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\$1.00



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Santa makes a stop in Lowell for the parade

Santa paid Lowell a visit last Saturday evening in the Annual Night-Time Santa Parade, with the theme for this year the "12 Days of Christmas."

The parade participants lined up on Riverside Drive and headed East on Main Street, ending at the Lowell United Methodist Church. The weather contributed to a lot of people coming out to see the parade.

There was afine mist but the temperatures were not extremely cold, so parade goers, in anticipation of the parade, were beginning to line the street at 5 pm for the 6 pm parade.

More parade photos can be found on pages 8 and 9.



Student’s inside perspective on the LHS Theater program

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

In last Wednesday’s *Lowell Ledger* Podcast, featured on lowellledger.org, we sat down with LHS junior Ben Vonderheide. Vonderheide was nominated by LHS musical director and teacher, Amanita Fahrni, to join the *Ledger* Podcast to discuss the LHS Theater program and offer listeners a stu-

dent’s look at what goes into LHS plays, musicals, and other aspects of the high school’s theater program. The Lowell junior has been in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* as Oberon, the old fairy king in his first-ever performance at LHS. He then was a part of the holiday show *Who will be the next North Pole Star?* as Cupid the Reindeer, and *The Wizard of Oz* as an en-

semble member. Additionally, he was in *Much Ado about Nothing* as Leonato, another old king, as well as, Matilda as Michael Wormwood. Most recently, he played three roles in *Trap: a Contractor*, a man falsely accused, and a fire chief. Outside of theater,

Theater program, continued page 2



Ben Vonderheide (center-left), during Matilda last spring.

Verity Ballet presents the timeless classic *The Nutcracker* at TOT

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Get ready for a night of Christmas magic at The Old Theater (TOT) in downtown Lowell, decked out for the holidays. Verity Ballet will be performing the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, in the historic venue for the first time on Dec. 16 at 7 pm.

Immerse yourself in the timeless story about a girl who befriends a nutcracker that comes to life on Christmas Eve and wages a battle against the evil Mouse King, based on a short fantasy story by E.T. A. Hoffman. The story was first choreographed by Marius Petipa, and composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; the score has become one of his most famous compositions.

"We wanted to perform in the heart of Lowell," said Verity Ballet co-founder, Noah Trulock, with his wife, Hannah. "We feel connected to it ,since it is our home. The Old Theater has a history to it, and we wanted to be able to continue the tradition of using the venue for live performance."

Verity Ballet will be using some of the ballroom students in the performance, including Lisa Reed and Mansel Reed, dancing in the party scene.

"It's important for the kids to get used to performing *Nutcracker*, as almost every ballet school and professional company performs a version," Hannah said. "It's always advantageous to be familiar and have the practice under your belt. It becomes something very nostalgic for not only the dancers but the audience, too."

The repertoire used in *Nutcracker*, although a staple for all ballet companies, includes a wide variety of choreography that is useful for building the foundation for a solid ballet program, according to Noah.

***Nutcracker*, continued page 2**

Theater program, continued

Vonderheide runs track and field, is working on his Eagle Scout project for the Boy Scouts, has represented LHS in sailing, and is President of the school's Interact chapter. His time in theater, though, is among the activities he is most passionate about.

Behind-the-scenes of the Lowell Performing Arts Center and the Lowell Theater program is countless hours of tireless work. Of course, the actors and actresses we see, and are mesmerized by on stage, is the front showpiece, but behind that are tireless work done by dozens of people to set that stage, both literally and figuratively.

"We do projections behind us on the walls and stage backdrop. They're programmed by hand, and each of them take nearly an hour to set up. Set building, which is a crazy time commitment, singing, line rehearsal, dancing, the script for sound and lighting is almost four times the length of an actors script," Ben added, of the different jobs that are done when preparing and performing.

Recognized by Vonderheide was Sam Konnydyk, also a Boy Scout, who served as one of the leads on the LHS Stage Crew during *Matilda*, the Roald Dahl classic. Additional shout-outs were Amber Kolp who coordinated all the lights and the sounds, then Micah McDonald, and Emerson Vreisman, who did mic checks/lighting. "Those four were kind of our rocks backstage, who know the show inside and out, but, of course, there were so many

who helped contribute," Ben added. These were roles during *Matilda* in the spring.

Last year's musical, *Matilda* was directed by Amanitra Fahrni, assisted by Heidi Kolp. Julia Crawford serves as the technical director, while Tim Haan and Nathan Masterson were pit and vocal directors, respectively. Morgan Saylor played the lead, *Matilda* Wormwood as a freshman. Lucinda Foreman and Abby McDonald served as stage managers.

"Wormwood in *Matilda* was when I was on stage the most, but Leonato was the most challenging role, as far as number of lines, and how much I had to put into it," Vonderheide told the podcast. "I only had six lines for Michael, since he's a pretty silent role, but the facial expressions and silent acting that went into it was difficult," he added.

For line memorization, Vonderheide utilizes a website called Quizlet. Auditions for the spring musical take place before Christmas break, and over Christmas break it is then that those selected for parts really get down and learn those roles.

Vonderheide got his start in theater performing short skits around the campfire, during our Cub Scout campouts, when he was little. He took Mrs. Struckmeyer's Intro to Drama class in 7th grade at the middle school, made a bunch of friends, and had a great time. So great, they took her all-year 8th grade drama class, the year after.

"We became such a close group that still survives to this day. That class

solidified our collective love for performing with one another, and that group still makes up the majority of our theater department at the high school today. We have two freshmen get lead roles in the *Wizard of Oz*; that doesn't happen if you don't have a solid Middle School program," Ben added when speaking fondly of his time in LMS teacher, Andrea Struckmeyer's, classes. "Everything we do,

as a pretty recognized theater program, is in large part due to that preparation."

Ben noted that although there are a lot of time commitments for musicals and plays, it isn't an activity that is exclusive. "It's a very accessible thing to get into, if you're interested go out and do it. So many people, who go out and audition, would regret it if they haven't. We're all friends, everyone gets their time in the spot-

light; it's like a huge group project, and it's so fun to be a part of," added Vonderheide.

The program's next show will be our holiday show, *Dear Mrs. Claus*. You can see it at 7 pm on Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 8, as well as Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10:30 am.

Vonderheide concluded by saying he enjoys the theater community that's been built at LHS. "We had a very supportive, encourag-

ing group during fall play. We're here to collaborate with each other, to help one another be successful."

The spring musical for 2024 is *Beauty & the Beast*. Auditions take place in the next week at LHS. Ben signed off the Podcast with, "You can "Be Our Guest for Beauty and the Beast" on March 1, 2, 8, and 9 at 7 pm and March 3, at 2 pm." You can listen to the full podcast at lowellledger.org/podcasts

Nutcracker, continued

The two-hour ballet performance has been cut to 30 minutes by cutting some filler out of the beginning party scene, and Verity Ballet is performing four of the divertissements in The Land of Sweets- Chinese Tea, Spanish Chocolate, Reed Flutes, and the Sugarplum Variation. The company will add some of the bigger numbers next year, such as Snowflakes and Flowers.

"However, it is still complete and I think it is much easier to follow the story, especially with the added voiceover narration to explain some of the pantomime or movements," Hannah said. The movements or miming are used to communicate in story ballets.

In the main roles, Audrey Alexander dances as Clara, Lowell High School student, Connor Rapson, plays the *Nutcracker*, and Noah Trulock as Uncle Drosselmeyer, who is one of the co-directors. "Connor began dancing a year ago; it's outstanding what he's been able to accomplish so quickly," Hannah said. "Audrey has danced for me for many years, and she is a wonderful young talent with an amazing work ethic."

The dancers have

been picked from the Verity Ballet dance school, while some reached out from other studios in search of more performance opportunities. "We are perfect for that," Hannah said. "Everyone auditioned separately by taking a Verity class and was evaluated." However, there will be a group audition for the Ensemble for any new,

said. "The mix of fantasy, adventure, and grandeur in this story is magical, and it has a timeless appeal that families will love."

Verity Ballet owners love TOT for its amount of space and the versatility it has. "We utilized the marquee quite a bit," Noah said. "We always get a lot of inquiries, with it being

to create, dance, and teach a wide variety of parts in this ballet."

Noah's first performance in the *Nutcracker* ballet was at age 30, at Indianapolis Ballet as the *Nutcracker* and the Chinese Tea. "There were so many kids who had been doing it since they were nine, so it was surprising to all of them when they found



Nutcracker cast.

existing, and prospective members for the spring performances on January 13 from 1:30 pm to 2 pm, ages 6 to 10, from 2 to 3 pm for ages 11+.

"I love the enchanting music composed by Tchaikovsky, which is now synonymous with the holiday season," Noah

right on Main Street, with the foot traffic and people driving past."

The couple hopes that people will get familiar with Verity Ballet and all that it has to offer, for both students and audiences. The company offered sneak previews at Maple Ridge and Heather Hills assisted living facilities. "These kids are getting to perform and share their gifts, and are reaching out to the community in a big way," Noah said. "We want everyone to be able to see them shine."

Hannah has danced in 10 *Nutcrackers*, between Grand Rapids Ballet and Indianapolis Ballet; she has choreographed a shorter version of *Nutcracker* excerpts and has built on that in the current version. She has danced from the smallest roles as Angel, all the way up to Clara, Snow Queen, and Dew Drop. "It has always been a tradition for me, and one very near and dear to my heart," Hannah said. "I have a good sense of how

out it was my first one," he said.

The couple hopes that families will be able to get out and experience live dance in the ballet performance. "The experience of live dance is so much different, as anything can happen," Noah said. "You get to feel a connection to the performance and the dancers themselves."

Verity Ballet is passionate about keeping prices accessible and bringing ballet to everyone. There will be a free performance at the Lowell Library on Jan. 4.

"It isn't intimidating," Hannah said. "There will be lots of other kids, and they are much more likely to sit through and enjoy a fast-paced version like this one."

Tickets are available at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/o/15480/verityballet> For more info go to: <https://www.verityballet.com/home>

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Vergennes Township is accepting applications for the following Board and Commission positions; Board of Review, including alternates, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals.

Application forms and a summary of job descriptions may be obtained on the township website www.vergennestwp.org (right column 'Quick Links' click on 'forms and applications' then 'Application to Boards, Commissions & Committees'), by emailing the clerk at clerk@vergennestwp.org, or at the township offices located at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell, MI 49331.

Deadline for application submission is Wednesday, December 13, 2023 @ 3 p.m. Applicants will be considered at the December 18, 2023, meeting of the Vergennes Township Board.

Shantell Ford
Vergennes Township Clerk

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Lowell Skatepark reaches funding goal

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

In April of 2023, Bob Rogers took to the Lowell MI Community Chatter Facebook group to ask for help. A project he was involved in, with aims to remodel the Lowell Skatepark, was just over the two-thirds mark of its \$120,000 funding goal, and it needed another boost to get the rest of the way. Rogers was still waiting on two grants, including the Skatepark Project (formerly the Tony Hawk Foundation), which was a little bit of a long-shot, since it favors low-income neighborhoods near large metropolitan areas. Rogers was optimistic about the future of the project, but without the help of a charismatic t-shirt or wristband sale or a philanthropic donor, it was unlikely that he would raise the remaining funds (nearly \$40,000) needed. “I’m not sure if I want to use the word ‘stuck’,” Rogers said. “We were behind a hump that was difficult to get beyond.”

That all changed in early November, when Rogers acquired a significant donation from a local foundation,



With repeated use, the wooden structures at the Lowell Skatepark have begun to break down. These features, now dilapidated, were originally part of a small grassroots effort to give Lowell a skatepark, but they were never meant to last forever.

who would prefer to keep their identity anonymous. Rogers had initially secured a verbal commitment of \$10,000 from the foundation. The donor came over and gave Rogers an envelope. Rogers asked for confirmation of the \$10,000 amount, and they told him that they wrote the check for \$20,000 instead. Rogers thanked the anonymous benefactor and communicated that the project was within \$17,000 of goal. Shortly thereafter, he received a text message

from the same individual explaining that they were going to provide the final \$17,000, as well. The new Lowell Skatepark was back on the table. “We can’t express how thankful we are to have someone just come in there and rescue us to get us to our goal,” Rogers said.

Following their victory, Rogers and company did not merely rest on their laurels. They immediately scheduled a virtual meeting with a design firm in Seattle, called Grindline Skateparks, who would take the reins of the project, now that the funding goal had been reached. Rogers had previously worked with Spohn Ranch, another design firm in Industry, California, and received free-concept art to be used in support of his fundraising efforts. The actual design will be developed over the winter with the assistance of skateboarding aficionados, Dan Lixey, Jessica Barney, and 5-10 other community skating representatives.

Lixey and Barney were the original first movers, who talked to Rogers about the need for a skatepark remodel, three

cement as much as it used to,” Lixey said.

Skateboarding is also a passion that Lixey has passed on to his son, Jayce. The 23-year-old recently moved to the Heritage Hill neighborhood, in downtown Grand Rapids, to be closer to the Roberto Clemente DIY Skatepark on Rumsey Street. Lixey noted that he always wanted his son to play the same sport he did, and his wish came true. According to Lixey, Jayce does two things these days—he works and he skates.

Living in Lowell, as Lixey has since 1996, and his son has up until his recent move downtown, it was nice to have a local park, and Lixey loves that Lowell Skatepark was created as the result of a local grassroots fundraising campaign, but the skatepark they put together was never going to last forever. In recent years, local skaters have left Lowell to enjoy their sport, traveling like Jayce to Clemente downtown or Saranac or Belding. When Lixey and Barney came up with the idea, it was in order to give the next generation of Lowell skateboarders something local to enjoy, and not just skateboarders either; Lixey foresees that bike and scooter riders, and even RC car drivers, will enjoy the new setup.

Though \$120,000 is a gigantic amount of money for people like Rogers, Lixey, and Barney, it is actually a small figure when it comes to skateparks, which often range from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000 and beyond, so the designers will have to be clever with which features are included. Lixey’s primary concerns

for the new design are that it is accessible to people of all ages, not just experts, and that there is a flow to it. He wants to include a



One of the ramps has become a lean-to shelter against the wind and rain for one of Lowell’s homeless neighbors, but the Lowell Skatepark is not a solution for the affordable housing crisis in town.

manual (manny) pad, some rails, and a couple of other features, but even the open space will serve a purpose. Once the new skatepark is constructed, others can hold smaller fundraising campaigns to construct additional features, using the current park as proof of concept.

Typically, with larger budget projects, Grindline designers like to fly out to the site and meet with people in the community to determine which features to include in a skatepark. With a \$120,000 budget, there will already be limits on height and the number and type of features, and big bowls and pools are already off the table; spending extra money to fly out some designers from Seattle to hold public forums would just place further limits on the scope of the project. This is why the discussions are being done remotely with a small group of experts and interested parties.

The goal is to break ground on the new skatepark in spring of 2024. The commencement date is still up in the air, as the winter’s snow, weather, and

frozen ground could lead to delays, but once started, the project will likely take as little as 4-6 weeks to complete. The Michigan winter gives the team more time to get designs and financials right, and it eats up any time that might have been lost waiting for Grindline to finish other projects already in progress in more temperate climes.

While the community has already stood up and supported the skatepark remodel project, Rogers has noted that he will need more help in the near future, this time in the form of in-kind donations. Between now and spring, they will need a lot of cement, so any businesses willing to offer discounted or donated cement, or any individual looking to give

money toward the purchase of said cement, would be appreciated. The same goes for rebar and lumber. “If we can save a couple thousand with cement, lumber, and rebar donations, it could possibly turn into another feature,” Rogers said.

Those interested in the project can keep up on its progress by following the Skate Park at Stoney Lakeside Park Project Facebook page. This is also the place where folks interested in helping with cement, rebar, and lumber, can reach out to Rogers and the team and make arrangements. Rogers can be contacted directly by email at BobRogers299@gmail.com or by phone at 616-299-0022

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outdoors

ice time Dave Stegehuis

Another Michigan winter is fast approaching. Short cloudy, cold days with occasional snow will be a common weather forecast. The trick for enjoying the season is to find a way to use the conditions to your advantage. Ice fishing is one activity, which will get you outside for plenty of fresh air and fun. The possibility of catching feisty panfish is exciting and also productive, if you choose to keep and clean your catch. Other than fishing off a dock or pier in the summer, ice fishing is the simplest and easiest way to fish. A short inexpensive bubble pack ice rod set from a box store and a dozen wax worms will get you in the game. If you go to a public access lake where the fish are biting, there will be plenty of abandoned holes in the ice. Make sure to ask first if the hole is near another angler. Drop the bait down to the bottom, reel-up a couple of cranks and watch the bobber. A six-gallon plastic bucket will store the gear, provide a seat, and hold your catch, if you take it home. A hand ice auger will give you some independence. Like any other sport or

outdoor activity these days, one can purchase a vast array of special gear. This includes, but not limited to, the following: a portable shelter, sonar fish finder, electric auger, special design cold-weather outer clothing, and a GPS to find your way back to the honey hole, if it's covered with snow. It will require a sled to haul all of this stuff, which you can pull by hand or hitch to an ORV or snowmobile. However, I would suggest first timers to start with a basic rig or a garage sale find. Ice fishing is not for everyone. It can be very cold out there, especially with a stiff wind. Pick your day. Extreme caution must be used when venturing out on frozen lakes. Moving river water is dangerous. Winter fishing on thick solid ice provides an opportunity to get the kids involved with fishing. It is easier to entertain youngsters on a frozen lake, where they can move about, instead of being confined to a seat in a small boat. Again, ice fishing is not for everyone, but for many, it has been a lifelong passion, well into old age. Just in case that might be you, give it a try while there is still time.



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The Deviant is a captivating Christmas chiller

In *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #145* (IDW Publishing, 11/8/23), the franchise shows its first signs of an exciting and cohesive direction following the events of “The Armageddon Game” this past year. Double down on Doom and witness the schemes of human Doctor Doom and dinosaur Doctor Doom in *Fantastic Four #13* (Marvel Comics, 11/15/23). Jeff Lemire shares that *Black Hammer: The End* (Dark Horse Comics) is the finale of the current status quo for the Black Hammer universe, with issue #4 of 6 out on November 22. *Local Man #7* and *What's the Furthest Place From Here? #16* (Image Comics, 11/29/23) both deliver series best issues this month, and the only reason neither made the list was because of a particularly inspiring Image Comics November debut.

Here are the top three comics published in November!

The Deviant #1 (Image Comics, 11/15/23)

For fans of James Tynion IV who, following the rampant success of comics like *Worldtr33* and *Something is Killing the Children*—the latter selling over two million copies in its first two years—would add his books to their pull, even if he phoned them in (which there is no evidence that Tynion is currently capable of), *The Deviant* would already be a must read. Throw in its themes, bridging Halloween and Christmas, and the creepy panels of carnage and despair, expertly illustrated by artist Josh Hixson, and nobody is going to miss out on this one. However, beneath the hype machine, the first issue already betrays what feels like a

deeply personal story with the chance of becoming, pound-for-pound, one of Tynion's finest works.

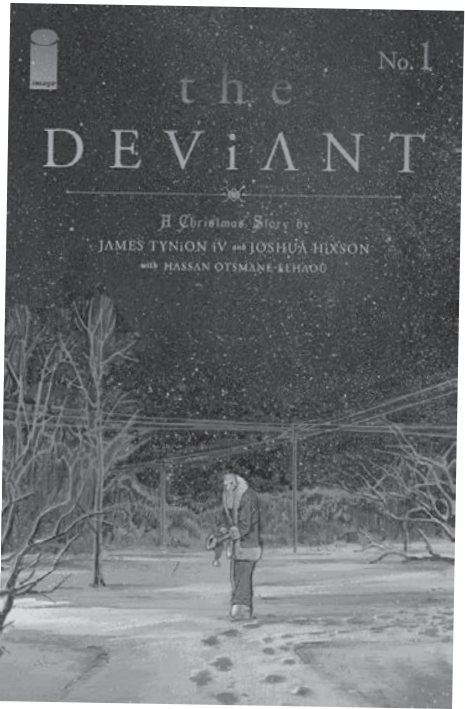
There is a particularly poignant scene between Michael, the protagonist, and Randall Olsen, who was convicted of the Christmas M a s s a c r e killings in 1973 and dubbed “the deviant killer.” Michael, who like Tynion, is an openly gay comic book writer, noted that the first time he had ever heard of queerness was in reference to suspected serial killer Olsen back in the 70s, to which Olsen r e s p o n d s that his first experience was Ed Gein. This is one of the many well-scripted moments where the book's title takes on multiple meanings. On the surface, *The Deviant* is about Olsen, “the deviant killer,” but underneath it all, this is about people who see the world through different lenses, whose love is not approved, and who are punished for their deviance. ...and that's just the first issue.

BRZRKR: Fallen Empire #1 (Boom! Studios, 11/29/23)

These *BRZRKR* throughout history one-shots—Unute vs. Cthulhu, Unute vs. all the king's horses and all the king's men—could easily fall to the trend of boring prize fights between heavy hitters, but this is not *Godzilla vs. Kong* or *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles vs. Street*

Fighter. Writer Mattson Tomlin follows the lead of his predecessors, Keanu Reeves, Matt Kindt, and Steve Skroce, and uses *BRZRKR: Fallen Empire #1* as an opportunity to tell an uncommon story developing the human behind the great murderous berserker power. Unute's emotions are difficult to access, buried as they are beneath millennia of loss, but they are not absent, and *Fallen Empire* tells one of a handful of stories across the history of humanity, where an individual was able to penetrate to the inner sanctum of his vulnerable heart.

Where Skroce's Frank



Quietly-adjacent, scribbly and dynamic art in *Poetry of Madness* welcomed campy gluts of blood and otherworldly creatures, *Fallen Empire* artist, Rebekah Isaacs' gentle line work is reminiscent of big-screen Biblical epics. Unute is not merely a force of nature, a disconnected human meat-grinder fated to destroy anyone he meets. He has sworn off romance for fear of what worldly connections always lead to, but as readers of the original *BRZRKR* series know well, Unute has never been one to keep his vow of chastity. Tomlin makes fresh the type of story that has been told from time immemorial, one of love, loss, conflict, and betrayal. Readers will not encounter answers to the questions lingering on their tongues since the conclusion of *BRZRKR #12* in March, but they will encounter a deeply satisfying look into the psyche of the man at the center of this whole drama.

The Joker: The Man Who Stopped Laughing #12 (DC Comics, 11/8/23)

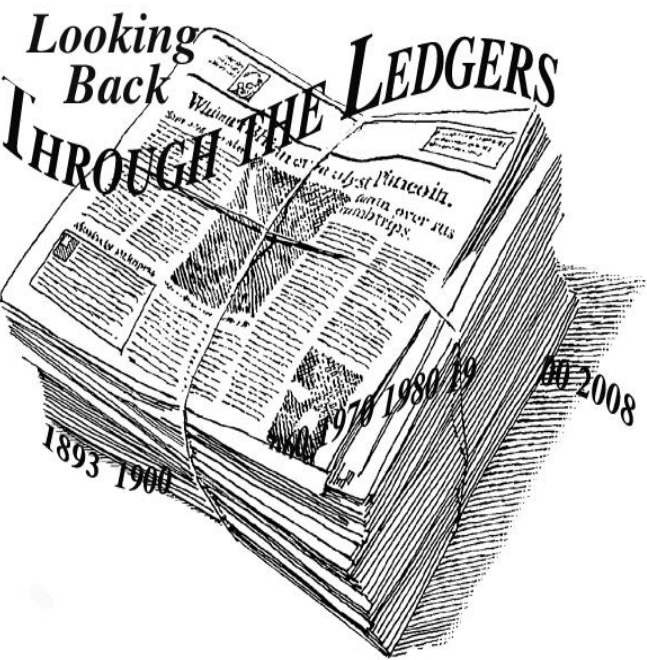
Author, Matthew Rosenberg, is known for developing dark, unhinged characters using absurdist



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Funny Book Forum continued page 12

viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal December 10, 1873

The Lowell Silver Cornet Band, Musical Union, Minstrel Orchestra (Prof. Balcom, leader), two lectures and a dance are coming soon.

Last week, a Lowell boy found a silver quarter on the crossing in front of Graham's Block.

President Grant's message is found in full, in this issue. It's a long one - 7 1/2 columns of fine print.

"Dec. 3 - The wind 'shifted' last night. It shifted a part of the roof from Music Hall block."

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 8, 1898

Mrs. Carr's millinery store and apartments, Schreiber's harness shop and the DGH&M express office go up in flames. They were insured.

The municipal plant's Superintendent English wires the houses of Phil Althen and Rev. Marshall for electric lights.

The U.S. Canal Commission is in favor of getting concessions from Nicaragua and Costa Rica to build the planned inter-ocean canal.

J.E. Tower of Fallasburg took a three-horse load of hogs and potatoes to Grand Rapids Friday.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 6, 1923

Some unknown person fired a bullet through the front window of Lowell Village Marshal Pat Bowes' home at 8:30 last Friday evening, narrowly missing the intended victim, who grabbed his revolver, rushed to the porch and emptied his gun in the direction of the escaping assassin, who was heard, but not seen, in the darkness, blundering into a wire fence and breaking through a tangle of wild grape vines, in the direction of an automobile a few roads distant, the engine of which was running and which dashed away in the direction of Grand Rapids as the fugitive strange upon the running board.

Christmas mailers are admonished that all parcels should be wrapped properly, tied securely, and addressed in ink or they cannot be accepted for mailing.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 9, 1948

The Lowell Board of Trade Christmas program is in full swing. For you businessmen of Lowell, a \$10.00 first prize and \$5.00 second prize is being offered for the most attractive window displays.

A bear in Lowell! According to Frank L. Stephens, a reliable Lowell lady, with reported good eyesight, saw a medium size black bear near the corner of High St. and North Division, early Monday afternoon.

The music along Main Street, that has attracted much attention and entertainment, is being broadcast by the Radio Service Co. from speakers on the top of the building. Mr. Chrouch invites you to come in and play your favorite records for all of Main Street to hear.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life December 6, 1973

A large crowd turned out on a bright sunny Saturday afternoon to welcome Santa Claus to Lowell and officially open the Christmas season.

In cooperation with the energy crisis, Lowell Senior High School has reduced heating levels to the national recommendation of 68 degrees. Also, the energy consumption of electricity in the halls and bathrooms has been reduced by 50 percent, and a plan is under study to voluntarily reduce classroom lighting by 28 percent.

In November, the Lowell Light & Power had a 12 percent drop in kilowatt hours, due not only to the nice weather, but the fine cooperation of all customers.

Ground was broken November 20 for the \$404,000 Alto Sanitary Drain project. The project is a complete system of sewers and a sewage treatment facility to serve the unincorporated community of Alto.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 2, 1998

The Lowell Christmas parade will begin its annual march through Lowell at 10 am on Saturday, Dec. 5, followed by a day-long list of activities.

Former Lowell High School football player, Joel Uzarski, was named to the All-Collegiate Sprint Football League's all-defensive first team.

The Lowell Knights of Columbus receives approval for the construction of a food booth. The 1,024 square foot pole barn-type building will meet the Class A restaurant code, enabling it to serve food on the weekends at horse shows, as well as for other activities.

Vergennes Township officials approached the city about exploring further relations in terms of land, water and sewer usage. The Vergennes Planning Commission addressed the idea of possible water and sewer agreements with the Lowell Planning Commission.

to the editor

Letter writer opinions are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this publication.

To the Editor:

At their Nov. 6 meeting, the Lowell City Council was unanimous in taking the next steps in protecting Lowell's Scout Park by including the entire 27 acres as Scout Park. Our Scout Park Association has worked hard advocating for exactly this, and we're thankful to Mayor DeVore, City Manager Burns and the entire City Council for their due diligence and support. We appreciate the exercise in responsible civic management demonstrated by our elected leadership.

Bruce Matthews
Lowell



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
Deadline is noon on Mondays



Kent District Library programs at Alto Branch, 6071 Linfield Ave SE. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

At Your Local Library

ABCs of Lowell history

Loose Parts Play
Fridays, 10 - 11 am. Give your young child’s imagination room to grow through open-ended play with a variety of manipulative materials. For ages 0-5.

Card Crafting
Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Explore the art of card-making as we delve into various themes and designs, providing inspiration for your personalized creations. Discover a multitude of artistic techniques, with a focus on collaging materials and embellishments, in a supportive, inspiring environment. *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 adults 18+

Kids Zone
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 4-5 pm. It’s a special time for fun, interactive programs just for school kids! Join our KDL Kids Zone programs for crafts, storytime, games and other activities. For ages 5-10.

Ready for Reindeer!
Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 - 11 am. Traveling all the way from the North Pole (via Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farms), live reindeer will be visiting the library. Dress warmly for this outdoor program, and don’t forget the camera! For all ages.

All Aboard! Book Club
Thursday, Dec. 21, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *Save Me the Plums* by Ruth Reichl. For adults 18+

John Ball Zoo’s Winter Animals
Saturday, Dec. 23, 10 - 11 am. John Ball Zoo will bring the zoo to KDL! Learn how animals adapt to survive the winter and interact with live zoo animals in the comfort of the library. For ages 5-10.

Kids Zone
Wednesday, December 27, 4-5 pm. It’s a special time for fun, interactive programs just for school kids! Join our KDL Kids Zone programs for crafts, storytime, games and other activities. For ages 5-10,

The ABCs of Lowell History is back for a sixth round. This popular series explores a wide variety of topics in Lowell area history in weekly online articles. Information provided by the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

A is for the Adams family

The O. O. (Omar) and Mary (Lyon) Adams family lived around the Lowell area, including Vergennes, the Village of Lowell and South Boston.

Omar Adams was born in Green, New York, in 1839, while Mary Lyon was born in Vergennes Township, in 1850. She was the daughter of Morgan and Louisa (Purple) Lyon. Morgan was a well-known Lowell business-man and namesake of the “Lyon block”.

Omar was working on a Vergennes township farm but went to Colorado to enlist in the Civil War. He was a bugler and was first appointed as principle musician of the 3rd Colorado Infantry. He was promoted



Louise Purple Lyon, Mary Lyon Adams, Cora Adams Krum

to chief musician and then appointed chief bugler of the 2nd Colorado Cavalry. In March and April of 1864, he was detached from his unit to serve in a band in Independence, Missouri. He was detached again in September and October of

1864 to play in a regimental band in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Adams had entered the military as a mason by profession, and he served Lowell in that field. He also used his musical talents throughout his life to the benefit of the Lowell community. He played at various events throughout the area. The following advertisements are examples of this.

“The Young Men’s Quadrille Club has put out invitations and will dance to the music of O.O. Adams tonight.” (1875)

“Popular old violinist, O.O. Adams, and his orchestra (two violins, clarinet, piano and bass) play for the Vergennes Dancing Club New Year’s party.” (1896)

“O.O. Adams’ full orchestra played for the

annual party of the old residents of the Grand River Valley at the music hall in Lowell.” (1896)

Adams continued using his music for his military family. He was active in the G.A.R., playing in parades and other statewide G.A.R. events. He had the honor of being made a member of the National Association of Civil War Musicians.

In a letter from Charles Quick, on May 16, 1908, to “old Lowellites”, he pleads with them to come to the homecoming. He asks, “Don’t you feel homesick every time you think of the old town?” He shares memories, including the old bands, asking, “Was ever music so sweet and compelling? When the

ABCs, continued
page 12

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
616-987-0267
www.lowellsda.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.gslic.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 Shannon Jammal-Hollemans
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Open Table (No-cost meal)
Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30 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.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship

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

DECEMBER 7

Jennifer Berry, Jeni Buck.

DECEMBER 8

Mike Cummings, Ellen Miller.

DECEMBER 9

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

DECEMBER 10

Bill Flugler, Barbara Decker.

DECEMBER 11

Dave Rhodes, Amber

DECEMBER 12

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

DECEMBER 13

Chrys Thaler, Jeff Bowne, Michelle Fyan.

DECEMBER 14

Waldron, Mike Kline, Billie Fallstrom.

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see

Pet owners should protect their pets from respiratory illnesses

As reports and concerns over an atypical canine infectious respiratory illness, affecting dogs across the nation, continue to grow, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MSU VDL) encourage dog owners to remain vigilant regarding their pet's health and to work closely with their veterinarian if they notice signs of illness. There are multiple causes of infectious respiratory diseases in dogs, many of which can be prevented or minimized through routine vaccination or timely veterinary care.

"While the exact cause of this illness remains unknown, taking some basic steps to prevent a dog's exposure to harmful germs can go a long way to protecting their overall health," said State Veterinarian, Nora Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM. "If owners notice respiratory symptoms (such as coughing, sneezing, or nasal discharge) in their dogs, it is important to reach out to their veterinarian

early on in their animal's illness so diagnostic testing can be completed and an appropriate course of treatment can begin."

In general, the illness is contagious, spreading among dogs that have contact with other dogs. The only way to distinguish between the multiple causes of infectious respiratory disease in dogs is through early diagnostic testing. Signs of the disease include coughing, sneezing, nasal and/or eye discharge, fever, loss of appetite, and lethargy. Coughing may persist for weeks to months, and severe forms of the disease can progress to life-threatening pneumonia.

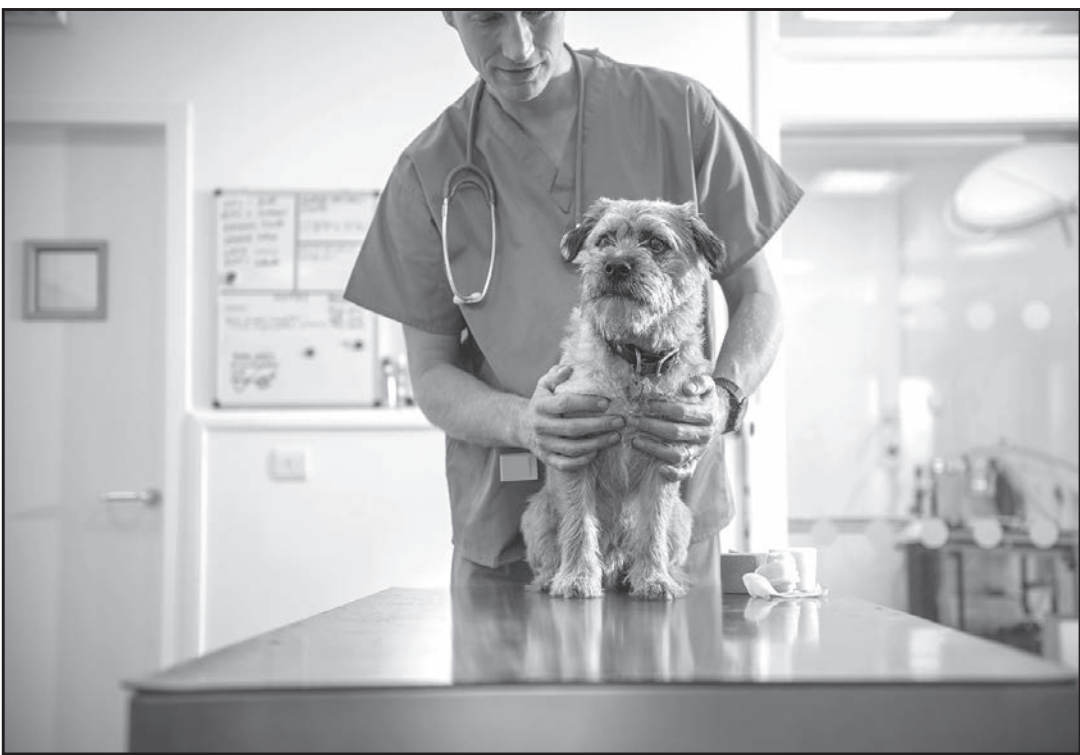
To date, suspected cases of the disease have been reported in several states. For a case to be considered suspect for this illness, diagnostic testing is required to rule-out other common causes. If veterinarians are interested in pursuing testing for an animal, they can contact the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for advice and assistance at 517-353-1683.

"Because common respiratory illnesses (i.e.,

kennel cough) in dogs is generally self-limiting, veterinarians may not routinely perform diagnostic testing. However, performing testing early on can serve multiple purposes," said MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Director, Kimberly Dodd, DVM, MS, PhD. "If a more common cause of illness is found, it may give owners peace of mind. Based on the diagnosis, clinicians can better predict the course of illness and administer antibiotics when warranted. If routine diagnostics are negative, having acute samples can help us as we try to identify the cause of this atypical respiratory illness."

To best keep Michigan's dogs safe and healthy, MDARD strongly encourages owners to:

- Work with their veterinarian to ensure their dog is up-to-date on routine vaccinations.
- Make sure their dog



is fully vaccinated before interacting with other dogs.

- Avoid food and water bowls shared by multiple unknown dogs.
- Contact their veterinarian if their dog is exhibiting any signs of illness and keep their dog at home and away from other dogs.
- Keep their dog away from dogs that are sick or whose vaccination status is unknown.

Also, MDARD is encouraging animal shelter

and kennel staff to follow their intake and vaccination protocols when bringing in new dogs, and continue to follow required isolation procedures and recommended cleaning/disinfection procedures for surfaces and equipment.

MDARD and the MSU VDL will continue to monitor the situation surrounding this disease and will provide updates as more is learned. If dogs are exhibiting signs of respiratory illness, it is best

to keep them at home and away from other dogs, and contact your veterinarian.

Also, veterinarians are advised to contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 if unusual or reportable conditions in animals are seen.

For more information regarding this atypical canine infectious respiratory illness, please contact your veterinarian or visit the American Veterinary Medical Association's website.

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

A black and white photograph of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a Santa hat and a light-colored sweater with a heart pattern. She is sitting on the floor, focused on writing a letter with a pencil on a piece of paper. The paper has "DEAR SANTA" printed on it. The background is dark with bokeh light effects.

Santa Parade pictures

All photos courtesy of Bruce Doll



More Santa Parade pictures



Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestling team kicks off season, chasing 11th straight title

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

After the comfortable intra-squad duals last Friday, in the cozy confines of Cherry Creek Elementary, it gets real fast for the Lowell wrestling team this season, as the Red Arrows head to the most difficult away-atmosphere, in the state, this week. Don't mistake that for it being too uncomfortable though.

The Red Arrows visit Detroit Catholic Central this week, for their annual assembly dual, on Wednesday. "They might've invented the assembly dual," Lowell wrestling Head Coach, R.J. Boudro, said of the Shamrocks' annual event. "Our guys are built for these moments though. They're excited," Boudro said on the *Lowell Ledger* podcast last Wednesday, in regards to the matchup between the two nationally-ranked programs.

Detroit Catholic Central recently made ESPN, for the atmosphere, for their school's e-sports team. The rowdy all-boys student section rocked the gymnasium, along with a light show and music, as the team played Rocket League, a video game featuring cars playing soccer, to put it in simple terms. It's a free-to-play game that has been very popular in the e-sports world.

The two wrestling programs aren't strangers to each other. No, they know each other quite well, in fact. Both Boudro and Detroit Catholic Central wrestling Head Coach, Mitch Hancock, are friends outside of wrestling, and

each program has competed against each other on a near yearly basis. The Shamrocks, consistently top 20 nationally, have gotten the better of Lowell in recent years.

"We went up to a camp at Silver Lake with DCC called "Iron Sharpens Iron". We set goals and learned from each other. Played a lot of dodgeball. We're excited to further each other as human beings." While Lowell bested the Shamrocks in dodgeball, DCC returned the favor in Rock, Paper, Scissors, so the schools' wrestling dual on Wednesday should settle the score for 2023.

The schedule is loaded, as usual, for Lowell, including DCC, Grappler Gold, which will take place this Saturday (Dundee, Hartland, Goodrich, Allendale, Stevensville Lakeshore, among others), Division 4 power Hudson, the Crown Point Tournament, and the Brecksville Holiday Tournament. Lowell's only had one winner in Brecksville, speaking to the talent at these tournaments. MHSAA rules, dictate state programs can only compete in neighboring states, limiting out-of-state contests to neighboring states. Those are typically Indiana and Ohio.

Jarrett Smith, Jackson Blum, Carter Cichocki, and Owen Segorski are four wrestlers who finished top three in the state last year. Smith is coming off winning a Fargo Championship, Lowell's first ever. The lineup is loaded with talent,



Trevor Boone grapples with a teammate during Lowell's Intra-Squad Scrimmage.

including ranked wrestlers at nearly every weight class.

"Ari McFarland is a guy who is going to make some noise, he put in a good summer and we're expecting big things out of him," Boudro told the podcast, made possible through the *Ledger's* partnership with WRWW.

Lowell wrestling this year is trying to start up a full-fledged girls program. They'll be led by former LHS Head Coach, Dave Dean. Returning state placer, Veronica Tapia, is expected to have a very strong season for the girls and was among those who competed in Friday's intra-squad.

"We're always trying to get better. Always trying to add on to our program, make it more diverse. Girls wrestling will make our program stronger," Boudro said of the program, still looking to add wrestlers.

Some freshmen on the team are expected to break through the lineup, though Boudro noted the difficulty of doing so. One of which is Cole Cichocki, a freshman and brother of Carter Cichocki. Another brother, Wes McFarland, brother of Ari, will also be depended on. As will Cody Foss, younger brother of former Lowell wrestler, Jeff Leach, who wrestled last year. Brothers is a

theme in the wrestling program. There's plenty of brothers or wrestlers who have had brothers graduate that wrestled for the program on this year's team. Additionally, Jack Lamoreaux, a junior, has been hard at work preparing for the season and Boudro is excited to see him in action.

Last Wednesday, the program hosted a media day where professional videographer and LHS graduate, Eric Dimmick, worked up some high-quality video of the wrestlers; a way to generate more buzz about the program. Local TV stations WZZM and Fox 17 stopped by, as well. Longtime sports faces at both stations, Jamal Spencer and Jason Hutton, will be stepping away from their roles in the coming weeks to pursue new opportunities. Both reporters responded to the club's request and had the appreciation of the wrestlers and coaches.

In the preseason, Lowell wrestling had their annual pie-making fundraiser. "We have identified four words as our core values; Family, Integrity, Service, and

Humility," Boudro added. "We want to get youth into sports and get them involved as student-athletes but also give back to our community. That's why we give back with Flat River Outreach Ministries through their food pantry. We made 1,900 pies. 400 of those were donated to families in need through FROM."

Those pies were made by hand by Lowell wrestlers and family members and has been a years-long traditional fundraiser and give-back opportunity.

Last Friday, Lowell had four intra-squads compete against each other after hitting the 11 practice mark. Matchups included everything from freshman on freshman battles to top-ten matchups in the state. A good crowd watched the competition from inside of the Cherry Creek Elementary school gym, where the team practices above, in the wrestling room. Scrimmage results cannot be published due to MHSAA guidelines and regulations. The full wrestling schedule can be found at lowellwrestlingclub.com

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Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Arrows take down Potter's House

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

It wasn't the quick start either team was hoping for on Friday night. Both Lowell and Wyoming Potter's House struggled shooting out of the gates in their season opener, each team scoring just six points in the opening quarter.

It was Lowell, though, that continued to exercise patience, find good looks, and take an eight-point lead into halftime, before cruising past the visiting Potter's House Pumas on Friday night, winning 71-42 in their season opener.

The Pumas play in the Alliance League with plenty of other smaller schools that many Red Arrow fans might not recognize; Zion Christian, Holland Calvary Baptist, Fruitport Calvary Christian, West Michigan Lutheran, the charter school Holland Black River, and Wyoming Lee. The latter school is a familiar name for most; Lowell and Lee scheduled each other for decades, and the Legends (that is their nickname) are a former OK Conference member.

Lowell has faced the Legends, formerly known as the Rebels, 179 times historically. The Pumas had never faced the Red Arrows in a game in any sport before Friday night, and came in, coming off a narrow loss to Allegan.

Jackson Reisbig, Jackson Liley, Nick Williams, Weston Godbold, and Ben Gaskin took the floor as the starting lineup. Five seniors that share the distinction of, not only being multi-sport athletes, but very good ones, at that. Gaskin, Williams, and Reisbig both were big parts of the Lowell football program this season, while

Liley is a standout soccer player, and Godbold was a star offensive player in Lowell lacrosse's semi-final run last season.

It was a slow start for both squads; two Nick Williams free throws tied the game at six as the first quarter ended, but there was no concern from the LHS bench. "We generated great shots early on, and ultimately, that's the goal. We, as coaches, actually applauded the team's efforts to keep loose and not to panic." Head Coach, Bryan Powell said.

At 11-11, Gaskin hit Williams on the inbound for a layup and a foul. Williams returned the favor after a Reisbig defensive rebound, with an assist out to Gaskin for a three-pointer on the next offensive possession. Another Puma miss led to a Williams put-back two that gave Lowell a quick 18-11 lead, one they would never relinquish.

At 30-22 after halftime, Lowell jumped out and took advantage of the transition game, as Liley found Godbold cutting to the basket for a quick two. It was that transition game that allowed Lowell to break away from the Pumas in the second half, taking advantage of the visitors' poor shooting, 26 percent from the field over the course of the game, and turning that into quick baskets on the other end. "We found a rhythm in the second half and pushed in transition. That is how we want to play," Powell noted.

It was 51-36 after three quarters. Patient-passing, and finding the best look, paid dividends as Lowell started the fourth with a three from Liley. The game ended on back-to-back Lowell baskets, a step-back two from Thomas Hayes, and a three by Ben Bannan.



Ben Gaskin brings the ball up the court in Lowell's win over Potter's House.

Junior Will Mrozinski saw significant minutes as the team's sixth man.

It was the five seniors that led the way for Lowell, offensively, though. "The seniors are a blessing, they have seen triumphs and tragedies last year and have hit-the-ground-running 100 mph from the start. They understand that they are a HUGE part in continuing to build this program and I cannot thank them enough," Powell said of his starting five.

Lowell gets a taste

of their new conference next year in their next two games, at Cedar Springs this Tuesday and at Sparta on Friday.

Looking at those two games, Powell noted the team has some work to do to improve. "Well, we obviously need to knock some shots in - we have the ability, and when we do, we are tough to stop. On ball defense is incredibly important to us as we look towards the next two opponents," Coach concluded.

Winter sports kicking off at LHS

The boys and girls bowling team got the competition going this past weekend at pre-conference, where each team finished in 7th. Rowan Williams placed top 10 for the girls.

Competitive cheer starts this upcoming week, and girls basketball is at Caledonia this Friday.

RED ARROW WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at Lowell High School
12/15 at 7 pm Comstock Park*
12/19 at 7 pm Jenison*

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at Lowell High School
12/21 at 5:30 pm East Kentwood at Cornerstone University
12/23 at 4:30 pm Wayland Union at Cornerstone University

BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a home game at Hillcrest Lanes, Belding
1/6 at 8 am Jenison Invitational at Fairlines Bowling

GIRLS VARSITY CHEER COMPETITION

* Denotes a game at LHS
1/11 at 6 pm OK White competition at Byron Center

VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a home game at LHS
12/16 at 9 am White Team Kent County Classic at East Kentwood
12/16 at 9 am Red Team Crown Point Tournament
12/22 at 1 pm Red Team Assembly Lakeshore High School*

GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a home game at LHS
12/20 at 6:30 pm at Kenowa Hills
1/6 at 10 am at Rockford Invitational

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena
12/15 at 8:30 pm at Rochester Adams
12/16 at 3:30 pm Kenowa Hills*
12/20 at 5 pm at Forest Hills Central

BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE

12/16 at 12 pm at Jenison
12/19 at 6 pm at Forest Hills Northern

BOYS-GIRLS VARSITY SKIING

* Denotes a home meet at Cannonsburg
1/9 at 7 pm Conference Meet*
1/16 at 10 am Conference Meet

COPY SERVICE

High speed
black & white & color

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell
897-9261

SHAMROCK PHOTOGRAPHY

By Justin Scott

Find LHS Athletics Photos at
shamrocksports photography.
smugmug.com

obituaries

MALONEY

On November 23, 2023, Rosella (Rosie) M. Maloney passed away at the age of 104. Rosella was preceded in death by her husband, Roman E. Maloney with whom she built a life filled with love and companionship in Lowell, MI; along with her mother and father, Lena and Joseph Bollock; step-father, Claude Booth; six sisters, Marie Stauffer, Catherine Geiger, Irene Vaughan, Lucille Roth, Virginia Baxter, and Joyce Crout; and two brothers, William and Walter Bollock. Rosie is survived and loved by all her very special nieces, nephews, and close friends. She enjoyed watching the birds, was a great cook and baker. Rosie loved the Tigers and knew her politics. She had a great smile with a twinkle in her eye. A very heartfelt thank you goes out to the special staff at Green Acres of Lowell and the special staff at Interim Hospice Health Care, as well as to Roth-Gerst Funeral Home in Lowell for their wonderful service.



gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

OLSON

Kenneth “Ken” Olson passed away on November 24, 2023, in his home. He was 90 years old and was loved endlessly by his family and friends. He worked for CSX railroad for 44 years before retiring in 1995. He then worked part time for Fallsburg Park for the next 13 years. Ken was an avid hunter who also enjoyed watching movies. Anyone who knew him knew there was nothing he enjoyed doing more than exploring new casinos. His family and friends will miss his sense of humor, his quick smile, and gentle spirit. He is survived by his loving wife Sherry, his children Ken (Janet) Olson, Brent and Diane Dingman, and his chosen daughter, Julie (Pete) Heimer. He was a grandfather to Carl and Elisabeth Olson, Dane and Zeke Dingman, and Seth, Troy, and Beau Heimer. He had a large extended family filled with many nieces and nephews and in-laws, whom he cared for very much. His family is planning a celebration of life at a later date.



gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-214256-DE
Court address:
180 Ottawa Ave, NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503.
Court phone no.
616-632-5555

Estate of Dan Smith,
deceased, date of birth:
6/30/1948

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Dan Smith,
died 10/02/2023. Creditors

of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Al Smith, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Craig A. Bruggink (P29358)
429 Turner Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

Al Smith
714 Byers St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-361-1947

ABCs, continued

Brass band was organized with Geo. Balcom, John Maynard, Earl Avery, Omar Adams, Milo Hiler, ‘Let’ Hildreth, Arthur Sherman, Mac. Shaw, ‘Bill’ Edie, ‘Gene’ Mathewson, ‘Oc.’ Robinson and ‘Bill’ Pullen, the music was simply entrancing, no such bands as that now.”

In addition to his profession and musical interests, Adams farmed and enjoyed introducing progress to the area. In 1889, he made a silo, the first in the area, and the next year, he built a double-deck wagon to take his fresh vegetables to town daily.

Mary was very active in the Women’s Christian Temperance Union and was a county delegate for

the group. She was involved with the Vergennes Ladies Aid, continuing on with the group even when she moved to Lowell.

Omar and Mary had one daughter, Cora. Cora married John Krum in 1894. John was the son of Vergennes pioneers Adelbert and Addie (O’Harrow) Krum.

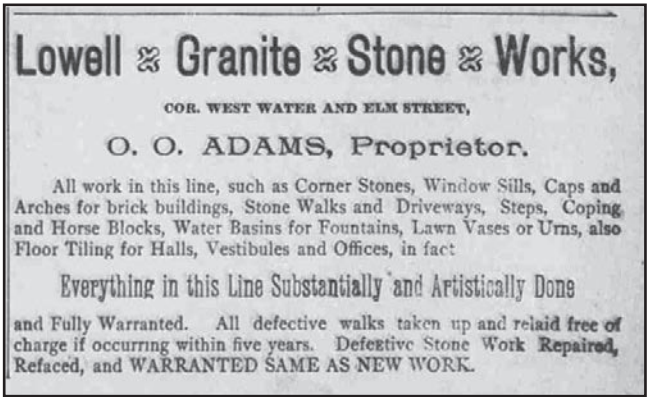
The Lowell community lost the Adams family in a short time period.

Omar died on July 21, 1909, suddenly of heart failure. He was just one week short of 70 years old. The G.A.R. post conducted the service for his funeral. He was buried at Fox’s Corner Cemetery.

Cora died the next year at the Reeds Lake Sanatorium from an abscess

on the brain. At the time, the sanatorium was the largest private institution in Western Michigan, specializing in the care of convalescents and sufferers from nervous disorders. She too was buried at Fox’s Corner Cemetery. Her husband John went on to remarry and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

In 1924, Mary fell in a railroad station in Chicago and later died at St. Luke’s hospital in Chicago. She joined her husband and daughter at Fox’s Corner Cemetery.



Omar Adams advertisement, 1895

Funny Book Forum, continued

story-telling mechanisms. In *What’s the Furthest Place From Here?*, he introduces readers to a number of children in a post-apocalyptic world full of 1990s (think Empire Records) cliques engaging in ultraviolence reminiscent of *A Clockwork Orange* but illustrated like an Archie comic. In *WildC.A.T.S.* and *The Gotham War: Red Hood*, he shows a lot of love for psychotic antiheroes Gritter and Red Hood, respectively. Probably, his greatest accomplishment, however, is the ease with which he writes stories with Batman’s chaotic archnemesis Joker as the protagonist, a task that has rarely, if ever, been done well in nearly 85 years of the character’s history.

In its twelfth and final issue, *The Joker: The Man Who Stopped Laughing* has addressed everything but the punchline. The two Jokers have found each other, and all kinds of heroes and villains, from Gotham and beyond, have been swept up in their wake. We know which one is the real Joker and which one is the imposter, but we do not know which one will win. Not yet. Jokes, as Rosenberg has been so astute to point out, revolve around the subversion of the listener’s expectations, and yet, as so many of us witnessed in the twist-within-a-twist era of films in the 1990s, this formula can easily be manipulated and cheapened. In an era of spoiler-gates, it is not the unpredictability of the punchline that matters, but the quality of the delivery. In other words, seasoned *Batman* readers can probably guess where this story is going, but the Rosenberg twist is that readers will be satisfied nonetheless. This is because Rosenberg practices the

only true spoiler-buster in the industry: dedication to the characters, the story, and the craft.

Other Noteworthy November 2023 Comics

Boom! Studios: *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers #114* (11/22/23); DC Comics: *Action Comics #1059* (11/29/23), *Batman #139* (11/8/23), *Batman/Catwoman: The Gotham War – Scorched Earth #1* (11/1/23), *Batman/Superman: World’s Finest #21* (11/22/23), *Danger Street #11* (11/15/23), *Green Lantern #5* (11/15/23), *Nightwing #108* (11/22/23), *Penguin #4* (11/29/23), *Shazam! #5* (11/8/23), *Titans #5* (11/22/23), *WildC.A.T.S. #12* (11/15/23), *Wonder Woman #3* (11/22/23), *World’s*

Finest: Teen Titans #5 (11/15/23); Image Comics: *The Dead Lucky #10* (11/8/23), Geiger: *Ground Zero #1* (11/15/23), *No/One #6* (11/1/23), *Transformers #2* (11/8/23), *Void Rivals #6* (11/22/23); Marvel Comics: *Children of the Vault #4* (11/15/23), *G.O.D.S. #2* (11/8/23), *Immortal Thor #4* (11/15/23), *Immortal X-Men #17* (11/22/23), *Jean Grey #4* (11/15/23), *Scarlet Witch #10* (11/1/23), *Sensational She-Hulk #2* (11/22/23), *Ultimate Universe #1* (11/1/23), *Uncanny Avengers #4* (11/15/23), *X-Men #28* (11/1/23), *X-Men: Red #17* (11/8/23), *X-Men Unlimited Infinity Comic #113* (11/13/23), *X-Men Unlimited Infinity Comic #114* (11/20/23).

college news

Madison DeHaan, of Alto, has been accepted for enrollment for the 2023 summer trimester in the Doctor of Chiropractic degree program at Palmer College of Chiropractic’s Main Campus, in Davenport, Iowa.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, California; and Port Orange, Florida.

Just over 1,300 students received doctoral, bachelor’s, master’s and professional degrees in August 2023 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mark Boeve, of Ada, graduated from the College of Agricultural & Life Science with a Bachelor of Science, Environmental Sciences.

While there is no commencement ceremony in August, many of the graduates take part in the ceremonies the previous spring or in December.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of
Debra Shaw,
Guardianship File No.
23-214,335-GA.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her son: Edward Shaw and any unknown children, siblings, and other heirs whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on December 27, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180

Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 Courtroom 9D and via Zoom before Judge Avery D. Rose (P77757) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: November 28, 2023

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner, 121 Martin Luther King Jr St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 401-7113.

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

office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Closed Fri., Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. Usually \$6 - \$9 each. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

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

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

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. 2 loctions in Lowell. Rent online at www.mypricelessstorage.com or call 616-558-2900.^{TFN}

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. Jan., Feb, March & April Veterans Potluck at 2 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.^{TFN EOW}

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

help wanted

TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR DRIVING & WALKING ROUTE CARRIERS - to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Must be at least 16 for this position. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. No phone calls accepted regarding this position.

help wanted

INSERTING CREW MEMBER NEEDED - Part-time Wednesday or Thursday and Friday. Hours are very flexible, but Friday from 7:30 am until about noon is required. Duties include: stuffing inserts into the Buyers Guide. You will be standing for long periods of time & lifting 25 lbs. frequently. Must be at least 18 years old. Stop by the Buyers Guide office to fill out an application. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Position available immediately.

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services

ZOOLAND DAYCARE - has openings for childcare. Call or text for info. 616-308-0195.

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide now offers this service! Price is \$1 for the first sheet & 50¢ for each additional sheet. Stop by 105 N. Broadway, Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 4 p.m. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions

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

WHEN IN AN ACCIDENT - YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO TOWS YOUR VEHICLE - Request J&K Roadwise Service, 616-690-0983. Towing, tire change, jump starts, fuel delivery.

coming events

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

AUXILIARY BINGO - Every Tuesday, 1-5 pm. Doors open at noon. Public welcome! Must be 18 or older. Food & beverages available. Hard cards & chips format. 25¢ per card per game. No up front buy in required. Alto American Legion Post 528. License A22680.

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$37 per year and \$5 per month...start losing weight TODAY

AL-NON IN PERSON MEETINGS - are held at the FROM Building, 11535 Fulton E. on Fridays at 10 am in the Lowell Serenity Club Room and Tuesdays at 7 pm in Room 21. Enter through the southeast parking lot door. Al-Anon principles can help those affected by someone's problem drinking. There are no dues or fees. For more info call 616-987-6587.

ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We are meeting at various places for lunch or dinner most Mondays. All are welcome. Questions on location, call Elaine 616-856-8022 for more information.

PROUD
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LOCAL

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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The Restless Viking

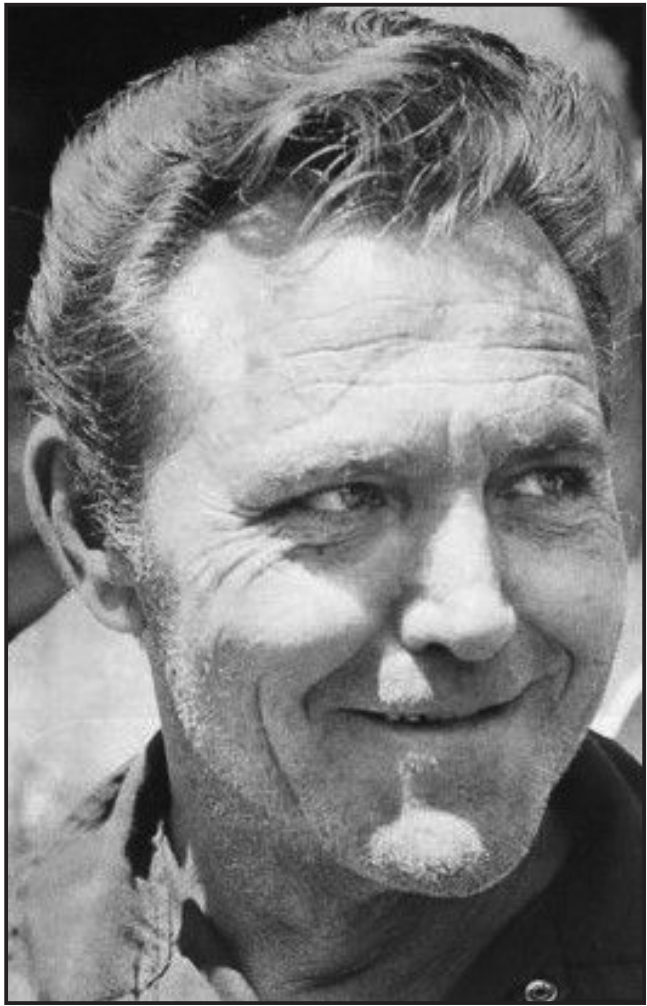
The World Less Traveled
With Chuck & Martha Hayden
www.restless-viking.com

~ Prison break by helicopter

by Martha Hayden

Dale Otto Remling, a charismatic criminal, had spent two years constructing his scheme for a third escape from prison. This elaborate plan involved a helicopter and three “get-a-way/decoy” cars. Join Chuck and I as we investigate Michigan’s malicious marauder and head to Jackson State Prison for this curious caper.

of Remling’s, had hired Richard Jackson, a helicopter pilot, to charter a flight from Plymouth to Lansing. After climbing into the air, Morris pulled out a knife and instructed Richard to fly to the Jackson Prison yard and land where the bright red bandana laid on the ground.



Dale Otto Remling
Photo Credit: MLive

The Helicopter Escape

At 10:15 am on June 6, 1975 a white helicopter soared over the walls of Jackson Prison. It landed near the stamping plant. A red bandana left on the ground had designated the landing spot. Stunned guards simply watched as a single prisoner ran to the chopper, climbed inside and flew into the air, heading northwest.

Morris Colosky, a friend

Within moments of touching down, inmate Dale Remling had darted out from between two buildings, where he’d been waiting. The trio rose over the largest walled prison in the world with 52 acres encapsulated by brick boarders and barbed wire.

Ken Wyatt, from a local newspaper, recounted the escape. “At the *Citizen Patriot*, something about a



helicopter landing in the prison yard crackled over the police radio. From then on, it was a three-way race between the escapers, police authorities and reporters.”

The Landing Site

A little red school house at M-106 and Meridian Road, six miles northwest, marked the rendezvous site where three cars were supposed to be waiting. Two would act as decoys while Dale’s girlfriend would drive the convict away.

Remling had sprayed the helicopter pilot, Richard Jackson, with mace to prevent being followed. The escapee and his accomplice hijacker, Morris Colosy, scrambled to the awaiting vehicles. The two decoy cars sped away, leaving Dale apparently waiting for his partner.

The helicopter pilot had somehow managed to pursue one of the vehicles and notified the police. Those accomplices had been quickly apprehended. The authorities suspected that Remling became nervous and had decided to go on-foot, rather than by car.

A Night Alone

Dale took cover in the swampy woods and swatted mosquitos all night. He managed to get cleaned up and dressed in civilian clothes the following day. Dale Remling made his way north to the town of Leslie.

Dale Remling’s Biography Of Deception

Who was Dale Remling? Dale Otto Remling had, ironically, been born on Independence Day in 1928, in Hooker, Oklahoma. As the youngest of seven children, he dazzled his family and

friends with charisma and confidence. He was athletic and musically talented. Dale had a lot of friends and could influence people with his natural leadership skills.

What brings a person to a life of deception and crime? From the outside, it’s difficult to understand a person’s motivation and thought processes.

In the mid-1950’s, Dale had stolen the identity of a U.S. Forest Service land

Back in Michigan, Remling, known as Jimmy Mangan, began buying merchandise with bad checks again, then selling the items for cash. He was arrested in Ionia County in 1973, where his true identity had been discovered. Dale Remling had been sentenced to seven years of hard labor in Jackson Prison for stealing the hogs, along with additional time for the fraud charges. Thus began Dale’s

piracy,’ Remling had earned another decade onto his incarceration.

Dale Remling’s charismatic clamoring continued during his extended sentence at the Marion, Illinois Penitentiary. He had become the editor for the prison newsletter. Dale had pitched on their softball team. He even joined the prison’s country band, “The Tear Drops.”

Dale consistently



Huffie’s Bar is now “Crossroads.” The eatery had been packed on the Saturday in November when we’d stopped in for a drink. It had been eerily electrifying to sit at the bar where Dale Remling had once been captured.

appraiser, James J. “Jimmy” Mangan. Using this name, Dale would purchase merchandise with fraudulent checks, then sell the items for cash. Dale was arrested in 1955. He’d escaped from Soledad Prison, south of San Francisco, California. Three days later, he was recaptured and served his newly extended, full sentence.

In the early 1970’s Dale had been convicted of stealing an airplane and sent back to Soledad Prison for his incarceration. Again, he escaped, but this time he relocated to the tiny village of Sidney in Montcalm County, Michigan.

In Michigan, Dale Remling absorbed the identity of Jimmy Mangan. Dale played the role well, as Jimmy was a well-liked, trusted citizen. Dale, or “Jimmy”, had even married the daughter of a wealthy gentleman who’d stated, “He was a very nice fellow, and everyone liked him; even the littlest child loved him.” Although “Jimmy” (Dale) had taken advantage of his own father-in-law.

With creditors constantly calling, Dale (Jimmy) had hatched a plan for quick cash with a friend from nearby Greenville. The pair traveled to Hooper, Nebraska and held up a hog farm at gunpoint. The duo drove off with nearly four hundred pigs, worth \$70,000, and left eleven people locked in a truck. Dale had hoped to sell the herd in Iowa. However, without the proper paperwork, the pigs couldn’t be sold for what they were worth.

planning for the helicopter escape.

Huffie’s Bar

Back to the breakout. Dale Otto Remling had just spent a long night in the mosquito infested woods. After shaving and dressing in new clothes, he made his way to Huffie’s Bar in Leslie, Michigan.

The quiet, polite and unassuming gentleman sat himself at the bar and ordered. Most customers never suspected that he’d been the escaped convict they’d heard about and were soon shocked by his capture.

Accounts vary as to who had notified the authorities, but when State Trooper, William Flowers, burst into the establishment, Dale Remling surrendered with a smile. As the two men waited outside for backup, Trooper Flowers and Dale Remling had chatted pleasantly about horses.

“Thirty hours and eight minutes later, his escape ended in a Leslie bar.” newspaper man, Ken Wyatt, shook his head. “Thirteen miles from his cell.”

“I think cages are for something other than people. You talk about problems with people, the prison system breeds it into you,” Remling had said following his arrest.

New Sentence for Remling

Unfortunately for Remling, his thirty hours of freedom resulted in an extra ten years added to his 7-10 year sentence for writing fraudulent checks and stealing hogs. With the confirmed charge of ‘air

corresponded with his imprisoned accomplices, his lawyer, James D. Adams, as well as, reporters. Many letters condemned the prison system and pushed for reform.

Accomplices

Morris Colosky, the helicopter hijacker, along with the get-a-way drivers were all sentenced to time behind bars.

Dale Otto Remling Released

Dale Otto Remling was released on September 13, 1993. He had moved to Bakersfield, California, north of Los Angels, where he lived until his passing, at 71 years old, in July 1999. His family laid his ashes to rest under a rock, painted marked with his initials, in the mountains where he could be free.

Eerily Electrifying

I found myself enamored with Dale Remling. It was as if I was under his charismatic spell. Not that I condone crime, but he definitely thought outside societal norms. I wish we could have interviewed him.

As we sat at The Crossroads Bar, I pondered questions I would have asked Dale Otto Remling, the charismatic criminal. Thank you for coming along with us! Stay tuned for our video about Remling’s helicopter escape on YouTube!

Resources:
WFMK 99.1 article
MLive 2011 article
Find A Grave website
Experience Jackson article

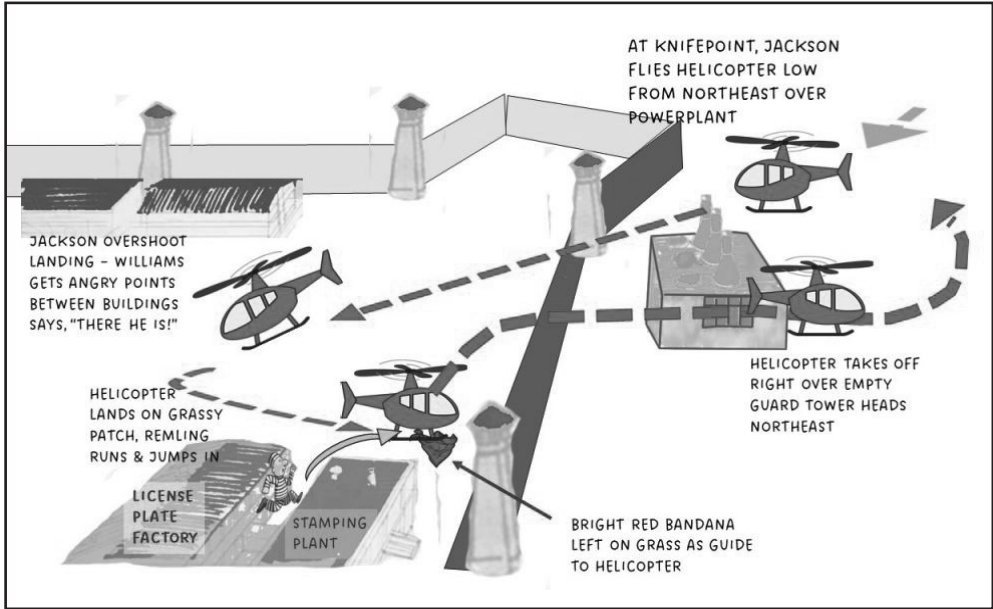


Diagram Credit: Chuck Hayden – inspired by the police report.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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1		6	5			9		

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on December 7, 1966. I was a rodeo champion before becoming an actor, following in the footsteps of my dad. I am best known for work in popular movies like “Red Dawn” and “The Outsiders.”

Answer: C. Thomas Howell

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HOLIDAY BAKING WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

HOLIDAY BAKING WORD SEARCH

BAKED
CHOCOLATE
COOKIES
CREAM

CRUMBS
DESSERT
EGGS
FOLD
FRUITCAKE
GINGERBREAD
INGREDIENTS

KNEAD
PASTRY
PLATTER
PUDDING
PUMPKIN PIE
RECIPE
ROLLING PIN

SPRINKLES
STRUDEL
TEMPERATURE
TORTE
TREATS
VANILLA

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to holiday baking.

G E R N G I

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

Answer: Ginger

CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders

7. Salt

13. Fortified wine

14. Edible mollusk

16. It begins with them

17. A way to compare

19. Governmentt lawyer

20. Back parts

22. 8th month (abbr.)

23. Very willing

25. ___ ex machina

26. Satisfies

28. Quebec river

29. A doctrine

30. Popular pickup truck

31. Dekagram

33. Naturally occurring solid material

34. Company officer

36. Villains

38. Cricket frogs

40. German founder of psychology

41. Endured

43. A female domestic

44. A “place” to avoid

45. Cigarette (slang)

47. Canadian politician Josephine

48. French ballet/acting dynasty

51. Employee stock ownership plan

53. Belonging to the bottom

55. Sound

56. Yankees’ slugger Judge

58. Dickens character

59. More wise

60. Flash memory card

61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule

64. Atomic #79

65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio

67. Humor

69. Shawl

70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Commercial

3. Craft supply

4. Storage units

5. Investment vehicle

6. Colorado Heisman winner

7. In a way, sank (abbr.)

9. Lay about

10. Intestinal

11. The opposite of yes

12. Caused to be loved

13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology

15. Showing since conviction

18. Not safe

21. The number above the line in a fraction

24. Yard invader

26. Pouch

27. Swedish krona

30. Start anew

32. While white or yellow flower

35. Fourteen

37. Graphical user interface

38. Up-to-date on the news

39. Campaigns

42. Touch softly

43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen

46. Violent seizure of property

47. One who supports the Pope

49. Anxiety

50. Body fluid

52. Phony person

54. Title of respect

55. Chilean city

57. City in central Japan

59. Silk garment

62. Draw from

63. Automobile

66. Man

68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

Celebrating

40

YEARS!



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