

Learning from Scratch



page 3

ABCs of history: "I Spy"



page 6

Treasures for Troops



page 2



LHS sports pages 11

50¢



Lowell Christmas and holiday festivities make a strong comeback after a year off



Story and photos on pages 8-9!

FROM looking to train tax preparers

The free tax program held at Flat River Outreach Ministries is looking for volunteers to become tax preparers. They will provide 20 hours of education given to volunteers, who will then be certified by the IRS, with an option for annual renewal. The FROM tax service is open on Tuesdays

from 9 am until 7 pm starting Tuesday, Feb. 1, and it ends on Tuesday, April 12. The volunteers can choose their hours.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program program is run by the United Way and also has sites all over Grand Rapids. It was created for taxpayers of low and middle

income with family incomes of less than \$66,000 per year. One does not have to live in the Lowell school district to participate or to volunteer. A typical appointment takes about 90 minutes, and all tax returns are checked over repeatedly to make sure there are no mistakes. Morning, afternoon and



FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

evening appointments will be available. Anybody with an interest in taking on some of this important work should call 616-897-8260.

Statement from Lowell school board members

"We believe that the claim made in the recall petition that we fail to uphold State law MCL 380.10 is untrue and unsupportable. We have challenged in court whether this language meets the required legal standards of clarity and factualness. Regardless of the court's interpretation, the claim does not match the reality of what is going on in Lowell Area Schools. Each day, thousands of students come to safe and positive classrooms to develop their skills and intellect. The administrators, teachers, staff and students of our district continue to do excellent work and achieve

great things, all under the direction of the Board of Education.

All of the members of the Board of Education have publicly admitted that this past year has brought unprecedented challenges to our schools and community. We have stated that, in hindsight, we can all see ways that we could have done things better or at least differently. We do not deny any citizen his or her right to express an opinion or to promote a recall, but we would encourage our fellow district residents to not support this recall campaign. Each of the targeted Board



Gary Blough, Jessica Curtis and Patrick Nugent

members will be up for election in the coming November election. It is an unnecessary waste of school funds to force the spending of thousands of dollars for a special recall election in

May just months before the regular election.

As LHS graduates ourselves and lifelong members of the Lowell community, we have a special commitment to the

school community that underpins our Board service. We all have the best interest of our School District and community at heart."

Gary Blough, Jessica Curtis, Patrick Nugent

Council discusses Showboat, school board, more at Dec. 6 meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 6. The meeting lasted approximately one hour and seven minutes and there were two participants in public comment.

First, Lowell resident Perry Beachum spoke about issues he had with some easements that the city helped him resolve to his apparent

satisfaction. Beachum said he has observed other properties with similar issues to those he encountered and encouraged other concerned residents to follow his lead.

“I know that they are working to resolve this, emails have been going back and forth with Point Broadband, so thank you for that,” Beachum said. “I would encourage other

citizens that feel that possibly, with this confusion, that maybe things have been put on your property. And I just say that because if you don’t question it, and maybe you’re all right with that, but again, it eventually becomes a prescriptive easement. And then when you want to go sell your land [or do] different things, that could cause a problem. So I would

encourage citizens to get ahold of Dan [Czarnecki, Lowell public works director] or [city manager] Mike Burns if they feel that that is an issue.”

The second participant in public comment was an enthusiastic plea from local resident Eddie Johnson to throw a “Smoke on the Water” recreational marijuana festival at the



Screenshot of Lowell city council in discussion at their Monday, Dec. 6 meeting.

Treasures for Troops collected 186 boxes for overseas service members



A total of 186 boxes are packed with the donations collected in this yearly event and have been mailed to military service members who are deployed away from home. Along with three “staple” items of peanut butter, cans of soup and some beef jerky, letters, cards and notes written by people from Saranac, Ionia and Lowell were included in each box.

The Ionia Moose lodge once again hosted the storage, sorting and boxing of donations, which were then prepared for mailing from the Saranac Post Office.

Major donations for postage were received from Reurink Roofing & Siding Sales and Herbruck’s, both of Ionia, with many individual monetary donations from WION listeners, advertisers

and the public in Ionia and Kent counties.

In a press release, WION and the Blue Star Mothers said they are extremely grateful to Lowell High School, WRWW-92.3 FM and Lowell Area Schools - which contributed more than a full SUV-load of donations to the cause - and to the Lakewood United Methodist Church youth group, who

held a special drive for the project and donated multiple large boxes to Treasures for Troops.

“Thanks to donors and volunteers, 186 members of our military services know that people in our area support and care for them while they’re far away from home,” said Jim Carlyle, WION’s manager and mid-morning co-host.

Showboat and on the Riverwalk.

“We’re gonna have a hash bash, but along the river,” Johnson said. “You sell your paraphernalia for pot smokers, you get all the 54 pot stores [not an accurate figure] to sign up, it’s gonna be a gold mine here, I’m telling you. [...] You know those smoke stacks on the boat? Okay, here’s what we’re gonna do. We’re gonna turn them into giant bongos.”

“No, we’re not,” said Lowell mayor Michael DeVore.

“This idea is gonna go great and we’re gonna raise so much money,” Johnson said. “We’re gonna be another Ann Arbor.”

Councilor James Salzwedel presented the council with an update about Lowell Showboat VI.

“The total income is just a little over \$13,000,” Salzwedel said. “After expenses, the signs, paying the people who come and clean, the people that work the event, the net income is \$11,467.47. I think since I sent this to you there’s probably been an update to that, but it’s pretty close. [...] We’ve had a whole lot more events come in since then. We probably have had, I think, seven events rent it so far since we started. I think we had a small class reunion, weddings, Christmas parties, a few things like that.”

Salzwedel said the Showboat’s brand new website, lowellshowboat.org, is up and running and is the best method for parties interested in booking the venue.

Next, the council approved a \$5,577 bathroom security proposal.

“We got a proposal from Jim [Salzwedel]’s company, Allied Universal, to have the key card system that we have currently for a number of our facilities to be added to the restrooms for the Showboat,” Burns said. “It allows us to control the times the Showboat’s open.”

“Even though the Showboat may not be open for the public, it would still be open for the general public to use that restroom outside that time,” Salzwedel said. “Mike would set up a time frame of like 9 am until ten o’clock at night, so that the bathroom will automatically unlock.”

“The total cost for this is \$5,577.10,” Burns said. “My spending authority is \$5,000, so I can’t approve this administratively, so I’m asking the council to approve this expenditure. The breakdown of the funding will be, we’ll use the same cost allocations we used to build the bathrooms. So 39.7 percent will come from the Showboat fund, 29.8 percent will come from the DDA fund [and] 30.5 percent of this will come from the American Recovery Plan funds we received.”

Near the end of the meeting, a couple city councilors voiced their support for the three members of the Lowell Area Schools board of education who could face a recall if a sufficient number of signatures are collected between Dec. 15 and Dec. 31. Read their statement on page one of this newspaper.

“I would like to thank our school system and the school board members, specifically,” said councilor Cliff Yankovich. “They’ve

City council, continued, page 10

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Learning from Scratch must move, searching for space in Lowell area

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Learning from Scratch, the non-profit “upcycle store” located inside the Comprenew building at 1454 28th St. SE in Grand Rapids, was created and is managed by Lowell resident and retired teacher Betsy Hamm.

Learning from Scratch was recently asked by their landlord to find a different location for their shop, plus the massive amount of materials they have stored in the basement of the building. They made inquiries on a couple promising spots here in Lowell, but none of them turned out to be available.

“Right now we’ve got a small retail spot that we’re sharing with another company, with about 3,000 square feet in the basement where we were storing things,” said Learning from Scratch volunteer

don’t have much money to spend on stuff. If somebody has some unused space they would be willing to just let us use for a while, that would be wonderful. Something that is available or just unused space that somebody would be gracious enough to let us use. We’ve got most of our other stuff stored out here in Lowell. We live out here, and so we basically want it all out here where it’s accessible for us. We rent three storage units from Ada-Lowell Storage, but those are mostly full already. We’ve got two semi trailers over just east of town, one of which is full. Those are going to be hard to access if we get any amount of snow, and that’s also not enough space. We’re going to need to move it, so we’re gonna need somebody with a big truck and some muscle to help move some of the

foam, felt, textiles, loose puzzle pieces, wallpaper, plastic flowers, yarn, tile, silk, fabric, string, pillows and cigar boxes. Some they donate to schools and other non-profits, some they sell in their store, the majority is stored in the basement. Nothing is placed on the shelves until it’s thoroughly inspected and they’re 100 percent certain it’s clean and safe.

“We have been doing this for 22 years,” Stacey said. “We don’t technically recycle things, we recover thousands of pounds discarded materials from various businesses. It could be manufacturing leftovers, it could be fabric samples, it could be top quality yarn from a carpet making operation. They just throw away the excess, so there’s a lot of things like that that

**“The best thing that could happen would be if we were put out of business because companies totally eliminated waste.”
- Eric Stacey, Learning from Scratch**

Eric Stacey. “Now they’ve decided they need that space for their operations, and we have a short time in which we need to vacate that space, and we don’t have another space to move it to. At some point, probably within a year, they’re probably going to take away our retail space as well. We’ve got until the middle of January [to clear the basement], but if the weather doesn’t cooperate, we’ll have a hard time getting some of the materials to the spaces that we do have. Our landlord suggested we just get a big, huge dumpster and get rid of it. Well, that defeats the whole purpose of our operation. We’re a nonprofit, we don’t get paid and there is a very low budget, so we

things, because I use a small, little van and it’s just the two of us, so we’re gonna need some help that way. We need volunteers and we need space.”

At Learning from Scratch, Hamm, Stacey and a small group of volunteers work six days a week accepting various unwanted items from about 30 manufacturing companies such as Herman Miller and Steelcase. They clean, sort, package and sometimes slightly modify the material to make it usable. If they did not accept this material, it all would be dumped into a landfill. The items include yarn, cardboard in various shapes and sizes, lids and caps, CDs, carpet samples,

can be used. Betsy was a former special ed teacher, and she knows that children need tactile, hands-on stuff that they can use to learn from. Teachers obviously need the materials, as well as homeschoolers, and people involved with things like Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olympiad and ArtPrize have come in for materials for their projects. It’s all reusable stuff. It can be used in your workshop or for making handcrafted things like pillows and handbags.”

After Veterans Day this year, Learning from Scratch volunteers spent hours at the Chapel Hill cemetery in Grand Rapids picking through piles of graveyard



Betsy Hamm, founder and executive director of Learning from Scratch. [2017 photo]

waste to collect all of the discarded US flags, which they handed off to the local Boy Scouts to be properly retired.

“It’s just the idea that we shouldn’t be throwing away things just to turn around and make more of them,” Stacey said. “I think there’s too much of that. And we just scratch the surface on how much is actually out there

being thrown away. I mean, we can’t! We just aren’t big enough. There is so much material, and we can’t handle some of the stuff, or it’s not necessarily reusable. But we do as much as we can to try to get it into the hands of people that can make use of it. The best thing that could happen would be if we were put out of business because companies totally

eliminated waste, or if they changed their manufacturing operations so they don’t create as much waste.”

For more information about Learning from Scratch, call 616-890-1085, visit learningfromscratch.org, send a message to scraplfs@gmail.com or find them on social media. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10 am until 6 pm.

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outdoors

our big backyard

Dave Stegehuis

Traveling the highways and backroads across the two peninsulas in Michigan will take one through a variety of landscapes. About four and a half million acres unfolding in front of your windshield belongs to Michigan residents. The federal government owns over three and a half million acres. Toss in county and municipal properties and we have one huge backyard.

These lands are managed so they are protected and preserved for environmental and recreational objectives as well as the proper use of natural resources. Forests store carbon and wetlands filter water while both provide wildlife habitat.

As more fields and forests are consumed by human development, preserving natural areas now and for the benefit of future generations becomes more important. It is possible to reclaim land that was lost to development in the past, but it is very expensive and usually involves relatively small acreage. In cases of where property is scarce, it is worth it.

Our current culture and economy require most of us to live our daily lives in more crowded conditions. Modern lifestyle tends to separate us from the land and wildlife that resides there. It is important for physical and mental health for us to be able to spend time in natural

surroundings, so natural areas must be accessible to everyone. The state of Michigan is working toward that objective.

We should not take for granted the opportunity we have to enjoy the benefits of the state's natural resources. It is easy to get caught up in our everyday lives, while ignoring our need to get out for fresh air and exercise in a calm natural environment. Find places to fish, hunt, hike, ride, camp, forage, bird watch, or just sit and enjoy the sights, smells, and sounds of nature.

To help insure we will always have places for outdoor recreation and to connect with nature, find a way to get personally involved with maintaining and expanding these resources. Join or donate to conservation organizations, volunteer on trail and water clean-up days, plant trees and be an informed voter when ballot issues arise.

It is your big backyard, so find more balance in your life by supporting and experiencing our outdoor heritage.

sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Nate Fowler

The holidays are a time to give thanks, be with family, and to express gratitude for the contributions of so many within the greater Lowell Community. I continue to be honored to serve as the Superintendent of Lowell Area Schools. I'm fortunate to see the great work that goes on in classrooms across our district. Lowell Area Schools' mission states that we will work to ensure that our students will master essential skills and work to become contributing, responsible members of our global community. Each day teachers, administrators, and staff work together to provide opportunities for our students that allow that to happen.

The tragic events at Oxford High School remind us of the trust that families place in the school system to keep students safe. We know that students need to feel safe in order to learn, strive, and grow. We work to build positive relationships with our students so that they have trusted adults at school. We have outstanding relationships with our law enforcement community to investigate and follow up

on any potential threats. Our students and staff regularly practice "Code Red" drills for how to respond if there is an armed intruder. We will be reviewing lessons learned from the tragedy in Oxford to evaluate how we can improve our safety practices and procedures.

Even before the school violence and following threats across the state impacted school communities, the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic have forced schools to tackle problems that were unprecedented. I am proud of our students, staff, and community as we have done our very best to keep schools open and students safe over the past twenty months. While remote and virtual learning works well for some students, learning is best accomplished when students are physically in school with highly qualified teachers. Lowell Area Schools has and will continue to follow legal orders or mandates issued by county and state public health agencies. All COVID-19 related decisions have been made based on guidance and/or orders from these agencies with the goal of providing in person

learning opportunities for students.

In addition to facing questions about Covid related protocols, questions have also been raised about practices related to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Lowell Area Schools is committed to ensuring that all students have a safe environment to learn free from discrimination or harassment. When we talk about diversity, equity, and inclusion, our goal is to support all students and give them the confidence they need to excel in college, military service, or the workforce when they graduate from Lowell High School. When students leave Lowell, they prove year after year that they have the tools to continue as learners and be leaders as they transition into adulthood.

I want to thank the LAS Board of Education and our entire staff for the care, dedication, and efforts to do what is best for the students of Lowell Area Schools. Lowell is a special place for so many reasons. I am so thankful for the long standing support of our community. Most of all, thank you for the trust that you put in us at Lowell Area Schools to educate the youth of our community. I wish you all the best for a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

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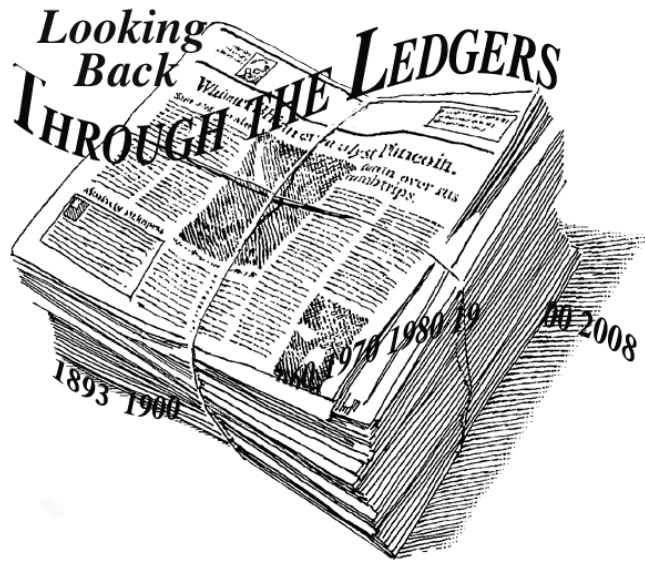
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Painful menstrual periods
Many people have some crampy pain with their periods, especially as teenagers. The pain often is low in the pelvis and starts just before your period or at the beginning of your period. It often lasts one to three days. The pain can be bad enough to keep you from doing things you normally do.
Painful periods usually do not mean that anything is seriously wrong. Sometimes, though, painful periods can be caused by an infection, cysts or other problems. Pain can also be caused by a condition called endometriosis. This happens when the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus.
The most common way to treat painful periods is to take medicines call NSAIDS. Examples of NSAIDS include ibuprofen or naproxen. You can buy these medications without a prescription.
Your doctor might also recommend that you try taking birth control pills or getting a birth control shot (Depo-Provera) or an intrauterine device (IUD). An IUD is a small T-shaped device that your doctor inserts into your uterus. These medicines can make periods less painful. You can also try exercising for 45-60 minutes at least three days a week or using a heating pad to help make the pain better.
If the pain with your periods does not get better after taking NSAIDS or birth control pills, you may need a pelvic exam and an ultrasound. You may be referred to a specialist for further tests.

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 11, 1896

This edition of the Lowell Ledger is missing.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 15, 1921

Clyde Murray, a resident of Kent county, and his father, John Murray, were arrested in Ionia Saturday afternoon by Marshall Alexander on a charge of bootlegging. Clyde Murray lives near Pratt Lake and John Murray lives in Lowell. It is charged that the two men came here with a quantity of liquor which they were to sell to local parties. Their car was parked in front of H. A. Rich's store at the time the arrest was made and the liquor that was found in it was taken in charge by Sheriff Hoppough and sealed.

Michigan will keep open about 1,200 miles of its highways this winter in order that motor vehicle traffic may move unhampered on intercity roads. This is the announcement that has been received by the touring bureau of the Grand Rapids Passenger Car Dealers association from Frank F. Rodgers, state highway commissioner.

A Grand Rapids banking official, speaking of the number of two policemen by bank bandits in that city, says that "If such killings continue there will be a change of heart among the people which would mean the return to hanging in Michigan for murder." The officer takes it for granted, evidently, that the present law has public favor behind it; which, we believe, is far from the truth.

75 years The Lowell Ledger December 12, 1946

Lowell, like the rest of the country, began taking on new life with the calling off of the coal strike. Stores are well stocked with merchandise and shoppers from miles around are finding it an easy matter to do their Christmas shopping in Lowell.

There has been so many complaints on the present name of our athletic teams "Red Devils" that the high school Students Athletic Association has decided to sponsor a campaign for a suitable name. Suggestion from persons outside of school will be appreciated. They may be sent to Foster Bishop, in care of the school or left at the Ledger office.

The treatment of tuberculosis is based upon complete rest of the body to muster strength to fight the germs and speed the healing process. If the

tuberculosis patient does not respond to complete bed rest and to generally improved hygienic conditions, doctors use surgical means to put the diseased lung at rest. Collapse therapy, or collapsing a lung by minor or major surgery, is the accepted method today. This restricts the breathing capacity of the lung and so gives it a rest.

50 years The Lowell Ledger December 16, 1971

A quick jump into the Flat River to evade police authorities found the victim AWOL from the Army last week. When approached by the patrolling policeman, William Mitchell, 23, who lists his address as South Pleasant Street, Lowell, took a straddling turn, headed for the icy river on East Main and plunged in.

Twinkling lights, glittering tinsel, Nativity scenes and jolly Santas used in yard decoration have heralded the Christmas season around the area. But for the residents of Valley Vista area in one respect, it could be a black Christmas. Saturday night, vandals equipped with cans of black spray paint decided to change the scenery--redecorating the Christmas decor.

Michigan Bell says it could reduce operating costs by at least \$1.5 million a year across the state if more customers would consult their phone books before dialing "411" for directory assistance.

25 years The Lowell Ledger December 11, 1996

In an effort to expand its business farther to the west, Robert Goodrich, president of Goodrich Quality Theaters, Inc. announced that Lowell 5 Theaters has been renamed Ada-Lowell 5. Since opening in August, officials say the theater has done less business than anticipated. Some of that may have to do with people's mindset.

Bill and Mary Zigmont watched carefully for five-and-a-half hours as their home at the corner of Elm and Hudson was moved east of Lowell to Riverside Drive. The home was moved by Roll Away Movers out of Grand Rapids. The house was moved on Wednesday, Dec. 4. The lot which now sits vacant at Elm and Hudson, owned by Dave Gest Sr., will be used to provide Roth-Gerst Funeral Home with additional parking.

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission has heard plans from Jerry McMaster to place a modular home business along M-21.

to the editor

To the Lowell Ledger editor:

I am a near 20-year community member and former Lowell Education Foundation board member who is opposed to the costly, unnecessary recall threatening our Board of Education. A recall less than a year before the terms of three members expire is an unneeded distraction from the monumental and often thankless task of keeping a public school district fully operating at any time, much less during a global health pandemic, and will cost the district thousands of dollars that would otherwise be spent on our students.

I believe recalls of elected public servants are appropriate when that official demonstrates clear malfeasance; none of the three LAS board members threatened has done so. The language of the petition -- which may not by law be circulated until the county addresses the appeals -- is overly vague, leaving talking points to those collecting signatures. Most of the items outlined on social media as reasons for recall are not in the Board of Education's power to legally control, change or enforce, no matter what those collecting signatures tell you. Gary Blough, Pat Nugent and Jessica Curtis are multi-generational community members, leaders and educators who have given

of their time over decades to benefit the students of Lowell Area Schools.

This disruptive school board attack by a group that has proposed no solutions to issues that are clearly politically driven, and who have not volunteered themselves to serve our community as these three members repeatedly have, has no place in Lowell.

Some 4,000 Lowell-area students are depending on us to protect their ability to learn in a safe, supportive and success-oriented environment. Please, decline to sign any recall petition. Support the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education.

Morgan Jarema
Lowell

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the articles in the paper on 11/24 and 12/1, with regards to recalling school board members and a meeting I attended for "Lowell Kids 1st".

My youngest daughter is a graduate of Lowell and currently, I have two grandchildren that attend Lowell schools.

I am in full support of the Lowell School Board and their members. The people on these boards unselfishly spend their valuable time for the continued improvement of ALL the students in our PUBLIC schools.

To the editor,
continued, page 7



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.

anniversary ABCs of Lowell History

Stoddard



Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary Bill and Shirley Stoddard. December 14th marks 65 years for this happy and blessed couple. They met at a dance in Battle Creek and have waltzed through their life making wonderful memories ever

since. They continue to enjoy both vegetable and flower gardening, fishing, playing cards, and games. They are involved in several groups at church, while also spending quality time with family.



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.

I - is for I spy

Standing in Richards Park looking North West, I spy something.....light blue. It's a large stately Victorian Queen Ann house, built around 1885. This home boasts notable features such as its steeply pitched gabled and hipped roof and front porch with groupings of classic wood columns. Highlights also include an original fireplace, oak woodwork, pocket and French doors, and two staircases.

This beautiful private residence at 404 Lincoln Lake was built for Thomas and Mary Doyle. Thomas Doyle was known as a timber man of great ability. He estimated timber in many states. He worked for Blodgett & Byrne and also for the Muskegon Lumber Co. He traveled much of his career, including to the Pacific coasts, British Columbia and Vancouver Island in addition to his twenty years spent working from Arkansas.

At the time the home was being built, Mary Doyle suffered from asthma. It was believed that sleeping in a room with high ceilings would alleviate the distress of this disease. The main



The house at 404 Lincoln Lake.

floor north bedroom was therefore built with very high ceilings while the north porch was often used by the family for sleeping during the hot days of summer.

Following the death of Thomas and Mary, their daughter Bertha and her husband Roland Shivel, an attorney, lived in the home around 1917. Roland had an office in Grand Rapids and one in his home for local clientele. A half bath was used as a phone booth for privacy. Bertha Doyle Shivel died unexpectedly in 1940 at the age of 55 from a heart attack suffered at home.

Though others came through the house in the meantime, in 1961 this large beautiful home was occupied by a large and giving family for nearly forty years. In fact, George and Delores (Dode) Dey gave so much to their community that they were jointly honored as Person of the Year in 1990 by the city they loved. George

owned Dey Machine and Tool Works, but also drove school bus for 28 years. Dode served as secretary for the Chamber of Commerce for 22 years and made quilts for the annual quilt raffle at the Fallasburg Fall Festival. In her spare time she chaired the Lowell Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1980. George and Dode served the community with the Lowell Area Arts Council before there was such a thing. In bringing the Art Train to Lowell, George helped establish the council. After George died in 1994 the LAAC dedicated the "George Dey Memorial" stage at the Fallasburg Fall Festival. Dode was a long-time volunteer at the Lowell Area Historical Museum. She never missed a Thursday when our Museum accessioning group got together to work. She loved identifying photographs and sewing numbers onto artifacts. She told stories about our town. Dode has since also passed away.

The current owners of this home, Mark and Val Fleet bought the home in 2004. They have completely rewired the entire home, sandblasted and repainted all radiators, replaced all second floor windows as well as redecorated the bedrooms. The front porch has been rebuilt and the property enhanced with new landscaping. Mark Fleet has an appreciation for building that comes from his knowledge and experience after working over 32 years as building official and inspector for the City of Grand Rapids, and 17 years for Vergennes Township. One nod to the past, Mark left some of the older 'ripple' effect windows so that the viewer can almost look thru to the past.

Houses become homes when memories and love are built and shared. Knowing the history of your home and the people who have dwelt there makes you the caretaker of the past and the keeper of memories.

area churches



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Pastor Ryan Landt
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
Sunday School.....11:20 AM
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
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happy birthday

DECEMBER 8
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DECEMBER 9
Allen Metternick, Sara Triplett, Deb Schuitema, Alison Nugent, Ben Nugent, Noah VanLaan, Sharlene McClure.

DECEMBER 12
Brad Briggs, Matt Newhouse, Sally Hacker, Charlie Young, Margaret Milanowski Alter.

DECEMBER 13
Chrys Thaler, Jeff Bowne, Michelle Fyan.

DECEMBER 10
Bill Flugler, Barbara Decker.

DECEMBER 14
Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth, Perry Beachum.

DECEMBER 11
Dave Rhodes, Kathryn Zalewski, Amber Waldron, Mike Kline, Billie Fallstrom.

to the editor

After attending the Lowell Kids 1st meeting and reading their website, I strongly suggest these members consider private schools. The narrow mindedness, along with the religious views of "LowellKids1st", have no place in our PUBLIC schools. As a product of private schools, my parents had an enormous say into what their children (me) were exposed to.

Before I get rebuttals that it isn't financially feasible to send my children to a private school...my parents sacrificed greatly to send all six of us, second through 12th, to a private school. It was that important to them for us to be educated in an environment that they agreed upon. So, if what is occurring at our local PUBLIC school, isn't sitting well with your beliefs, I suggest you look where you would be more comfortable.

Stephanie Boone is quoted as saying "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 tell us on the back end." This is total hearsay. And, just because the administration and the school board is not giving you the answers you want, doesn't mean they are not communicating. They claim they want to get back to the basics, with less history. Ok, then let's start with Science! Science refutes the majority of their complaints in regards to vaccines and masks.

The cost to recall board members would be an unneeded burden on the taxpayers. Let the board members serve their terms. Hopefully they will continue to want to serve.

Thank you to our administration and school board members for doing their best to keep our students safe, healthy, and well educated. I appreciate all you do!

*Best Regards,
Rita Lundstrom
Lowell*

Dear Editor,

I love our community and the educational district that it nurtures. It is what brought me here more than 35 years ago to marry and raise three sons so that they may become productive members of their communities, which they are.

Since the removal of the "fairness doctrine" a variety of media voices have polarized the views determining the future of our nation. They are too often angry, loud and poorly informed.

In school I was taught many historical facts including the philosophy of our "Founding Fathers", the Battle of the "Alamo" and the events of World War II. Our curriculum has now been expanded to reveal the economics of slavery, the racism regarding westward expansion and the truths regarding Japanese internment camps in California. These too are historical facts.

Accepting the fact that "half the truth is often a great lie" is to understand why the whole truth is necessary to expand the wisdom of the next generation.

That is what our education community and leadership are striving to do.

If we are to properly prepare the next generation to become productive members of the 4th Industrial Revolution of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, we should prepare them with the whole truth so that they can embrace the future with knowledge and wisdom.

That is what our educational community, under the leadership of our elected school board and superintendent, are trying to do and I fully support them in that effort.

*Jack Misner
Vergennes Township*

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express

my wholehearted support of the entire Lowell School system. Thank you all - Administrators, teachers, support staff, bus drivers, and food and building services. Oh, and the Board as well. As a business owner in downtown Lowell for 20 years, I long ago recognized the symbiotic relationship between successful small town businesses and the schools. We are codependent in helping to attract residents and other businesses to the Lowell area.

It has long been said that people vote with their wallets. Families would not invest in a home, their single biggest financial undertaking, in an area that they believe had a poor school system. The rate at which homes in the Lowell school district sell tells me families are voting in favor of Lowell Schools on a regular basis.

You want to change our Board of Education? How about running for a seat at the next election? To my recollection most Board of Ed seats are unopposed. (Please correct me if I am wrong.) The people who serve the schools and students on the Lowell Board of Education do so because they are passionate about the students and education in general. For a \$300 annual stipend they spend hours of their time doing what they can to keep Lowell schools drawing residents to the area. Running for and serving on the Board represents consistent time and energy that mostly goes unappreciated. Public service is about nose to the grindstone, showing up for meetings and doing the job as opposed to grasping for media attention by trying to recall hard working, dedicated public servants who make tough decisions regularly, never mind the endless headache of trying

to navigate COVID over the last 18 months.

I am proud of our schools and am grateful for the hard work done at every level.

*Cliff Yankovich
Chimera Design*

Dear Editor,

Show your support!

I am writing to show my support for the Lowell School Board and Lowell Area Schools in its entirety. I admire the way the board shows respect and dignity while a few, albeit very loud, voices have called for their positions. I would imagine it is quite difficult to show up to meetings and listen to a select few tell you how terrible you are at doing your job as a school board member and superintendent. I think it is important to remember these board members are people we walk alongside while shopping at Meijer. They are people we bump into while eating at our favorite local restaurants. They are members of this community that, in my opinion, have made decisions that are in the very best interest of ALL students within Lowell Area Schools. They've done this before the pandemic, during the pandemic, and hopefully long after the pandemic subsides.

In an effort to combat some of the recent negativity, I thought I would mention a few of the truly great things happening within our schools. Did you know:

-Alto Elementary was recently selected as a top 50 elementary/middle school in the State of Michigan (#33 www.usnews.com/education/k12/elementary-schools/michigan)

-Students at Murray Lake Elementary recently raised nearly \$500.00 and the student council voted to donate to the Make a Wish Foundation and a local pet rescue.

-Bushnell Elementary

students are working hard to promote positive character traits where students earn a BRAG TAG to hang on their backpack. These character traits are then celebrated when students demonstrate these behaviors.

- A junior at Lowell High School has been working with a second grade teacher

at Cherry Creek Elementary to develop a healthy eating curriculum in an effort to promote healthy lifestyles in all children.

There are so many more great things happening in our community. I hope that you, too, will show your support!

*Zach Beachum
Lowell*

college news

Caitlin Butler of Lowell, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Butler was initiated at Western Michigan University.

Butler is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership

is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

FOR ALL AGES

SnowFest Craft Time - Tues., Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm and Thurs., Dec. 16 at 10 am. Celebrate the snowy season with winter-themed craft making fun for the family.

FOR AGES 5-10

KDL Lab Experience - Tues., Dec. 28 at 1 pm. Allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in facilitated, hands-on activities based on STEM concepts.

FOR TEENS & ADULTS

Let It Snow reading program - Jan. 3 to Mar. 31, for adults and teens. Read a minimum of six books between January 3 and March 31 to receive the 2022 Let It Snow ceramic 15 oz. mug. Participants who finish an additional four titles are entered into a drawing to win an iPad, and experience of other prizes. Participate online at kdl.org/snow or pick up a printed form at any KDL branch when the program begins.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE ANDRE MCGHEE TRUST

Re: Andre McGhee, decedent. Date of Birth 04/16/1962.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Andre McGhee, who lived at 1239 Euclid SE, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, died on October 26, 2021.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased or

the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Meredith Curless of FOX LAW, PLC, of 410 Bridge St NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: December 2, 2021

Meredith Curless (P78235)
410 Bridge St NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-458-3699

Freddy Turley
830 Fairmount SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

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Christmas holiday festivities make a strong comeback after a year off

by Bill Lee
contributing reporter

After a one-year hiatus, the Lowell Christmas and holiday season officially kicked off Saturday with a number of events throughout the day, most of which were sponsored by the Lowell Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority. The day began with the Rogue River Artisans 38th Annual Fine Art and Craft Show at Lowell High School and ended with Santa and Mrs. Claus riding their sleigh through downtown at the Night-Time Santa Parade.

The Rogue River Artisans Show highlighted Michigan artists selling everything from handcrafted jewelry and Christmas trinkets to homemade jam and salsa. The many customers were met by dozens of artists who filled both of Lowell High School's gymnasiums.

Victoria Alt, an artist from Dowling, showcased her one-of-a-kind jewelry and treasure boxes and presented a little flair by dressing up as a Christmas elf. It was her first year as a vendor in the show, and she was happy to be a part of the event.

"It is hard to get into this

show, and we have heard it is a good one," said Alt. "When I got the invitation in the mail, I was pretty excited to come. I hope we get a good crowd."

Kathy Bengel, a crafter for over 40 years, was in her tenth year at the show. Bengel handcrafts snowmen, Santas, and Christmas trees, along with many other things out of recycled materials. She has enjoyed her years at the show.

"We get great customers who return throughout the years," said Bengel.

Later in the morning at Heidi's Farmstand, a group presented a live Nativity scene with four stations – shepherds with live sheep, angels singing, wisemen, and Mary, Joseph and Jesus in a stable. At each station visitors were encouraged to ask questions to the members of the Nativity. Lowell resident Ned Stoller has been organizing the event for the last four years.

"We wanted to show that the birth of Jesus was a fact in living history." The event sees over 400 visitors each year and Stoller will continue to run the event so that it coincides with the day

of the Santa parade in the future.

Starting at 2:30 were two events right across from each other – Santa Visits on the Showboat and Rudolph's Craft Workshop in the Chamber of Commerce. Families had to brave brisk winds and long lines just to get a peek at the Big Man, who smartly set up his visits in the warm confines of the Showboat. Rudolph's Craft Workshop, sponsored by Curiosity Corner Preschool and the TOTS program, bustled with small children making ornaments and decorations to bring home. Many of the teachers, like Heidi Hoevenaar, Erin Hendrick and Kathy Burch, dressed up for the event and helped with making the crafts.

The highlight of the day was the Night-Time Santa Parade at 6 pm. A strong crowd lined both sides of Main Street to watch. Fortunately the wind died down a bit and the temperature seemed just right as the Lowell Fire Department got things started with its trucks and flashing lights. After that, floats from local youth and

student groups to local businesses rolled down Main Street.

"Our boys help make the float every year," said Keith Disselkoe, a cub scout den leader, whose float held about 20 Cub Scouts. "We pick a theme each year and the boys decorate it." This year's theme was a camp out.

"We've been participating for over ten years," said Tim Van Laan of Lowell Little League. "The kids love riding on the float and just being a part of the parade."

Ending the parade, of course, in his sleigh with Mrs. Claus, was Santa. If families missed him during his time at the Showboat earlier in the day, they were able to greet him as he rolled down in his colorful sleigh. He waved to everyone on both sides of the street, especially to some eager children. When one toddler was asked what her favorite part of the parade was, she quickly answered, "I loved seeing Santa." Overall, it was a wonderful day of festivities that was excitedly welcomed after last year's cancellations.



Kathy Bengel



Share a Holiday

Hello!

It's the thought that counts, so send thoughtful words of holiday cheer to the ones who make you smile all year! A message in our Season's Greetings feature is the perfect way to surprise somebody with heartfelt words of appreciation, from the essential workers who went above and beyond this year, to friends, family, clients and coworkers.

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Heidi Hoevenaar, Erin Hendrik and Kathy Burch.



The line to meet Santa Claus.



Photo courtesy Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.



Photos courtesy Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.



Photo courtesy Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Unvaccinated residents filling Michigan hospitals after getting hospitalized for COVID

As Michigan continues to record high numbers of COVID-19 cases, new data from the Michigan Health & Hospital Association proves that the majority of Michigan residents severely sick with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and MHA are pleading with residents to get vaccinated for their own health, the safety of Michigan's health care personnel, and to avoid additional strain on health care systems that are already stretched and struggling to respond.

"The data is clear: if you are unvaccinated, you are risking hospitalization or death," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "We have a safe and effective vaccine that is quite literally saving lives. Michigan residents absolutely need to

get vaccinated to keep their loved ones safe this holiday."

Based on recent data from most Michigan health systems, MHA has found that three out of four COVID patients are unvaccinated (76 percent), 87 percent of COVID ICU patients are unvaccinated and 88 percent of COVID ventilator patients are unvaccinated.

"Michigan's health care systems are stretched beyond their limits – so much so that the US Department of Defense is providing clinical staffing support to hospitals throughout the state that are operating at capacity, delaying nonemergency medical procedures and placing their emergency departments on diversion," said Brian Peters, CEO of MHA. "This data confirms what the situation in our hospitals is already telling us: get vaccinated, whether it

is your first dose, vaccination for your children or a booster dose."

Michigan's number of hospitalized COVID-19 cases reached a new high last week, with 4,291 patients hospitalized. Recently, Michigan reached 70 percent of residents 16 and older who have received their first vaccine dose, but cases are surging in the unvaccinated population.

MDHHS is monitoring for the COVID-19 omicron variant which has not been detected in the state. Residents are advised that the presence of variants makes it even more important to get vaccinated, including the booster doses to increase protection, wear masks, and take other precautions.

In addition to getting vaccinated and wearing masks – particularly indoors and in crowded areas – other

City council, continued

been taking a lot of heat. I found out this week they get \$300 a year for what they do, and that pretty much convinced me that they do what they do because they believe in education and their heart is for the kids. I think it's sad that they have to take the amount of crap that they're taking right now."

"I agree with that," DeVore said. "The people that are against you will always be louder, and I support them fully. I think they're doing a fantastic job. You start

driving out the good people, or trying to drive out the good people, you won't get new good people. It's hard enough to fill [boards and commissions]. It's sad to see people wasting their time and energy."

"Correct me if I'm wrong, but most board of ed [elections], they run unopposed," Yankovich said. "People aren't fighting to donate their time to 22 meetings a year, plus, plus, plus. So I certainly hope these people are going to step up and do something instead of just shooting their

mouths off."

"We're lucky to have the schools that we do and the school administration that we do and the school board that we do and the teachers that we do," DeVore said.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will take place at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 20.

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

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.

MDHHS updates school guidance quarantine guidelines, continues to strongly recommend universal masking to prevent spread of COVID-19

On Friday, Dec. 3, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued streamlined quarantine recommendations for schools designed to help prevent transmission of COVID-19 among the school-aged population while reducing disruptions to in-person learning. In addition to vaccination, which is approved for ages 5 and up, layered prevention measures, including masking, should be put in place for consistent in-person learning to keep kids, staff and families safe.

MDHHS recommends local health departments and schools work together to quickly isolate COVID-19 cases among students

and staff, identify close contacts of those cases, and adopt quarantine policies that reduce the risk of transmission in schools while allowing in-person learning. When evidence-based prevention measures are utilized, such as vaccination, masking, and testing, students exposed to COVID-19 cases may not have to quarantine at home and can stay in the classroom.

"Schools have the ability to be safe now that children ages 5 and older can be vaccinated," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive at MDHHS. "We continue to urge all eligible residents to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine

as soon as possible as it is our best defense against the virus. Masks, distancing, quarantine and isolation are all additional strategies that keep our schools and public spaces safe."

MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings.

Quarantine and isolation are determined by the local health department and are used as important tools to prevent the spread of disease.

You isolate when you are infected with COVID-19 and have tested positive, even if you do not have symptoms. Isolation is used to separate people who are infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.

You quarantine when you might have been exposed to COVID-19. This is because you might become infected with COVID-19 and could spread COVID-19 to others.

Any individual that displays COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, should not attend school and should be tested for COVID-19.

Quarantine Guidance COVID-19 School Quarantine Guidelines for Asymptomatic Students

Fully vaccinated contacts without symptoms do not need to quarantine.

Contacts that are not fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms:

If masking was maintained, contacts can participate in

school activities if wearing a mask for 14 days after exposure and using a "Test to Stay" strategy.

If masking was not maintained, if additional testing and mitigation strategies are used, contacts may participate in school activities at the discretion of the local health department.

MI Safer Schools Testing Program

MDHHS is providing schools antigen testing supplies free of charge through the MI Safe Schools Testing program. Schools and individual school districts can request antigen test kits through the MI Safer Schools: School Antigen COVID Test Ordering form. MDHHS will be leveraging

our partnership with Intermediate School Districts to help distribute COVID-19 antigen tests based on the orders placed in the School Antigen COVID Test Ordering Form. Questions about test supply orders can be sent to your Intermediate School District and any other school testing related questions can be sent directly to MDHHS at MDHHS-COVIDtestingsupport@michigan.gov

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

For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/coronavirus.

MI stepping up speed enforcement due to increase in fatal crashes

For more than a year, law enforcement agencies across the nation have reported an alarming rise in speeding and fatal crashes despite a decrease in the number of road miles traveled.

To combat this deadly and dangerous trend, the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning is announcing that more than 100 municipal, county, and Michigan State Police law enforcement agencies will focus on speeding drivers between Dec. 1, 2021 and Feb. 28, 2022. The campaign is supported by federal traffic

safety funds.

While Michigan has seen a 22 percent reduction in traffic crashes - 245,432 in 2020 compared to 314,377 in 2019 - there has been an increase in fatalities. Crash data from the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center indicates 1,083 people died from crashes on Michigan roads in 2020, a 10 percent increase over 2019, with 985 deaths reported. In 2020, there were 200 speed-related fatalities on Michigan roadways compared to 185 in 2019, an 8 percent increase.

"Despite the fact there have been less miles traveled, the fatality rate rose. And crash data shows that speed may have been a factor in many of these preventable crashes," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. "It's no secret the faster you drive, the greater your risk of dying in a crash. We hope increased enforcement over the coming months will help change these dangerous driving behaviors and save lives."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a crash on

a road with a speed limit of 65 mph or greater is more than twice as likely to result in a fatality than a crash on a road with a speed limit of 45 or 50 mph. Nationally in 2019, 9,478 traffic fatalities involved crashes in which one or more drivers were speeding.

According to the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, in Michigan during 2020:

Of male drivers involved in all traffic crashes, 6.4 percent were speeding.

15.2 percent of motorcycle

operators involved in fatal crashes were speeding.

11.2 percent of drivers aged 15 to 20 involved in crashes (4,650 out of 41,685) were speeding.

Out of all drivers who were drinking in crashes, 15.1 percent were speeding.

Recent insurance industry studies show that approximately 112,000 speeding tickets are issued each day, or about

41 million per year. The average fine for a speeding violation is between \$115-\$135.



Red Arrow

- WINTER SPORTS

SPORTS

Tough start to season for Lowell-Caledonia hockey

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

A new coach and a Caledonia-heavy lineup leads the Lowell-Caledonia (LC) hockey team into the 2021-2022 season after a 2020-2021 campaign that saw LC finish second in the Baum Conference.

This year's team is composed of 15 Caledonia players, two Lowell players, and one player from Thornapple-Kellogg. The two Lowell players are junior forward Morgan Kistler and senior defenseman and captain Owen Carpenter.

Lowell-Caledonia started the season 0-5 after losses to Jenison (3-10),

Kenowa Hills (1-2), Mona Shores (1-9), Plymouth (2-5), and Livonia Stevenson (0-8).

Coach Dan Swink takes over for Phil Wendecker after serving as an assistant for the team the last several years. Swink played for the Grand Ledge co-op team in high school before competing collegiately with Davenport's DIII program. Nolan Lockhart, a former Lowell-Caledonia player returns to the team as an assistant coach.

The team is on the road this week with games at Grand Rapids Christian on Wednesday, at the co-op of Forest Hills Northern and Forest Hills Eastern on

Friday night, and rounding out the week at Rockford on Saturday. The first games are conference games within the Baum Conference as LC will have Mona Shores, Forest Hills Northern/Eastern, Grand Rapids Christian, East Grand Rapids, and Forest Hills Central as conference opponents this season.

Pictured right: Lowell-Caledonia lines up before their game against Kenowa Hills. (Photo courtesy of Lowell-Caledonia Hockey Facebook Page)



Winter sports season gets underway

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

The Lowell Red Arrows winter sports season is officially underway with the beginning of athletic events. Lowell is fielding teams for six sports as well as two co-op programs (boys swim & dive and ice hockey). Current results so far include the ice hockey co-op team with Caledonia who have five games under their belt, while the varsity girls basketball team



picked up a 66-30 win over Cedar Springs.

Ski will not start their season until after the winter break, with their first meet happening January 11th at Cannonsburg. The gymnastics program also won't start competition until the new year.

Returning to Hillcrest Lanes for their home meets this year, the Lowell bowling program started their season this Monday at Hastings Bowl against Thornapple-Kellogg.

Under the direction of new head coach Bryan Powell, the Lowell boys varsity basketball program tipped their season off on Tuesday

against Cedar Springs. First chance to see them at home will be on December 21 against Jenison.

Competitive cheer starts their season on Saturday at Thornapple-Kellogg.

R.J. Boudro and the Lowell wrestling team had an intrasquad scrimmage on Friday with proceeds going to Flat River Outreach Ministries. This Saturday they're on the road on the east side of the state at the Grappler Gold Invitational, while the Lowell B team heads to Allegan for the Allegan Southwest Classic. The program will be looking to win their ninth consecutive state championship later this season.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of David Allen Guardianship File No. 21-210387-GA
Conservatorship File No. 21-210388-CA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his daughters, Lynn and Audrey 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 25, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 Courtroom 9C and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian and Appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: December 5, 2021

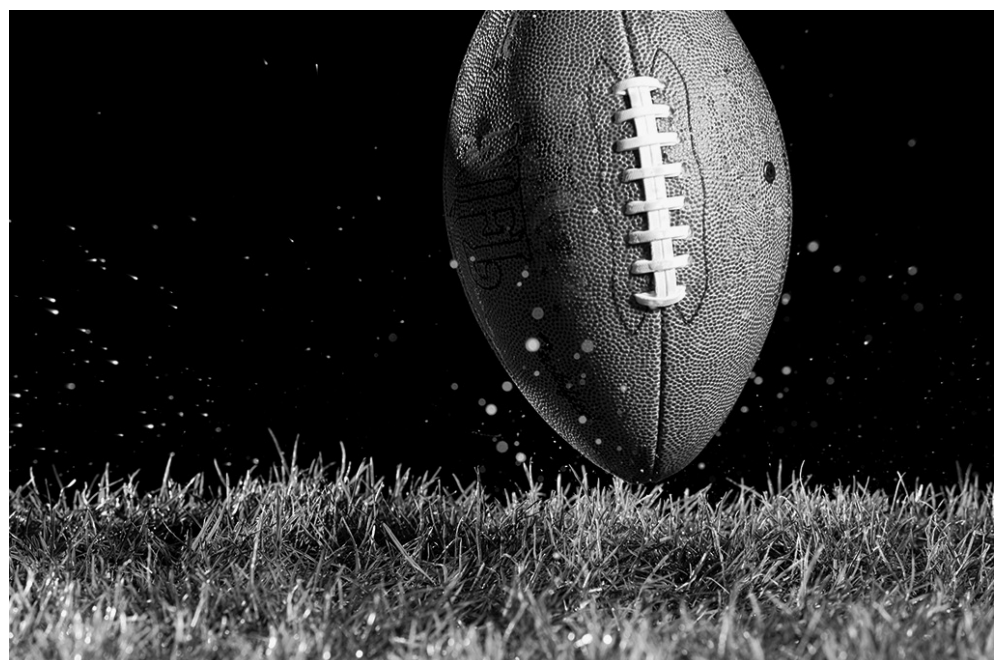
Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 260-5649

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC
Attys. for Petitioner by
Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001)
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obituaries

BAKER

Judith "Judy" Ann Baker, age 61, of Parnell, passed away and was welcomed with open arms by her Lord and Savior into heaven on Monday, November 29, 2021. She was born on January 13, 1960, in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Joseph and Mary Ann Bobko, who preceded her in death as well as her brother, Joseph Bobko. She is survived by the love of her life, her husband of 42 years, Kevin Baker; her children Elizabeth (Nathan) Balmer, Kellie (David) Anderson, and Tara (Joseph) McNeil. Judy had six grandchildren whom she adored and loved with all her heart – Vincent, Brooklyn, and Paige Balmer, Morgan and James Anderson, and Myka McNeil. She is also survived by her siblings Rose (Scott) Rollins, Edward (Beverly) Bobko, and Ruth (Thom) Hourani; and many nieces and nephews. Judy was the most kind, strong willed, stubborn woman that you would ever know. She loved her family with all her heart, and she always put everyone ahead of herself. Judy worked for Nugent Builders as their bookkeeper, and she took great pride in her work and the company that she watched grow for decades; they always treated her as if she were their family. Judy enjoyed cooking big meals for her family and reading romantic love stories. She suffered with the pains of Multiple Sclerosis for almost 30 years, but even with that she never lost faith in her Lord, and she accepted all that she was given in life. Being a devout Catholic and lifetime member of St. Patrick's Parish. Visitation was held on Friday, December 3, 2021, from 6-8 PM, with a rosary at 7:45 PM at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson Street SE, Lowell, MI 49331. Mass of a Christian Burial was held on 11 AM Saturday, December 4, 2021, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4351 Parnell Ave NE, Ada, MI 49301, with visitation one hour prior. Father Scott Nolan presiding. Interment was at St. Patrick Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick School, 4333 Parnell Ave NE, Ada, MI 49301.



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) Slaght, Martha (Rob) Fuhst; many nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews; and many wonderful friends. Services were held on Tuesday, November 23, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331, with Dr. Roger LaWaare 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.



BROWN

On November 30, 2021, heaven gained one of the best men to ever enter our lives. John E. Brown, age 71 of St John's, FL (formerly of Lowell, MI) passed away peacefully surrounded by many who will continue to love him. He is preceded in death by his father, John E. Brown Sr.; his mother, Christine Brown Hunter; and his sister, Linda Brown. Born on October 17, 1950, in Logan, OH, John moved to the Lansing, MI area at the age of 13 where he graduated in 1968 from Everett High School. John's lifelong career in retail foods allowed him to experience life in Michigan and several states throughout the south. Joining arms with Whole Foods in 2002, retiring from Whole Foods in 2018 as their Regional Executive Coordinator of Operations for the state of Florida. A highly regarded true servant leader, a mentor to many, friend to all. John enjoyed sharing his years of knowledge using his quick-witted, insightful humor, creating many memorable one-liners that will surely live on forever. He loved his Whole Foods family. John was a very avid golfer, participating



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 21-210280-DE

Estate of Andre McGhee.
Date of birth: 04/16/1962.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Andre McGhee, died 10/26/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to

I'man McGhee, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 29, 2021

Meredith Curless (P78235)
410 Bridge St NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-458-3699

I'man McGhee
1239 Euclid Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-801-3984

in many Pro-Ams with various PGA tour professionals throughout his life. A big sports fan, an even bigger fan of his beloved MSU Spartans. However, nothing gave him more joy than spending time with his family. John is survived by the love of his life Annette, his bride of 40 years; his children, Chad (Kristen) Brown, Stacy Brown, Kim (Laurie) Strouse, Tonya (Strouse) Mixon, Brad (Kristina) Strouse; his grandchildren, Ashley, Nathan, Cody, Jacob and Trey; and his brother, Keith (Julie) Brown. John was a giant among men with an even bigger heart that leaves us all too soon. You will be missed more than you could have imagined, John. On December 14, 2021, beginning with visitation at 11 AM and his memorial to begin at noon, the services will be held at the Lowell First Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE, Lowell, MI.

MILLER

Marjorie Jean (Norton) Miller, age 64, passed away peacefully November 26, 2021, due to complications from COVID-19. She was born December 27, 1956, in Richland, Washington to Henry and Patricia Norton. Her father was a Senior Programmer for IBM (Most people know that stands for International Business Machines, but on the inside, it often stood for I've Been Moved!). Growing up, the family lived in the communities of: Richland WA, Los Angeles CA, San Jose CA, Poughkeepsie NY, Boulder CO, Morristown NJ, Rochester MN. As the family moved from Morristown NJ to Rochester MN, they dropped Marjorie off at Tennessee Temple University for her freshman year of college. So where was she from? New Jersey? Minnesota?



It was a confusing and unsettling year. The following year she transferred to Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Wisconsin to complete her education with emphasis on elementary education and mission work. While attending Maranatha, Marjorie met her husband, John Miller of Grand Rapids MI, and after a two-year courtship, they were married in June of 1980. Marjorie loved so much. Her love language was giving gifts. She gave gifts all the time to the people in her life, at work, church, and to her family. Marjorie had a heart for missions at a young age expressed by her caring for disadvantaged and needy people. She exhibited this by spending a summer while in high school volunteering at Shepherd's Home in Wisconsin, working with the residents there. At that time Shepherds ministered to many school-aged children as well as adults. Since then, the ministry has changed focus to helping adults with learning disabilities to become functional in today's society. Marjorie learned Sign Language to be able to communicate with the deaf and hard of hearing. She interpreted for church services while in college. While in college, Marjorie spent a summer working with missionary Ruth Yost in Jacmel, Haiti. She helped with many ministries while there: a Bible conference, the school, putting on vacation bible schools, and helping in nearby churches with children's services, teaching through an interpreter several times. This was a life changing event in her life. Later, in 1992 we as a family "vacationed" for two weeks in Haiti helping at the medical clinic in Cayes Jacmel, 10 miles east of Jacmel. We returned in 1993 to work at the clinic and nearby churches for five months. We returned to the States intending to return to help in Haiti full-time, but this ambition never came to fruition. For several years Marjorie worked for MDA helping to raise funds for Jerry's Kids. She loved that work. Through the years she has worked in the churches she attended, taught children's classes, worked with the deaf and helped with music by playing her baritone horn and singing. Her favorite hymn was "How Great Thou Art." Marjorie's life verse was Luke 9:61-62 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom

Obituaries, continued, page 14



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10x10; 10x20; 10x30;

misc.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like R A D O M, A G O G, T H A T, O S A K A, C A R E E R I S T, W A N A M A K E R T R O P H Y, S P A, H E L, A R O S E, S A E, S W O P, S T O B, P A R S E C, A M A H, H A Y S, P A H, B A N E, R A I N S, C E B U, C R T, V A L E, S E S S, C A S I N O, R A T S, P A G E, C A B, B L I N I, A A R, B A B, G O U N D E R T H E K N I F E, S E C E S S I O N, H A R A N, A R E S, T O N, I N D R I

Grid of numbers for puzzle solutions:
8 4 3 5 1 9 6 2 7
2 1 7 3 4 6 9 8 5
9 5 6 8 2 7 4 1 3
4 3 8 7 9 1 5 6 2
1 7 2 6 5 3 8 4 9
5 6 9 4 8 2 3 7 1
6 2 5 9 7 4 1 3 8
3 9 1 2 6 8 7 5 4
7 8 4 1 3 5 2 9 6

Large grid of letters with words circled:
A F H T K M B O B A P L L I B T B C R V
F F A U R P U K D M Y D L A A Y E E S V
N A E M G L R K P T R H B L O U T L H C
C M G A O R B M F I S A Y B T G N K O G
E I N N E S U H B H R D H T P O E A D S
E L B A K H S Y A T Y N F K I S C P P H
P Y T G B F L R E K R H P T K U I G D A P
L S T E I R E N L E P F A L I V B G P P
T T A R A T D K S N F N V K E C R A M P
U Y K E K E I E R P I K N I B S E O T Y
C L E G R C R M S B V V R B S D S B T H
I E O L T V P L M S A E L E R H R I V O
G F U L A M A O S L T E T L C E Y Y L U
C K T T N I C T U U M S H N T N P O B R
G D I O C G E F C E O T U N K A P A L I
M O H E I K N R N H H L U T E D A R V D
N Y P S C C A U U C M O E U M G H M G B
T S H I U H E P T R C S L K D F I H E T
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obituaries

of God." Marjorie saw these words as a challenge to live faithfully for her God. It was her hope and desire to share the love of God with others. She wanted others to know that they too could experience the hope of eternal life that she knew by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. Marjorie is survived by her husband, John Miller; her son and his wife, Reuben and Colleen Miller; and grandson, Conner Miller; her mother, Pat Norton; her sister and husband, Janet and Dan Abbott; sister, Debbie Norton; sister, Christie Norton; as well as numerous nephews and nieces. All of these she loved and touched deeply. The Memorial Service celebrating Marjorie's life will be held Friday afternoon December 10, 2021, at 1:00 pm at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, with visitation one hour prior at 3980 Cascade Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Pastor Robby Greene, lead pastor of Lavon Drive Baptist Church in Garland TX, will be officiating. He is a close family friend whom we love and appreciate very much. We thank him for graciously offering to be with us at this time. The service will also be live cast on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/gerstgrandrapids/> Interment will be at South Boston Cemetery, Saranac MI. We ask that in lieu of flowers, you consider making a donation in support of Haiti at Baptist Mid Missions. Marjorie always had a heart to help the people of Haiti. You can help her do that by supporting Baptist Mid Missions with a note that it is a memorial for Marjorie Miller. All donations in her name will go to the Haiti Relief Fund, the Medical Clinic we spent time at and to a Haitian missionary working in the area where we lived in Haiti. By mail: Make checks payable to Baptist Mid-Missions Foundation. Send to: Baptist Mid-Missions Foundation, PO Box 308011, Cleveland, OH 44130-8011. By credit or debit card: call us at 440-826-3930.

NICKELL

Paul E. Nickell Jr. age 72 of Grant, Michigan passed away December 2, 2021. He was born July 6, 1949 in Dayton, Ohio the son of Paul E. and Betty (Bradley) Nickell. Paul is survived by his children, Megan Nickell of Florida, Kendra Nickell of Florida, Andrea (James) Dodson of California, Heather (Jacob) Rosengerber of Saranac, Amy Green of Florida and Robb (Sandy) Nickell of Ohio; grandchildren, Alexis, Carter, Calvin, Adalyn, Autumn, Caiden, Kayleigh, Maggie, Gabe, Leilah and Cheyenne; great-grandchildren, Izzy and Lucas; and sister, Debbie (Jerry) VanZant of Ohio. He was preceded in death by his parents. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Services was held at the Lake Funeral Home in Saranac, Sunday, December 5. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com



RASH

Jon A. Rash age 64, went to the loving arms of his Lord and Savior on November 27, 2021, surrounded

by his wife and children. Jon is preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Norabell Rash; his brother, Bill Rash; and daughter, Elizabeth Rash. He is survived by his loving wife of eight years Shannon Rash. His beloved son whom he was well pleased, Adam Rash; and his beautiful daughters, Linnea Rash, Paige (Jacob) Hults, and Blaze Anes. Jon is also survived by his five siblings, Darrel (Marge) Rash, Rev. Thomas (Gail) Rash, Bonita Ross, Carol (Scott) Decator, and Lori Micko Rodriguez. Jon is survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Jon was a very social person who loved to share the word of Christ in a caring way. He loved the outdoors including spending time on his mini farm, playing softball, and pickle ball. Jon also enjoyed attending sporting events and meeting with his men's group on a weekly basis. Jon enjoyed spending time with his wife and children the most, no matter if they were traveling or just spending time at home. Jon was a caring, kind, and loving person who gave his last gift to this earth through Gift of Life to help others in need. He will truly be missed by all who had an opportunity to know him. Per Jon's wish cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be held Thursday, January 6, 2022, 5-7 pm at Impact Church, Lowell.

TIEDE

Mary A. Tiede, age 71 of Ada, went to be with her Lord on Sunday, December 5, 2021. She was preceded in death by her parents, Willard and Ila Woolworth; brothers, Elmer and Francis Woolworth; and sister, Gilda Teeter. Mary is survived by her husband of 48 years, Merlin

Tiede; children, Rev. Mical "Mick" Tiede, Dr. Matthew (Mindy) Tiede; grandchildren, Kadence, Brantley; sisters, Rene Leclear, Opal (Irv) Ball, Phyllis Woolworth; brothers, Jim (Dorene) Woolworth, Ivan (Janet) Woolworth, Maynard (Illa) Woolworth, Larry (Janet) Woolworth, Phil (Wanda) Woolworth; and many nieces and nephews. Mary was born and raised in the Morley Stanwood area. Visitation will be 5-8pm Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr SE, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral Services will be 2:00 pm Thursday, December 9, 2021 at Evergreen Missionary Church with visitation one-hour prior. Rev. Doug Connelly officiating. Interment Altona Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Arthritis Foundation.



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Ethics board to hire MSHDA director

The State Board of Ethics gave the state's housing authority a nod on Thursday morning, Dec. 2, that the precautions the agency is taking with its pending executive director hire to prevent a conflict of interest is sufficient.

The Board voted unanimously that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's proposed conflict wall would prevent the husband of its presumed next director, Amy Hovey, from receiving any preferential treatment when applying for any program.

MSHDA officials also assured the State Board of Ethics that Tim Hovey, the principal of Gryphon Group, does limited business with MSHDA. The 14 current loans he has with the state's housing agency account for 2.9 percent of the projects the agency supports.

Overall, Tim Hovey has lent money through MSHDA 16 times and reserves the ability to do so in the future, even if his wife assumes the

role of director.

Current acting MSHDA Executive Director Gary Heidel said several other developers account for a much larger share of the MSDHA book of business. He added that Hovey hasn't done any business with MSHDA in some time.

According to the governor's office, the State Board of Ethics didn't have the authority to stop the appointment if it found a substantial problem. It could only flag any concerns and let the MSHDA Board do what it wanted with the information.

From here, Ethics Board Chair Catherine McClure will write a formal opinion and submit it to MSHDA. Legal Affairs Director Clarence Stone will use the document as part of the agency's request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to clear the appointment.

The time frame on when Hovey, currently the special projects coordinator for

the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, could start currently isn't clear, but Heidel said going through the extra steps will be worth the effort.

The MSHDA Board selected Amy Hovey on Oct. 21 as its preferred candidate to succeed Heidel, who has been the acting director for more than two years. If HUD signs off on the arrangement, Hovey could not communicate with her own staff on the other side of the conflict wall about programs dealing with at least four federal and state programs.

Heidel and Stone explained to the Ethics Board that the MSHDA executive director is charged with overseeing operations, developing broad policy, working with stakeholders and hiring key executives.

In one of its prior meetings, the Ethics Board recommended against the appointment of a member to the Commission on the Blind

because he did too much business with the Capitol Complex's snack shops, which the commission ran.

In this case, since Tim Hovey does so little business with MSHDA, the board voted unanimously that a "pervasive" conflict doesn't exist. Also, the loan programs he's applied for in the past go through a scoring process that MSHDA argues is publicly transparent.

Asked after Thursday's meeting by the Michigan Information and Research Service if it's possible an executive director could put pressure on staff, behind the scenes, to grease the wheels to the benefit of a specific applicant, Heidel said no.

Annually, MSHDA staff must fill out a statement verifying, among other things, that neither they nor a spouse have any outside dealings with authority business. If staff flag this type of conflict, a similar conflict wall would need to be set up.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

- FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH
- CHEF COMBINATION COUNTER
- LUNCH MANAGER MENU
- TAKEOUT TICKET VALUE
- BARTENDER
- EARLY BIRD
- RESERVATION
- BILL
- FAMILY STYLE
- SERVER
- BUS
- HAPPY
- SERVICE
- BYOB
- HAPPY HOUR
- SHARE
- CHARCUTERIE
- HOSTESS
- SPECIALS

Guess Who?

I am a chef born in New York on December 10, 1964. I have several restaurants in the United States and the Bahamas. However, I really rose to fame through my storied career on the Food Network.

Answer: Bobby Flay

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to restaurants.

L B A E T

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Table

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

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Polish city
 - Very eager
 - Identifies a specific person or thing
 - Tennis great Naomi
 - One concerned by professional advancement
 - PGA Championship reward
 - A fashionable hotel
 - Norse mythology afterlife location
 - Stood up
 - Car mechanics group
 - Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
 - Broken branch
 - Astronomy unit
 - East Asian nursemaid
 - "Airplane!" actor
 - Exclamation that denotes disgust
 - "Batman" villain
 - Downfalls
 - Philippine province
 - Once-vital TV part
 - Valley
 - Tax
 - Classic Scorsese film
 - Subway dwellers
 - Book part
 - Taxi
 - Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
 - Swiss river
 - Founder of Babism
 - Have surgery
 - Withdrawal from a larger entity
 - Lot's father
 - Greek war god
 - 2,000 lbs.
 - Lemur
 - From end to end
 - Kids love him
 - One and only
 - Fencing swords
 - Taxis
 - Basics
 - Refuse of grapes
 - Go quickly
 - French ballet dynasty
 - Most open
 - Popular soap ingredient
 - US time zone (abbr.)
 - Items of food
 - Backbones
 - Infrequent
 - Blood type
 - "Let It Snow!" songwriter
 - Dutch colonist
 - Pike
 - Egyptian sun god
 - A cardinal is one
 - From a distance
 - NHL legend Bobby
 - Bolivian river
 - N. American student organization (abbr.)
 - River (Spanish)
 - Chinese life force
 - Chinese surname
- CLUES DOWN**
- Quarrels
 - Right away
 - Comedian Carvey
 - Egyptian unit of weight
 - A Brit's mother
 - Tropical tree
 - One who speaks Gaelic
 - NHL legend Bobby
 - Vacation spots
 - Military personnel
 - Shakira's don't lie
 - Wimbledon champ
 - Teletypewriter
 - Mistakes
 - Whale ship captain
 - Thus

Senate passes \$3.3B Protect MI Water supplemental, \$1B for lead pipe replacements

The Senate unanimously agreed to spend federal infrastructure and COVID-19 recovery dollars on a \$3.3 billion Protect MI Water supplemental budget bill. Of this money, \$1 billion was steered into lead replacement.

SB 565 was sponsored by Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-Newaygo), who said the most challenging part of creating such a massive supplemental was “finding a way to make it fair across the whole state.”

“I think that’s the biggest challenge – to get everybody on board. It passed out of the Senate [34-0], which is very seldom on a package this size,” Bumstead said. “A lot of our locals have talked [about] where their needs are – if it’s water infrastructure, or sewer and water...those types of things, and so a lot of it came from talking to our locals [on] where the need’s at.”

SB 565 utilizes \$970 million from the federal COVID-19 recovery funds, \$1.4 billion from the new federal infrastructure package, \$290 million from the Great Lakes Water Quality Bond and \$680

million from the state’s General Fund.

Recent additions to the bill will devote an extra \$400 million to the Great Lakes Water Authority, southeast Michigan’s regional water authority, for projects related to the summer’s Metro Detroit floodings with sewer and drinking water upgrades.

Also related to the Metro Detroit flooding, \$15 million will be placed to check water valves and to assist Detroit residents with sewer connections.

In response to the summer 2020 Midland County dam failures, which caused an initial \$200 million in damages to more than 2,500 buildings, \$250 million of the bill’s \$680 million for dam safety will be set aside for more repairs to the county’s four-lake dam network.

When asked what communications have been like with the Governor’s office, Senate Appropriations Chair Jim Stamas (R-Midland) said “we’ve continued to provide them information.”

“This is the first-chamber bill. We look forward to working with both the

House and the Governor’s office to get this across the finish line. We have to start somewhere so we put – I think – an amazing footstep forward that was done on a very – in my humble opinion – a bipartisan manner to accomplish something that I think helps all of our Michigan families,” Stamas said.

Since taking office, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s administration has invested \$1.87 billion into Michigan’s drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. Moreover, Whitmer requested \$200 million from the federal American Rescue Plan funds to be spent on lead service line replacement.

Regarding lead service line replacement, Stamas said it’s already set up within federal law that the money will go out in grant-program fashion “as we’ve done with other dollars.”

Items in the Protect MI Water plan include \$700 million to upgrade local drinking water and wastewater facilities, \$100 million in grants to eliminate PFAS chemicals from “orphaned” sites, \$86 million for filtered water stations



in schools and \$50 million for connecting owners to community water systems or increasing well depths if water has been contaminated or the well fails following a disaster.

Additionally, under the dampportion of the legislation, \$15 million will be used for emergency response activities occurring when a dam owner fails to pay for necessary maintenance and work. Another \$15 million of this portion will be spent on a grant program for dam rehabilitation and removal.

“It goes a long ways,” Bumstead said. “There’s a lot of small dams in the systems that you just need to take out and it addresses a lot of that...but this is a good

start. I mean, this bill doesn’t address everything, but it’s a good start.”

Stamas referenced that the bill acknowledges what happened in his district, where the Boyce Hydro Power LLC and related companies were sued by the Attorney General for mismanaging and neglecting the Edenville and Sanford dams in Midland County.

“We’re just lucky there was no loss of life last year. It was just (a) miracle. We don’t want that to happen again,” Bumstead said.

The federal \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and its various investments into Michigan allowed for the Senate to boost the supplemental from

\$2.5 billion to \$3.3 billion.

“We did not necessarily know that we were going to have infrastructure dollars from the federal government. It is somewhat one of the issues we’ve tried to talk about before [as] a challenge in moving forward supplementals,” Stamas said, explaining that sometimes supplementals need to move slowly because “how do you spend these dollars that you might mix up or have the opportunity to do something else here-versus-somewhere else?”

The appropriations chair said he hopes the bill will obtain further movement in the House, and he looks forward to moving on a pair of year-end supplementals.

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