecting price expectations in debt, FX & equity mkts. Knowl of European fin'l mkts & life insurance products. Exp interacting w/ custodians & their APIs. Exp in dvlpg algorithmic investment strategies.

Please mail resumes to Lifeworks Advisors LLC, attn.: Ronald S. Bullis 4095 Park East Court SE, Ste C, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Quantitative Researcher

sought by Lifeworks Advisors LLC (Grand Rapids, MI) w/ a minimum of a U.S. Master's deg in Finance + 12 months' exp as a quantitative researcher for fin'l technology companies. Must possess: Ability to handle large datasets using SQL. Knowl of comp implmnt of algorithmic trading & option pricing. Knowl of int'l & regional trade organizations & foreign exchange mkts. Understanding of machine learning w/ fin'l time series. Knowl in data mining: cluster analysis, neural n/work methods, logistic regression, tree-structured & discriminant analysis. Exp integrating w/ broker dealer Application Prgmg Interface (familiarity w/ APEX Clearing). Deep Knowl of prgmg languages & cloud computing w/ AWS.

Please mail resumes to Lifeworks Advisors LLC, attn.: Ronald S. Bullis - 4095 Park East Court SE, Ste C, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

for rent

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

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

misc.

NEED AN AL-ANON MEETING? - Al-Anon is a fellowship of families and friends of alcoholics. Join us Sunday-Saturday at 10:30 AM and 7 PM on Zoom. Come learn the Steps, Traditions & Concepts of living and coping, in Serenity, with alcoholism. There are no dues or fees for Al-Anon. For Zoom meeting ID & Password, please call Joy at 616-901-7779.

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$32 per year and \$5 per month... start losing weight TODAY!

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services

REBECCA'S HOUSESITTING - has availability for the holiday season. Let me put my decades of veterinary clinic experience to work for your pets. Caring, clean, dependable, insured. rebbehrens@yahoo.com

EARLY THANKSGIVING DEADLINE - The deadline for the Nov. 28 edition of the Buyers Guide is Wed., Nov. 24 at noon. For the week of Nov. 22 our office will be open Mon. - Wed., 8 am - 5 pm. Closed Thursday & Friday. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 616-642-9180. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Dave Traver head mechanic.

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

services

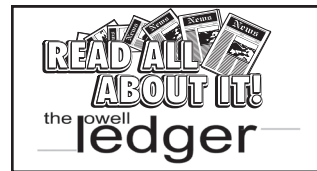
PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER - Needs work. Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

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STUMP GRINDING - Call Dan for free estimates, 616-970-3832.

CARPENTER WANTS JOBS, JOBS, JOBS - New homes, remodeling, additions, flooring, siding, decks, kitchens, baths, plans drawn. Licensed since 1967. References. Mel Cooke, 676-9239. No Sunday calls please.

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Word search grid with words circled: ROTARRAN, CACMWHLSU, GCBTWKME, SOLE, EDITOR, RRY, YNYDWE, ERURV, LANGUAG, EUY, MUI, NP, KSL, SN, BTR, NOKI, TTY, TIE, W, T, F, R, P, O, A, G, U, R, E, M, X, F, A, C, G, O, T, O, U, O, P, V, B, R, R, O, P, H, S, S, N, B, X, A, U, A, C, G, I, G, D, T, R, H, B, P, T, P, O, K, O, O, D, R, M, V, I, L, O, M, O, A, R, C, V, S, G, R, L, C, V, M, E, A, K, H, F, U, B, B, T, L, H, C, W, H, C, K, U, H, E, V, N, H, S, C, L, H, X, I, T, F, A, S, S, L, D, Y, T, S, L, V, O, C, W, O, U, B, V, X, K, B, N, S, E, U, S, I, I, F, N, N, T, A, M, C, U, E, K, X, X, U, V, O, B, R, N, G, O, W, S, X, A, N, T, T, O, L, P, T, R, W, E, M, F, M, K, B, I, B, O, A, N, D, C, X, T, T, O, V, H, U, Y, O, F, D, L, W, X, T, O, F, M, W, O, G, I, A, G, T, S, G, B, O, H, T, G, N, E, L, I, I, Y, F, P, Y, O, G, O, N, V, F, T, Y, O, D, R, E, A, N, Y, F, B, S, F, V, Y, A, N, O, N, V, A, Y, K, A, K, C, O, N, F, L, I, C, T, O, W, O, O, O, R, C, F, R, I, V, W, X, A, M, I, L, C, P, P, R, R, X, I, H, D, I, H, D, X, K, W, A, A, L, K, F, U, E, S, X, N, M, S, D, Y, L, K, T, X, S, W, I, I, Y, R, E, G, A, M, I, E, E, T, V

Obits, continued

THEBO

Derek Warner Thebo, age 32 of Lowell, passed away September 1, 2021. He was preceded in death by his son, Dylan Walter Thebo; grandparents, Delbert E. Thebo Jr., Don L. Demorest; uncles, Kenney Thebo, Jack Gaskill; cousin, Walt E. Thebo. Derek is survived by his wife, Katlyn Hall Thebo; stepdaughter, Alaina Hall; parents, Walter and Elisabeth Thebo; grandparents, Leona Thebo, Roger and Anajayne (Demorest) Feller; sister, Skye E. (Matt) Lemmen; aunts and uncles, Del (Pam) Thebo, Diana Gaskill, Keith (Jackie) Thebo, Ace (Amy) Thebo, Bonnie Waterman, Becky Demorest, Brenda Demorest, Melinda Feller; father and mother-in-law, Brian and Brenda Hall; special friends, Rusty Schlenk, Bry Johnson, Ty Morrison, and Chris Walker. At age 19, Derek moved to Wyoming and worked at The Honor Farm with the Dept. of Corrections while attending the University of Wyoming. He later graduated with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Derek went on to work for the Michigan Department of Corrections at IMAX in Ionia for seven years. He started racing at the age of 13, when he drove his #21 Ford Mustang at Winston Speedway. Derek progressed to modified and then on to his #21 late model. He loved racing on many different dirt tracks and was motivated by a challenge. Derek loved his family and wanted nothing more than to live a life of fulfilling hopes, dreams, and aspirations. His quick wit, integrity, personable demeanor will be missed by those who knew him best. Our regret will always be not having our grandson here to watch him grow and our son who gave up hope to find happiness in this world. A celebration of life will be held in the spring of 2022.



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Looking back, continued

20 at 1:30 pm. The first night the temperature hit 20 degrees with six inches of snow, and the second night the temperature dropped to 10.

25 years The Lowell Ledger November 27, 1996

There was a premium put on attendance at the weekly Lowell Rotary luncheon. The 185 present made it one of the largest attended service club luncheons ever. In attendance was the club's guest speaker, former Future Farmer of America member,

and currently and most prominently the governor of Michigan – John Engler.

A controversial water service agreement between Vergennes and Lowell Charter Townships has been put on hold until Vergennes officials can clarify several issues brought up by concerned citizens. Vergennes officials tabled the agreement after residents complained that hooking up to the existing line may cost more than the land it would actually serve.

The sights and scents were that of the Christmas season. Over 1,000 patrons sauntered through the 15 homes that made up the 5th annual Christmas Through Lowell tour. What their wandering eyes found were hundreds of handcrafted items made by over 50 local artists.

Social Security survivors benefits explained

We are here for surviving family members when a worker dies. In the event of your death, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits. These include widows and widowers, divorced widows and widowers, children, and dependent parents.

The amount of benefits your survivors receive depends on your lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings, the higher their benefits. That's why it's important to make sure your earnings history is correct in our records. That starts with creating a *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. A *my Social Security* account is secure and gives you immediate

access to your earnings records, Social Security benefit estimates, and a printable Social Security Statement. The Statement will let you see an estimate of the survivors benefits we could pay your family.

You may also want to visit our Benefits Planner for Survivors to help you better understand Social Security protections for you and your family as you plan for your financial future at www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors.

Please visit www.ssa.gov or read our publication Survivors Benefits at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf for more information. You can also help us spread the word by sharing this information with your family and friends.



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.

Herbruck's sponsors Thanksgiving meal

Herbruck's Poultry Ranch is helping ensure community members get a delicious, hot meal on Thanksgiving.

Herbruck's is a sponsor

of Mel Trotter Ministries' free Thanksgiving Community Meal offered to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, as well as anyone in the greater Grand Rapids community. The meal will be held on Thanksgiving Day, at DeVos

Place.

Along with its sponsorship, Herbruck's leadership and their families are volunteering to serve the meal on Thanksgiving.

"For the Herbruck family, part of being a good neighbor means helping to

combat food insecurity in the communities we serve," said Amy Herbruck, marketing and community support manager at Herbruck's. "As a child, I recall my grandfather supporting Mel Trotter Ministries, and it will be a privilege for me and my family to volunteer at the Thanksgiving Community Meal this year."

Mel Trotter Ministries serves thousands of people experiencing homelessness in West Michigan each year, helping them secure employment, medical assistance, meals and other essentials.

The sponsorship is just one of Herbruck's efforts to be a good neighbor, especially during the holiday season. Herbruck's is sponsoring a children's gift collection this year, as well as Toys for Tots, and makes numerous egg and monetary donations year-round.

Herbruck's Poultry Ranch is a fourth-generation family farm based in Saranac, Michigan. Herbruck's is the largest egg producer in Michigan and has locations in Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania. For more information about Herbruck's, visit: www.herbrucks.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of
Maxine Willis
Guardianship File No.
21-210261-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including
Micheal Willis, Judy
Belton, Sandy Willis,
Sherry Martin, Mary
Hillman, Michelle Willis,
Brandi Thomas, Stacy
Willis, and Tashica Miller,
and any other unknown
children and heirs,
whose address(es) is/
are unknown and whose
interest in the matter may
be barred or affected by
the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing
will be held on December

14, at 9:00 A.M. at Kent
Co. Probate Court, 180
Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids,
MI 49503 Courtroom 9C
and via Zoom before
Judge David M. Murkowski
(P35026) for the following
purpose: Appointment of a
Guardian.

Dated: November 22, 2021

Adult Protective Services,
DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 260-5649

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

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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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!

NOVEL WRITING WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

NOVEL WRITING WORD SEARCH

COPY DENOTATION DIALOGUE

FORESHADOWING IMAGERY KEYBOARD

NARRATIVE NARRATOR NOVEL

ANTAGONIST CHARACTER CLIMAX CONFLICT

DRAFT EDITOR EXPOSITION FICTION

LANGUAGE LENGTH MANUSCRIPT MOOD

PLOT PROSE RESOLUTION

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Washington, DC on November 24, 1978. I gained fame for playing a doctor on a popular TV series. I've starred in several rom-com movies as well, including a comedy opposite Seth Rogen.

Answer: Katherine Heigl

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to writing a novel.

T E G D N I I

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

Answer: Editing

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	

CLUES ACROSS

- FDNY's union
- Hideout
- Trent Reznor's band
- Old World tropics plants
- Places to stay
- Group of organisms from a common ancestor
- TV character Goodman
- Not around
- Title of respect
- Ceramic jars
- British legal authority (abbr.)
- A companion (archaic)
- Where groups of people live
- Indigenous person of NE Thailand
- Red-brown sea bream
- Ridge of jagged rock
- Meat from a pig (French)
- A way to save for the future
- Opposite of bottom
- A term of endearment
- Weight used in China
- You need it to hear
- Frighten
- Basics

- Computer data collection (abbr.)
- The best point of something
- Jewelled headdress
- Spoke
- Mammary gland of female cattle
- Midway between north and northeast
- Defunct European economic group
- Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear

- Corporate PR exec (abbr.)
- Insures bank's depositors
- Made dim
- Uncultured person
- Paddle
- Currency of Cambodia
- Pitching stat
- A place to put mail
- God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 10 years
- Resinous substance secreted by insects
- Losses
- S. American plants
- Void of thought or knowledge
- Stout-bodied moth
- Transferred property
- Russian pop act
- Accept
- A retrospective military analysis (abbr.)
- A type of center

CLUES DOWN

- In tune
- Ending
- Ring-shaped objects
- Equal to 10 liters (abbr.)
- Removes from record
- The lowest point
- Plant cultivated for its tubers
- Dry or withered
- Stony waste matter
- Speedometer reading
- Each of two or more forms of the same element
- A baseball stat

Gary's Country Meats: Serving Lowell since 1965

by Bill Lee
contributing reporter

People walk by and wave to the employees inside the

shop. Little kids ask for their favorite Dum Dum lollipop after their parents buy some

food. Owners fill specialty orders for chops, ribeye and jerky. This narrative

has occurred for the last three generations at Gary's Country Meats in downtown Lowell. Family, community and meat - things that have been huge parts of the Laux family, especially Gary and Aaron, owners of the meat shop for the last 55 years. Gary Laux began the business in 1965 and now his son Aaron, who has been working for his father since the age of 14, will take over the business at the beginning of the new year.

"Gary will never hang it up because it's been bred in him," said Aaron Laux. "He loves what he does but it's time for him to take it easy in life, but he'll be here in the shadows."

The meat business is not easy as the hours are long - 60-65 hours sometimes - and the competition is strong from the big shopping markets, but the Laux family has survived all these years thanks to the quality of their product and service and the supportive community they serve.

"It's quality not quantity," said Laux. "Honestly it's about the people and the connections you make with the community. Everybody's happy to come in and see you and say hi. The biggest thing is I like to know my customers by name."

Gary's, unlike some big grocery stores, is known for specialty items like a thick cut ribeye, coulotte steak or ox tail.

"Everything here is made in house," said Laux. "From our hickory smoked bacon all the way to our snack sticks, our jerkies - our main staples, especially for the guys for deer hunting. We'll sell 50-60 pounds of jerky in a week, a couple hundred pounds of bacon a week."

The holidays are particularly a busy time for the shop preparing fresh turkeys and custom ribeyes for the Christmas holiday. Many family favorites over the years have been the snack sticks, jerkies,



Owner Aaron Laux, son of Gary, with employee Bob Danielson behind him.

brats, breakfast sausages and Gary's famous Polish kielbasa with his 50-year old recipe.

"A lot of people who have moved away are coming back to see their parents so they're coming into the meat market to get their meat treats," said Laux with a smile.

Most of the meat comes from Michigan or the tri-state area of Michigan, Illinois and Indiana, including a local slaughterhouse in Hudsonville.

"Everything is pretty much Michigan local," said Laux. "We don't slaughter but we cut everything in house. Just take your time when you do it, and I've got a great staff to wait on customers. If customers need one pork chop, the guys wrap up one pork chop. That's what keeps customers coming back."

His relationship with Lowell is reciprocal. Customers have supported the business for so many years, but the Laux family is quietly proud to have given more than just meat back to the community.

"We don't wave a flag around or anything," said Laux. "We'll do small ads here or there and do a lot with

the chamber. We always help the firemen with the chicken BBQ that they do. We get the chicken for them and do it at cost, so it helps them for their big fundraiser. John Stormzand [an employee at Gary's] volunteers for the Flat River Outreach Ministries at least twice a week. We'll do something when we can. If you try to do the same for everyone, I think you're a better person."

The shop is quite busy from Easter through the New Year holiday. January and February are a little bit slower and Aaron will take his family down to Florida for a week. Starting this January, Aaron Laux will officially take over the business from Gary. He is looking forward to doing some updating and upkeep on the business this winter. It is clear that Aaron enjoys what he does and holds the business to a high standard.

"I'm pretty proud to work for dad and be able to take over the business," said Laux. "You've got to be willing to work hard, make a lot of sacrifices, and it gets stressful, but in the end as long as you're happy with what you are doing... and I truly still am happy."



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