

Riot on the Showboat!



page 16

Emma Palova's new podcast



pages 8-9

Ty the Christmas Lights Guy



page 7

"The Restless Viking"



page 10

School board recall town hall meeting

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. The group had the second of three planned town hall meetings at the Englehardt library on Monday, Nov. 29.

The meeting lasted about one hour and 40 minutes and was attended by 13 area residents, including Lowell Kids 1st founders Stefanie Boone and Carey VanderBoon. The discussion got a little heated from time to time as attendees

interrupted and spoke over one another, but dialogue was civil and the meeting was generally orderly.

Between Dec. 15 and Dec. 31 the group will be collecting signatures to recall board treasurer Gary Blough, trustee Jessica Curtis and secretary Pat Nugent, whose terms expire in Dec. 2022 and who will be up for reelection in Nov. 2022.

First, Boone and VanderBoon introduced themselves and revealed some of the history behind the group, next the meeting

attendees were asked to introduce themselves and explain their reasons for attending, then Boone and VanderBoon explained the reasoning behind the recall. Other topics of discussion included Critical Race Theory – the group claims this is secretly taught in Lowell Area Schools under the guise of diversity, equity and inclusion – potential uses for any CARES Act "ESSER" funds the district may receive, refusing the ESSER funds altogether and books in the school library they describe as

"pornographic."
"I have six children," Boone said. "We live, actually, in Forest Hills' eastern district. My husband and I graduated from Forest Hills Northern. We have five boys and one girl and ever since our oldest was, I think, four years old, he started playing flag football with Lowell. We just liked the program better, had heard really good things about the town and the sports and the academics and just everything as a whole. And since we're just a neighboring district, we

did school choice, so we transfer all of our boys over as they move into the middle school age. Our daughter plays soccer, and she has stuck with Forest Hills and just graduated this past May, and then our youngest is still a student at Forest Hills Eastern. We have always loved Lowell, we have always loved the small town feel. Even though we live in the eastern district, we spend most of our time in Lowell because of all the activities

Town hall, continued, page 2

Consumers Energy BOGO: Buy \$50 of Lowell Bucks and receive \$50 Lowell Bucks free

Consumers Energy is again celebrating the holidays by helping shoppers and Michigan's local businesses, providing \$750,000 in matching gift cards in 63 communities through its "Our Town"

effort. Consumers Energy is providing holiday shoppers with a dollar-for-dollar match for gift cards they buy through local Chambers of Commerce and downtown organizations, doubling

the amount they can spend at downtown businesses. Consumers Energy is providing \$5,000 to \$40,000 in each community. Shoppers can earn the matching dollars when they buy gift cards directly



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Korean War veteran John Erickson celebrates 92nd birthday



by Herman Weststrate, Jr.
US Army 1966-1969, National Guard 1974-1976

Local Army veteran John Erickson celebrated his 92nd birthday on Nov.26 with a dinner party.

John Erickson served in the US Army during the Korean War, 33 months in 2nd Infantry, Div. 33, where he earned a Purple Heart and was a POW. Erickson was also a past commander of VFW Post 8303.

Pictured from left to right are Doug Voss, an Army Korea defense veteran who served from 1968 to 1969; David Maltman, a retired USN Iraq War veteran and officer with VFW Post 8303; John Erickson; Herman Weststrate Jr., a Vietnam War Army veteran, National Guard veteran, commander of VFW Post 8303 and officer of American Legion Post 152; Bonnie Weststrate, who has been married to Herm for 53 years; and Lucille Erickson, John Erickson's wife of more than 50 years.

from local chambers and downtown organizations. The Our Town support will be available while gift cards last. To make a purchase of Lowell Bucks, visit discoverlowell.org/lowell-bucks.

"We are excited to announce that once again we have received a gift from Consumers Energy to support small business here in our community and around Michigan," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker. "You may purchase \$50 and receive another \$50 free. The limit is \$50! When they are gone they are gone."

"Consumers Energy is excited to again support Michigan's small businesses and communities we serve this holiday season," said Lauren Youngdahl Snyder, Consumers Energy's vice president of customer

experience. "Our Town" made an impact across Michigan last year, and we look forward to seeing the program's dollars and shoppers give a boost to shops and restaurants in their hometowns."

"Small businesses will be the engine that powers Michigan as we continue to rebound from the pandemic," said Rich Studley, Michigan Chamber of Commerce president and CEO. "We appreciate Consumers Energy's commitment to those businesses and our communities by bringing back 'Our Town' this holiday season."

Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider, is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy, providing natural gas and/or electricity to 6.8 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

50¢



Town hall, continued

that our kids are involved in. I guess I would say when COVID hit, it was kind of just a wake up call for our family. Like everyone else, we were just busy with life and sports and school and work and you name it. When our kids got into the remote schooling is when it really kind of allowed us a peek into really what is going on in our kids' classrooms. It was pretty eye-opening to see and hear some of the things going on. As far as virus mandates, our family has always been kind of 'stand up against the virus mandates,' so we were kind of fired up about that as well. [...] I had been working with a parent group in Forest Hills, and they were more fired up about the Critical Race Theory, diversity, equity, inclusion, and so I started asking around in Lowell, some of my friends, I said, 'Hey, is this going on hugely here or is it just a little bit I'm seeing, you know, thus far?' And the parents were like, 'Not that I'm seeing, but I'm gonna start paying attention now that you said that.' And so I started doing the same thing. I started looking at what we were seeing in Forest Hills and I said, 'Holy crap. I'm seeing the same thing in Lowell.' So it's kind of a case of the more you network with people, the more you talk, the more you talk with your kids and look into the activities and things going on, the homework that they're doing, the books that

they're reading, you go, 'Oh, I guess, yeah, it's for real.' Ever since then, we've just been trying to work with the school board, trying to work with the administration. It's kind of been fighting tooth and nail to get information along the way, but we've got a good, solid crew of staff and teachers in the district that have opened up to us to share a lot of information that they are very scared to share. They don't want to share their names, they don't want to post publicly, but they tell us on the back end. Everything from the libraries to the classrooms to after school events, you name it. It's been very eye-opening, and we're just working our best to try to expose that and make changes the best way we can to kind of get back to what Lowell and what Lowell schools once was, which was just more of a focus on the basics - math, science, social studies, language arts - without all of the diversity, equity, inclusion focus that's been hugely going on."

"I started Lowell Kids 1st mainly just because of my frustrations," VanderBoon said "I'm like, there's got to be other parents in the community feeling the same way that I do and, lo and behold, I found hundreds of parents in the same boat as me, same situations with remote [learning]. So we started going to the [school board] meetings and trying to get a meeting with Nate [Fowler, LAS

superintendent] and the other [administrators] one-on-one to see if, you know, like, 'Hey, is this really going on?' And we felt like we got somewhere in the beginning, but then it's communication. They just kept on, you know, kind of not communicating, putting things under the rug, and I'm like, this is not the way I want my kid to go to school. I don't want him, you know, learning those kind of things. We've been trying to get this administration to do, like, a happy medium for everybody, and it's been very difficult, so they've kind of forced our hands into this recall. And we had told them this is not what we want to do, this is not where we want to go. We want to find some kind of form of good communication that we can all agree upon."

"We worked all summer long," Boone said later in the meeting. "We tried and tried to convince the board and Nate all summer long that this is not a law. The mandates are not laws. They are, basically, a recommendation. And whatever the punishment might be for a school district to not follow certain mandates, they were really unsure of. All summer long, they basically said, 'We don't know what might happen if we don't, so we're just going to follow for the safety of all.' [...] We even got a letter drawn up, drafted up by an attorney, a letter of demand that we served up to the board and to the district, demanding that they remove any mask mandate in the absence of a law that was in place. So by July Nate had communicated to the district that we felt like we had a win, that masks will be choice. So it was, 'Yay, everybody's happy.' [...] I had texted Nate on Aug. 17th, and I said, 'Hey, Nate, any updates on the mask situation? Because there was a little bit of buzz starting to go around about, oh crap, are we gonna have some mandates coming

down? I said, 'Should we just plan on status quo?' Which, 'status quo' would have been the July 9 letter that [said] it was choice for everyone. [On] Aug. 17 he replies back, 'No updates. I'm hoping to hear if there is anything else from the health department.' All of a sudden Aug. 20 comes around and the Kent County Health Department issues a mask mandate for all K through six students in Kent County. The problem with that is the order from the Kent County Health Department cited a letter dated Aug. 16 from all of the Kent County superintendents, including Nate Fowler, where they were asking the director of the health department Adam London for a mask mandate. I have texts from Nate saying, 'Everything is status quo,' when on the back end the superintendents were literally begging Adam London. We've done a FOIA request to get this information. They were begging him, 'Please issue a mask mandate because otherwise we don't know what we're gonna do.' So, literally, Nate is telling us all one thing and on the back end doing another. And he was working with other superintendents for the Kent County schools as well. [...] The point of of the mask mandate situation is that, well, we're not fighting for no masks, we're not fighting for no vax, we are fighting for choice. Choice for all, that is what we want. Our group wants everyone to have the right to choose for their own family, for their own children, what is best for their family. And, actually, Michigan state law does give the right to parents to do that."

Based on remarks they made during the meeting, five of the people in attendance at the town hall seemed to be receptive to the Lowell Kids 1st recall, four seemed like they were against it and two said they



"Lowell Kids 1st" founders Carey VanderBoon (left) and Stefanie Boone (right) speaking at the Nov. 29 town hall at Englehardt library.

were only there to learn more about it. The main argument from those who seemed to be against the recall focused on its pointlessness - if it's successful, the three new people would have to run for election again after only five months on the board.

"I don't see the problem with the board," said one attendee. "I look at the mask mandates and that's not coming from the board, that's coming from the county, it's coming from the government. I know that you all have issues with masks and everything, but if any of you have flown on vacation in the last year, you didn't bitch when the TSA said, 'Put your mask on to fly,' you wore your mask. None of you have taken a mask off when you went to the hospital, and if you've been to court, you've had to wear a mask. So it's not the board that is mandating a lot of this stuff, it's the government."

"I want to understand why you think that recalling them, when they're going to be up for election next year anyway, is the right thing to do," said another attendee.

"These board members have been on there for a very long time, their term is almost over with, let them play it out," said another attendee. "And if you want to run and change something, maybe you'll get reelected. But I think they're doing a fantastic job. I think Lowell schools are wonderful."

"I've gone to a few of the school board meetings [and] the undertone has been so negative," said Lowell resident Teresa Beachum. "Not from the school board, from the Lowell Kids 1st.

[...] Just the little bit of knowledge that has been shared here tonight, I think it's so misdirected to our school board. The school board is following the health department [and] the CDC. I think I can say very honestly, I personally know our school board members [and] I have huge respect for them. What brings me here tonight is to find out a couple things. First of all, why the recall? Your people that want to run for our school board, why don't they just follow the protocol and run the next time there's an opening and see if they have more votes than than the existing incumbents? Secondly, I'd like to know who would like to run for the school board. [...] Who are the three people that you'd like to put in the seats on our school board?"

Boone did not respond immediately, and later in the meeting stated that she would not reveal the names of any potential school board candidates. Boone also declined to comment when asked if she was considering running for a seat on the school board in Forest Hills, where she lives.

Boone said that the group may decide to recall the rest of the school board in the future.

"If we continue to get zero response, as it has been, out of the board, then we can choose to file after the start of the year for the other four," Boone said. "And yeah, we will, if that's what we need to do."

Lowell Kids 1st will have one more town hall meeting, in the community room at the Englehardt library at 6 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
November 8, 2021

Motions Approved

1. Budget Amendments to the General Fund and Fire Fund.
2. Mission Dialer system upgrade.
3. Plummers Disposal Proposal for 2022 Clean Up Days.
4. Election Inspector Pay Increase.
5. Maintenance Agreement for Generators.
6. Grant Writing Online Class for Supervisor.

Special Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
November 18, 2021

Motions Approved

1. Resolution 2021-019 to partially vacate special assessment included on the special assessment roll for the Cowan Lake sanitary sewer special assessment district no. 1 and other matters related thereto

Our next Township Meeting will be
December 13, 2021 at 9 a.m.

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

the lowell ledger

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Annual WWC Luminary Hike a three day event

The Wittenbach Wege Center's annual luminary hike, the most highly attended event there, will run for three evenings this year. The hikes will take place from 5 pm until 9 pm on Friday, Dec. 10, Saturday, Dec. 11 and Sunday, Dec. 12.

Year after year, more than 1,000 people hike the WWC trails, lit only by candles, bonfires and the moon.

There will be hot cocoa for \$1 and the Geminid meteor shower, plus Saturday will be family night with nature-inspired crafts.

Attendees are encouraged

to sign up online for a specific time window for their hike. Masks are required to participate, and groups must maintain six feet of distance from each other, and no dogs are allowed.

Cost for the event is \$2 per person or \$10 for a family. They will have long sleeve or short sleeve t-shirts for sale between \$15 and \$25 depending on size and style. Additional parking will be available at the high school.

For more information or to volunteer, email ccheers@lowellschools.com, call 616-987-2565 or find the WWC on social media.



LowellArts Artist Market through Dec. 24



The annual LowellArts Artist Market, featuring work by over 50 area artists, is underway and will continue through Friday, Dec. 24.

Thousands of unique, handmade items by Michigan artists are available for purchase in the gallery right now, including pottery, paintings, photography, jewelry, textiles, glasswork, leather goods, woodworking, metalwork, basketry, ornaments, soaps and more.

Participating artists will include Eana Agopian, Neven Allan, Cindy Allen, Sandy Bartlett, Lisa Boerema, Paul Bradshaw, Skylar Bre'z, Dianne Carroll Burdick, Carol Caron, Joy Castonguay, Barbara Clark,

Sue Clay, Sierra A. Cole, Samantha Coon, Vickie Culver, Anne Curtis, Gary Dietzel, Jennifer Gould, Kris Green, Marty Green, Sue Haveman, Jennifer Helner, Cheryl Hillman, Emma Hoekstra, Linda Ippel, Sally Jenks, Amy Johnson, Kimberly Johnson, Tammy Johnson, Allison Jones, David Kerley, Robert Kleczynski, Jane Kropewnicki, Mary Lamson-Burke, Darla-Jo LeBaron, Hallie LeBlanc, Carmen Lee, Roger MacNaughton, Patti Mollema, Betsy O'Neill, Colleen O'Rourke, Colin Plank, Betsy Ratzsch, Tom Sampson, Maxine Shearer, Monica Stegeman, Adam Trabka, Chris Trabka, Lisa Van Rensburg, Mary

Van Wingen, Julia Voake, Catherine Wahl and Laurie Zientek.

The gallery will be open each Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am until 6 pm and every Sunday from noon until 5 pm. All individuals are required to wear a mask inside of the LowellArts building, regardless of vaccination status.

There will be a Member Appreciation Weekend on Dec. 4 and 5, when LowellArts members will receive 10 percent off their purchases. Annual memberships to LowellArts start at \$40 and can be purchased at anytime by anyone, there is no residency requirement.

Omicron variant not detected in state yet, but illustrates importance of vaccines, booster doses, masks and other mitigation strategies

While the COVID-19 Omicron variant has not been detected in the state, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is monitoring for it and advising residents that the presence of variants makes it even more important to get vaccinated, including the booster dose to increase protection, wear masks and take other precautions.

"Ensuring that as many Michiganders as possible are vaccinated remains the best protection we have against COVID-19 – including variants of concern," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Michigan's chief medical executive. "We are asking Michiganders to continue to use critical mitigation measures, such as getting vaccinated and getting boosters when eligible, wearing a mask, and getting tested regularly. Increased transmission fuels the development of more variants of concern."

The CDC has declared Omicron – which emerged in South Africa – to be a variant of concern. There

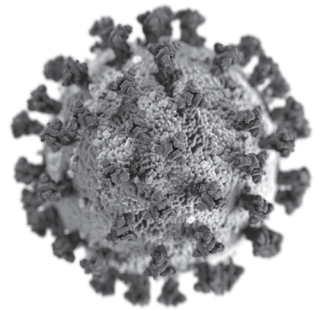
appears to be evidence that it is more transmissible, based on preliminary information.

The MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories has re-analyzed the genetic sequencing data from 31,000 positive COVID-19 samples sequenced in its lab and has identified no cases of the new variant.

"It's still early, and there is much that we need to learn about the Omicron variant," said Dr. Alexis Travis, senior deputy director of MDHHS's Public Health Administration. "We know what protection measures are needed to reduce the spread of COVID and prevent additional mutations of the virus. We need Michiganders to continue to do their part to keep themselves and their loved ones safe."

In addition to getting vaccinated and wearing masks – particularly indoors and in crowded areas – other things people can do to protect themselves and their loved ones include:

Getting tested for COVID-19, especially before gatherings.



Physically distancing from others and avoiding crowds.

Washing hands frequently with soap and water and cleaning hands with alcohol-based hand rub.

Covering your mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Self-isolating until you recover if you develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

MDHHS has issued a public health advisory that all Michiganders, regardless of vaccination status, should wear a mask in indoor public settings and those who are not fully vaccinated or who are immunocompromised should avoid large crowds or gatherings.

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MAKING PATIENTS FEEL LIKE FAMILY

Veterans having a hard time, homelessness increased in latest HUD report

The Homelessness Assessment Report” released by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development this March found that 37,252 US military veterans were homeless, a shocking reversal of a formerly positive trend. Between 2010 and 2016 there was a 47 percent reduction in veteran homelessness. 2017 saw the first increase since 2009. According to Military Times, veterans account for approximately eight percent of the total US homeless population of 580,466.

“Post-deployment readjustment, substance use disorders or traumatic brain injuries make their participation in the workforce difficult or even impossible, making [veterans] more likely to be homeless,” said Disabled American Veterans associate national legislative director Anthony Lewis during a House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee hearing in

September.

A joint statement issued in April by HUD secretary Marcia L. Fudge and Veterans Affairs secretary Denis McDonough pledged to make ending veteran homelessness a top priority for those organizations.

“Our collaboration is the first step of a multi-phased whole-of-government effort that will ultimately help us end veteran homelessness,” the joint statement by Fudge and McDonough read. “We will evaluate existing strategies, implement new approaches when necessary, and execute a plan to ensure we achieve tangible results that incorporate best practices, feedback, and lessons learned from veterans, advocacy groups and other stakeholders. [...] VA and HUD will prioritize this effort at the highest levels. Staff in both agencies will collaboratively develop a strategy to significantly reduce the number of veterans experiencing

homelessness, as well as a strategy to ensure that no veteran experiences homelessness in the future. The secretaries will participate in listening sessions with stakeholder groups, including veterans with lived expertise. Information and materials gathered will be analyzed for use during quarterly meetings with homeless program staff from both departments to inform decisions about changes to policies and programs. We will develop targets, assess progress, and hold our agencies accountable. [VA and HUD will] lead with an evidence-based housing first approach. Evidence and past progress on reducing veteran homelessness demonstrate a housing first approach works. Together, our agencies will ensure targeted interventions - such as HUD-VA supportive housing, supportive services for veteran families, grant and per diem - help veterans



There is probably somebody on your Christmas list who would appreciate a shirt like this and the sentiment behind it.

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obtain stable housing as quickly as possible without barriers or preconditions. [VA and HUD will] reach underserved veterans. Reducing veteran homelessness will require new approaches to serving veterans for whom prior efforts may have fallen short. These include veterans with less than honorable discharge status, as well as veterans who are women, members of racial and ethnic minority groups, transgender and gender non-conforming, aging and/or living in rural areas. We will ensure our interagency effort identifies and removes barriers to VA care and services, so benefits are equitably available among underserved veteran communities. [VA and HUD will] ensure the delivery of quality supportive services. Supportive services are critical to helping veterans find and retain housing, and to use it as a platform for achieving health, recovery and economic success. Working diligently with federal and community stakeholders, we commit to identifying ways to ensure veterans have access to quality supportive health, mental health and legal services alongside employment and housing assistance, whether provided by VA or community partners. [VA and HUD will] increase the supply of and access to affordable housing. A significant obstacle to ending Veteran homelessness is the lack of affordable housing, especially in many

urban centers. We will work jointly, including examining opportunities through the American Rescue Plan and the American Jobs Plan, to increase the supply of affordable housing and ensure veterans have access. Our agencies will do this by engaging landlords, and affordable housing developers, supporting the use of federal programs to create and subsidize affordable housing, identifying ways to improve veteran access to these housing units, and supporting state and local collaboration to finance and create affordable housing.” Now that the politicians have finished talking, there is actually something tangible we can all do to help out a little. The organization U.S. VETS is dedicated to completely eradicating veteran homelessness. The organization supports 20,000 veterans every year, providing meals, beds, counseling, job placements and myriad other services - whatever it takes to get our soldiers off the streets. This Veterans Day they launched a new fundraising campaign, “Make Camo Your Cause” to establish the camouflage print as the official symbol to honor veterans. They’re selling all sorts of apparel and other merchandise on their website, usvets.org, or you can simply donate some money to them. Either way, all proceeds will be used for their mission to end veteran homelessness.

The West Michigan Veterans’ Assistance Program has a financial assistance program, an affordable housing program, a food pantry and an assistance program, all based out of their service center at 620 Century Ave. SW in Grand Rapids. The center is open the first and third Friday of the month from 9:15 am until 11:30 pm and the food pantry is open every Monday and Tuesday from 9 am to 1 pm. The organization also has a public retail store at 130 W. Superior in Wayland, open to the public, where they sell clothes, artwork, décor and various other merchandise to fundraise for the organization. Visit wmvap.org for copious details about that group. Kent County Veterans Services assists veterans and their families with service-connected disability claims, applying for VA non service-connected pensions, applying for surviving spouse pensions, county and federal burial benefits, veterans ID cards, eligibility verification reports, educational benefits, retrieving military service records, soldiers and sailors relief fund, working with social services and government agencies, upgrading of discharges if possible, document notarizing and many other veterans issues. Call 616-632-5722 or visit accesskent.com/Departments/VeteransServices for more information about this.

viewpoint



100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 8, 1921

Co-operating liquor squads of city, state and federal officers last week-end raided the stills and caches of a dozen Grand Rapids bootlegging and distillery establishments, dumped mash by the hundred-weight confiscated quantities of wine and moonshine, arrested eleven persons, held two and secured evidence for warrants against six others.

Our neighbor town Lake Odessa lost its \$60,00 school building by the Sunday evening. Fortunately, the loss was largely covered by insurance, \$49,000 being the figure given. Still, at present building prices, the district will have a big burden on its hands, and it would be a good time for the tax-payers in the section to consider well a community school center, taking in the surrounding district.

Lowell township taxpayers are confronted with the greatest tax levy in its history and the prospect of succeeding increases beyond a point already ruinous of the present gait continues. Our citizens are patient and long-suffering; but there's a limit, and that limit has not only been reached, but it is far in the rear. While there's no use crying for spilled milk, there's no sense in spilling any more whole milkings. There must be a recess in the highway program. The upkeep of roads already built will be burdensome enough. Not a dollar should be voted for new highway improvements by Lowell township next spring. Give the people a chance for their lives.

75 years The Lowell Ledger December 5, 1946

Kent county will be the first county in Michigan to purchase and operate microfilm equipment to facilitate the recording of documents. The film recording system first will be used by the abstract and Photostat departments.

The surgeon who before operating must make sure his hands are free of germs got a sanitary boost from science recently with the development of an electronic soap dispenser which automatically squirts liquid soap. Unlike soap dispensers which require depressing a plunger with the hand, the electronic dispenser operates whenever its beam of light is broken. It ejects approximately one teaspoonful of liquid soap at a time and holds a gallon of soap.

Lowell Manufacturing Company reports that because of the coal strike they anticipate a shortage of the type of steel used in their plant. The night crew has been layed off but half of them have been absorbed on the day shift. It is not known at this writing whether

or not sprayers can be shipped under the freight embargo.

50 years The Lowell Ledger December 9, 1971

The dilapidated interior of the Lowell City Hall greeting Council visitors Monday night, made one wonder whether the issue at hand, the caring of the elderly, shouldn't be second on the agenda to renovation of the 1910 structure. But, as one city official put it, "we must look after the citizenry we serve, before a clean-up job on the home-front can even be given due consideration."

A mail box, designed specifically for letters directed to Santa Claus, received approval this week by the Lowell Postal Department, prior to its placement in the yard of The Ralph Fluger residence. Three-year-old Suzette Fluger was first to place her letter in the box, designed by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Fluger of Lowell. All letters placed in the box will be forwarded to Santa Claus at the North Pole.

The establishment of a community center for Lowell and the surrounding areas, is being made possible by donations, big and small, to enable the working committees to renovate the building on Grand River Drive, furnish it, and maintain it.

25 years The Lowell Ledger December 4, 1996

Do Lowell Charter Township residents want a community swimming pool and if so, where should it be located? Those are just two of many questions that will be answered followed the township's decision to approve a \$500 expenditure for a community swimming pool feasibility study.

Former wells serving residents of Eastgate Village will be closed in Lowell Charter Township. The decision to close the wells, as a cost of around \$10,200, comes two years after residents in the 250-home subdivision

had their water service switched to the city of Lowell. The closure was part of the original switch over agreement, according to township supervisor John Timpson.

The mysteries of science will be explored at Alto Elementary School on Monday, December 9, when ECA Educational Services, in conjunction with the Mr. Wizard Studios, presents Mr. Wizard's Science in the Home. New guidelines set by the American Academy for the Advancement of Science ask teachers to use hands-on projects in an effort to improve the science programs in our nation's schools. In keeping with these guidelines, Mr. Wizard Science Assembly programs demonstrate the science of everyday living using interactive teaching methods.

to the editor

Dear Editor,

After reading the article in last week's Ledger regarding the petition to remove several members of the school board, I would like to publicly thank the school board members and Superintendent Nate Fowler for their hard work and dedication to our school district. They have gone above and beyond to stay focused on serving their community, following recommended public health guidelines and considering the needs of all students attending Lowell Area Schools.

The fact that the school board has not acted on the demands of the Lowell Kids First group may not mean they are unresponsive, it may just mean that they don't feel the demands being made are in the best interest of the students of Lowell Area Schools. After reviewing the complaints of the group, I am thankful that our school leadership has not given in to the pressure from a very vocal group of parents that don't represent the feelings of all district parents.

Jennifer Dougherty
Alto



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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Deadline is noon on Mondays

HEALTH

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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

- tinnitus

Tinnitus is a sound you may hear when there is not sound coming from a source outside your body. It is usually not a serious condition, but it can be annoying. The pitch of tinnitus can range from high to low. In most cases, it sounds like a ringing, buzzing, or clicking inside your head. For some people, it sounds like a whooshing or a pulsing. When you are in a quiet place, tinnitus can seem louder because there are no other sounds to drown it out. It can occur for a few seconds or all the time. You might have trouble hearing or notice that loud noises bother you. Tinnitus may seem louder or more annoying at night when you are trying to fall asleep or when you are under stress. Sometimes moving your jaw or head in a certain way makes it sound louder or softer.

Tinnitus is most commonly associated with hearing loss. It is thought

that when people begin to lose their hearing, the hearing part of the brain does not receive normal sound input, the brain begins to sense sound that is not there, resulting in tinnitus.

Certain medicines can also cause tinnitus. Less common causes of tinnitus include muscle strain in your neck or jaw, a condition called Meniere disease that affects hearing and balance, and a vestibular schwannoma, which is growth on the nerves in the ear. A hearing test is usually recommended in the work up of tinnitus. Other tests are rarely needed, but may include an MRI or test of the inner ear.

Most cases of tinnitus last for a few minutes. Even when it lasts longer than that, in many cases it goes away without treatment. If you are having hearing loss or are older than 50 years, tinnitus is more likely to stay or get worse over time.

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.

H is for Hudson

The name Hudson is very familiar to Lowell. Most people drive North and South Hudson daily. While the name Hudson is common, Alexander Nickolas Hudson, who came to Lowell after the Civil War, was anything but common.

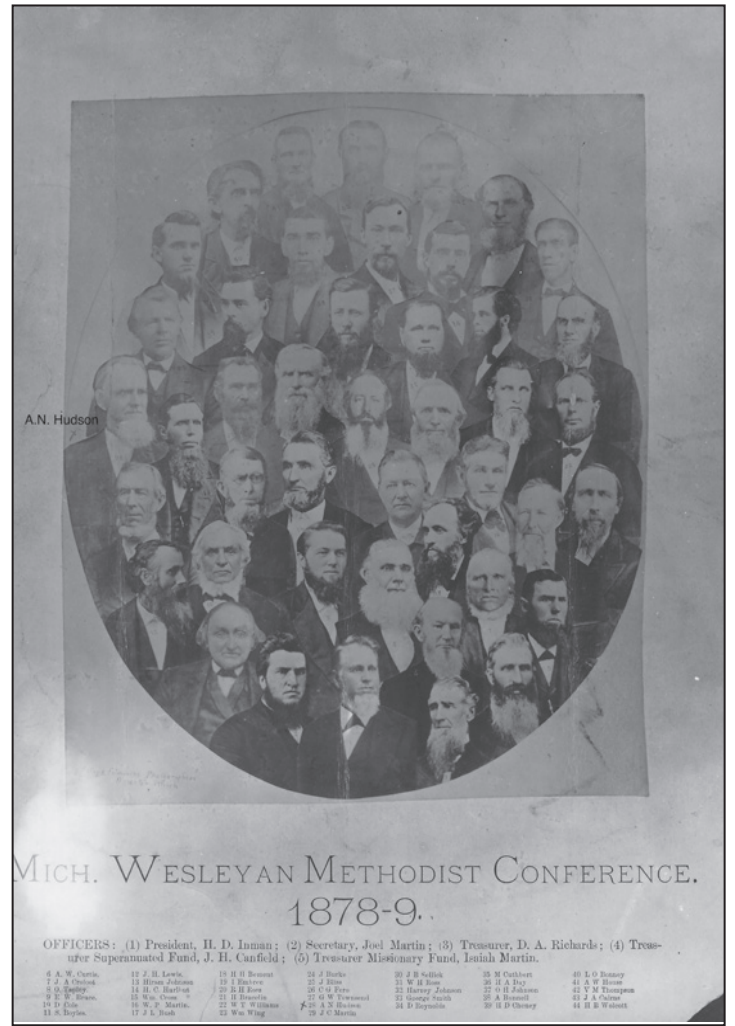
A.N. Hudson, known most of his life as 'Elder Hudson' was born in 1814 in New York. He was converted to the Christian faith at a young age and devoted his life to the ministry. He began preaching as a circuit riding minister in New York. He preached around the country, and was ordained in 1857 by the Southern Michigan Wesleyan Methodist Conference. His wife was Lydia Parks and together they had 10 children, including three sets of twins.

In 1862, he enlisted in the First New York Mounted Rifles. His son Samuel Stark Hudson also enlisted at age 18. During his service he was injured in a fall from his horse in 1863. He was transferred to work at a large plantation with over 600 slaves. As

was his life story, he started preaching to the slaves and held Sunday school classes and started a school, teaching through the sixth grade. As they previously had not been permitted to marry, while he was there he married 420 people. One day alone he married 60 couples! He lined the couples up, six rows deep, five couples on each side with a path down between. One by one he made every couple repeat the marriage vows. When he had finished this, he walked up front and delivered a sermon on the do's and don'ts of a good marriage partnership. Closing with a fervent prayer, he had them all join hands and pronounced them "man and wife."

Following the war he and his family came to Lowell. Elder Hudson and Samuel purchased lots on the south side of the Grand River in Segwun from Henry Chesebro.

As a circuit riding minister Elder Hudson traveled the countryside. He established the Wesleyan Methodist congregations at Vergennes (Bailey and Parnell) and in Alton (Lincoln Lake and 3 Mile). For a period he traveled between Smyrna and Lowell for services, even through the winter. He was known for his faithfulness and dedication, even stepping in to fill a pulpit when others were unable to travel. For a



A. N. Hudson shown on left.

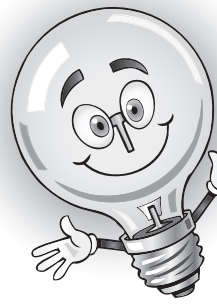
season his circuit had him walking thirty-two miles to preach only two sermons.

Ministry didn't pay well, he received no financial compensation, but people generously brought goods they had. Flour, chicken, vegetables and eggs were common gifts. Elder Hudson worked in the carpentry field to support his family.

Elder Hudson's last wedding that he officiated was for his granddaughter. He was 94 years old and went through the ceremony they said 'with all the poise and dignity of his youth'. When the service was done

he remarked, "Don't you suppose that now it is about time that this marrying parson retires?"

He had been in good health until later that year, when he fell from a horse and broke his hip. He never quite regained his good health, and died in 1910 at the age of 95 years old. Though he was on the road for most of his life, his home was in Segwun, just over the river. Today he rests in Lowell, in Oakwood Cemetery, along with many of his descendants.



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DECEMBER 2

Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Karly Batt, Olivia Starkweather.

DECEMBER 3

Chris Chambers, Christine Gillies, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline, Jennifer Kovacs.

DECEMBER 4

Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.

DECEMBER 5

Christopher Vickers.

DECEMBER 6

Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Maria Blough, Christopher DeBold, Marc Wernet.

DECEMBER 7

Jennifer Berry, Jeni Buck.



Ty the Christmas Lights Guy

We all admire the elaborate light displays on homes this time of year, but there is a lot of work involved with setting them up. For those who might not want to brave the elements and climb a ladder to string up their holiday lights, there is a local solution. Ty the Christmas Lights Guy offers services for Lowell residents who might want a little help with their outdoor decorating this year.

Sheppard has always loved Christmas lights, "It all started when I was a little boy, I would absolutely go crazy with it. Hanging up Christmas lights in every room of the house including the bathroom and pantry. Yes, that's right! I just fell in love with Christmas lights!"

Ty the Christmas Lights Guy will put up lights on the exterior of your home, as well as remove them after the holiday season. He also repairs and reuses damaged lights and hopes to begin

offering year-round lighting services for other events.

"I also keep [lights] maintained as well. For example, if one string stopped working, a customer can contact me and I will come right away, to get it fixed or replace it. I would never leave them with one string or anything that all of sudden stopped working. I also fix Christmas lights as well. I take in non-working lights, or if someone has a favorite light, I can do my best to get it work again or at least refurbished it. To the point where I have too many; I want to donate it to our community, the more I can recycle and reuse the lights...I believe Lowell will become brighter, and shinier every Christmas that goes by. I think it's absolutely magical and beautiful," Sheppard says. "As for year round situations, I am working on providing ideas such as customers wanting clear Christmas lights to be

decorated at the wedding...If someone wants a gathering or special event in the backyard or anywhere, and wanted something like clear Christmas lights all over the backyard, I can do that as well! I'm very open to any ideas throughout the year."

Sheppard has been decorating for family and close friends for several years, but decided to take things to the next level this year.

"Every year, except six years when I lived in New York, I would always put a bunch of lights outside of my place, my aunt's place and my mom's place. Christmas lights have always been my passion growing up. Two years ago, I offered our community extra help. I've had about five regular customers and they started spreading word about me, every one of them loves the work I do for them. Then this year, I've decided to take it to a whole new level and aim

towards starting a business, mainly a local business in Lowell. This year, I've decided to grow more, put myself out there, invest my time into a business and show the community that I'm Ty The Christmas Light Guy. I refused to let people just not want to put up lights and leave an entire front of the house pitch black dark, especially with daylight savings time going. I want my people and community to be able to come home to Christmas lights to brighten their night and with joy after a long day. I want kids to be able to point out the houses with Christmas lights and say 'Mom! LOOK! WOW! WHOA!' Christmas lights are beautiful and magical."

You might expect to pay exorbitant prices for a service like this, considering the amount of work required; but this endeavor stems from Sheppard's love of Christmas and the Lowell community, and he makes

every effort to keep his rates reasonable.

"Professional services are expensive, and it's 100 percent perfect because they have equipment and tons of people, usually coming from a lawn-care company. I'm more of a local lawn mower guy, like where a neighbor asks another neighbor and pays 20 dollars to mow the lawn. Same thing for Christmas lights, no design, no plans, no hourly rate is required. Just message Ty The Christmas Light Guy and ask me to come and put up the lights. Usually I would charge 20 to 60 dollars for the whole thing depending how many lights you have and how much you think it's fair. I had a customer give me 40 dollars and a couple of plants. I love random gifts!"

Sheppard was born deaf, and has two cochlear implants that allow him to hear. He is also fluent in American Sign Language

(ASL). For those wishing to contact him with further inquiries about his services, he prefers people to reach out via Facebook.

"I'm deaf, and have two cochlear implants that help me to hear. I speak beautifully. I know ASL for anyone who communicates through ASL, as well. Talking on the phone is my biggest struggle. I highly prefer sending me a message through Facebook Messenger. You just have to go to Ty the Christmas Light Guy page and send me a message. I'm working on figuring out an email and phone number for people who don't have Facebook. Usually people will inform others and will message me for them along with contact info.

With the exception of a brief stint in New York during college, Sheppard is a lifelong resident and is happy to call Lowell home. His passion for the community is evident and he aims to bring holiday cheer to everyone in Lowell. He encourages anyone with unused or broken lights to contact him so that he can refurbish them, rather than seeing them tossed in a landfill. He also offers his services free of charge to nonprofits. Sheppard's mission is about bringing light into the lives of everyone during the dark winter months.

"Don't be afraid to contact me...I want you to be able to have Christmas lights up and get that heart-warming feeling. Ty the Christmas Light Guy has got your back!"

Nessel: Michigan redistricting panel wrong to meet secretly, must release memos

by Sergio Martínez-Beltrán
Bridge Michigan

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said Monday that the state's redistricting panel "must" disclose two voting rights memos used to draw districts in Detroit.

In a 14-page legal opinion, Nessel also wrote that a closed-door meeting among redistricting commissioners on Oct. 27 about the memos "should have been held at an open meeting."

The opinion comes after transparency activists, news outlets including Bridge Michigan, and the Michigan Press Association have slammed the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for meeting behind closed doors to confer with lawyers over its rationale for drawing Detroit districts.

The 13-member panel, which was created to end years of secrecy surrounding legislative redistricting, discussed memos titled "Voting Rights Act" and "The History of Discrimination in the State of Michigan and its Influence on Voting."

"Presuming the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

... discuss(ed) memoranda that provided Commission members with certain legal parameters and historical context that should be considered in developing, drafting, and adopting the redistricting plans, then the memoranda must be disclosed under (the constitution) and the discussion should have been held at an open meeting," Nessel said.

Bridge and other news outlets have lobbied for the memos because the commission is amid a 45-day period of public comment that ends Dec. 28. The memos may contain hints about the commission's rationale for drawing districts that include fewer majority-minority districts in the state Senate, House and U.S. House.

Nessel's opinion was in response to a question from Sens. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, and Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan, about whether the commission violated the state constitution when it shut the public out of the discussion.

The commission's general counsel, Julianne Pastula,

had advised commissioners to keep the documents and the discussion confidential, citing attorney-client privilege.

Both documents were drafted by the panel's attorneys and discussed amid complaints from Black residents about the panel's decision to create fewer majority-Black districts in the state.

The commission was created in 2018 after voters pushed for a transparent redistricting process. For decades, the party in power in the Michigan Legislature was in charge of drawing the new districts. The process occurred largely in private, and led to some of the most Republican gerrymandered districts in the country.

Despite the commission

defending its decision to keep the documents in secret, some members of the commission may be having a change of heart.

Commissioner Dustin Witjes, a Democrat from Ypsilanti, last week said he "personally cannot see any legal strategy that was really discussed in that particular closed session that the public should not be made aware of."

According to the Michigan Constitution, the redistricting panel must "conduct all of its business at open meetings."

But Nessel on Monday stopped short of answering whether the commission has that authority. She said "it is beyond the scope of this opinion to determine what discussions might fall outside the 'business' of the Commission."

Nessel said the commission could discuss in private "concerning litigation or some other matter" that doesn't have to do with the development or drafting of the maps.

"Based on the titles of the memoranda and the presumptive content of the discussion at the Commission's October 27th closed session, however, that is not what happened here," Nessel said.

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Lowell author Palova hosting new podcast “For the Love of Books”



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell author Emma Palova, also a former Lowell Ledger reporter, is 30 episodes into a podcast called “For the Love of Books.”

The podcast features

interviews with authors about their books, including discussions about writing, marketing, publishing and reading.

Palova did her first podcast for the Ledger in 2011 and

previously developed one for the Florida-based America’s Community Voices Network.

“During the publicity campaign for my newest book, ‘Greenwich Meridian Memoir,’ I was on all of

these podcasts as a guest,” Palova said. “It was so fun, entertaining and educational that I decided to create my own podcast show, and it started this spring. Another reason was that I wanted to support other authors as well, because eventually you get sick of talking about yourself all the time! So I thought, well, all right, I’m gonna branch out and do this, give it a try, and people love it! I co-produce it with my author friends Colleen Nye and Andrew Allen Smith, and it’s sponsored by Doc Chavent. The initial setup was a little bit of a learning curve because of all the technology involved, but after that, just like everything else, it gets easier. I do the recordings as I can get them done, but I plan it one month ahead of time and then I post one per week. Each episode is 30 minutes long. That includes the introduction, a reading by the author, and I thank the sponsors. Usually the new recordings are posted on Friday each week, and it’s on everything, all the major podcasting apps like Stitcher, iHeartRadio, all of them. You can listen to it on anything, anywhere, doing whatever. I recorded the two

newest ones yesterday, so I will be at 31 episodes, and I have a December holiday special scheduled.”

The December holiday episodes will include Lowell Area Historical Museum executive director Lisa Plank, who will discuss the upcoming ‘ABCs of Lowell History’ book, Nicole Lintemuth from the Bettie’s Pages bookstore, children’s author Melinda Falgoust and authors Andrew Allen Smith, Theresa Halvorsen and Jules Nelson.

Palova’s podcasting philosophy draws heavily on her journalism philosophy: letting people talk.

“A podcast episode creates a relationship between the author and the reader that other media cannot,” Palova said. “If you present with a visual effect, like on TV, it’s already a disruption. On a podcast, you’re only listening, so your mind is open to creating your own vision. At least that’s what I think. And then the author’s story becomes a part of the listener’s story. By tuning in, you’re inviting us into your head-space. But it actually goes back to my love for journalism, where you interview people and you try

to get the best out of them. I’m a firm believer in that, so I approach it as journalism, where you’re trying to get the best out of them. But it’s not investigative journalism, it’s human interest. We all have a story to tell, and basically these authors are telling their stories.”

The affordability and relative ease of self-publishing has created a glut of books for readers to choose from. Listening to an author talk about their work can help those who are overwhelmed by piles of reading material be more selective. Additionally, Palova’s podcast includes information that could be useful to up-and-coming authors.

“We have fun and I do try to make it light-hearted,” Palova said. “Authors often say, ‘Thank you for making it easy.’ Some people are stressed from it, but that barrier pretty much falls away, as opposed to the perception of the media. This is more informal, more like a talk show. We are sitting together and exchanging our opinions maybe, or having a discussion about something. You would not believe the insight I get


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Emma Palova, continued

from other authors. Every episode features a different independent or small press author, and it's just amazing the insight you get from these people. I don't know if they're afraid to talk when they're interviewed by media people, but I've been on all sides of it, and it just comes out different on a podcast. Either they're not as afraid or they're more open. The interviews are really candid and we talk about everything. I do the interviews on Zoom in my own studio,

they're just wherever they feel comfortable, so they come out really good. We talk about relevant, real life experiences, and they're very down to earth. I think it's awesome for other authors, and definitely for readers and listeners. How do you pick your next favorite read? There are millions of covers to look at, that doesn't really cut it, but when you listen to the authors talk and read from their books, it's a whole different game." "Each month I do a different

theme," Palova said. "Since November is National Novel Writing Month, I featured 'NaNoWriMo' authors and their insights on how to approach the challenge, which is gruesome, to write 50,000 words in one month. Have you ever tried that? It's 1,667 words a day or something, about 10 pages. I pushed it up to 2,700 words in order to get it done before Thanksgiving, and I could feel it physically. That's what another podcaster asked me once when I was a guest,



Emma Palova last week during Christmas Through Lowell.



Ad for Palova's holiday episodes.

do you feel it physically? Yes, I feel it physically. That additional 1,000 words, were way too many!"

Palova is always looking for guests to appear on future episodes, authors of any genre from any location, fiction or non-fiction.

"Local authors or any author can email me at emmapalova@yahoo.com or visit my website, emmapalova.com if they want to be on it, and I'll send them the form," Palova said. "Things I want to know ahead of time include maybe

what inspired them, why did they decide to write a book? Some people tell me that it's their healing process.

I've always had a journal, always, as far back as I can remember. In different languages, but I've always had a journal. That was my healing process. The raw material helped going back to work on my memoirs, I used that journal a lot. Memoir as a genre, I would say not as many authors pursue it. I guess you have to be ready to write it, and to reveal a lot of things to

the world about yourself and other people, and you're not always ready to do that. It occurred to me yesterday that I should also broaden it to include book marketing specialists, because that is the number one issue all authors struggle with. That is a killer. You constantly have to be marketing yourself."

Episodes of "For the Love of Books" are available at emmapalova123.podbean.com, and you can follow the podcast on social media at [facebook.com/bookspodcast](https://www.facebook.com/bookspodcast).



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~ Mackinac Island School

by Martha Hayden

As a retired elementary teacher, I fancy anything to do with youngsters' learning and school operations. Ever since I felt "the pure joy" of witnessing my little sister learn her ABC's under my direction, I was hooked. I knew I wanted to be a teacher ever since I was four years old!

Mackinac Island school intrigues me. Set on an island with nearly 500 year round residents, it is the center of this close-knit community. The setting reminds me of the one room school house atmosphere I found this past summer

snowmobile driving permit. He is a fifth generation 'local.' A resident only earns the title of a 'local' if he/she was born and raised on the island. Others are referred to as 'islanders.'

You may wonder about the educational opportunities for children on this remote island. Well they have great teachers, small class sizes and up-to-date technology.

Grace, an 11th grader (2017) joined the robotic team planning to put her student pilot knowledge to use. That year, the Robotic

in the upper peninsula. It takes a little extra planning to organize the games. On a Friday night, for instance, the Beaver Island team flies over in several small planes and are given a ride to the school in a horse-drawn carriage. Starting at 6:00 pm all three rows of stands are filled. Both the girls and boys teams play that night. Afterward, there's a dance in the library. Then, the Beaver Island "Islanders" camp out in the gym, cafeteria or in a

responsibilities.) She agreed to be interviewed through email. (With COVID restrictions in place I would not be permitted to visit in person.)

After 27 years as a teacher and principal in Houghton Lake, Amy Peterson was charmed by the idea of leading the

impressed the Mackinac Island school board when presenting her action plan for the K-12 school. She was hired and started this position in August 2020. Her husband plans to move to the island soon.

"My first purchase was a new bike, with a large basket and back fender! I love riding my bike or

calendar along the bottom of the page which highlights the daily school events as well as the ever-important school lunch menu. Amy replied, "Communication with families was also a high priority for me."

I inquired about how the students and staff are doing with the COVID guidelines. Amy stated,



Snow mobiles whirred to a halt in front of the school. Bundled up children did "the snow pants shuffle" toward their designated line-up spots.

Mackinac Island School. Seeing the posting she thought, "This would probably never happen, but why not!" With her family's blessing, she applied.

Amy and her husband have three grown children. Her husband operates a small business in Houghton. At her job interview Amy

walking to school and now I ride my snowmobile." She lives about two miles from the school "in some new townhomes made possible by the Mackinac Island Community Foundation, a great supporter of our community!"

"The community really is all about 'it takes a village

"We all just need to take one day at a time and be prepared to be flexible. We just don't know what tomorrow will bring!" I appreciate her leadership, especially during this once-a-century pandemic.

I stand in awe of this community school. I admire their dedication, grit



Mackinac Island school has a view unlike anything I've ever seen from a playground.

on Bois Blanc Island, just southeast of Mackinac Island.

Mackinac Island is in Lake Huron east of the Mackinac Bridge, connecting the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan.

Without cars or busses permitted on the island, snowmobiles are the reliable source of transportation. Last Friday (February 5th, 2021) when most of the western Michigan schools had a 'snow day,' these kids were on their way to another regular day of learning.

This kindergarten through twelfth grade school has between 60-80 students, fourteen teachers and seven school board members. "The Lakers" learn in split grade-level classes where a multi-aged network provides an engaging learning environment.

Albert Mosley and his siblings drive to school on their snowmobiles. They tow their backpacks on a sled hooked behind their vehicle. At twelve years old one can earn their

Team consisting of ten students (out of 67 pupils in the school) attended the World Competition in St. Louis. They scored in the top two percent. Are you impressed? I am! (I struggle assembling IKEA furniture.) David Wasso, the superintendent/principal, radiated pride in the 2017 news interview.

Sports? What about sports? Well, their distinct district rival is Beaver Island. They also play teams

classroom.

On January 20, 2021, the Mackinac Island School's Facebook post showed a picture of a small bus on the mainland which was purchased to help their sports teams travel together to competitions in the upper peninsula.

I spoke with Amy Peterson, the new superintendent/principal/athletic director earlier in January. (Most islanders hold multiple



These three youngsters travel along the shoreline as they commute to their school drop off.



A stunning Mackinac sunrise on my early morning walk. The Mackinac School is just behind me.

to raise a child.' Everyone just does whatever it takes to support one another." Amy wrote. Reading Facebook group posts within the island commonwealth, I could sense the bond within this multi-generational community. They really put forth effort toward helping each other out.

I complimented Amy on the school website. I was impressed with the school's transparency. The policies, Title IX overview and having the COVID case numbers being clearly posted. I appreciated the easy-access links for at home learning opportunities. There's a

and tenacity! I am thankful that I am able to continue learning and 'taking a peek behind the curtain of life' as I enjoy retirement with my best friend, Da Viking, Chuck.

Resources:

Amy Peterson
Superintendent/Principal/
Athletic Director Mackinac
Island School 2021

Mackinac Island School
WWTW / WWUP Corey
Adkins

www.mackinacisland.org
www.mackinacparks.com
www.michigan.gov



Live the Life You Want

With Melissa Spino, MA, LPC, CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy, LLC

Co-parenting after a split: putting children first

Regardless of the reason, ending a relationship can hurt. Even if it was a mutual decision to split and there was no breach of trust, we still grieve the loss of the relationship. It's just the way the brain processes emotions and loss. While ending an intimate relationship with a partner is often difficult, it's often even tougher on kids. But there are things you can do to make the transition easier for them and you.

Working past the hurt

At first you may have to hide any feelings of anger, hurt or resentment, but it's important for the children not to feel caught in the middle of the parent's bad feelings. A good place to

start is working to remain respectful toward your ex. Even if you don't feel your ex deserves respect, take the high road and remain respectful when communicating with him or her.

This doesn't mean being a pushover or giving into demands. It does mean not telling your children negative things about your ex and not taking down your ex in front of them or where they may overhear it. Work to get past your hurt feelings and provide the stability your children need so they learn that even if a relationship ends it can be done in a healthy, respectful manner. Remember, you

both are setting the "norm" for their future relationships. Do you want them to feel bitterness, anger, resentment and communicate disrespectfully or learn ways to deal with difficult feelings in a healthier manner?

Kids often think that they are the reason their parents are splitting up. Even if you let them know it has nothing to do with them, children will still often blame themselves. Avoid exposing them to your conflict as it can cause negative effects on their development. As a parent, it's your role to provide a foundation of safety, love, order and support children need to develop in a healthy manner.

Effective co-parenting

Another way to help your kids through a split is to find a way to work with your ex to co-parent in a civil and healthy way. Co-parenting means you still raise the children together making joint decisions. It may also mean you and your ex see each other regularly in both public and private

settings for joint outings and other special events. When co-parenting is effective it teaches kids how to have healthy relationships, good communication, and problem-solving skills. It also reduces the anxiety, sadness, and cuts down on the internal blame they may feel because of the split.

The bottom line is it's important for your kids to feel listened to, safe, accepted, have order and stability along with feeling loved by both parents. It's important for both parents to spend time with them together and separately. If you and your ex can't find a way to do this, go and see a counselor and get the tools you need to help all of you move forward in a healthy way.

If you experience a mental health crisis or are in danger, be sure to call 911. This article is not intended to provide advice, diagnose, or treat in any way. It is for informational purposes only.

Social Security benefits increase in 2022

Approximately 70 million Americans will see a 5.9 percent increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2022. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are a little more expensive, so the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. But, if you want to know your new benefit amount sooner, you can securely obtain your Social Security COLA notice online using the Message Center in your *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You can access this information in early December prior to the mailed notice.

If you prefer to access your COLA notice online and not receive the mailed notice, you can log in to your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to opt out of a mailed COLA notice and any other notices that are available online by updating your Preferences

in the Message Center. Did you know you can receive a text or email alert when there is a new message waiting for you? That way, you always know when we have something important for you – like your COLA notice. If you don't have an account yet, you must create one by November 17, 2021, to receive the 2022 COLA notice online.

January 2022 marks other changes that will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2022 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2022 and you can view that at www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2022.pdf.

Be among the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal *my Social Security* account today. Choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive courtesy notifications.

You can find more information about the 2022 COLA at www.ssa.gov/cola.

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.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones
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Retirees fear becoming a burden

It's human nature to want to make things easier for our loved ones – and to have great concern about adding any stress to their lives. In fact, 72% of retirees say that one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. How can you address this fear?

First, don't panic. In all the years leading up to your retirement, there's a lot you can do to help maintain your financial independence and avoid burdening your grown children or other family members. Consider these suggestions:

Increase contributions to your retirement plans and health savings account. The greater your financial resources, the greater your financial independence – and the less likely you would ever burden your family. So, contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA, your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's

matching contributions, if offered, and increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. You may also want to contribute to a health savings account (HSA), if it's available.

Invest for growth potential. If you start investing early enough, you'll have a long time horizon, which means you'll have the opportunity to take advantage of investments that offer growth potential. So, in all your investment vehicles – IRA, 401(k), HSA and whatever other accounts you may have – try to devote a reasonable percentage of your portfolio to growth-oriented investments, such as stocks and stock-based funds. Of course, there are no guarantees and you will undoubtedly see market fluctuations and downturns, but you can help reduce the impact of volatility by holding a diversified portfolio for the long term and periodically rebalancing it to help ensure it is aligned with your risk tolerance and time horizon. Keep in mind, though, that diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Protect yourself from long-term care costs. Even if you invest diligently for decades, your accumulated wealth could be jeopardized, and you could even become somewhat dependent on your family, if you ever need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home or the services of a home health care aide. The likelihood of your needing such assistance is not insignificant, and the care can be quite expensive. In fact, the median cost for home health services is nearly \$55,000 per year, while a private room in a nursing home can exceed \$100,000, according to Genworth, an insurance company. To help protect yourself against these steep and rising costs, you may want to contact a financial professional, who can suggest an appropriate strategy, possibly involving various insurance options.

Create your estate plans. If you were ever to become incapacitated, you could end up imposing various burdens on your family. To guard against this possibility, you'll want to ensure your estate plans contain key documents, such as a financial power of attorney and a health care directive.

It's safe to say that no one ever wants to become a financial burden to their family. But putting appropriate strategies in

place can go a long way toward helping avoid this outcome.

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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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DOMBAK

Marilyn Joyce Dombak age 72 of Lowell, passed away Monday, November 29, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Dennis B. Dombak; children, Daniel, Sarah (Doug) Rauch, Rebekah, and Susanne; sisters; brother, and many friends. A private service will be held for immediate family with a celebration of Marilyn's life to be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Hospice, 401 Hall Street, Ste 263, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

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HEEMSTRA

Nicolette "Nicki" Heemstra, 41, a resident of Lowell, MI, passed away on November 18, 2021, comfortably and peacefully in her home, ending a courageous battle with glioblastoma. Born December 26, 1979, to Gary and Katherine (Gibson) Heemstra, Nicki the eldest of three children, grew up on a farm in Lowell, MI. She earned her diploma and graduated from Everest College earning a degree as a medical assistant. Nicki traveled to and lived in Chicago, IL for a few years, and with her move back to Lowell, she started her ten-year career at Urological Consultants of Grand Rapids. Her dedication, commitment, and teamwork along with many defining characteristics, made her a friend and a role model to so many. Nicki was always compassionate, kind, and willing to help anyone. As a woman of faith, she enjoyed spending Sunday mornings with quality coffee and the comfort of Jesus Christ at Impact Church. Her most cherished role in life, a devoted and loving mother to her children and proud aunt of four. Nicki is survived by her two children, Jack Gonyon and Lillian "Lilly" Jansen, who meant the world to her; sister, Jaime Heemstra; brother, Kip Heemstra; sister-in-law, Jenna Heemstra; nephew, Riley Heemstra; and nieces, Lydia Boorsma, Luray, and Stela Ralston-Jones. All who completed the rest of her world. Nicki's family would like to express their deep gratitude for the love and support so many have provided. The family will welcome relatives and friends to celebrate Nicki's life at 3PM on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at Caledonia Sportsman Club,



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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 Milton Burgess Guardianship File No. 21-210303-GA Conservatorship File No. 21-210302-CA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his daughter, Stephanie Burgess and any other unknown children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 12, 2022, at 1:30 P.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 and Appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: November 28, 2021

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

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

FALLSTROM

Fallstrom, Allen

89

Lowell, MI

9/23/32 – 11/22/21

Charles Harry Allen "Al" Fallstrom was born in Grand Rapids, MI on September 23, 1932, to Hanna and Fritz Fallstrom. Al passed away peacefully at the home he built and raised his family in after a short bout of cancer.



He spent his life journey in the Grand Rapids area where he attended South High School and as a young boy worked at South Field selling concessions during Grand Rapids Chicks baseball games. Later on, Al joined the Army and was stationed in France during the Korean War. Upon Al's return from overseas he married the love of his life,

Wilma and built their home in Lowell where he would go on to raise his children teaching them how to hunt, fish and throw horseshoes. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, gardening, singing, and traveling to Montana, New Jersey, and the U.P. Al, spent his professional career in administration at A.B. Electrolux also known as Kelvinator for 34 years as well as a delivery driver for D & W Floral. Those that knew Al would say that he was funny and always had a joke to share, they would also say that he was kind and a no-frills kind of guy. But if you asked his bride, she would certainly tell you he was a fox! Allen is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Roland; twin sisters, Rheta and Ruby; as well as his daughter, Julie Cinco. Allen is survived by his loving bride of 65 years, Billie. He is also survived by his children, Jeff Fallstrom (Nettie), Joseph Fallstrom and Jeni Buck all of Lowell; grandchildren, Melaina, Skyler (Sarah), Brittney (Chris), Dallas, Dillon (Sarah), Haley (Andre), Hanna (Steven), Levi and Katie; two great grandsons, Kinser and Lane; and several special loved ones that called him Grandpa. Also surviving are a handful of very dear friends, sisters & brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews. A memorial service will take place at Lowell United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 11am with family receiving loved ones 1 hour prior to service. Memorial contributions can be made in Allen's honor to Faith Hospice of Grand Rapids, 2100 Raybrook St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

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STEFFES

Linda Steffes, age 73 of Lowell, MI, went to be with her Lord on November 23, 2021. She is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, Tommy



Steffes; son, Mike (Bonnie) Amelia III; daughters, Dawn (Dan) Ruegsegger, Erica (Dave Harrison) Ping; sister, Verona Dunn; grandchildren, Mike Amelia IV, Anthony (Tori) Amelia, Maranda (Jake) Polova, Logan Ping, Lillian Ping; and five great-grandchildren. Linda had over 25 years working for General Motors. She enjoyed traveling, tending to

her flower gardens, and cherished the holidays with her family. The family will hold services at a later date.

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

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sales

CRAFT SHOW - Sat., Dec. 4, 9-4 pm. Charcuterie boards, wood kitchen utensils, 15" doll furniture, wood turnings, birdhouses & feeders, signs, toys. 1950 Parnell Ave NE at 2 Mile.

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

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.

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EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE - Lowell & surrounding areas. On road repairs. Rob's Towing & Auto Salvage. "CHEAP HOOKER" 616-292-7649 or 616-295-8820.

services

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misc.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like CRESTS, SERAGLIO, ELEPHANT, MEETS, PIG, APIO, TRACHOMA, OCTOGENARIANS, PD, AGENCIES, APE, PAIN, CAHN, ATHAR, GRIEG, SEASHORE, AULD, PANCREAS, DSD, ARTHUR

Grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle solution

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Large grid of letters for a word search puzzle with words circled

obituaries

HOAG

Ruth Arlaine Hoag, age 92 of Alto, Michigan, passed away November 26, 2021. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Flossie Royston; husband, Ralph Leslie Hoag; sister, Evelyn Morris; brothers, Charles Royston and Harold Royston; great-grandsons, Dennis James McClure, Leslee Robert-Frank McClure, and Rayce Maverick Darby. Ruth is survived by; her children, Lorraine (Joe) Zeigler, Darlene (Phil) Waldron, Nancy (Jack Elliott) Prins, Sharon (Terry) Furlong, and



Gary (Junie) Hoag; grandchildren, Jessica Zeigler, Philip (Shaena) Zeigler, Matt McClure, Chris (Chad) Morrison, Allen McClure, Denny (Angelica) McClure, David (Rachelle) Prins, Chuck (Andrea) Prins, Heather (Carl) Wilson, Melissa Prins, Tara (Jeff) Bronson, Jackie (Joe) Farley,

Tylor (Alisha) Furlong, Nichole Hoag, Benjamin Hoag, Timothy (Brandee) Hoag, Jonathon Hoag, and Sarah Hoag; great-grandchildren, Tayshaun Donald, Philip Zeigler, Zachary Zeigler, Jesse (Ashley) Zeigler, Bianca Zeigler, Kaylee Zeigler, Alayna Zeigler, Brian Zeigler, Cody McClure, Aleisha Darby, Abby Koon, Landon McClure, Jozelyn McClure, Logan McClure, Scarlet McClure, Anthony (Samantha) Prins, Nathan Prins, Kennedy Prins, Charlotte Prins, Aylah Prins, Garrett Prins, Cole Wilson, Keira Wilson, Brandin Linscott, Breanna (James) Palmer, Thristan Furlong, Serenity Velasquez, Gauge Furlong, Hunter Furlong, Brenlee Hoag, and Ellora Hoag; great great-grandchildren, Khloe Solomon, Isabella Solomon, Marcus Zeigler, Spencer Zeigler, Coralynn Zeigler, and Osweld Prins; siblings, Duane (Joan) Royston, Larry Royston, Marilyn Garlow, Irene Dahl; and many many nieces and nephews. Ruth spent many years working at Lowell High School as the head cook. She was a switchboard operator as a young lady. She was a member of Elmdale Nazarene Church for many years where she played the organ and piano. Ruth loved to sew, especially dresses for little girls. She enjoyed making doll clothes and teddy bears. She loved to cook and bake. Over the years, many stomachs were filled with her delicious food. Memorial Contributions may be made to, Elmdale Nazarene Church - New Building Fund, 11830 Drew Rd. Alto, MI 49302, or YWAM (Youth with A Mission), 20131 FM 16, Lindale, TX 75771. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, December 1st, 2021, at 11am at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N Hudson St SE, Lowell MI 49331. Officiating will be Pastor Nathan Gray. Interment at Bowne Township Cemetery.



WINGEIER

Wingeier, Daniel Charles & Marcella Ann (Palmer), Clarksville, MI

At the conclusion of a beautiful love story; heaven gained two angels. Surrounded by their loving family, Marcella Wingeier, age 75, passed away Friday, October 29th and six days after losing his beloved wife of fifty-five years, Daniel Wingeier, age 77, joined her for eternity. Left to cherish their memory are their children, Daniel (Carol) Wingeier Jr., Richard (Rachel) Wingeier, Carolyn



(Joshua) Darling, Sarah (Eugene Maurer) Lake; and many much-beloved grandchildren. Marcy was raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was an amazing wife, mother and grandmother who adored children. Fittingly, after raising her own family, she became a playground supervisor and teachers' assistant at Alto Elementary. In her free time, she showered her own grandchildren with love at "Granny Daycare." Ever caring, Marcy tended her flower gardens and knitted gifts for others to enjoy. She is survived by her sister, Mariva (Palmer) Phillips and numerous nieces and nephews. Marcy was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert and Virginia Palmer and brother, John Paul Palmer. Dan was raised in Alto, Michigan on the family farm near where he met his loving wife, Marcy. He was a hardworking man, loving husband, father, and grandfather. Daniel owned and operated a service station in Grand Rapids, later opening an auto mechanic garage in Lowell. He was an avid hunter, horseman, and golfer. Dan is survived by his siblings, Richard (Patricia) Wingeier, Bonnie (Thomas) Gokey; and several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Daniel and Ruth Wingeier, and sister, Donna Brenner. Dan and Marcy shared most of their five decades of life together in the home they built on the family farm in Alto. Together they enjoyed their mutual love of animals and children as founders of the General Havoc 4H Club in Kent County; a commitment that touched so many lives. A Celebration of their Lives will be held Saturday, December 4 at 11:00 am. Please join us at the Apostolic Fellowship Hall, 7700 Wingeier Ave, SE, Alto, MI, 49302.

QUIST

Delphine Mathilda Quist, age 90, of Lowell, went to be with her Lord and Savior Wednesday, November 17, 2021 surrounded by family. The daughter of Delmar and Mattie (Westdrop) Boven, she was born on December 07, 1930 in Falmouth. Delphine enjoyed gardening and reading. She will lovingly be remembered by her family; sons,



Howard, Jeff (Julie); grandchildren, Christopher, Brian (Meghan), Jessica (Josh), and Justin (Casie); great-grandchildren, Harley, Jovi, Kenzleigh, Jaxyn, Brooke, and Oliver; sister, Marlene; brother, Ron (Marilyn); and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; loving husband, Henry; daughter, Karen; son, Terry; daughter-in-law, Cora; brothers, Alvin and Gene. A graveside memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, December 1, at Vogel Center Cemetery, 10051 S. Koopman Rd Marion, MI 49665 with coffee and cake following at Prosper Christian Reformed Church, 1975 E Prosper Rd Falmouth, MI 49632. Those wishing to offer expressions of sympathy are encouraged to make a Memorial contribution in honor of Delphine to Unity Reformed Church, 4450 Pointsettia Ave. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508. To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign Delphine's online guest book, or to share a favorite memory, please visit: www.NeptuneSociety.com

DNR asks anglers to turn in adipose fin clipped fish

Have you caught a trout or salmon in Michigan that had an adipose fin clip? If so, it could contain a tag with valuable information.

Through mass marking assistance by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, several Great Lakes states, including Michigan, mark popular gamefish like steelhead, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and lake trout.

The adipose fin – a small, fleshy fin behind the larger dorsal fin – is found on only a few fish, including trout, salmon and catfish. Most trout and salmon with an adipose fin clip also have a coded-wire tag in their snout. The tag is small, like the tip of a lead pencil, so it must be removed by lab technicians. If anglers catch an adipose fin clipped fish, they should turn in the head at a local drop-off station in Michigan.

"We have creel clerks at some ports, but there are several areas where we don't have staff, including on river systems with unique fisheries, such

as Atlantic salmon or steelhead," said Randy Claramunt, Lake Huron Basin coordinator with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "To get enough tag returns to learn about these species, we need the help of our anglers to voluntarily turn in heads."

According to Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator, fish tag returns help biologists understand survival, age and movements of important sport fish.

"We are particularly interested in confirming the wild contribution of Chinook salmon to the fishery, movement and wild contribution of steelhead in lakes and rivers, and survival and movement of Atlantic salmon," Wesley said.

For more information on how to recognize a tagged fish and how to fill out the proper information, visit Michigan.gov/TaggedFish.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SPIRITUALITY WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

SPIRITUALITY WORD SEARCH

COMMONALITY CONCEPT

EXISTENCE FAITH

PEACE PRINCIPLES

AFTERLIFE AWAKENING BELIEF BLESSING

CONGREGATION CONSCIOUSNESS CONTEMPLATION CUSTOMS ESSENCE

GOODNESS HIGHER POWER MEDITATION MORALS

RELIGION SPIRITUAL TRUTH WORSHIP

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Pennsylvania on December 3, 1985. I modeled in print ads before pursuing a career in acting. I made my debut in a film opposite Lindsay Lohan in a cult favorite classic about school cliques. I also starred in three popular film musicals.

Answer: Amanda Seyfried

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to spirituality.

T F H I A

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Faith

			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						

CLUES ACROSS

- Topsides
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. A Sultan's court
12. Maine city
13. Largest living land animal
14. Appetizer
15. Encounters
16. Leader
17. The source of bacon
18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)
19. Celery (Spanish)
21. Pie ___ mode
22. Eye disease
27. Hello (slang)
28. Those in their 80s
33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
34. Business organizations
36. Mimic
37. For indicating speed of rotation (abbr.)
38. Feeling
39. Visual way to interact

- with computers (abbr.)
40. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
41. Essential oil used as perfume
44. Norwegian composer
45. Coast
48. ___ lang syne, good old days
49. Gland behind the stomach
50. Tooth caregiver
51. King of Camelot

CLUES DOWN

- N. American indigenous people
- Fascinated by
- Root of out
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Atomic #50
- Habitual drunkard
- Arabic for "peace"
- Trickery
- One's physique (slang)
- Not quite there
- Wistfully mournful
- Popular dance
14. Cut of meat
17. A way to stand
18. "Gunga Din" screenwriter
20. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
23. A way of jumping
24. Utah town
25. Of I
26. Actress de Armas
29. Silver
30. Play a role
31. ___ Falls
32. Attaches to
35. Japanese title
36. Expressed pleasure
38. Buckets
40. Dirt
41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.)
42. Restaurant drive-___
43. Digs up
44. He voices "Olaf"
45. Relaxing place
46. Body part
47. Pesky house critter

Riot on the Showboat! REO Speedwagon and Blue Öyster Cult concert goes bad



REO Speedwagon (left) and Blue Öyster Cult (right) circa 1975.

One of the wildest scenes that ever took place on the Lowell Showboat was the REO Speedwagon/Blue Öyster Cult riot on Aug. 2, 1975, when 12 people were arrested for rioting after the show was stopped due to weather. It was the first time a rock concert was ever held at the Showboat.

According to an article in

the July 31, 1975 Ledger, "Tickets are available at Lippert's Pharmacy. About 5,000 tickets were printed and after four days selling, between 12 and 13 hundred had been sold. Lippert said tickets will be sold at the gate beginning at 1 pm Saturday. Concern was expressed Monday by some citizens visualizing

an uncontrollable number of people invading Lowell. While chief of police Barry Emmons was not contacted until last week, he said he was doing what he could to take reasonable security measures. He stated he would use reserve officers and would be able to secure outside help from the state and county police,

should it be needed. Monday he was concerned about having first aid at the scene - always a necessity at any large gathering."

After long rain delays the concert finally began at 6:30 pm with a set by Detroit band Salem Witchcraft. After more long rain delays, REO Speedwagon played a short set, then it was announced that the concert's headliner, Blue Öyster Cult, would not be taking the stage. At that point, most of the the 5,000 concert attendees

left, but approximately 40 angry concert-goers remained. They began to throw rocks, bottles and chairs and threatened to burn down the Showboat. Law enforcement from all over West Michigan were called to the scene.

"30 to 40 [rioters] eventually moved outside the amphitheater, regrouped, and advanced toward the Lowell Police Department, demanding their money back and making various threats to those within earshot," said

an article in the Aug. 7, 1975 Ledger.

The Aug. 4, 1975 Grand Rapids Press said that rioters "stormed the door" of the Lowell Police Department and "refused to disperse."

Emmons convinced bar owners to close their establishments at 11 pm, and all was quiet in town by 12:30 am. By daybreak, there had been 12 arrests for disorderly conduct, one person was arrested for attempting to break into Lippert's Pharmacy and four juveniles were apprehended on various charges. The driver of REO Speedwagon's equipment truck was also arrested for leaving the scene of a personal injury accident after he struck 22-year-old Betty Arnett of Lowell with his vehicle.

Chuck Lippert, president of the Showboat Corporation, attended the concert and witnessed the riot and its aftermath. In the Aug. 7, 1975 Ledger, Lippert said he "was just glad it was over" and that "we don't plan to get involved, ever again, with a rock group."

Rock Concert Ends In Riot

Riot control procedures were used to quell disturbances created by a hundred or so persons at the close of last Saturday's Rock Concert at the Showboat Amphitheatre.

The rock fans, who had sat through an all-day drizzle, allegedly felt cheated; they hadn't heard what they had paid \$6 a ticket to hear.

Recordings were reportedly played during the first half of the concert, when the performers were reluctant to go on stage with electronic equipment during the rain.

A canvas canopy erected over the stage the previous night was blown down in Saturday's early morning storm.

Four groups had been scheduled to play at the concert, which drew well over the anticipated crowd and who began arriving before noon. An estimated 5,000 persons attended.

It was 6:30 p.m. before any live music was played. The refusal of the Blue Öyster Cult to take to the stage, following a shortened performance by the REO Speedwagon, further angered the already unhappy crowd of spectators.

It was at this point that rocks, bottles and chairs began to fly and it was reported the group threatened to burn the stage and the Showboat.

Threats of greater violence forced Lowell Police Chief, Barry Emmons, to request additional help from the Kent County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police. Twelve State troopers responded from Rockford, Grand Haven and Lakewick and twelve more County deputies were sent to aid Lowell's fourteen police and reserve officers. Eight County units were already standing by in the area.

Police moved in amid the flying glass, bottles, rocks and chairs and were able to persuade about half to leave peacefully. The remaining 30 to 40, eventually

moved outside the amphitheatre, regrouped, and advanced toward the Lowell Police Department, demanding their money back and making various threats to those within ear-shot.

However, it was found that earlier reports of vandalism were found to have been somewhat exaggerated. A ride through the City about 12:30 a.m. found, on the surface at least, calm and quiet prevailing. Only the clink of glass being swept up by volunteer citizens broke the stillness of the night at the litter-strewn scene on the east bank of the 'Flat.'

Chief Emmons had received the cooperation of bar owners to close their establishments at 11 p.m.

About 12 arrests were made for disorderly conduct and one person was arrested for an attempted breaking and entering at Lippert's Pharmacy. The driver of a truck reportedly belonging to the REO Speed wagon group was arrested for leaving the scene of a personal injury accident.

Chuck Lippert, president of Showboat Corporation, and on the scene during the rock and bottle throwing period, reached for comment Monday, said he "was just glad it was over," and (speaking for the other members of the board of directors) said, "we don't plan to get involved, ever again, with a rock group." Lippert said they all felt very fortunate to have come out of it as well as they did.

Showboat Corporation was responsible for the renting of the Amphitheatre to Brass Ring Productions, promoters of the rock groups.

Reactions by the local citizenry to the reported rock-related incidents ranged from mild criticism to downright anger to one near-the-scene resident who didn't think the litter "was much worse than after a Showboat crowd, and added she didn't think it would have hurt a few more of the townspeople to have 'gotten out with a shovel and broom - after all, we are a community, aren't we?'"

lions officer, was appointed by Grassie to Wind tests of the original piece. Then Doyle of view of the world as a whole," Ford said. cluded, of course, economic relations and work with the group. (Continued on page 2A column 1) "Moderation and greater flexibility are (Continued on page 2A column 1)

12 Arrested in Rock Concert Disturbance

By Jim McFarlin

Twelve persons were arrested on disorderly charges, two were apprehended for other felonies, and a 22-year-old woman was injured by a hit-and-run vehicle Saturday evening as police from five area agencies calmed a civil disturbance arising at what was to be an afternoon rock festival on the Lowell Showboat grounds.

The incident, involving about 40 concert patrons, reportedly began when the main attraction, a band called Blue Öyster Cult, refused to play at the concert, according to Lowell Police Chief Barry Emmons.

"There were four bands scheduled to play, and about 5,000 kids showed up," Emmons said. "The concert should have started at 3 p.m., but because of the rainy weather, the performers thought it a bad idea to go onstage with their electronic equipment. But, for the most part, the crowd was really understanding . . . nothing really destructive happened at that point."

One of the secondary groups began playing around 6:30 p.m., and it was announced that Blue Öyster Cult had decided not to go on stage.

"When I found that out, I asked for some reinforcements just in case the crowd became angry," Emmons said. State police from the Grand Haven, Rockford, and Lakeview posts and Kent County sheriff's deputies responded to the chief's request.

After one of the main groups, REOSpeedwagon, reportedly began when the main attraction, the concert, promoted by Brass Ring Productions who leased the Showboat grounds, was canceled.

"By that time, the majority of persons had left," said Emmons, leaving only 100 spectators. Police issued a plea for the remaining patrons to disperse, and about 60 more went home.

Police attempted to move the remaining persons toward the main gate. They reported rocks and bottles were thrown, injuring several persons.

Emmons said no police officers were injured.

The crowd reportedly left the Showboat grounds and moved to the Lowell Police Department, where they "stormed the door," according to Emmons and once again refused to disperse.

"We closed the bars early and issued another plea to the crowd to disperse," said Emmons. Eventually the disturbance quieted, he said.

During the disturbance on the concert grounds, Betty Arnett, 22, of Lowell was apparently struck by a truck which drove through the mass of persons while attempting to leave. The driver of the truck, reportedly the band vehicle of REO Speedwagon, was arrested later for leaving the scene of a personal injury accident. The victim was treated at a Grand Rapids hospital for a back injury and body cuts.

Another man was arrested for the attempted burglary of a Lowell store, Emmons said, and four juveniles were apprehended on various charges.

Contemporary newspaper articles about the riot from the Lowell Ledger (left) and the Grand Rapids Press (above).

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