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Lowell High School honor roll



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Crosswalk Questions



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Lowell Area Schools Sports



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50¢



## Santa Parade winners

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate all the parade entries for making the 2022 Night-time Santa Parade, "Christmas Toyland," a success. The weather was winter-like, spectators lined the streets, and this year's entries exceeded all expectations.

The winners were judged on theme (1st), then creativity and finished appearance. The Chamber awarded first, second and third places. The judges this year felt there were so many wonderful entries, they chose an Honorable Mention, as well. The final judging is the People's Choice. Here are your 2022 winners:

1st – Santa's Elf Force  
Charles Helmholdt

**Winners**  
continued page 8



The Chamber awarded Santa's Elf Force first place in the parade entry contest.

## Michigan's minimum wage set to increase Jan. 1, 2023

On January 1, 2023, Michigan's minimum wage rate will increase from \$9.87 to \$10.10 per hour, as set by Michigan's Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act of 2018, establishing the annual schedule of increases.

Effective January 1, 2023:

The minimum hourly wage will increase to \$10.10 per hour.

The 85% rate for minors, aged 16 and 17, will increase to \$8.59 per hour.

The tipped employee rate of hourly pay increases to \$3.84 per hour.

The training wage of \$4.25 per hour for newly hired employees ages, 16 to 19, for their first 90 days of employment, remains unchanged.

There is pending litigation that might affect this minimum wage increase:

In 2018, a petition initiative, organized by One Fair Wage, sought to allow voters to decide on raising Michigan's minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2022 and

raise the minimum wage for tipped workers to 80% of the standard minimum wage in 2022, 90% in 2023 and ultimately match it in 2024.

The Legislature adopted the legislation and then amended it in 2018, putting in lower wage thresholds that increased the minimum wage to \$12.05 by 2030 instead of 2022 and kept the tipped minimum wage at 38% of the standard one. As a result, the state's current hourly minimum wage is \$9.87 and \$3.75 for workers who are expected to make up the difference in tips.

The Legislature's amendment has been challenged in court as unconstitutional. On July 19, 2022, the Court of Claims issued a decision that agreed with that challenge and voided the amended versions of the Michigan Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act and Paid Medical Leave Act in favor of their original, unamended versions.

On July 29, 2022, the Court of Claims entered an order, staying the effect

of this decision until February 19, 2023, to give employers and the relevant state agencies time to accommodate the changes required by the ruling.

The Court of Claims' ruling has been appealed. Pending final resolution of the appeal, and lifting of the stay, under the potential implementation of the originally adopted petition, the minimum wage rate for 2023 would be \$13.03 and \$11.73 for tipped employees.

For further information regarding the pending minimum wage litigation and potential amended minimum wage rates, as a result of that litigation, or a copy of the Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act and related resources, including the required poster, visit [Michigan.gov/WageHour](http://Michigan.gov/WageHour).

## Lowell City Council discusses Line Shack, and IT Coverage

By Jake Bates  
Contributing writer

Lowell City Council met on Dec. 5 for a brief 33 minute meeting, each member donning their best Christmas sweater. They discussed the Line Shack building, IT coverage, and road construction. The council members also canceled the next scheduled meeting on Dec. 19th.

Mayor, Mike DeVore, brought the Line Shack building resolution before the city council again. "We waited the 20 days...with the resolution sitting." City attorney, Jessica Wood, reminded city council that this sale is still contingent on a number of factors laid out in the resolution. City council ultimately approved the resolution to sell the Line Shack building to the Estes Group with council member, Cliff Yankovich, as the sole "no" vote.

The city of Lowell currently relies on Addorio Technologies for IT services. City Manager, Michael Burns, explained

in a brief to city council that Addorio Technologies will be going-out-of-business on Jan. 1, 2023. Lowell Light and Power has been working with IP Consulting, a Virginia-based company with operations in Grand Rapids.

Burns proposed that IP Consulting take over for Addorio Technologies, "This allows for IP Consulting to handle all our needs rather than piecemealing them." The total cost for IP Consulting to provide all of the same services would be \$68,000 per year, an increase of \$15,000. The motion passed with unanimous consent from the council members.

Public Works Director, Daniel Czarnecki, took the podium to discuss the Design Engineering Services quote for Grindle and Shepard Dr. The proposed cost for the survey and soil boring samples would be \$41,000. City Council passed the motion unanimously.



# wedding announcement

## Doyle ~ McCarthy

Brian and Cheryl Doyle of Alto are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Molly Brieger Doyle of Alto to Kyle Andrew McCarthy of Rockford. The two were united in marriage on October 22, 2022 at the beautiful country parish of St. Mary's Miriam. Fr. Dominic Couturier presided, with the couple's immediate family in attendance.

Molly is the granddaughter of Greta Parsons of Lowell, and the late Clark Parsons, King and Marie Doyle and Mary Louise Doyle of Lowell. Kyle is the son of Darla and Hank Gunn of Zionsville, IN, and Dan and Myrna McCarthy of Phoenix, AZ. He is the grandson of Beverley Root, and the late Jim Root, of Avon, IN, and Mary McCarthy of Fischers, IN and the late Dan and Anna McCarthy.

Molly is a 2011 graduate of Lowell High School and a 2018 graduate of Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Kyle is a 2014 graduate of Purdue University College of Agriculture and Engineering. The couple now resides near Rockford.



Kyle and Molly McCarthy

# Michigan receives grant to expand program that prevents child abuse

The State of Michigan is expanding highly successful local programs to keep families with young children together and work to ensure that children, under age 4 in the child welfare system, grow up in permanent, nurturing homes that support their development.

The programs provide services to biological parents so that – whenever possible – they can be the permanent caregivers for children who had been in foster care.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) received a five-year grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration to provide funding for three counties to support the coordination of Infant-Toddler Court Programs, often referred to as Baby Court, in Wayne County and two additional counties in Michigan that are still to be determined.

“MDHHS believes strongly in the importance of providing services that keep families and children together, while expanding access to behavioral health supports,” said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. “Infant-Toddler Court Programs help us address the needs of parents and their young children so that we can build strong families that can stay together.”

The grant also will support the continued expansion and sustainability of Baby Courts, into additional counties, beyond the funding period.

“Wayne County has had a successful Baby Court docket for over a decade,” said Kathleen Allen, referee in Wayne County Third Circuit Court. “The children and families in

this county have benefitted greatly as a result. Principles of collaboration, communication between the team and the respect afforded the parents and caregivers of the children have resulted in overwhelming improvement in the child and family dynamic.

“Baby Court families do not return to care after successfully completing their treatment goals, as they are given the tools to parent on independently or the knowledge needed to seek help before a problem manifests,” Allen said. “Truly Baby Court and infant mental health services are the gold standard for child welfare, and we are proud to be a part of that and look forward to the expansion of this specialty court statewide.”

The program is for young children, birth to age 3, and their families, if the children are at risk of entering foster care due to abuse or neglect or are already in foster care and could be reunified safely if the family receives services. The Infant-Toddler Court Program involves collaboration among the courts and providers of foster care, Infant Mental Health Home Visiting Services and early childhood services. Partners include MDHHS’s Children’s Services Agency and Bureau of Children’s Coordinated Health Policy, the State Court Administrative Office, local courts and Wayne State University.

“The best thing for children is to remain with their parents whenever possible – especially in their early years, when their development is critical to

their long-term health and well-being,” said Demetrius Starling, executive director of the MDHHS Children’s Services Agency. “If we work together to provide resources to families, we can keep them together safely and prevent the trauma that too many kids experience.”

Baby Court proceedings are designed to be non-adversarial, with all members taking a strengths-based approach and recognizing the family’s progress. In Baby Court, the parents, jurist, attorneys and providers meet monthly. All families served by Baby Court receive services that are designed to support the parent-young child attachment, as well as the parent’s and child’s mental health. Research shows that Baby Courts help states meet standards set by the federal government for safety, permanency and well-being and eliminate racial disparities in timely receipt of services or rates of reunification.

Among other things, the grant pays for hiring coordinators statewide and for Wayne County, developing working groups to support the health and well-being of infants and toddlers in the child welfare system and those who are at-risk for entry into the system, and an evaluation that informs quality improvement and determines the effect of Baby Courts.

Angela Klusek’s son was placed into foster care as an infant in 2019. “Moms with addictions are looked at like evil people who don’t love their kids and that isn’t the case,” said Klusek, of Detroit. “I thought (the system) would be out to get

me and I’d never get my kids back. People in Baby Court listened to me. I got the resources I needed to stay clean and had systems in place after my case was closed. My case was closed in less than a year.” Klusek enjoys art projects and shares that love with her children. She wants to help other mothers suffering from addiction who are in a similar situation.

Maltreated children are at particular risk for poor outcomes and need coordinated services across systems to support their physical and emotional well-being. Children age 3 and under are over-represented in Michigan’s child welfare system, with 27% of victims of child abuse or neglect being ages 0-3,, when only 14% of Michigan’s population is made up of children in that age group.

“We are very fortunate to have Baby Court here in Midland County,” said Midland County Probate and Juvenile Court Judge Dorene S. Allen. “The hands-on evaluation for the benefit of our infants and their parents is critical to reunification with the parents. We have found that immediately involving Baby Court has helped tremendously with stability for our babies. Infants and toddlers are our most vulnerable children. They are unable to speak for themselves and tell us what their traumas and needs are. Our Baby Court has been the voice of our most vulnerable children and we continue to be grateful for its support by this community.”

Ann Stacks and Bryan Victor of Wayne State University will evaluate the effectiveness of the expanded initiative.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2023. Application forms and instructions are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell Charter Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Englehardt Public Library, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building and online on the City and Township websites. The LCTV Endowment Fund is a nonprofit fund established in late 2007 from the sale of the assets of Lowell Cable Television and is invested and administered by the Grand Rapids Community Fund. The LCTV Endowment Fund supports and promotes projects that benefit a broad segment of the Lowell area community, enhances the quality of life in the area, encourages cooperation among the communities and qualifies as a one-time capital improvement.

2023 grant applications should be submitted to the Lowell City Clerk’s office, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The deadline for submitting 2023 applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2023. Questions should be directed to Susan Ullery, City Clerk.

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# To walk or not to walk? That is the question

by Bill Lee  
contributing writer

Recently, there has been some scuttlebutt on the Lowell Community Chatter page on Facebook about crosswalks in the City of Lowell. Who has the right-of-way? Pedestrians or vehicles? Because Main Street is a state road, how does that change the laws pertaining to pedestrian traffic? Who is at fault if, indeed, there was an accident between a vehicle and a pedestrian? It seems each side has dug their heels in regarding this particular issue. As one who has just moved to this state a year and a half ago, I can't help but scratch my head about why this happens to be an issue in a nice, small town like Lowell. I needed answers for myself, and hopefully, for our readers about the laws regarding crosswalks in Lowell.

Lowell's Chief of Police, Chris Hurst, returned my call a few hours after I left him a message. He quickly referenced that the City of Lowell has adopted an ordinance called the "Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships and Villages - Michigan," as its criminal ordinance in regards to traffic and parking. This ordinance comes from The Michigan State Police. In that document, there is a statute with the title of "R 28.1702 Rule 702 Pedestrians; right-of-way in crosswalk; violation as a civil infraction." This statute applies to all crosswalks in the state, whether it is a state road or not. It states:

(1) When traffic-control signals are not in place or are not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping, if need be, to so yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk, when the pedestrian is

on the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger, but a pedestrian shall not suddenly leave a curb, or other place of safety, and walk or run into a path of a vehicle that is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

(2) A person who violates this rule is responsible for a civil infraction.

Overall, it seems to be an easy interpretation. Pedestrians have the right-of-way when they are in the crosswalk, and drivers have the right-of-way when pedestrians dart out into the road, even whether they are on a cross walk or not. Drivers should slow or stop for pedestrians who have positioned themselves halfway between the curb and the middle of the road BEFORE the vehicle's arrival to the crosswalk, and that walkers should NOT just step out into the middle of the road while vehicles are imminently approaching the crosswalk. I don't have a law degree but that seems to make sense to me.

Recently, I tested this statute on several attempts to cross Main Street downtown, around 2:30 pm, last week. Mind you this was a very small sample size (I did it four times). I would start at the curb and then enter the crosswalk and stand not quite halfway, before a car would approach, trying to make eye contact with each driver. I could not cross the entire street because the opposite side traffic was very heavy. Cars eventually approached me on my side of the road. In the times I tried this, many cars did not stop (around eight each time). When someone on my side

of the road finally stopped for me (thank you!), I had to wait for the opposite side traffic (which was heavy) to stop before I could cross. Again, about eight cars passed by without stopping, until a car stopped, allowing me to cross. The car on my side, and then others behind it, waited while I waited for a vehicle to stop on the other side.

Why wouldn't the cars stop for me? After all, I was abiding by the statute. I'm not sure, but I surmised that drivers either didn't see me or they didn't want to stop or felt as though they didn't have to stop because M21 is a state road (which seemed to be a major argument in the Lowell Chatter Page). Indeed, M21 is a state road, and therefore, has different rules that apply to it, but Statute R 28.1702 Rule 702 is not one of those rules. It applies to all crosswalks; therefore, drivers should stop, even on Main Street/M21.

Other rules to ameliorate traffic flow, however, are more difficult to change. This fact has provided some frustration to Chief Hurst. The City of Lowell cannot make a change to M21 without the approval of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Chief Hurst has had many Lowell citizens inquire about installing new crosswalks, stop signs, traffic lights, cones, and even an elevated crosswalk (going over M21), but in these cases, the town has its hands tied. "You can't make changes unless MDOT ap-

proves it," Chief Hurst said. "They have their own book of Standard Operating Procedures, and if your situation doesn't fit into their regulations, you are probably not going to get it. In order for them to do something like that [make major changes], there are all these studies that have to be done. You have to show accident data, do car counts, pedestrian counts, to justify them to change something... If it were our street, then we could do whatever we wanted."

And when it comes to crosswalks in the City of Lowell, Chief Hurst hopes that both pedestrians and vehicles can work together and share the responsibility for the crossing. He wishes for pedestrians to cross the street on crosswalks and not jaywalk, and also wishes for motorists to follow the 25 mph speed limit and watch for pedestrians crossing the road. "Walkers, cross at a marked crosswalk, make eye contact with drivers, make sure they are stopping for you and they are not looking



Crosswalk in downtown Lowell.

left and right, and you think they are stopping for you and next thing you know, they take off again and hit you," said Chief Hurst. "For motorists, be careful going downtown. Pedestrians can come out from anywhere and step in front of you. Even though they'd be at fault, you still have to live with the fact that you hit and hurt somebody. So just be careful. Especially when it is dark, rainy or foggy. Especially with motorists, take your time."

In the end, according to Statute R 28.1702 Rule 702, pedestrians do have the right-of-way if they are fol-

lowing the rules, even on a state road. I don't expect this article to change people's minds about their interpretation of the statute. It is hard for people to change their viewpoint about anything. It just is. To me, this seems like an easy one. Drivers have a 4000-pound vehicle and pedestrians don't. Stopping for pedestrians is a nice gesture. Lowell is a great, small town with nice people in it. The two should go hand-in-hand. Stopping your vehicle is a symbolic action that shows everyone from Lowell, and outside of Lowell, that we care about each other.

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# Book Corner

## Christmas Time Reads

By Alison Yarger

Although most of us don't have much time at Christmas to read, it's good to take some time to yourself, to snuggle under a blanket by yourself, and open a book to escape! There are wonderful books

for adults and children, and even as a parent, it's fun to read the children's books just for yourself. Below is a list of great stories for this time of year, and having read each one, I'm happy to recommend these for anyone!

Truman Capote: Technically a short story, Capote's slice-of-life Christmas tale takes place in the 1930s and was originally published in 1956. Based on his own life, *A Christmas Memory* chronicles a young boy's relationship with his family, focused on his childhood Christmases.

*The Gift of the Magi*, by O. Henry: The 1905 story, *The Gift of the Magi*, is a classic tale with a poignant ironic twist. Jim and Della, a young, newly married couple without much money, each tries to figure out what to get the other for Christmas. They make sacrifices to be able to afford their gifts—and learn powerful lessons about love and true gifts beyond material things.

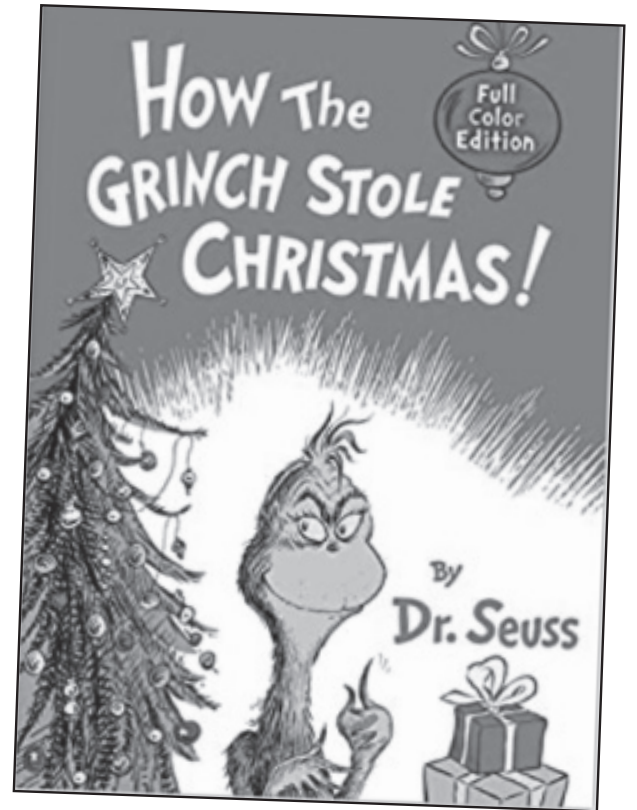
*Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham: Here's another Christmas book that became a film—this one is a favorite funny Christmas movie! If you're familiar with Christmas with the Kranks, this book provided the inspiration for the raucous holiday tale. After their grown daughter leaves for the Peace Corps, Luther

and Nora Krank decide to eschew all the holiday hubbub this year in favor of a Caribbean cruise. But a surprise changes all their plans and hilarious hijinks ensue.

*Holidays on Ice* by David Sedaris: Brilliant humorist Sedaris will grace your holiday bookshelf with his 1997 Christmas collection *Holidays on Ice*. He offers hilarious perspectives on school Christmas pageants, working in a department store during the holidays, overly generous neighbors and more themes of the season.

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* by Dr. Seuss: Whether you practically know this tale by heart or are new to it, this is a must on any list of Christmas books (yes, for all ages). The grumpy Grinch learns that "Christmas doesn't come from a store"—a lesson that's as relevant now as it was in 1957, maybe even more.

*The Christmas Sweater* by Glenn Beck: A child wants nothing more than a new bike, but instead, for Christmas, he gets a sweater. Sounds simple, right? In this 2008 tale, the now-grown Eddie ponders the lessons he learned as a child from that Christmas and wonders if he'd choose to go back



and change it, given the opportunity. Read *The Christmas Sweater* for some serious Christmas reflection.

*The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman: Thought-provoking 2017 Christmastime tale. On Christmas Eve, a father tells his estranged son a stirring story about his conflict over helping another child, who desperately needs it, when his relationship with his own son is so strained.

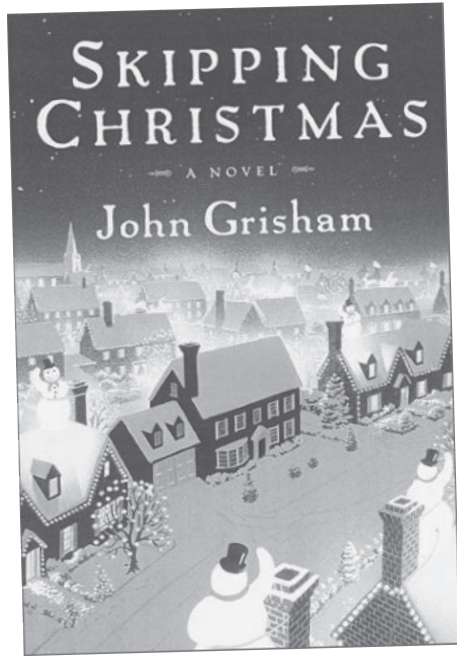
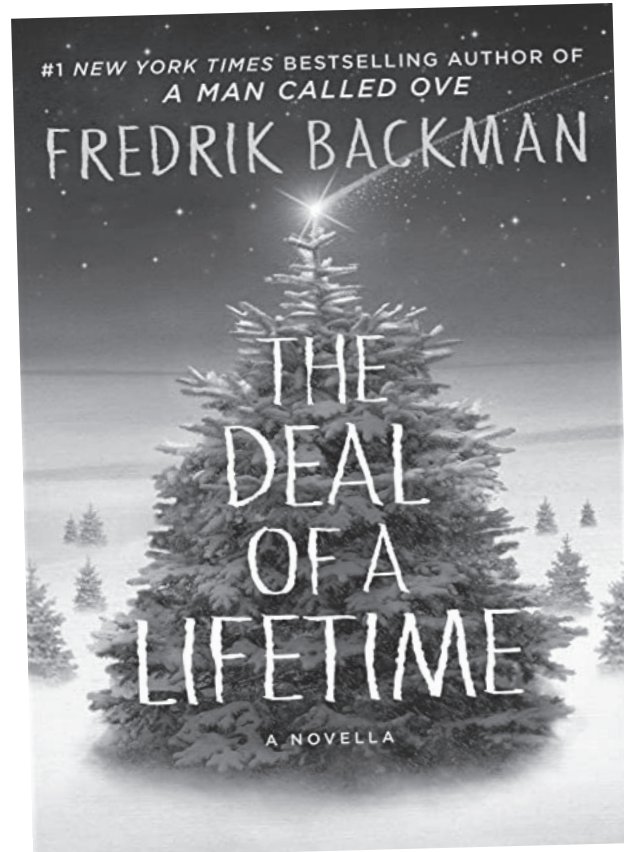
*The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans: A young couple becomes caretakers for an elderly

widow, moving into her home. With their four-year-old daughter, they begin to learn more about her, and their relationship develops over the holiday time.

*The Christmas Shoes* by Donna VanLiere: Robert, a wealthy lawyer, has no time for Christmas frivolity—or his family. But on Christmas Eve, he bumps into Nathan, a young boy who's trying to scrape together enough money for a pair of shoes for his sick mother.

*A Christmas Story* by Jean Shepherd: You've seen the movie (possibly a gazillion-plus times.) Now read the collection of semi-autobiographical stories that Shepherd used as the basis for the film. Compiled and released in 2003 after his death, Shepherd's tales in *A Christmas Story* make a delightful, vignette-style fireside read. This is a book I bought for my husband in 2010, and each year before I re-re-watch the movie, I read the book. It's laugh aloud, just like the movie.

*The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg: A bonafide classic for kids and grown-ups alike, this stunningly illustrated 1985 book, journeys to the North Pole with a young boy on a fantastical train. *The Polar Express* is much simpler than the rollicking one in the film adaptation, but just as magical.



*A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. This is a timely classic written in 1843 about Ebenezer Scrooge, his four ghostly encounters and his resulting new lease on life. Well worth the read, even though the writing is very formal.

*A Christmas Memory*, by

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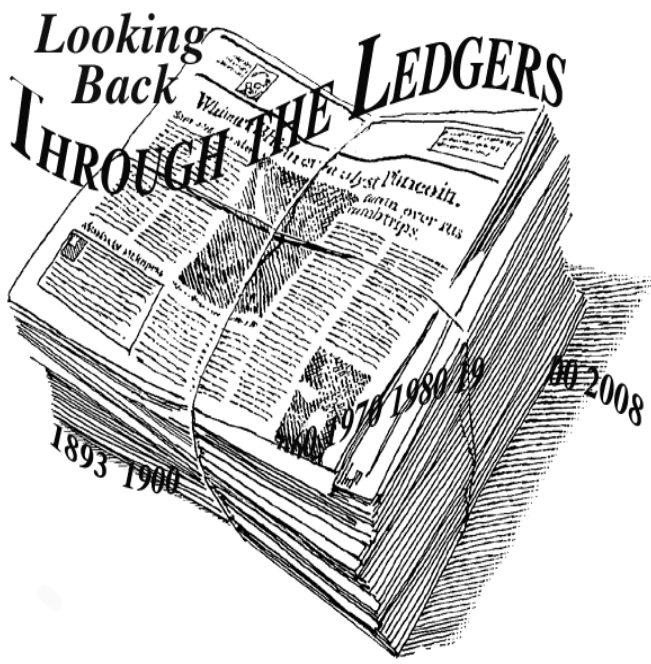
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# viewpoint



## 125 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 16, 1897

A pleasant reception of welcome was tendered Rev. S.G. Anderson, the new pastor of the Baptist church, at the beautiful home of Mrs. N. L. McCarty, on Tuesday evening of this week. About a hundred guests were present.

Our farmer friends will find lots of hitching posts on the east side now, as the business men of that side, with Marks Ruben as chief push, have planted a lot of solid posts where they will do the most good.

Lake Davis "mashed" one of his fingers while removing the corn crusher in the grist mill, last week.

The work of road making on Main Street, which was discontinued on account of a break in the stone crusher, has been resumed; and it will soon, no longer be true, the "the worst road in the township is in the village of Lowell."

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 21, 1922

The Lowell public library, under the management of Miss Audie Post, is growing in size, and public favor. Many fine additional books have been gained by the kindness of the library's friends.

The silver fox industry, with small ranges already in operation at Hubbardston and Belding, is to strike Ionia count the third time; Fred States, of the Gordon ranch at Traverse City and A.W. Merriam, local Pere Marquette conductor, having plans about perfected for the establishment of a ranch on the suburbs of this city, with 10 pairs of foxes for the nucleus around which to build.

There have been cutters and sleighs run on our streets the past few days.

One day last week, one of Alaksa's most respected citizens brought home a new kind of perfume and his wife made him just strip right down to his birthday suit, and she took his clothes on the end of the broomstick and hung them on the fence in the back yard, and told him if he ever brought home any more of that kind he would have to leave his happy home. Such is life in the country.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 18, 1947

One almost mistook the crowd in town Saturday for Showboat week. Instead, it was for the big Christmas parade. It was good, too, and right on time (seldom ever heard of), led by our high school band, dressed

in their flaming red uniforms, and dashing white satin clad majorettes playing appropriate selections.

The village council voted Monday night to put an emergency increase in light rates of the Lowell Municipal plant, in effect immediately to help take care of greatly increased costs of both labor and fuel. This is the first change in light rates since 1940, when they were reduced.

After December 31, bluegill fishermen will no longer need to keep an eye on the clock, as the ban on fishing for bluegills, or possessing them on the ice after 6 pm, expires with the old year.

Mrs. Gertrude Godfrey, 30, wife of the Coffee Cup Cafe operator on US-16, suffered a fractured pelvis last week Wednesday when her car left the icy highway and hit a tree.

## 50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life December 14, 1972

Pennies filed down to the weight and size of a dime are being circulated in the Lowell area, among business places. Found most currently in coin changers, the copper coins have also been found in coin-operated dryers, candy machines, and some pop machines.

Though roles were reversed during Tuesday's 'yukky' weather, chivalry was shown to be very much alive when editor, Carol, and advertising gal, Karen, practiced women's libbing to the ninth degree by pushing a vehicle stuck in the snow, driven by a member of the opposite sex.

With the heavy snow and freezing sleet that fell Tuesday morning, came the early closing of Lowell Area Schools. Braving the earlier runs, the bus drivers were brought back after conditions got worse, and the students were sent home.

The school board says children fifth, grade and under, must be accompanied by parents at ball games.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 17, 1997

Wanting to spend more time with her family, Judy Noon, Lowell treasurer/finance director for the past 15 years, will retire in May of 1998.

Many of its 132 residents will be unable to go home for the holidays so the Laurels of Kent staff brought an at-home Christmas to them. The Laurels of Kent Christmas party was attended by approximately 200 residents, families and friends. A sit-down turkey dinner with all the trimmings was prepared and served by the staff.

A truck pulling a trailer pulled into the west entrance of the Lowell Food Mart and slid into a gas pump, causing an explosion. The clerk in the gas station grabbed a fire extinguisher, told the employees to call the fire department and took off to the pump. Bruce Langlois also grabbed a fire extinguisher and helped put the fire out.

## Happy Holidays from Social Security

The holiday season brings us feelings of warmth and joy. At Social Security, we want you to know we share the same joy when it comes to serving you, whether it be in person, by telephone, or online. Our online services are available to help you do business with us in an easy, convenient, and secure way. It all starts with a personal my Social Security account. More than 70 million people have signed up for their personal account to conduct their business online!

You can create a personal my Social Security account to:

Apply for retirement, spouses, or disability benefits.

Apply for Medicare. Check your application status.

If you receive benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

Change your address. (Social Security benefits only)

Set up or change your direct deposit information.

(Social Security benefits only)

Instantly get proof of benefits.

Print your SSA-1099. If you do not receive Social Security benefits, you can use a personal my Social Security account to:

Get personalized retirement benefit estimates.

Get your Social Security Statement.

Get estimates for spouse's benefits.

Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.

You can use our services on-the-go or from the comfort of your home.

Please visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to view the services available to you.

We want you to have a safe, happy holiday season and know that we are here for you.

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

## We love to hear from you!

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

**The requirements are:**

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. We have a 500-word limit.

**Letters can be sent to emailed to [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)**  
*Deadline is noon on Mondays*





## At Your Local Library

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

### Teen Zone

Mondays, 3 - 4 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For teens 11-17.

### Mahjongg

Fridays from 1-3 pm. American Mahjongg, a game of skill, strategy and calculation. All skill levels welcome.

### Gingerbread Lane

Tuesday, December 20, 1-2 pm. Stroll down Gingerbread Lane and enjoy gingerbread house decorating. Each child will make a simple gingerbread house. Gingerbread house materials are not for consumption. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins and you may save one seat for a friend. For ages 0-10.

### Gingerbread Lane

Wednesday, December 21, 4-5 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate, while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts. For ages 5-10.

### SnowFest Craft Time

Thursday, December 22, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Celebrate the snowy season with winter-themed craft-making fun for the family. For all ages.

### KDL Lab Experience: Cardboard Creations

Wednesday, December 28, 1-2 pm. Our Make-do construction toolkit will help you create, experiment and learn as you build your very own cardboard masterpieces -- the possibilities are endless! For ages 5-10.

### Countdown to Happy Noon Year!

Saturday, December 31, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. We're giving kids an exciting way to ring in the new year with a countdown, noisemakers, crafts and fun -- at an hour that won't keep them up way past their bedtimes. For all ages.

# ABCs of Lowell history

**Address:** 414 East Main  
**Date built:** 1960  
**Built by:** Dan Vos,  
**General Contractor**  
**Date Opened:** Jan. 1961  
**1st business:**  
**State Savings Bank**  
**Bank President:**  
**Harold Englehardt**



### State Savings Bank

The Randall building was built on this site in 1854 by Joshua Randall. It was the first three-story frame building in Lowell and had many uses throughout time. The second floor was used for offices of Dr. Arvine Peck, Dr. McDannell and other doctors, dentists and attorneys. At other times, it was occupied as a dwelling. The third floor was used as a Masonic room and by the Wide-Awakes, a Republican club to get Lincoln elected. The first floor held stores. The building was moved away to use as a stable and finally torn down (1908).

The brick part of the building was constructed about 1868 and became the Clifton House Hotel. Three traveling groups signed their names in the Clifton House Registry in 1876—

the New Orleans Minstrels, the Tennessee Jubilee Singers and half of the Adam Forepaugh Circus (36 members). The Forepaugh Circus was as famous as P.T. Barnum and the Ringling Bros. in the 1870s and 1880s. Forepaugh organized his circus under two tents; one was the big ring production and the other held the menagerie of exotic animals. The circus traveled in specially designed railroad cars. Forepaugh's son was the elephant trainer and performer. The elder Forepaugh died in the flu epidemic of 1890 and the circus was disbanded.

After the Clifton House, the building became known as the Commercial House. In 1882, Drs. Peck and McDannell bought the Commercial House. In 1883, it was noted that Mrs. S. J. Taylor would start a boarding house in the Commercial House. About 1887, Dr. McDannell disposed of the building and built a new house on this site for his residence. After Dr. McDannell died in the Flu Epidemic of 1918, Fred and Julia Hosley purchased the residence. They rented out some of the rooms; "Hosley House Tourist Rooms" were advertised in the 1936 Showboat Program. Fred had owned and operated Hotel Waverly (1911-1918), had a shoe store, and later, became Lowell's Postmaster (1936-1945).

The State Savings Bank moved into their new building, at 414 E. Main, from their former location at 218 E. Main in January of 1961. Features of the new structure included: a modern vault, larger safety-deposit boxes, spacious lobby with five teller windows, cushioned seating along the front windows, bookkeeping room, kitchenette for employees and a ladies' lounge. Officers of the Bank, at that time were: Harold J. Englehardt, President; Dan A. Wingeier, Vice President; Herbert Elzinga, Cashier; Herman J. Stukkie, Head Teller; Charlotte Siciliano, Secretary; Marva Hartley, Teller; Ruth Ann Shade, Bookkeeper; Betsy Rinard, Bookkeeper; Joan Briggs, Bookkeeper. The Board of Directors included Harold J. Englehardt, D. A. Wingeier, C.H. Runciman, E. C. Foreman, Roland M. Shivel, M. W. Gee, Lee E. Lamkin, W. Roth and Herbert Elzinga.

In 1959, the State Savings Bank purchased the Mrs. Julia Hosley residence, the Dean property on Washington St. and a 22' right-of-way to Kent St. The Hosley house was razed (1959). The bank building was erected by Dan Vos Construction Co. during 1960.

The State Savings Bank became FMB bank in 1986 and Huntington Bank in 1998.



Dr. and Mrs. McDannell built this spacious house on the site of the Commercial Hotel c. 1887. Photo, 1893.

# area churches

### CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060  
 Pastor Ryan Landt  
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
 Website: calvarylowell.org  
 Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
 Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays ....7 PM  
 Barrier-Free

### Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

"Praying and studying together"  
 Saturday service begins at 10:30 AM  
 10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell  
 616-987-0567  
 www.lowellriverside.com  
 Pastor Darrel le Roux

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

10305 Bluewater Highway  
 (Missouri Synod)  
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
**Sunday Services - 10:30 am**  
**www.gslc.church**  
 Richard Boshoven, Pastor **897-8307**  
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

### St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820  
 Website: www.stmarylowell.com  
 Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am  
 Confession: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm  
 Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm  
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org  
 Pastor Alyssa Anten  
 Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM  
 Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 6 PM  
**Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive**  
 616-897-5906

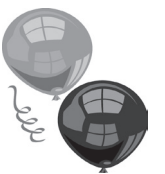
### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES  
 2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)  
 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**

### LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

discover. grow. share  
 621 E. Main Street  
 897-5938  
 www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance  
**WORSHIP**  
 Traditional Service: 9 am  
 Contemporary Service: 10:30 am  
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

# happy birthday



Call 616-897-9261 to add a birthday

### DECEMBER 15

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

### DECEMBER 16

Timmy Buechler.

### DECEMBER 17

Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott, Amy Riddle.

### DECEMBER 18

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

### DECEMBER 19

Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.

### DECEMBER 20

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

### DECEMBER 21

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







## Live the Life You Want

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

### My Holiday Challenge 2022

Last year I shared how I give back during the holidays each year as a way to show my feelings of gratefulness for life in general! The great thing about giving back is that I get just as much from it, if not more, than the person receiving the kindness. Research shows there are positive effects for giving back and feeling grateful. It actually causes the brains' dopamine levels to increase, resulting in what some call a "helpers high." Besides the "helpers high," we get a sense of having a real purpose along with a nice boost to our feelings of self-esteem and self-worth. So, helping others is a win-win! We know that Lowell is a caring and giving community. So, let's keep this giving spirit going throughout this holiday season and into the New

Year! For anyone inspired to participate, but not sure where to start, I wanted to share a few suggestions.

#### Acts of Kindness Ideas

These acts can range from small to large and are only as limited as our imagination. I know over the years, a trend started where people pay for others lay away orders or pay for the person's order behind them at a drive-through which is great. But keep reading for some other suggestions. These acts of kindness can be done anonymously, or not; it is up to you.

Monetary based acts of kindness.

Donate to your local utility. I spoke with Lowell Light & Power (LLP) who has a A+ fund. This fund helps those struggling to pay their bills. Donations are made directly to LLP

but you need to specify it is for this fund. FROM then administers this fund for LLP.

If someone is struggling to pay for the basics (food, clothing etc.), send them an anonymous money order or gift card (Visa, MasterCard, Lowell Bucks, or store/restaurant-specific gift card).

Lowell has food delivery options available. Receiving a delivered meal is such a nice & welcome treat, especially if the person isn't able to eat healthy.

Fill small to medium sized plastic bags with sealed snacks, hand and feet warmers, sample-size toiletries, warm throws, gloves, hats, socks, maybe a couple of \$10 gift cards for food, etc., in your car to give them to the homeless.

Fill holiday bags with items similar to those above or basics and donate them to a nursing facility, school, homeless shelter, etc., and ask that they be distributed to those in need. Check to make sure they are accepting items first.

Donate items to a local pet shelter, food pantry, church, school, etc.

Send flowers, plants, books, or DVDs to a

retirement home or nursing facility.

Donate school supplies or essentials (hats, gloves, etc.) to a school, asking that they be provided to children whose parents are struggling. Call the school to find out if they are accepting donations and what items may be needed.

Go to our Facebook Community groups. Many post about needing help. If there are no requests for help, make a post relaying how you are willing to help someone in need (errands, ride, shoveling, food donation, etc.)

If a person has mobility issues and can't afford grocery delivery, pick up groceries and drop them off for the person. You can give them in person or leave them on the door step, with a note they are from you. If you do this anonymously, they may not trust eating the food.

Send a gift package to one of our military personnel serving overseas. This can be done through various organizations. Just Google it.

Send a meal (pizza, subs, etc.) or treats (baked, if you are known to the individuals or purchased, if not) to

any individual or group for whom you are thankful. It could be your child's school, fire department, police department, chamber of commerce, public works department, utility provider, mail carriers, etc., to let them know they are appreciated!

If your employer will allow it, donate a vacation or sick day to a colleague who's struggling with an illness or caring for a loved one that is ill.

Double your tip to your hard-working server!

#### Time based acts of kindness, with little to no cost

If you know someone with mobility issues, shovel their driveway & walks (preferably without them knowing). Be sure you are healthy enough to do this.

If you know someone that doesn't have a vehicle, let them know you are going to run some errands on this date/time and wondered if they would keep you company. Even if you don't have to run errands, extend the offer of the planned trip because it's to help them. Note that they can even add any needed stops along the way. If they offer to pay for gas but you know they can't afford it, let them know that you had planned to go anyway (this is essentially true, since you had planned to go) and say "no thanks".

Send a heartwarming, cute, or funny card(s) with a note to one of more of our military personnel serving overseas. This can be done through various organizations. Google organizations offering this service.

Send heartwarming, cute, or funny cards to those living in a nursing facility, to help lift their spirits. Let them know someone is thinking about them and cares.

Go caroling. It's hard not to smile and get warm fuzzies listening to carolers.

Volunteer at a local shelter, pantry, church, or other organization.

Smile, say hello, compliment someone, say thank you, give up your spot in line for someone with less items, hold open a door, etc. Small courtesies go a long way.

#### Other Random Acts of Kindness

When driving, be polite. Let someone merge in front of you or make space to let them turn.

Help someone struggling to carry their groceries.

If allowed, visit a nursing home and read books to residents or play board games with them.

Talk with, and include, a person at a party that looks like they don't know anyone.

Give old blankets, sheets, towels, etc., to an animal shelter. Our very own Lowell Farm & Wildlife Center is a private charitable, non-profit organization, certified by the DNR to rehabilitate and provide sanctuary for abandoned, orphaned, and injured animals and can always use them.

Post sticky notes or painted rocks with uplifting messages in random places (home, work, school, etc.) Examples: "Every moment matters" "You matter" "You are important," etc.

Invite someone you know, who is alone at the holidays, to celebrate or for dinner.

Show parents and/or Grandparents how much you care by spending unrushed quality-time and/or helping them in some way.

My hope is that you, too, find something that brings you inspiration, joy, and a feeling of gratefulness this holiday season. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy and has a wonderful holiday season.

# Michigan residents urged to get flu vaccine before the holidays

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is recognizing National Influenza Vaccination Week this week and reminding Michigan residents that

it's not too late to get a flu vaccine.

The United States is seeing early season elevated flu activity, with 35 states reporting high or very high activity. The Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that from Oct. 1 to Nov. 12, there have been at least 4.4 million illnesses, 38,000 hospitalizations and 2,100 deaths associated with flu so far this season. The cumulative rate of influenza-associated hospitalizations was 11.3% per 100,000 individuals for the week ending Nov. 19, which is the highest hospitalization rate for this time of year since the 2010-2011 flu season. Additionally, 12 flu-associated pediatric deaths have been confirmed nationally for the 2022-2023 season, so far.

"Influenza cases are on the rise in Michigan, and the situation is expected to worsen over the next several weeks. The flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and your families

against the anticipated surge of influenza," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive for MDHHS. "It is not too late to get vaccinated this season -- please get vaccinated today to prevent yourself from getting the potentially severe consequences of influenza this holiday season and to help prevent further burden on our health care system."

Flu activity is steadily increasing in Michigan and positive flu cases have been reported in the central, southwestern and southeastern regions across the state.

The early surge of flu activity is occurring, along with significant activity of another respiratory virus, respiratory syncytial virus

Continued, page 16



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## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**HENRY D. BULTEMA LIVING TRUST**  
Dated 11/21/2008

### TO ALL CREDITORS

The Settlor, Henry D. Bultema, who lived at 4664 Havana Ave., SW, Wyoming, MI 49509, died on 3/24/2022. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Henry D. Bultema Living Trust dated 11/21/2008, will be forever barred unless presented to successory trustee Kelly Jo O'Mara, of 735 6th Ave.,

Lake Odessa, MI 48840, or Craig A. Bruggink, attorney for trustee, 429 Turner Ave., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504, within four (4) months of the date of the publication of this Notice.

Notice is further given that the Trust will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Kelly Jo O'Mara, Successor Trustee  
Henry D. Bultema Living Trust, dated 11/21/2008

Craig A. Bruggink (P29358)  
Attorney for Successor Trustee  
429 Turner Ave., NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-456-4038



# Winners, continued

2nd – Jim VanBeek and Family Michigan Horse Driving School  
 3rd – LASSO (Lowell Area Select Soccer Organization) People's Choice - Alto Cub Scout Pack 3180  
 Honorable Mention – in no particular order, were Keiser's Kitchen, Lowell Cub Scout Pack #3188, LoMi Studios, Performance Plus Quick Lube, and Lowell United Methodist Church.



LASSO (Lowell Area Select Soccer Organization) took third place.



Jim VanBeek and Family took second place.

## A Nite of Christmas Cheer- a memorable night for all

by Bill Lee contributing

Last Friday, the Lowell Chamber of Commerce and the Lowell Downtown District Authority sponsored "A Nite of Christmas Cheer" on Riverwalk Plaza and the Showboat. Temperatures in the low 30s did not discourage hundreds of local families from attending the festivities. Those in attendance were able to meet two live reindeer and warm themselves by the firepits, sponsored by the Lowell Area Fire Department. Hot Cocoa and

cookies were distributed by the Lowell Chamber and the Baker Family (McKenzie, Kelsie, and Erica), while the Lowell Area Historical Museum and Arctic Inc. Heating and Cooling gave out roasted chestnuts and hotdogs, respectively.

The two main features of the night were horse and carriage rides and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus on The Showboat. Both of those lines were very long but people waited patiently for the unique opportunities. The Haley family really

enjoyed their carriage ride together. "It was great. They took us behind the library and up the street a bit. It was fun."

Overall, the streets were bustling and the local restaurants were packed with people enjoying food, spirits and live music. Christmas lights and decorations glowed throughout the Riverwalk and on Main Street, making the evening a memorable one for all.



Katya Vershytska and her son, Alex, sitting with Santa.



Mrs. Claus

*Gift Certificates Make Perfect Holiday Gifts!!*

**Gift Certificate**

TO: GIFT RECIPIENT'S NAME

AMOUNT: \$XX.XX

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McKenzie, Kelsie, and Erica Baker giving out cookies at that Lowell Chamber.



# Lynn Kuzmin

**Position:** Lowell School District Bus Driver  
**Residence:** Alto  
**Education:** Lakewood High School  
**Experience:** 24 years as a bus driver  
**Family:** Husband, four sons, six grandchildren  
**Hobbies:** Playdates with the grandkids  
**Pets:** One cat

## Behind The Scenes

by Bill Lee  
contributing writer

Lynn Kuzmin began her career in 1999. All four of her children went to school in the Lowell School District; Alto Elementary and Lowell Middle School and High School. She was waitressing before she started driving. "At the time, some bus drivers were coming out to the restaurant I worked at and they were prompting me, telling me I'd be a great bus driver," said Kuzmin. She wanted to get involved in the school and know what was happening so she could be closer to her children, and now grandchildren.

She has no regrets about her decision to start driving. In fact, she loves her job. The best part of the job is being a part of many children's lives over the years - elementary

children all the way up to seniors in high school. "I just adore the kids," said Kuzmin. "Every time I look at the kids, I see my grandkids and kids." Other parts of the job she enjoys are working with great people, like her boss and Director of Transportation, Kara Mrozinski, along with the other bus drivers, the mechanics, and Sarah and Rhonda, who work in the office. And, yes, the vacations are nice too, especially if you like to spend time with your own children. "It's the best job in the world for a stay-at-home mom," said Kuzmin. "When you have a snow day you're off, when it summer, spring or Christmas break, you're off with your kids."

Her schedule during the day is quite busy. "I drive all day," said Kuzmin. She starts at 6:05 in the

morning to inspect her bus and then begins pickups for the middle and high school students. After that, she starts the same process for the elementary children, and then Kuzmin heads back to the high school to take students over to the Kent Career Tech Center on the corner of the East Beltline and Knapp Street in Grand Rapids. From there, she'll have lunch, refuel her bus and then begin the pickup process in the afternoon.

There are plenty of challenges when it comes to the job: weather, other drivers (especially those who are on their phones all the time), and of course, a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic recently. The school children can be a challenge at times but Kuzmin knows all of their parents, which helps when the kids act up. Her goal

is to create strong relationships with the children, creating a mutual respect. "Most kids are pretty respectful," said Kuzmin. "You always have a few that are not. I do the best I can to try to connect with them. The closer I get to them, the more under control they get. They realize that you really do care. I've always told the kids, I'll respect them as long as they respect me."

Kuzmin loves her job so much that she wanted



to make sure we gave the occupation a plug. "We need the best job in the world. They train you really well and the pay is good."

## LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals must be submitted online by January 6, 2023.

Visit [www.grfoundation.org/lowell](http://www.grfoundation.org/lowell) to submit your application.

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

## Christmas memories - 75 years ago



This is a photo of the Kindergarten class float from the 1947 Lowell Christmas Parade. Pictured by what letter they are holding are: A - Bobby Thaler; M - Mary Ann McDonnell; E - Pat Sullivan; R - Sharon Gardner; R - Roger Wittenbach and Y - Beverly Wepman. Teacher was Mrs. Gordon Johnson. Photo courtesy of Robert Thaler.



Wishing you a safe and Happy Holiday Season!!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family. I am a long time member of the Lowell community, and I am now your "GO TO" car specialist. Call me if I can help you with a new sleigh (616) 421-7608.

Sincerely,  
*Jeff Barber*  
New & Used Car Specialist



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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

## SPORTS

## LHS wrestling dazzles in assembly match

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

Say what you will about Lowell, but we put on a show. Everything about Wednesday's assembly wrestling dual at Lowell High School was perfectly executed. A packed venue with a mix of high schoolers, teachers, Lowell wrestling fans, and a select few brave Brighton fans. Spotlights and lights, set up by performing arts center director Jules Crawford, music, a PA announcer, and two wrestling teams that carry some of the biggest traditions in the state of Michigan. Youth wrestlers laid down matside, and LHS staff lined the walls of the gym.

Lowell-Brighton had everything it needed to be a memorable afternoon and it certainly was for the Red Arrows. That's because, after putting the show together off the mat, Lowell brought it on the mat in a 75-3 drubbing of Brighton, where the Red Arrows fed off the energy of a rowdy, energetic gym full of their classmates.

Twelve pinfalls will do that though. With each one, students would high-five and jump into the air. There was an investment not usually seen in assembly matches.

"I don't know that I've ever been a part of a match like that," Lowell wrestling head coach, R.J. Boudro, said in a video interview with the Ledger on Friday. "It was one to remember for sure. The electricity and support we saw from the students and staff was pretty incredible."

The scoreline tells the story. Brighton are good, they're ranked seventh in Division 1, and will have plenty of success this season. On Wednesday, Lowell was a few steps ahead at every turn, and for other teams in Division 2, that's pretty scary. Lowell had three sophomores in their starting lineup, coming off individual state finals appearances their freshman season; they added seniors Maddox Simcoe and CJ Poole, who both wrestled at Columbian HS (OH) last season. Any program in the state would love five guys like that on their team. Then you add Carson Crace, Jared Boone, Tacho Gonzales, Landon Miller, and depth of three to four wrestlers at every weight class, and well, you're feeling pretty good about the squad.

"We have 60 kids on our team this year, which is huge," Boudro said of his squad. "It was good to see the guys have fun. I can definitely tell this team likes to have fun, but we still have a lot of work to do this season to improve and get better."

The dual started at 103, great for Lowell, who could show their young talent out early. Jarrett Smith, new to the starting lineup this year and a Fargo All-American, scored a pin at the end of the first period. "He's one of the best freshmen in the entire country," Boudro said of Smith.

Carter Cichocki, defending state runner-up, scored a pinfall 46 seconds in. Easton Lyons and Jackson Blum both followed with pins, and a

24-0 scoreline.

At 132, another Boone joined the Red Arrow lineup as freshman, Trevor Boone, scored his first high school win in a decision.

Owen Segorski, Poole, and Simcoe rattled off three straight pins to bump the score to 45-0. Simcoe's win in particular was notable, a pin of the number two ranked wrestler in the state.

"That was cool for our guys to see, and in front of the whole student body, it was awesome," Boudro added. Members of the team not on the bench were in the stands with their classmates, and with a PA announcer, students knew how big of a moment it was.

The Bulldogs scored their lone win in a ranked matchup, as Jared Boone fell just short of a comeback victory in a ranked matchup of his own. It was one of the few things Brighton fans had to cheer about during the day, as a small pocket of Brighton fans were surrounded by Lowell fans and students. They knew that coming in, though. "Brighton was okay with all of that; they were gracious guests," Boudro said of the visiting Bulldogs.

Landon Miller, Casey Engle, and Carson Crace, along with two newcomers to the starting lineup, junior Ari McFarland and sophomore Juan Acosta, who closed the dual off in style with pins of their own. A 75-3 blowout victory.

Lowell has had assembly matches in the past. Each one, the program learned from it seemed, to create the event on Wednesday. It was perfectly



The Lowell wrestling team poses for a picture after winning the Grappler Gold.

executed, not only in terms of entertaining, but safety, as well. Boudro credited his coaching staff, in particular longtime assistant, Matt Dood with helping set everything up.

When the final handshakes were complete, students ran onto the mat and crowded around the wrestling team, almost like when you see fans rush the field in college football after a big win.

"Never seen anything like that," Boudro remarked about the end of the dual.

On Saturday, the Lowell teams followed-up on that assembly dual, as the Varsity A squad won the Grappler Gold Invitational. The dual pitted some of the best teams in the state against one another, and

Lowell edged out Division 3 juggernaut Dundee by a mere half a point.

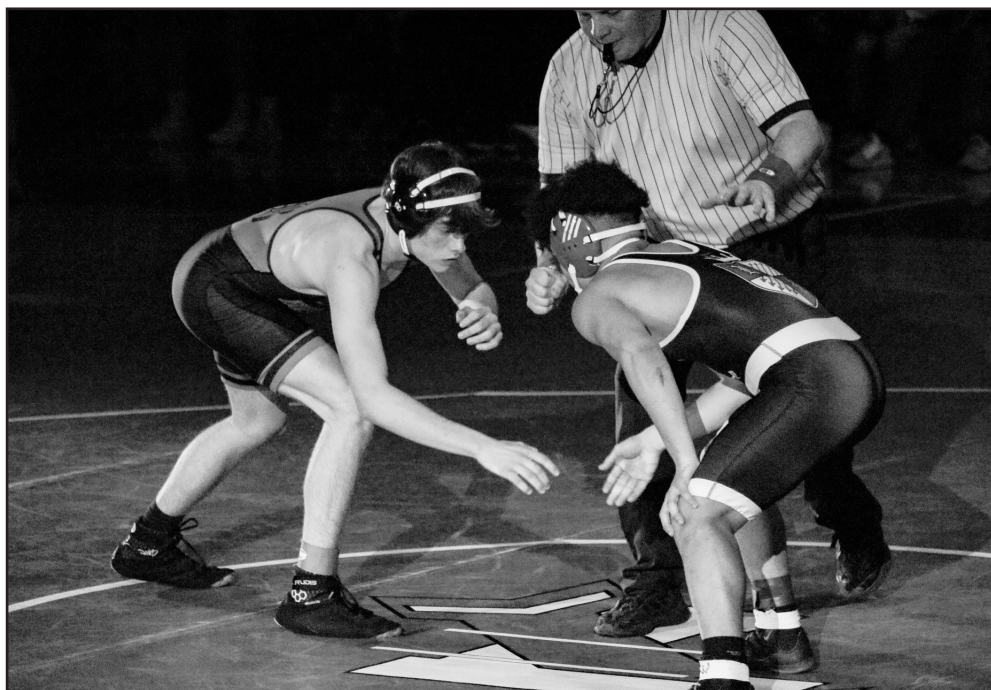
Acosta continued his phenomenal week with three wins, to place first in his weight class. He was joined at the top of the podium, individually by teammates Blum, Miller, and Crace. Engle, and McFarland, placed second. Teammates Cichocki and Landon Musgrave placed third and fourth, respectively, with each scheduled to face each other in the third place match; the match was voided to prevent needless injury. Poole and Simcoe also placed third. Smith and Trevor Boone placed fourth. Segorski, Lyons, and Braddock King placed fifth, while Jared Boone closed out the lineup, placing sixth.

Boone also had to face a teammate in the bracket (Simcoe).

Lowell won matches with Dundee wrestlers 25-13.

The B team finished third place among a field of A teams where they were bested by Division 4 top dog, Hudson, as well as, Plainwell. Mason Saylor and Cody Foss wrestled their way to third place finishes. Chris Rogers, Steve Skinner, Jack Lamoreaux, and Kenny Kinyon earned fourth place finishes. Logan Dawson rounded out the placers, going 4-1 on the day, finishing fifth.

The full video interview with Coach Boudro can be found on the Lowell Wrestling Club Facebook page.



CJ Poole squares off with his opponent under the spotlight.

## Girls hold off Caledonia

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

Caledonia is a team that, no matter the sport, cannot be taken lightly. They're in the OK Red. The big schools of enrollment in the Grand Rapids area. When you're playing Rockford, East Kentwood, schools like that in every sport, you're going to find a way to get good fast.

So when Caledonia came to LHS on Thursday, after what was an impressive couple of opening games for the Red Arrows, there was no surprise the Fighting Scots gave the Red Arrows everything they could.

Both teams were back-and-forth throughout the game, but when Lowell needed their defense to

stand up, it did. Tied at 40 with 2:36 to play, Taryn Jackson drove into the lane and drew a foul. She hit both free throws and Lowell's defense would lock down, keeping Caledonia off the scoresheet the rest of the game, adding a couple free throws, for a 44-40 victory and a 3-0 start to the season.

On Saturday, Lowell kept their momentum going as they traveled across the state to Belleville for a holiday showcase game with H.H. Dow, also known as Midland Dow. The Chargers were 23-2 last year, losing their only two games in overtime, and one ended their season to Hartland in the quarterfinals. Similar to the East Lansing game two weeks ago, when Lowell

poured it on over a team that had a deep postseason run last year, the Arrows won 57-29 in dominant fashion behind 26 points from Braxcynn Baker, and 23 points from Piper Risdon. Jackson added six points, to go with six assists and five rebounds.

Lowell is 4-0. Their record is perfect, in what has been an interesting schedule. The Red Arrows victories so far have been against teams with stellar traditions, but have struggled in the early goings this season. Dow fell to 0-4 on the season. East Lansing is also winless in the early going.

Continued  
next page



Red Arrow

# SPORTS

- CHEER

## Cheer hosts showcase and competes in first competition

By Justin Scott  
Contributing writer

On Friday evening, Lowell competitive cheer fans and parents got to see the Lady Arrows in exhibition as they hosted the LHS Cheer Showcase. It allowed the team to perform their rounds in front of a crowd before they competed on Saturday.

Both the Lowell Middle School and Lowell High School teams participated in Friday's festivities. For the varsity high school squad it was their only home event of the year, and the showcase was free admission. Cheerleaders wore matching competitive cheer shirts with "You Will Remember our Name" on the back.

Throughout the event there were mini-

competitions where fans from the audience volunteered to perform various simple stunts. The winning volunteer was the one who earned the largest cheers from the crowd and earned gift cards to various area businesses. Plenty of younger audience members got involved throughout the course of the evening.

The Red Arrows competed at Thornapple Kellogg on Saturday, where they competed in the Division 2 portion of the competition. Lowell's 621 was good for a fourth place finish behind Sturgis, FHN, and the hosts Thornapple Kellogg. All three schools were regional qualifiers last year and FHN finished sixth in the state. Lowell is next in action in January in a conference meet at FHN.



Members of the Lowell competitive cheer team perform during Friday's showcase.

## Boys basketball scores 92 in win

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

Remember in January, 2000, when your friends would tell you about the "Game of the Century" or "Hey, this is the first time I've seen you this century". Well, yeah man, the century is three days old.

Well, the century is 22 years old now, so when you say the first time this century, it actually means something now.

So, that Lowell boys basketball scored the most points they have this century, is pretty impressive. Now points scored in high school, things are different. If the game is a blowout, the backups are in early, and teams aren't scoring 100

like they used to. Also of note, there's no shot clock in Michigan high school basketball, which again makes 100 point games even rarer.

Lowell's highest score ever came from the 1963-1964 squad, who went 15-1. 111 points against Ionia in 1964, is very likely never going to be touched again. Not that Lowell will ever see a mismatch like that again, more, the evolution of the game has made it so, unless we're going into overtime, 111 will likely be out-of-reach. If blowouts are happening, bench players are brought in, the game is slowed down, and with no shot clock, minutes are salted away in the name

of sportsmanship.

Fast forward to Tuesday night's game, Lowell and Cedar Springs have been going through some down years win-wise. When Lowell found themselves on the plus side of a 92-58 scoreline, in their season debut in front of a well-attended student section? Yeah, that had the Lowell players feeling good, as well. The 92 points was the most scored by a Lowell team since a 102-44 win over Belding in the 1986-1987 season.

It was efficiency that led to a high scoreline for the Red Arrows rather than a mismatch. Lowell was decisively the better team, but a run or two from Cedar Springs, at any point, would've given them an opportunity to get back into the game. Offensive rebounds and high percentage looks allowed

Lowell to score early and often. The Red Arrows scored 24 in the first quarter, 17 in the second, 27 in the third, and 24 in the fourth, to finish with 92 points. An efficient performance by senior, Drew Veldman, led the Red Arrows with 30 points. Aidan Fitzpatrick added 19, and Ben Gaskin had 18 points, along with seven assists. Starters for the game were Gaskin, Veldman, Fitzpatrick, Alex Binns, and CJ Steinebach.

Lowell backed that win up by going 2-0 for the first time since the 2015-2016 season, after beating Mona Shores 71-62 on the road on Friday. Veldman had 21 in the win, followed by Fitzpatrick (16) and Gaskin (12).

LHS heads to Middleville TK on Tuesday and then hosts Grandville on Friday.

## Continued from page 10

Kent City, on the other hand, has bounced back and looks primed for another good season. Time will tell how good these teams end up being, but for now, the only thing that matters to the Red Arrows is they've walked away victorious in four out of four.

The MHSAA took notice of Lowell's win over Kent City two weeks ago, highlighting it was Kent City's first regular season loss, since 2020, in their

weekly girls basketball blog. On Saturday, the Red Arrows face another test with East Kentwood at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. The game is a part of the West Michigan Hoop Summit Holiday Invitational and will feature five games of high-caliber teams around the area. Lowell is the six o'clock game, following Byron Center vs. Petoskey. The Falcons went 12-10 last season out of the OK Red.




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# obituaries

## BURROWS

Debra Burrows 4/27/1954 - 12/5/2022 Lowell, Michigan. Debra Lynn Burrows (Topp), beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister & friend, was welcomed into the arms of Jesus on Monday, December 5, 2022, after a long & courageous battle with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Debbie epitomized the life of a small town girl- born & raised in Lowell, Michigan, and graduated from Lowell High School, Class of 1972. After graduation, she went on to live out life there, marrying her high school sweetheart, Steve, living in the house he built, raising their children there together and working in town at Dog & Suds, Lippert Pharmacy and for most of her working years, at the bank. In recent years, she also enjoyed volunteering her time at the FROM Treasures Store. Her world revolved around her home life as a devoted wife and mother to her children and cherished pets. She loved going to Grand Rapids to shop for clothes, day trips to Lake Michigan with her sisters (including ice cream stops on the way home, of course!), watching & feeding the splendid birds and forest creatures outside of their large family room window,



listening to soul-soothing Christian music, and creating precious memories with her family and friends on special occasions and holidays. Debbie is survived by her devoted husband of 50 years, Steve, her children, Steven and Heather Burrows, grandchildren Aaron and Ashleigh Rittersdorf, great grandson, Christopher Rittersdorf, and her parents, John and Darlene Topp. She is, lovingly remembered and forever missed by siblings, Greg Topp, Karen Caro (Steve), Amy (Craft) Cook, and Jeff Topp. Debbie was preceded in death by her parents, Barb (Watters) and Ron Vandembree. Debbie leaves behind many beloved friends and cousins. Thank you all for helping her to feel so very loved over this past summer. Colley Cousins, your cards, visits, and prayers were especially appreciated beyond words. And, the LHS drive-thru 50th Class Reunion event moved her to tears; her family is forever grateful for including her in such a beautiful way. A special thank you to lifelong friends, Bonnie, Nancy, Tracy and LaRee, for your tireless dedication and friendship. A special thank you to the health care team from Spectrum Hospice, who provided such excellent, compassionate care to Debbie at home in her final three months- Theresa, Amanda, Alicia & Steve. We are certain that Debbie made a special stop at the Rainbow Bridge to re-connect with and gather her many beloved cats & dogs to walk by her side as she was ushered into Heaven's pearly gates. Cremation has taken place, according to her wish. A memorial service, to celebrate Debbie's life, will be planned and held at a later date. If you wish, memorial contributions can be made in Debbie's name to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Lowell Pink Arrow Pride c/o Lowell Community Wellness, Flat River Outreach Ministries or a dog rescue organization of your choosing.

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## BEACH

Eileen Mildred Beach, age 90 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord on December 11, 2022. She was preceded in death by her husband, Pastor Richard Beach; son, Richard C. Beach; grandson, Michael R.; daughter-in-law, Sue Beach; brother, Clinton Beardsley; sisters Shirley Stephenson, and Laura Bigelow. She is survived by children, Sharon (Jake) Hoover, Marsha Beach, David (Cynthia) Beach; grandchildren, Jennifer (Chad) Tolson, Brianne (Matt) Schuiteman, Ryan (Maryann) Graham, Andy (Lyndsey) Graham, Katharine (John) Smith-Buckler; great grandchildren, Cooper, Easton, Cooper, Easton, Brody, Brock, Cade, Owen, Evan, Whitney, Taylor, Leah, Hadley; and many nieces and nephews.



Eileen completed a 2-year program at Wealthy Street Bible Institute and went on to be trained in Child Evangelism Fellowship. She ministered alongside her late husband for many years and served many local women's ministries in the area. Eileen was a devoted volunteer, she dedicated her time to others and served many; Lowell Area Schools, Flat River Outreach Ministry, and Spectrum Health were some of the many organizations she gave her time and heart to. Visitation will be 10AM-12PM, Saturday, December 17, 2022, at First Baptist Church of Lowell, 2275 W Main St, Lowell, MI 49331, funeral services will begin at 12PM. Pastor Jon Pickens officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Lowell, or FROM, 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331.

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## FELDMAN

Feldman, Lyman Keith, age 92, passed away Monday, December 5, 2022. He was predeceased by his wife; Vivian (Wingeier) Feldman; his parents, Fred and Miriam Feldman; and sister-in-law, Pauline Feldman. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Zollinger; daughter, Margaret Jackson; sons, Keith (Cheri) and Kent (Dawn) Feldman; son-in-law, Paul Jackson; three grandchildren, Carmen Jackson, Brad (Laura) Jackson, and Grant Jackson; two great-grandchildren, Brooklyn and Trayer Jackson; brother, Fred Feldman; three nieces, Angel, Roni and Elizabeth; and Mary Ann's large family. Lyman enjoyed a career of farming, which he learned as a boy on his grandparents' farm in Fairbury IL, and pursued for many years on the family farm in Alto, MI. He also was an excellent shoe salesman with many loyal customers, working at his father's store in Illinois and for Muller Shoes in Michigan. Lyman loved his Christian faith, his church, and his family. He enjoyed traveling and many lifelong friends. Lyman was very active and rode his bicycle into his nineties. He resided in Alto, Michigan and Sarasota, Florida. Visitation was held 2-5 PM, Sunday, December 11, 2022, at Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center, 7700 Wingeier Ave, Alto, MI 49302. The funeral service was held 11 AM, Monday, December 12, 2022, at Apostolic Christian Church, 7157 Wingeier Ave, Alto, MI 49302; elder Ted Steffen officiating. Interment Apostolic Christian Cemetery. Family wishes to thank Maple Ridge Manor and Kindred Hospice. Memorial contributions may be made in Lyman's name to Apostolic Christian Life Points, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton IL 61550.



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## MORFORD

Elizabeth Ann ("Betty") Morford, mother of two, grandmother of six, great grandmother of four and friend of countless others, passed away on December 5th, 2022, at the age of 87. Betty lived a full life, combining her enduring sense of fun, competitive spirit, strong faith and no nonsense counsel to impact the lives of all who were fortunate to know her. She was born on March 5, 1935 and grew up in the foothills of the Catskill mountains in upstate New York on her parents' small dairy farm. She left the farm at the age of 18 to attend Hope College in Holland, Michigan where she met her husband William Morford, a fellow New Yorker with whom she shared a love of the Brooklyn Dodgers. They moved to Schenectady, NY, where in addition to raising her family, she ran an in-home fashion sales business for many years. Following Bill's death in 1985, Betty set a new course, moving back to Michigan where she served at the VFW National Home for Children as a house mother and counselor to orphan children of veterans. Throughout, she was active in living out her faith, holding bible studies and entertaining, counseling and praying for her many friends and family. Betty will be greatly missed by her children William, Jr. (and Anne) and Craig (and Mary Jo), her grandchildren Tracy, Craig Jr. (and Katy), John Peter, Tom (and Ally), Sarah and John David and great grandchildren Craig III "Tripp", Ella, Robert and Nellie, as well as her many friends, including Monica (and Bill) Burt, who became like a daughter during her years in Michigan. A memorial service will be held at the Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash Ave SE Lowell, MI 49331 on December 19 at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, Betty's wishes were for donations to be made her favorite Christian charity Samaritan's Purse <https://sampur.se/3PcE2bp>



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## LUCAS

Robert Leroy Lucas Jr., age 85 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, December 6, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Lucas (2020); mother, Mildred Mansfield; father, Robert Lucas Sr.; brothers, William Walling, Ron Walling Sr., and Clifford Walling. He is survived by his son, Jeffrey Lucas; sister-in-law, Frances Walling; Jeffrey's sisters, Dawn (Dan) Haugen, Roberta (Rocky) Graham; also, nieces and nephews. Bob attending Saranac School and then ventured to work at Canada Dry in Grand Rapids for many years. He also worked at Fairchild's Service Station in Ada. Bob loved cooking, gardening, and traveling with his wife Barbara. Memorial service will be held 2:30 PM, Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331, with visitation one hour prior to service. Rev. Brad Brillhart officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.



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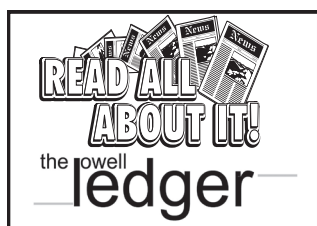
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memorials

Lila Thaler
September 15, 1914 - December 15, 2011
Loving Mother
Lowell Elementary School Teacher (1955-1974)
United Methodist Sunday School Leader
Bob, Dave, Sue, Steve, Jerry



misc.

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ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We have started widows coffee time Monday mornings at 9:30 at Keisers, west side. Questions call Jenn at 616-490-9970.

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# 1<sup>st</sup> trimester Lowell High School Honor Roll

Lowell High School has announced the Honor Roll for the 1st trimester – 2022-2023 school year. 1st trimester term GPA must be a 3.000 or higher to qualify based on final grades

## 9th Grade

Cayden Aikens  
Elliot Albert  
Claire Allen  
Shaniah Amaya  
Ian Anchors  
Graham Bailey  
Ruben Baker  
David Barney  
Savannah Barrett  
Rylie Barriger  
Rylan Bartnick  
Drew Beers  
Sienna Berg  
Evan Berrington  
Drew Bierlein  
Izabella Blanchard  
Claire Block  
Olivia Blood  
Emmalee Bonn  
Leah Bosscher  
Brooklyn Braun  
Grace Brower  
Brayden Brubaker  
Cooper Byrne  
Jordyn Carey  
McGuire Carpenter  
Brynn Chapman  
Ayla Charon  
Faith Chipman  
Remington Christensen  
Annalise Clark  
Keagan Clark  
Noah Cobb  
Lily Collins  
Natalie Cornell  
Isabella Cramer  
Christopher Crawford  
Seth Cross  
Nathan Curtis  
Suri Darling  
Emilyn Davidson  
Max Davidson  
Jadyn Deible  
Evelyn Deur  
Maddyson DeWitt  
Morgan Diekevers  
Ethan Doezeema  
Nicholas Duursma  
Frances Eddy  
Rowan Eldred  
Myla Elliott  
Harmon Esch  
Hannah Faylor  
Lorelei Fonner  
Cody Foss  
Rylee Foster  
Mackenzie Frey  
Ana Fritzsche  
Jose Garcia  
Ian Garner  
Ruby German  
Adelayde Gillstrom  
Pistachio Gonzales  
John Graham  
Hailey Grochowalski  
Cody Hare  
Seth Harvey  
Brayden Hekman  
Dulce Hernandez-  
Hernandez  
Kaitlin Hettinga  
Kayla Howell  
Evan Hudson  
Jack Hughes  
Anika Huhn  
Brianna Huisman  
Miranna Hulbert  
Mileah Ismail  
Amaya Jackson  
James Jannenga  
Calihan Janowiak  
Jacob Johnson  
Rylee Johnston  
Kylie Joyce

Thomas Judge  
Emmett Kelley  
Elliott Kemp  
Mia Kinney  
Julia Kinsey  
Saphyre Knowlton  
Kenton Kolp  
Avery Krieger  
Myles Kuehle  
Aliya Kyes  
Audrey Latchaw  
Brody Lehman  
Sophie Liley  
Molly Lincolnhol  
SydneyLuxford  
Cecilia  
Martinez Garcia  
Ava McCormick  
Micah McDonald  
Lyn Melby  
Daniel Mendez  
Ella Mikulski  
Madelyn Miller  
Hannah Minier  
Bralyn Musser  
Evan Nanninga  
Brennen Nelson  
Jenna Niemeyer  
Benjamin Nisbet  
Olivia Nisbet  
Gabriel Olin  
Eleanor Osmar  
Delani Ostrander  
Nicholas Parcheta  
Madilyn Parker  
Collin Pellerito  
Owen Perkins  
Madison Pethers  
Andrea Plantz  
Griffin Ponchaud  
Carmine Posati  
Aiden Proctor  
Sawyer Raden  
Connor Rapson  
Ransom Rathbun  
Ainsley Ray  
AbigailRice  
Callan Richardson  
Sophie Richmond  
Brooke Riemer  
Alexander Roberts  
Jenna Roggow  
Calli Rottier  
Corrie Sakowski  
Ava Sanchez  
Lily Sandborn  
Mason Saylor  
Morgan Saylor  
Natalie Saylor  
Emmett Schaedig  
Mayah Schuch  
Julian  
Schultz-Forward  
Cole Schulz  
Leah Schwinkendorf  
Isaiah Seaman  
Nathan Shaffer  
Brooke Shellenbarger  
Gracen Simmons  
Alison Smith  
Brady Smith  
Brayden Smith  
Jarrett Smith  
Oliver Sobie  
Taylor Spitzley  
Kyle Stauffer  
Gabrielle Stodola  
Jozelyn Stroud  
Paige Swanson  
Kaylee Sweany  
Emily Swint  
Veronica Tapia  
Cooper Teft  
Vladimir Tiffany  
Abigail Tuuri

Grace Valle  
Elyse Veldman  
Jordan Velzen  
Emerson Vriesman  
Claire Weeks  
Elijah Wilcox  
Paige Wilcox  
Kalin Williams  
Brooklyn Wobma

## 10th Grade

Ella Acheson  
James Albert  
Gabriela Amoroso  
Lillyan Andrews  
Sienna Arnett  
Benjamin Atkins  
Autumn Baer  
Benjamin Bannan  
Eghan Bellingar  
Lily Bergeron  
Nicholas Binns  
Logan Bledsoe  
Tyler Boersen  
Lily Boland  
Brady Boonstra  
Ava Boruta  
Hope Brandt  
Mason Brown  
Leah Bryce  
Noah Burton  
Grace Cadwell  
Conner Casarez  
Julie Celori  
Wei-Ting Chang  
Lucas Charboneau  
Dalton Charon  
Noah Chipman  
Carter Cichocki  
Claire Comeaux  
Nolan Compton  
Caden Cone  
Lesly Cowles  
Brylee Craycraft  
Benjamin Cross  
Sydney Darling  
Lauren Deeds  
Owen Dennings  
Madison DeSmyter  
Cadence DeWit  
Eyan Dial  
Molly Dusendang  
Jaidyn Dutkiewicz  
Josephine Elkens  
Rylie Elsie  
Kaylee Elve  
Casey Engle  
Jillian Fabis  
Anika Ferrill  
Ania Fleszar  
Hannah Flickinger  
Aliina Forester  
Anna Forney  
Clara Frederickson  
Ariana Fredricks  
Marcus Christopher  
French  
Maya Fritzsche  
Mercie Fuentes  
BriannaFullerton  
Hope Gale  
Colin Garrison  
Gracie Gasper  
AbigailGeelhoed  
Isabel German  
Noah Ginsberg  
Alison Gonzalez  
Ezequiel Gonzalez  
Kailyn Gustin  
Josephine Hackett  
Ava Halfmann  
Gracyn Hamilton  
Jason Harden  
Sarah Harper  
Thomas Hayes  
Brady Hays  
Adria Herring  
Elizabeth Hoffman  
KaitlynHofman  
Brandon Hofmann  
Roger Jean  
Emma Jenks  
Timeo Jesson  
Zaiden Keith  
Braddock King  
Jacob Kissingner  
Samuel Konyndyk  
Sophia Konyndyk  
Franklin Kraft  
Leah Krieger  
Jackson  
Lamoreaux  
Molly Landgren

Austin Lay  
Megan Lillie  
Beatriz Lima Freires  
Louna Marie  
Ivy Marsh  
Rafaella Martinelli  
Pozzebom Cavalcante  
Unai Martinez  
Salcedo  
Quinn Massey  
Elena Mauri  
Jordyn McClymont  
Julia Meier  
Alyse Miles  
Marisa Miller  
Claire Mitchell  
Jacob Mitchell  
Quinn Mitchell  
Mackenzie Moore  
Paula Morilla  
Exposito  
William Mrozinski  
Allison Munson  
Joset Nelson  
Owen Newland  
Claire O'Boyle  
Norah Orth  
Spencer Orth  
Emily Patyi  
Brody Pearson  
John Pike  
Elizabeth Plank  
Dylan Polczak  
Harper Postema  
Luisa Priolo  
Jonathan Rapelje  
Carter Ray  
Christopher Raymor  
Anna Reedy  
Wyatt Remar  
Kaci Reynolds  
Titus Rhodes  
Ashlyn Richards  
Lilian Richards  
Elsie Ries  
Deaken Roth  
Jackson Roudabush  
Alexander Rowe  
Kaylee Royer  
Alexandria Roys  
Graham Rutz  
Jackson Sage  
Parker Salgat  
Rabina Sandhu  
Corey Sandman  
Maya Schilling  
Lauren Seevers  
Olivia Seevers  
Owen Segorski  
John Seif  
Gabriel Selover  
Makenzie Simkins  
Blake Sitzer  
Vivienne Skinner  
Romy Slagell  
Gabrielle Sluss  
Braelyn Spivey  
Isabelle Sternisha  
Gavin Stewart  
Tori Stewart  
Mason Stiegemeier  
Anderson Stoner  
Ethan Swanson  
Gwyneth Taylor  
Eliana Thompson  
Brantley Tiede  
McKenna Tobin  
Claire Uzarski  
Aysha VandenBosch  
Avah VanderMeulen  
Natalie VanLaan  
Hunter VanSpronsen  
Zachary Vaughn  
Hayden Videan  
Emmitt Visscher  
Benjamin Vonderheide  
Reese Wagamon  
Maximus Wasilew  
Noah Wattenhofer  
Ariana Webber  
Addison Weed  
Abigail Wegscheidler  
Alanna Wester  
Kayla Wever  
Ash Wilczewski  
Tucker Wilk  
Rowan Williams  
Elijah Wilterink  
Mason Wilterink  
Ava Winter  
Allie Wirth  
Landon Wolfe-Pearce  
Ean Wolters

Hope Worsley  
Canon Zaske  
Emily Zou

## 11th Grade

Logan Acheson  
Sutton Alexander  
Ava Bacon  
Jack Bacon  
Braxcynn Baker  
Gavin Barber  
Grace Barnett  
Alaina Belleville  
Brianna Berg  
Braden Bierling  
Kiera Bishop  
Zachary Boehr  
Jared Boone  
Graham Boonstra  
Ryan Booth  
Emma Boston  
Haylee Bowker  
Evan Bray  
Teige Bredin  
Alice Bredwell  
Tyson Bruinekool  
Serenity Bulthuis  
Gray Butler  
Mara Carbines  
Reese Carpenter  
Antonio Casarez  
Bryce Churchill  
Alexis Clark  
Olive Compton  
Ella Curtis  
Jaiden Darling  
River de Bruin  
Cloey DeGlopper  
Caden Dennie  
Kyle Dietz  
Jace Dixon  
Matthew Doyle  
Wyatt Duimstra  
Hiyori Eldred  
Avery Elmhirst  
Brooklyn Elsie  
SamuelElve  
Lynsi Fetterhoff  
Jadyn Franciscotty  
Jayden Franks  
Skylar Frazee  
Mason Fuentes  
Wyatt Fuss  
Emily Garcia  
Isabella Garcia  
Benjamin Gaskin  
AntonyGieske  
WestonGodbold  
Jailizza  
Gomez-Tellez  
Tacho Gonzales  
Hayden Gough  
Jacob Graham  
LillyAnn Gravitt  
Anne Greenfield  
Kieryn Gruzenga  
Maris Guppy  
Emmah Handlon  
Lili Hare  
Jacob Hasapis  
Samantha Hayes  
Leo Hiler  
Jacob Hofman  
Timothy Hollern  
Lincoln Homolka  
Carly Hornbrook  
Kiara Hulbert  
Braylon Iakiri  
Elle Jenks  
RosaliaJimenez  
Hannah Johnson  
Charlotte Jones  
Oliver Jones  
Hope Kaminski  
Gwynneth Kelly  
Maya Kemp  
Kenneth Kinyon  
Joseph Korcek  
Hannah Kovich  
Isabella Kuntz  
Tori Labron  
Noah LaMore  
Owen LaRose  
Aubree Lee  
Jackson Liley  
Liam Lincolnhol  
Nicholas Lothian  
Nolan Lowrie  
Ava MacPherson  
Lauren Malone  
Tru Marsh  
Kyra Martino  
Jonathan Mathews

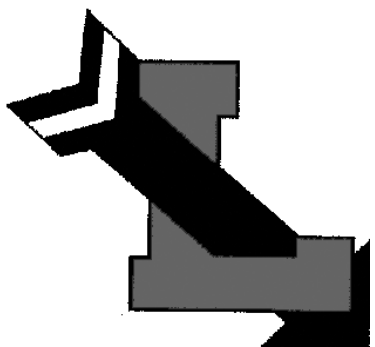
AbigailMcDonald  
Megan McDonald  
Ari McFarland  
Trevor Mead  
Anders Melby  
Carter Melnik  
Cole Meyer  
Carmen Mika  
Daniel Mitchell  
Nathan Mohr  
Addison Molter  
Madilynne Morgensen  
Jacob Morrell  
Noah Moser  
Kayleigh Nanninga  
Robert Nichols  
Rylee Nichols  
McKenna Nietupski  
Ellery Ostrander  
Austin Parcheta  
Todd Parcheta  
Mya Pender  
Josiah Peters  
Claire Pohl  
Leianna Posati  
Ashley Powell  
Victor Preiss  
Danica Ransom  
Jacob Rapelje  
Kelsey Rasch  
Taylor Rasch  
Skylar Redumski  
Jackson Reisbig  
Alexander Repp  
Andrew Rogers  
Katie Rogers  
Reed Sarniak  
Jackson Schaedig  
Kylei Schmid  
Jake Schmidt  
Mykenzie Seeley  
Grace Simkins  
Andrew Smith  
Jacob Spaulding  
Kelsey Staley  
Haleigh Stickney  
Kailen Stokely  
Melanie Swanson  
Brady Swift  
Mayson Swift  
Carter Szymanski  
Ella Todd  
Joseph Tuuri  
Tristan Tyler  
Dylan VanAssen  
Faith VanDuinen  
Spencer VanVeelen  
Matilyn Vogel  
Melanie Wade  
Molly Wade  
Evan Wasciuk  
Naomi Wattenhofer  
Drew Weber  
Nicholas Williams  
Leah Willis  
Alexander Winter  
Mackenzie Wyant  
Haley Young  
Jadyn Young  
Xavier Young

## 12th Grade

Alyssa Aguilar  
Emily Ake  
Jordan Alcala  
Colin Baas  
Ryan Baker  
Robert Bardwell  
Gracie Bassett  
LandonBattle  
Hannah Bechill  
Haylie Beers  
Olivia Berg  
Ian Berrington  
Alexander Binns  
Jace Blakely  
Collin Blattner  
Evan Blazo  
Vivianne Bledsoe  
Kyra Boersma  
Brenden Brandt  
Tristan Braun  
Benjamin Bromley  
Alonzo Bruinekool  
Abbey Brummel  
Logan Buckingham  
Joclynn Burkholder  
Colton Byrne  
Katie Camphouse  
Samantha Cazier  
Zachary Chambers  
Madison Clarida  
Alaina Clark

Eleanora Clark  
Taylor Clark  
Alexander Compton  
Samantha Conrad  
Carson Craft  
Keara Crawford  
Riley Curnow  
Jacob Davidson  
Leah Davidson  
Patrick de Voest  
Wyatt  
DeBard-Slater  
Emma DeGlopper  
Aidan Dennings  
Kelton DeVito  
Tayshaun Donald  
Maeve Dougherty  
Dawson Douma  
Gage Dutkiewicz  
Brooke Ellsworth  
Christopher Elwell  
Grace Fasset  
Drew Ferrill  
Isabelle Field  
Aidan Fitzpatrick  
EzekielFlentje  
Sophia Flickinger  
Lucinda Foreman  
Kyleigh Foss  
Aidan Foster  
David Foster  
Hannah Fountaine  
Noah Franz  
Alfredo  
Garcia-Tinoco  
Grant Gasper  
Lillian Geelhoed  
Ian George  
AbigailGerman  
Audrie Gessler  
Jadelynn Ginsberg  
Ryan Goggins  
Isaac Graham  
Rebecca Gray  
Kaden Gruizenga  
Amelia Hancock  
Tate Hare  
LandonHart  
Summer Havey  
Anthony Havlik  
Honey Hernandez-  
Hernandez  
Mason Hesche  
AbigailHewitt  
Kendra Hoffert  
Lily Hornik  
Grace Hough  
Alexis Howell  
Dawson Huhn  
Case Huisman  
Delaney Huizinga  
Nolan Jannenga  
Rylee Jannenga  
Daniel Johnson  
William Johnston  
Chloe Jones  
Lavonda Jousma  
Krista Jungblut  
Payton Karle  
Ashlyn Karp  
Josiah Kissingner  
Jonah Kniss  
William Kolp  
Jason Korzen  
Ethan Krieger  
Makayla Kyes  
Jaylin LaForce  
Alexis Lamoreaux  
Autumn Lamoreaux  
Grace Larson  
Rhyann LeBarre  
Riley Lester  
Megan Liddle  
Connor Lixie  
Elly Looman  
Macy Luce  
Easton Lyons  
Keith MacDermid  
Murphy Malcolm  
Ava Mallindine  
SamuelMartin  
Kaidance Martino  
Gavin Mazarka  
Emma McCormick  
Augustus McDonald  
Ivy McDonald  
Luke McMillan  
JanessaMead  
Jack Meier  
Kaylee Meyer  
Katelyn Meyers  
Zoey Mierendorf  
Avery Miles

Avery Miller  
Conner Miller  
Fayth Miller  
LandonMiller  
Levi Mills  
Hayden Mitchell  
McKenzie Munson  
Bristol Nash  
Gunnar Nelson  
Logan Nunley  
Aubrieh Oswald  
Ryan Parsons  
Liberty Parzyszek  
Caroline Peal  
Ayden Pellerito  
Karina Peplinski  
Elisha Peters  
Jonah Phillips  
Ramsey Ponchaud  
Emma Proctor  
Savannah Redumski  
Ilana Rhodes  
Easton Rich  
Jeffrey Richards  
Aidan Richardson  
Dustin Richardson  
Grace Richmond  
Jack Rickert  
Jazmin Rios Soriano  
Addisen Rodriguez  
Hope Rummelt  
Zahna Rutz  
Emma Sage  
Annika Sandman  
Katrina Sandman  
Keira Sandman  
Rhys Sandman  
Anna Seddon  
Nicholas Seddon  
Alanee Selover  
Odin Sever  
Julian Shafer  
Maddox Simcoe  
Dannion Simmet  
Nolan Simmons  
Steven Skinner  
Ava Skoog  
Cameron Sluss  
Connor Smith  
David Smith  
KaitlynSmith  
Logan Smith  
Andrew Snell  
Makayla Socal  
Alyssa Spanbauer  
Stephanie Spinella  
Olivia Staley  
Katie Stauffer  
Charles Steinebach  
Hunter Stepanovich  
Noah Sternisha  
Trevor Stewart  
Brady Strouse  
Celso Tapia  
Peyton Teachworth  
Jacob Thomas  
Wyatt Thompson  
Kadence Tiede  
Brooke Tindall  
Kevin Topolinski  
Kiera Troost  
Alexis Tyler  
Kira VanGorp  
Noah VanLaan  
Grace VanTimmeren  
Andrew Veldman  
Delaney Viegw  
Lauren Visscher  
Ryan Visser  
Henry Vredevelt  
Mason Wade  
Emmaline Wasciuk  
Tallin Westrate-  
Critchett  
Ryleigh Wilder  
AbigailWinn  
Hannah Witherell  
Courtney Witten  
Brenden Wittenbach  
Alyssa Woern  
Luke Wolters  
Gabrielle Yeary  
Caleb Yomtoob  
Gavin Yonker





# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKU

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

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!

# SAFE DRIVER WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

SAFE DRIVER WORD SEARCH

CAMERA COURTESY

MERGE PATROL

SIGNS SLOW

ACCIDENT AIRBAG ALERT BLINDSPOT

DEBRIS DISTRACTION DRIVE HAZARD LAW

REDUCED REGULATION SAFETY SEAT BELT SIGNAL

SPACE VEHICLE VISIBILITY WEATHER

## Guess Who?

I am a singer and songwriter born in Pennsylvania on December 13, 1989. I began performing in musical theater as a child and moved to Nashville at age 14. I became the youngest artist to write and record a #1 hit on the U.S. charts.

Answer: Taylor Swift

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to safe driving.

D P E S E

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Speed

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

### CLUES ACROSS

- Taxi
- Cattle disease (abbr.)
- Before the present
- They burn in a grill
- Enough (archaic)
- "A Doll's House" playwright
- Long loop of cloth worn around the waist
- Napoleonic Wars battle
- Chinese surname
- Fragrant essential oil
- Follows sigma
- Model
- A place with many dining options
- BBQ dish
- Corn comes on it
- A sheep in its second year
- Triad
- They \_\_\_
- Actor DiCaprio
- TV's "Edith Bunker"
- Sustenance
- Man who behaves dishonorably

- Cause a loud, harsh sound
- A way to take in liquids
- Gene type
- The Miami mascot is one
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Casino machine
- Contains cerium
- Something with a letter-like shape
- Handwoven Scandinavian rug
- Legendary actress Ruby

### CLUES DOWN

- Conqueror
- Kin relation
- Increases the value of
- Pack
- Popular nut
- Dogs' enemies
- Former OSS
- Unpleasant person
- Come again?
- Beverage container
- Rock formation

- Dorm official
- The bill in a restaurant
- Type of jug
- Importance requiring swift action
- Outfit
- Small Eurasian deer
- Weight used in China
- A major division of geological time
- Popular beverage
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Practical joking
- Pouchlike structure
- Pound
- Lilly and Manning are two
- Stopped discussing
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Candymaker
- One thousandth of a second (abbr.)
- Northern sea duck
- Partner to cheese
- Cannot be found



## Continued from page 7

(RSV), throughout the country and in Michigan. While there is no current vaccine to protect from RSV, the flu and COVID-19 vaccines can help protect against respiratory illnesses, and they can be given at the same visit.

CDC recommends annual influenza vaccination for all persons, ages 6 months and older, with rare exceptions. According to data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, as of Nov. 12, approximately 2.2 million people in Michigan have received their flu vaccine for the 2022-2023 flu season, which is 60.9% towards the state's goal of reaching 4 million doses of flu vaccine administered this season.

For people younger than 65 years, CDC does not recommend any flu vaccine over another during the 2022-2023 flu season. Options for this age group include inactivated flu vaccine,

recombinant flu vaccine or live-attenuated flu vaccine.

Vaccination is particularly important for individuals at higher risk of developing serious flu complications, including young children, adults ages 65 years and older, people with certain chronic medical conditions and pregnant persons. Some children, ages 6 months through 8 years, will need two doses of flu vaccine this season to be fully protected. Individuals should speak with their health care provider to determine which vaccine is best for them.

It takes about two weeks after the vaccine is administered before the body builds up enough immunity to prevent the flu. Michiganders should get their vaccine now to protect themselves before flu activity peaks in Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) also reminds Michiganders that flu shots are an essential health benefit under the Affordable Care Act and are covered with no out-

of-pocket costs by most health plans in Michigan.

"Annual flu shots help keep you healthy and protect people around you, which is why they are covered at no cost by most health insurance plans in Michigan," said DIFS Director Anita Fox. "Consumers with questions about their health insurance coverage should contact their insurance company, and if they cannot get the information they need or have additional questions, DIFS is available to help. Contact DIFS 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 877-999-6442 or Michigan.gov/HealthInsurance."

Flu vaccines are widely available now at local health departments, physician offices and pharmacies around the state. Find a location near you, using the Vaccine Finder. Visit Michigan.gov/flu for more information or visit IVaccinate.org to find answers to vaccine questions.

## When did Christmas lights become so popular?

Holiday lights are now everywhere during the holiday season. Private homeowners tend to hang the holiday lights outside their homes around Thanksgiving weekend and keep them up through New Year's Day. Though it might seem like a tradition

without a deep history, decorating a Christmas tree with electric lights can be traced all the way back to the nineteenth century. In 1882, Edward Johnson, who was a friend and colleague of the man who invented light bulbs, Thomas Edison, replaced candles, which

had traditionally been used to briefly light Christmas trees, with light bulbs. But at the time of Johnson's innovation, the high cost and relative infancy of light bulbs ensured the idea did not catch on. And though United States President Grover Cleveland used electric lights to illuminate a Christmas tree in the White House in 1895, it would be another eight years before General Electric would begin selling Christmas light kits. Those kits cost \$12 in 1903, which equates to several hundred dollars today. The first outdoor Christmas light shows started to become popular in the 1920s, and this is the same time when commercial sales of Christmas lights picked up. In the 1960s, GE's decision to begin manufacturing Christmas lights overseas helped reduce the price of outdoor lights even further, thus paving the way for the tradition of decorating home exteriors with string lights during the holiday season to take a firm hold. And that tradition remains wildly popular today.



# Write a Letter to Santa

and your letter will be published in  
the 12/25 edition of the Buyer's Guide.

Deadline date is 12/19

Send your letter to:

Mail: P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331

Email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Or drop your letter off at our *santa door*  
anytime at 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

Santa will reply if you include your name and address

DEAR SANTA