



page 6

Movie Review



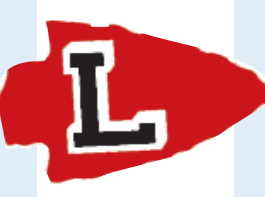
page 7

Restless Viking



page 14

Lowell Area Schools Sports



page 10, 11 & 16

\$1.00



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 5 3 8 3 2

LAS Board of Education hears high school “Flex Time” Report, superintendent evaluation

By Michelle Smith
contributing writer

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education met for its regular meeting, Dec. 11, at the Administrative Offices building. The meeting began, per usual, with Antonio Casarez’s Student Council report. Winter sports have begun their game schedules, and the theater department recently finished a production of *Dear Mrs. Claus*. Casarez reported that the senior class “Senior Assassin” traditional game has begun. This game consists of seniors targeting each other with nerf guns and filming it. Also, the National Honors Society will be decorating cookies and making gingerbread houses for the residents in Maple Ridge Manor residence facility. Lowell High School Principal, Steve Gough, reported on how the school’s second year of utilizing the “flex time” program is working so far for this year. The program provides students extra academic support without them being pulled out of their classes, missing out on after-school programs or requiring spe-



LAS High School Principal Steve Gough presents information on the high school “flex time” program at the Board of Education meeting.

cial accommodations for transportation. A 30-minute portion of the day, two days per week, immediately following lunch, is set aside for all students to receive help in whatever subject they require. Students may also use their flex time for homework or silent reading. The pilot program for this arrangement was run last year. Many different schedules were tried out in order to come up with one that would best suit the needs of this program. Gough said teachers have evaluated, what help students most need, through reviewing state standards and their own students’ data, and came to an agreement for the goals of the flex-time program. Jennifer Manion, freshman center coordinator, manages the Freshman Advantage Program, which helps with the transition from middle to high school. Manion works with the freshman class to help guide any students who may need extra academic help to find the proper flex-time program for them. Manion said students are beginning to take ownership of how they use their flex time, and are telling

School board, continued page 2

Lowell fire chief resigns



Shannon Witherell resigned as chief, without explanation, on Thursday evening. We were shocked by the charges brought against him on Friday and will cooperate fully with legal authorities. To the best of our knowledge, these alleged incidents did not take place at the fire station or when he was on duty. Our hearts are with all those who have been hurt by this. The authority has named Corwin Velzen interim chief, and he will lead day-to-day operations of the department. We remain focused on protecting and serving our entire community with a commitment to performance excellence. Spokesperson for the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority

Corwin Velzen, has been named Lowell Fire Department's Interim Chief. Photo courtesy of Lowell Area Fire Department's website.



School Board, continued

her the program is beneficial. “We’ve seen great gains in grades, and then the help and building the relationships with those students,” Manion said.

Dayna Crumback, LAS interventionist, said she also focuses on getting students to go where they need the most help. She said the students who do not require extra help, “school culture and enrichment” options are being offered.

Crumback said help can be provided for stu-

dents who struggle with staying organized and goal-setting. Also, Sylvan Learning Center tutors are available to help freshman students catch up on class content on core subject content.

Gough said tracking of grades, since the beginning of the program, has shown positive results. Failure rate, in the first trimester this school year, was 2.63 percent, which is the lowest he said he has seen, since he has been tracking that number for the past 16 years

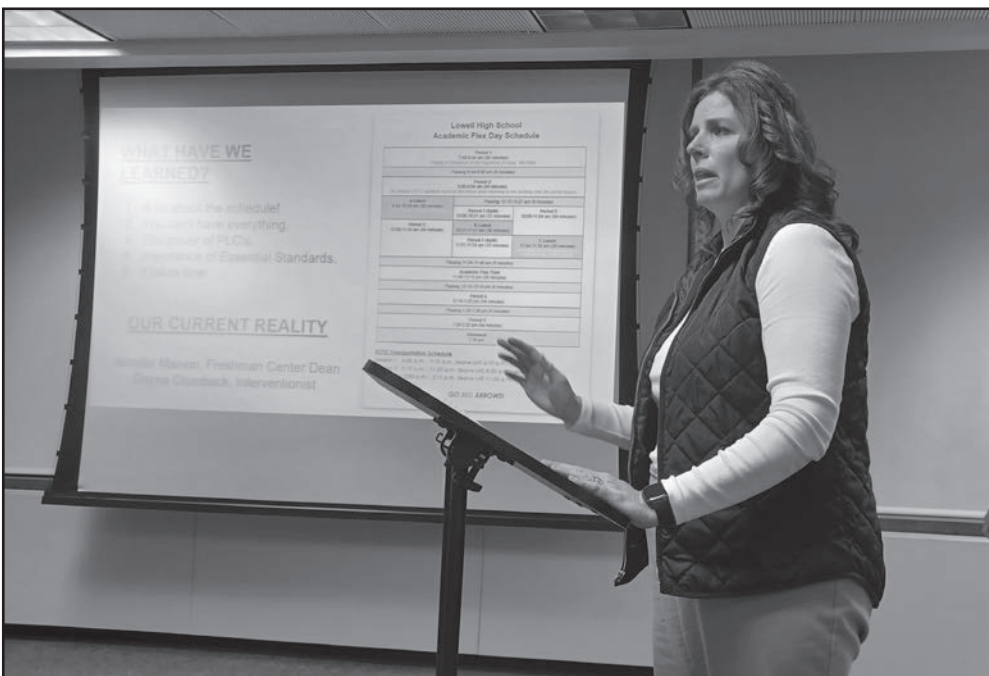
as an administrator. “Do I know that’s entirely attributable to the flex time? I don’t know that. We’re going to continue to track that number. But something has occurred to reduce the failure rate in the high school.”

“Our primary purpose is to ensure that students are earning credits and moving toward graduation, so that’s a positive indicator.”

Gough said all student athletes met the eligibility requirements, so far this school year. “I don’t know that’s ever happened at any school I’ve ever been at from one season to the next. I think that is specifically related to the flex time.” He said athletes know when they are struggling in the classroom, they are motivated to keep their position on the team and seek out the academic help they need.

Gough said there are plans to further student enrichment. An American Sign Language class is being offered, and higher-level math students can work as tutors for struggling students. He said other things are being considered, such as a career speaker series, and that there may be opportunities to combine efforts with other nearby schools for enrichment opportunities.

Board Secretary, Pat Nugent, presented the yearly superintendent evaluation on behalf of the entire Board. LAS Superintendent Nate Fowler’s job performance was rated in several categories on a scale of 0-4, a “4” meaning “highly effective.” All of Superintendent Fowler’s scores were between a “3” and a “4.” The specific categories are Governance and Board Relations, Community Relations, Staff Relations, Business and Finance, and Instructional Leadership. Fowler’s overall perfor-



LAS interventionist Dayna Crumback presents information on the high school “flex time” program at the Board of Education meeting.



LAS Board of Education Secretary Pat Nugent presents the superintendent evaluation.

mance rating was 92 percent, which is up from last year’s score of 86 percent.

The Board issued this summary: “The Board finds Mr. Fowler to be a highly effective Superintendent. He has been in his current role as Superintendent for two years, and we have witnessed steady growth in many areas. It is a challenging time to be a school leader, but Mr. Fowler and the District are meeting the challenge. Over the past year, the District has completed a massive bond construction package, and has laid the groundwork for further capital improvements. Substantial developments have taken place in math and reading instruction. The Board looks forward to continuing to work with Mr. Fowler to provide excellent academic opportunities and a safe and positive learning environment for all of the children of Lowell Area Schools.”

Human Resource Director, Dustin Cichocki, reported all teaching and staff positions are currently filled with the exception of needing more substitute teachers. He reported the Director of Security is making sure the buildings are conserving energy over breaks by making sure any unnecessary equipment or electricity is being used.

Also, due to a new State law, all new teachers are required to have CPR training. Cichocki said he is making sure this requirement is being fulfilled.

Chief Financial Officer, Sonia Hodge, reported on the 30 grants LAS will be receiving this year. They include grants for health (including mental health), security, learning loss, special education, ES-SER (which is expiring this year), and others, totaling \$6,501,148, which is 13 percent of the LAS budget.

Hodge said of those grants, 10 of them totaling \$2,750,744 are one-time grants that will expire in September 2024. “Those are dollars that we are keeping a close eye on to make sure that we are evaluating programs so that we know which programs we’re going to maintain, which programs we may not maintain once these dollars expire,” Hodge said.

Hodge reported that the final student count is currently 3,449. LAS had budgeted 3,475 students. This translates to an approximate \$250,000 shortfall. The State has approved a “different funding calculation model” called the Enrollment Stabilization Fund, which will provide LAS with \$248,000. Hodge said she is predicting another drop in enrollment next year of 43 students, and she expects a \$200 increase in per pupil funding for next year.

Director of Curriculum, Dan VanderMeulen, reported students in grades 3-12 were asked to participate in a survey, asking them if they feel like they belong at their school. He said 65 percent of the students who took the survey said they agree with that statement.

During the public comments section of the meeting, Stephanie Boone said Superintendent Fowler provides excellent communication with her when she contacts him, yet when she attempts to contact the Board members, they do not reciprocate. Boone also said she would like the information that is handed out to the Board members in the meetings to also be provided to the community members attending the meeting.

In the Board comments section of the meeting, Board member Nugent

School board, continued page 8

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following request:

1. Ordinance No. 01-2024Z

AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO AMEND AND RENAME CHAPTER 4 ENTITLED “GENERAL PROVISIONS,” SECTION 4.21 ENTITLED “KEEPING OF ANIMALS,” TO THE LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE.

This action will amend Section 4.21 to rename this Section from “KEEPING OF ANIMALS” to “KEEPING OF ANIMALS; LICENSING and will amend this Ordinance and remove certain regulatory police power ordinance provisions transferring these police power provisions to the Kent County Sheriff Department to be regulated and administered under the Kent County Animal Control Ordinance.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI. 49331

Information on the proposed draft ordinance amendment is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331, during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 616-897-7600.

Greg Forde, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$33 a year for zipcodes beginning with 493 or 495; \$44 a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Monday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm
Jon Jacobs Publisher/Editor
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting/Sales
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.thelowellledger.com

When it comes to Life, the EXPERIENCE MATTERS.



Call **Mark Johnson** today!
(616) 940-8181
MarkJohnsonAgency.com
6151 28th St. SE, Ste. 10,
Grand Rapids



FARM BUREAU INSURANCE



A Company

Tony Helms explains EVs

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Lowell resident, Tony Helms, is a gearhead and electric vehicle (EV) advocate. In college, Helms struggled with whether or not he should become an auto mechanic, but fate ultimately made that decision for him. While at Grand Valley State University, Helms decided to build an electric motorcycle. This was 2008, and nobody was doing anything like this, and the first electric motorcycle race, the e-GrandPrix, was happening at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio in 2009. When his college professor showed no interest in making an event out of it, Helms went it alone, and there just happened to be a Tesla recruiter at the race.

Helms quit college in 2010 and moved to California to work for Tesla. During that time, he lived in San Jose and worked out of Tesla's Sunnyvale Service Center, helping occasionally at the Palo Alto office, as well. Helms was the 309th employee in a company that now employs 60-70,000, and he even met the CEO himself, Elon Musk, at a breakfast one morning, at the Marriott Hotel before going to the factory. When Musk sent a Tesla Roadster into space as the dummy payload for the February 2018 Falcon Heavy test flight, he put a vehicle into orbit around the sun that Helms

himself had worked on. "I worked on that car, and now it's in space," Helms said. "How many mechanics can say that? That's just wild, right?"

After ten years working with Tesla, Helms transitioned to EV manufacturer, Lucid Motors, in 2020, and he's worked there ever since.

In the early days, as Helms would attest, the public believed that EVs were a cool technology that would ultimately never work, maybe for rich people, but certainly not for middle-class drivers. Helms found that this was just one of many EV myths that he would encounter. As with most things, these myths began with a grain of truth, and many of them were true for a little while, but for anything mechanical, Helms swears by the motto, "For every problem, there is a solution."

For example, many people, early on, objected to EVs for pushing off their carbon footprint from the tailpipe to the grid. In other words, owners were not pumping dirty fossil fuels into their vehicles and watching the pollution shoot out the back, but they were drawing electricity from a power grid that was exceedingly dirty. Up until about 2019, this was true — the Union of Concerned Scientists' Driving Cleaner website reported that it

was, in fact, dirtier to drive an EV than to drive a gas-electric hybrid, like a Toyota Prius. In the past four years, the U.S. has cleaned up its electrical grid, and it is significantly cleaner to drive an EV than a diesel, gasoline, or hybrid vehicle. In some states, like Virginia and Hawaii, which were largely powered by coal and diesel, respectively, this was a much bigger transition than, for say, Washington, which was powered almost exclusively by hydropower. However, even when electric grids were quite a bit dirtier, the comparisons failed to consider the efficiency of EVs. "I'm more of a science-based person," Helms said.

A pure internal combustion car, Helms noted, is about 25 percent thermodynamically efficient, which means that about a quarter of the fuel is used for power, and the rest is expelled as waste. Even the least-efficient hybrid doubles that number to 50 percent, for a significantly more-efficient engine, but EVs blow them all out of the water, approaching nearly 100% efficiency. The grain of truth was the fact that the U.S., for years, had a dirty electric grid; the full truth was that EV efficiency still made them better vehicles to drive, and the solution-oriented answer was to drive the U.S. electric grid to add more renewable energy

sources to its portfolio. This is how Helms thinks about these things.

Many Michigan drivers eschew EVs, due to claims that they are bad in the cold, but science does not support that fact. EVs merely lose range in the cold. Helms owns a diesel van, a Tesla, and a Nissan Leaf. One winter morning, his diesel van would not start, so he had to pick up a diesel fuel supplement to help with winter performance, which he picked up using his Nissan Leaf. "The diesel engine is the oldest engine ever created," Helms said. "The oldest technology failed me, and the newest technology helped me out."

While environmental-minded drivers make up a large portion of EV buyers, there are a number of other motivations that contribute. For example, it is possible to find a Nissan Leaf at a car lot for \$13,000 that only costs its owner \$9,000 after government tax credits are applied, so it becomes cheaper to purchase an EV in this instance than comparable hybrid or traditional vehicles. This is before taking into account fuel savings during the lifetime of the vehicle. Additionally, some people pick up Teslas for speed, performance, convenience, and cool technology. "I



Tony Helms posing with the electric motorcycle he designed for the 2009 e-GrandPrix, at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio; the race that earned him a job at Tesla.

think those are the people we're going to win over," Helms said. "Just get in the seat and drive it."

In Helms' experience, it is not uncommon to see an expensive supercharged Ford Raptor next to a Lucid

Air EV, another toy in the toy box. Teslas have a feature called Sentry-mode, where cameras turn on as soon as the vehicle detects

Tony Helms,
continued page 12





WE KEEP THE TOOTH FAIRY OUT OF BUSINESS!



Family Dentistry of Lowell

147 North Center Street, Lowell

616-897-4835

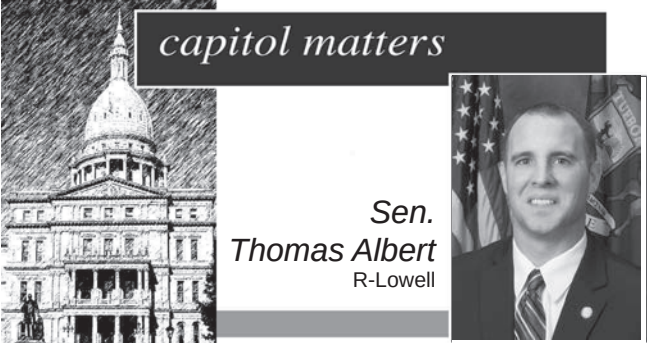
Thank You

The Alto Lions Club would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations to the 2023 Children's Christmas Party.



Alto Automotive	American Legion
Alto DDA	American Legion Auxiliary
Alto Friends of the Library	Mary Benedict, Attorney
Alto L.P. Gas	Blough Lumber Sales, Inc.
Alto Marathon	Boulder Ridge
Alto Meat Processing	Wild Animal Park
	Carl Fuss
	Crestwood
	Dougherty Farm
	Fischer-Idema
	Excavating
	Graham Trucking
	Heidi's Farm Stand
	Ice Cream Caboose
	Mark Johnson/ Farm Bureau Ins.
	Kentwood Sales Corp.
	Kindred Roots Cafe
	Alto Area Lions Club
	Skyline Electric
	Sons of American Legion
	Stedfast Construction
	Swiss Lane Farms
	Pat Thomet (in memory of Stewart Thomet)
	Vander Ziel Machines
	Weeland Farms
	Zook Farm Equipment





After a troubling 2023, we must work together in the coming year

As we look ahead to a new year at Michigan’s State Capitol, it’s timely to reflect on the past 12 months and determine if there is a better way forward in 2024.

In the past year, Democrats have begun reverting to the failed policies that led to the devastated economy and unsustainable state budgets of the early 2000s. But a new year brings a fresh opportunity to change course and work together with Republicans to build a better future for our state.

We could start by enacting broad and permanent tax relief. Michigan has a lower income tax rate of 4.05 percent for 2023, and I believe this reduction

should continue. Democrats want it to be temporary so they can increase the size and scope of government — they have already added the equivalent of 704 full-time state government employees and created new state bureaucracies.

But with the next budget cycle, we have a new chance to rein in government spending and fight inflation, pay down debt, invest in infrastructure and save for a rainy day.

We should also rein in corporate welfare. I have proposed eliminating the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund and returning that money to the general fund,

where it can be put to better use and also help provide sustainable tax relief.

The Whitmer administration has failed with its approach to SOAR and economic development, and nowhere is this more evident than in Marshall, where the state approved a horribly inflated taxpayer giveaway for an electric vehicle battery factory with no assurances that Ford Motor Co. would follow through with its commitments. Now, after massive taxpayer dollars have been spent for site preparation, the company has dramatically downsized the project.

This demonstrates poor planning and a shocking lack of accountability from the state. It was a project that should not have been approved in the first place because it would never provide an adequate return on taxpayer investment. But that’s what happens when a government tries to drive the market toward electric vehicles and “clean energy,” rather than letting natural market forces set the pace for transition.

This heavy-handed ap-

proach is also evident in the Democrats’ new law mandating that utilities have 100% “clean energy” by 2040. Gov. Whitmer and her allies have made misleading claims about what this will mean for reliability and cost. In the same week, she said this new policy will lead to lower utility bills; the governor’s Michigan Public Service Commission approved a 6.4 percent electricity rate increase for DTE Energy residential customers. It’s a troubling sign of what’s to come.

Also troubling is how Democrats are undermining the ability of Michigan communities to make their own decisions about wind and solar projects within their borders. The

MPSC can now overrule local governments that decide against “clean energy” developments. This could eventually replace more than 300,000 acres of farmland with solar panels and windmills, ruining a way of life in rural Michigan.

Energy policy is just one example of how Democrats are moving toward centralized planning of our economy — an approach that history shows does not work. Democrats established a price control board for prescription drugs and codified Obamacare. Democrats repealed Right to Work, adopting policies that will coerce employees into associating with labor unions, even if they don’t want to do so. These policies will

prompt many job providers to cross Michigan off the list when it comes to considering capital investment.

In 2024, we must abandon the top-down, “big government” approach of the past year. We should instead work together toward an environment where job creators can provide new opportunities and increase wages from the ground up — making Michigan a better place to work, live and raise a family.

State Sen. Thomas Albert represents the 18th District, which includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ionia counties.

Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

Know the key benefits of Roth IRA

As you save for retirement, you’ll want to take full advantage of the investment vehicles available to you — and one of the best is a Roth IRA. But what sets it apart from other accounts?

Three key factors distinguish the Roth IRA:

Tax-free earnings — When you invest in a Roth IRA, your earnings can grow tax free, provided you don’t begin taking withdrawals until you’re 59½ and you’ve had your account at least five years. If you don’t meet these criteria, withdrawals of earnings will be subject to taxes and a possible 10% penalty.

No penalties on withdrawals of contributions — You fund a Roth IRA with after-tax dollars, which means you can withdraw your contributions — not the earnings — at any time for any reason, without facing taxes or penalties. So, you could use some of your Roth IRA money for non-

retirement purposes, such as helping pay for a child’s college education.

No required withdrawals at age 73 — With a traditional IRA or a 401(k), you must start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — once you reach 73. But this rule doesn’t apply to a Roth IRA — you can keep it intact as long as you like. You may need to tap into it for some of your retirement income, but if you don’t use it all, the remainder could benefit your beneficiaries.

A Roth IRA does share one similarity to a traditional IRA: It can be funded with virtually any type of investment, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on.

However, unlike a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA does have income limits.

For the 2023 tax year, if your modified adjusted gross income was less than \$138,000 (for a single filer)

or \$218,000 (married filing jointly), you can put in the full amount of \$6,500 and an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution if you’re 50 or older. The amounts you can contribute will gradually decline at higher income levels and are phased out entirely at \$153,000 for single filers and \$228,000 if you’re married and file jointly. These income ranges will likely change for the 2024 tax year, so you’ll want to consult with your tax advisor for details.

Still, even if you’ve contributed to a traditional IRA or a 401(k) for many years, you may have a chance to eventually “convert” some, or all, of these funds to a Roth IRA and gain its benefits. It’s not hard to do this conversion — it involves minimal paperwork from your traditional IRA or 401(k) provider — but it does come with tax issues. Any money that’s converted from a traditional IRA or 401(k) to a Roth IRA will be treated as ordinary taxable income. This can trigger a large tax bill, so, unless you have the money available from other accounts to pay the taxes, the conversion may or may not make sense for you. But you don’t have to convert all the funds at once. By spreading the conversion over several years, you could reduce the effect of a large tax hit in any single year. You may want to consult with your tax advisor before converting any funds to a Roth IRA.

If you can find a way to contribute to a Roth IRA, either directly or through a conversion, consider it carefully — you’ll find a lot of upsides to this investment account.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

business directory

SHANE RISNER • 616-897-1080
email: risnersroofing@gmail.com
website: risnersroofing.com

897-4123

• Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters
• Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems
• Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers

SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES

website: www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com e-mail: info@HeatingCoolingOnline.com

INSURED • 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

Washers • Dryers • Refrigerators
Garbage Disposals • Stoves
• Dishwashers

RICH CURTIS • 897-5686
209 E. Main St., Lowell

103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, MI 49331

897-7711

Upsize
downsize
RIGHTSIZE

Buy with Confidence,
Sell with Success!

RogersNeighborhoodRealty.com
317 E Main St, Lowell, MI - 616.644.0784

• Snowplow Service
• Winterizing of Sprinkling Systems
• Fall Cleanup

• Spring Clean-Up
• Lawn Maintenance
• Fertilizing & Bark

Over 25 years
of experience, insured,
referrals upon request

PHONE 616-822-4168

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION POST 528

SAL Upcoming Dinners & Raffles

BUILD - A - BURGER \$8
SAT., JAN. 6 • 5:30 - 7 PM

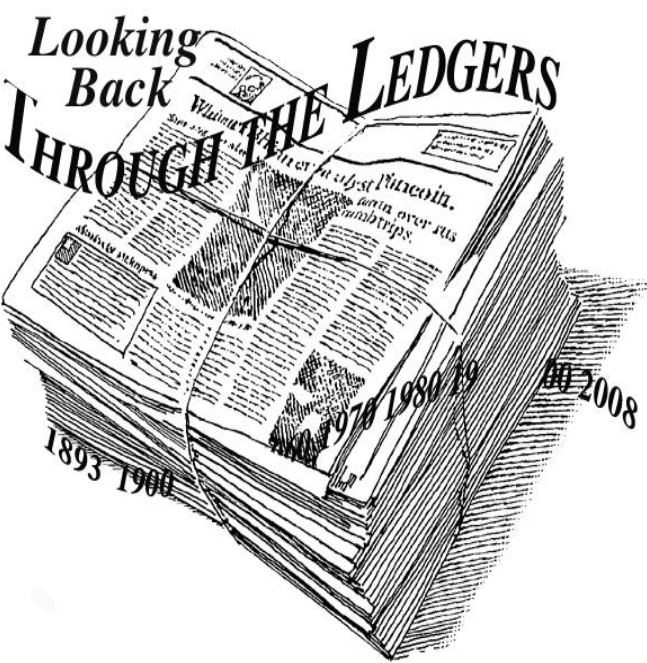
KING OF SPADES PROGRESSIVE DRAWING
Every Thursday at 7 pm
State License No. C31399

BBQ 1/2 Chicken
Sat., Jan. 20 • 5:30 - 7 pm \$14

Public Welcome

6056 LINFIELD, ALTO, MICHIGAN • 616-868-6490

viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal December 24, 1873

The editor campaigns for sawdust to be laid at several street crossing so people trying to get across don't "sink, to rise no more."

Postmaster Ellsworth has improved the appearance of the post office by rearranging all the furniture.

Mr. S. Watt of Lowell applies for a patent for his new method for plastering with the use of lath.

A page of Christmas poetry, customs in earlier times and games: Snap-Dragon" involves placing raisins in a shallow dish of brandy, lighting the liquor and then trying to pick raisins out of the flames, preferably, in a darkened room.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 29, 1898

Four weddings were celebrated at the brides' homes last week.

The new Lowell Township ordinance forbids horses or teams standing in the road unless tied or in charge of a person of proper age.

Lowell's first paper, the Lowell Star, started publishing September 12, 1860; business owners, a train schedule and market reports are quoted from that issue.

The Christmas collection was so large that "Santa" White could distribute only food and toys in one day. Clothing is being sorted and will go out later.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 20, 1923

Profits from the recent Legion/business fair will go to the Auxiliary's work for local relief and hospital work.

The High School Agricultural Association holds its annual Fathers and Sons banquet in the agriculture room. The Home Ec girls do the cooking.

Hungarian engineer, Stephen Vaduz, invents a phonograph no larger than a watch, that winds like a watch and will hold 20 selections.

A Doctor Goodies declares that there is no difference in blood pressure between meat-eating and non-meat-eating men.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 16, 1948

Numerous accidents reported in the last week: Dec. 1 on Vergennes between Ada and Foxes Corners, Dec. 19 on Foreman Drive hill, Dec. 20 on North Jefferson, M-91 hill between Lowell and US-16, on North Jackson St. hill, and on corner of Vergennes Road and W. Chatham.

Mrs. Mary Dennie, of Lowell, has been announced as the winner of the King Milling Company "Recipe of the Week Contest" for her quick nut loaf bread.

Bill VanVorst has been elected President of the Lowell Boot, Spur and Saddle Club.

The Lowell Post Office was swamped Monday, as Christmas mail flooded in and a preliminary check showed that a new record, apparently, had been set for a single day's mail.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life December 20, 1973

Congress may improve Daylight Savings time again in the effort to save fuel. Clocks would be set ahead in January and remain ahead until October next year.

The new property tax relief act has senior citizens and veterans flocking to city and township halls to learn how to file for a tax refund.

While not required by law, seat-belt use is urged by new signs at freeway rest stops in Michigan, joining 17 other states.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 16, 1998

Growth may lead DDA to pursue other downtown needs. Those needs could include further parking lot improvements, an extension of Riverwalk, and the acquisition, renovation and resale of the old Hinkley building.

Lowell Area Fire Department has purchased a thermal imaging camera with a grant from Harold Englehardt's Lowell Area Community fund. There were 14 grants awarded from the Lowell Area Community Fund totaling \$135,670.

The highest honor, which can be bestowed on an FFA member, went out to Lowell's Kerry Nugent and Shari (Grieser) Ladd at the 71st annual Future Farmers of America Convention in Kansas City. Nugent and Ladd were the 17th and 18th Lowell FFA members to receive the American FFA degree.

outdoors

special opportunity Dave Stegehuis

When parts of our lives become common place, it is easy to take these things for granted. Folks who live in Michigan are surrounded by open spaces and natural landscapes. There are states where there is great scenery and some places where one can get out and experience nature firsthand, but Michigan affords residents and visitors access to the second most public land east of the Mississippi.

There are 4.6 million acres of state forest, game and wildlife areas, parks and trails managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In addition, there are 3.6 million acres of federal land managed by the U.S Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. In case that's not enough elbow room, 2.2 million acres of private land is open to the public through the Commercial Forest program.

One of Michigan's land management objectives is to provide 500-acre blocks of public access land within 15 miles of all citizens, as well as access to smaller lakes around the state. In most countries around the world access to wild places by the general public is very limited. In some cases, one must be someone special, or know somebody, to enjoy roaming freely around the back country, or hunting and fishing.

As I travel around the state, it is remarkable to notice how few people are out in the woods and on the trails. There are exceptions, especially at advertised tourist venues and popular lakes at certain times of the year. But for the most part, with some planning one can find solitude by choosing the time and place for recreation.

Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, observing wildlife and photography draw most people out and about. Getting out in the woods or on the water, for whatever reason, is good for the mind and body.

We are privileged and blessed with vast natural resources close at hand. Let's not take our good fortune for granted and seize the opportunity to enrich our lives and work to conserve the land for future generations.

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

Loose Parts Play

Friday, December 22 and January 5, 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.

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.

Countdown to Happy Noon Year

Friday, December 29, 11:30 - 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.

Storytime

Monday, January 8, 10 - 11 am. Nurture your child’s love of books and build early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, music and movement. For ages 0-5.

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

Call or email the Lowell Ledger Crew!

Phone: 616-897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

ABCs of Lowell history

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

C is for Cemetery

The sign reads, “Roth Coon AKA Rolfe Cemetery.” It has also been called the Simpson Cemetery and the Mathews Cemetery.

This cemetery is in Lowell Township, between Lowell and Ada, on the south side of M-21, north of the Grand River, between Settlewood Dr. and Tip Top Gravel Company. It is a small cemetery, providing resting grounds for the neighborhood. For years, the cemetery was owned and maintained by descendants of those interred there. Today it is owned and maintained by Lowell Township.

What is the real name of this cemetery? One clue comes from a 1931 article that explains that the Grand Rapids Ryerson library officials were working with

local municipal boards to determine the proper names of the cemeteries in the county. Supervisor Yeiter and Clerk Bergin reported that the proper name of the cemetery was “Rolfe Cemetery.” It is further explained that “the Rolfe cemetery is sometimes called the Simpson cemetery, but Rolfe is declared to be the original name, the ground for the cemetery being a part of the Rolfe farm, the original owners.” Obituaries between 1930s - 1960s all refer to it as the Rolf Cemetery. As recently as a 1997 obituary it was called the Rolfe Cemetery.

The land was originally owned by the Ira Daines and Samuel Rolf families. Samuel P. Rolf’s wife was Susan Daines, daughter of Ira Daines. Ransom Rolf lived

on the property after the death of his brother Samuel. When Ransom died in 1891 the land was sold to the Simpson family. Sarah Simpson married Harry Mathews. The west boundary now borders the Mathews family land. This record of land own-



ership helps to explain some of the name confusion, as the cemetery was called by whoever owned the land.

But where does the name Roth or Roth Coons come in? It is unknown. There are no burials with the Roth or Coon name. The original and correct name appears to be “Rolfe Cemetery.”

The earliest known burials were said to be two Smith children. Torry Smith, buried in the cemetery himself, buried two of his children, Frederick K. in 1845 and William M. in 1846. Torry Smith was the first stagecoach driver that drove on this road. Other early burials in the cemetery include Susan Daines Rolf, who died in 1846, and three children of Ira A. (Jr) and Emmeline Francisco

Daines. They are Edgar, who died in 1846, then Napoleon died in 1848, and Fanny Daines died in 1852.

Burials at the Rolf Cemetery include two soldiers from the Civil War. James Lawrence was in Co G, of the 12th MI Infantry and James VanDeusen, Co D, 2nd Michigan Cavalry. VanDeusen died on December 3, 1861, at Benton Barracks, St Louis, Missouri.

There have been burials in the last few years. Those include William Perrin and his wife Judy in 2020 and 2021. William’s sister, Cora Perrin Heiman died in 2011. Fittingly, she lived on the homestead of their great, great, grand uncle, Ira Daines.



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.gslc.church
Richard Boshoven, Pastor **897-8307**
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

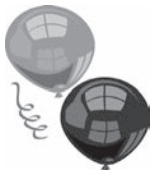
St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org
Pastor 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.fbc Lowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolcom • 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 21
Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki, Debbie Walendzik, Eric Koeppel.

DECEMBER 22
Jason Seeley, Cody Soyka.

DECEMBER 24
Jeffrey Pfaller.

DECEMBER 25
Scott Shindorf, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.

DECEMBER 26
Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.

DECEMBER 27
Mark Nyp, Jay Clark, Foster Skoog.



Always Return to Me: AI and the recording industry

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

On Thursday, November 2, 2023, the Beatles released their final song together, a reflective ditty called *Now and Then*. More than *Free as a Bird* and *Real Love*, released alongside the Beatles Anthology from 1995 to 1996, *Now and Then* gives a feeling of closure. Spinning out of a demo tape, found by Yoko Ono and recorded in the New York City apartment where John Lennon and Ono raised their son Sean Lennon, the tune revolves around a chorus where Lennon sings, “Now and then, I miss you/Oh, now and then, I want you to be there for me/Always to return to me.”

That last line—“always to return to me” — might feel ominous of a writer and performer who passed away some 43 years before the release of the song, as if a soul is caught in an interminable cycle of death and rebirth. It might also feel a bit on the nose, as Lennon’s voice, thought to be gone, is now, once again in the limelight. It may evoke, in some, an uneasy feeling, because the song *Now and Then* was completed using artificial intelligence (AI).

When Paul McCartney announced his involvement in June on a Beatles single made possible only because of advances in AI, the public assumed the worst. Discussion centered around the moral quandaries surrounding the resurrection of John Lennon, and possibly George Harrison, as well, using AI voice synthesis. In a November interview with USA Today, producer Giles Martin clarified the difference between the AI fans suspected the Beatles

of using and the AI that was actually used on the recording.

“It DOES involve AI, but not how people think it does,” Martin said. “It’s non-generative, purely archaeological.”

Instead of creating a new synthesis from existing John Lennon samples, which is what most people think is happening when someone talks about an AI-assisted song recording, Peter Jackson — yes, the Peter Jackson of *Lord of the Rings* fame — utilized AI to restore an existing recording. In particular, his team split multiple components, in this instance, piano and vocals, from a single-track recording into separate tracks with the help of machine learning. The only things ‘false’ about the final product were McCartney’s sunny, slide guitar solo, a tribute to deceased former Beatle, George Harrison, and Martin’s string composition, which evokes his own father George Martin’s contributions to songs like *Strawberry Fields* and *I Am the Walrus*.

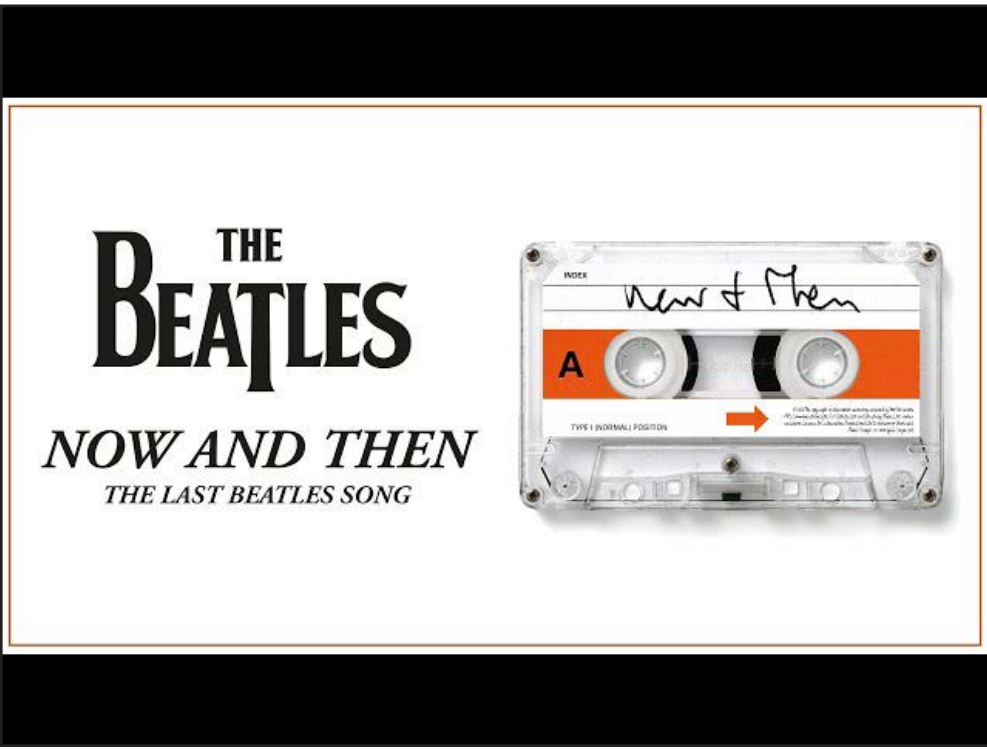
What remains is the question of consent, which McCartney addressed in a short, 13-minute documentary film by Oliver Murray, titled *Now and Then — The Last Beatles Song*.

“Is it something we shouldn’t do?” McCartney asked. “Every time I thought like that, I thought, ‘Wait a minute.’ Let’s say I had a chance to ask John, ‘Hey, John, would you like us to finish this last song of yours?’ I’m telling you, I know the answer would’ve been, ‘Yeah!’”

When McCartney makes this statement, it feels difficult to argue with his reasoning. If anyone would know the contents of Lennon’s heart, would it not be his closest musical partner, a man who knew Lennon for decades, since they were kids. However, Lennon and McCartney were not always on the same page, and moreover, McCartney is a shrewd business person making a decision that could potentially add a couple million more to his net worth. It is Lennon’s son, Sean, who lends the most credence to McCartney’s claim. “My dad would have loved that,” Sean said, “because he was never shy to experiment with recording technology.”

Looking at the list of recording techniques and technologies, either pioneered or popularized by the Beatles, proves just how on-the-mark Sean Lennon’s comment is. The list includes artificial double tracking, backmasking, tuned feedback, spliced audio loops, distortion, equalization, stereo effects, multi-tracking/overdubbing, compression, phase shifting, and innovative microphoning. Based on Lennon’s interest in recording technology, he may have even been fine with an AI voice synthesis of his voice, but then the recording would not be eligible for a Grammy.

Grammy nominees were announced on Friday, November 10, and *Now and Then* was not featured on the list, though the 2022 music video by Em Cooper for the 1966 Beatles song *I’m Only Sleeping* was nominated for best music video. Nor was *Heart on My Sleeve*, a song produced by Ghostwriter using AI-generated vocals from Drake and the Weeknd.



Promoted as “the last Beatles song,” *Now and Then* was an old John Lennon demo translated into a Beatles single with a little help from Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson and artificial intelligence.

Ghostwriter submitted his song for Best Rap Song and Song of the Year, two awards that are given to the song’s writers, not its performers, and initially Recording Academy CEO, Harvey Mason, Jr., confirmed that the song was eligible. More recently, he clarified via a short Instagram video that the opposite is true.

“Let me be extra, extra clear: even though it was written by a human creator,” Mason said, “the vocals were not legally obtained, the vocals were not cleared by the label or the artists, and the song is not commercially available, and because of that, it’s not eligible.”

On Twitter/X, Ghostwriter (@ghostwriter977) introduced himself as a professional ghostwriter who got paid next to nothing for works that major labels profited from, positioning *Heart on My Sleeve* as both a protest and a vision of the future. Unlike most AI-produced songs, like the AI-Freddie Mercury cover of Frank Sinatra’s *My Way*, which uses pre-made voice models

available via Uberduck. AI, Ghostwriter had to train a neural network to imitate both Drake and the Weekend, using open-source software called So-VITS-SVC. It is worth noting that So-VITS-SVC was archived on software development platform GitHub and set to read-only on November 11, the day after the Grammy nominees, absent Ghostwriter, were announced.

This year’s Grammy contest is just the tip of the iceberg for AI-assisted music. Though Uberduck. AI was recently forced to remove nearly all of its voice models, over a thousand in all—including Freddie Mercury (talking), Freddie Mercury (singing), and Sailor Mercury (no relation)—due to consequences of the 2023 Writers Guild of America and SAG AFTRA strikes, and a Universal Music Group lawsuit, fans have found other venues for creating fake songs by Bad Bunny, Ariana Grande, and Billie Eilish, among other artists. Drayk-it, a music generator site that

helps users make Drake songs, may be down, but it is only a matter of time before an alternative pops up. David Guetta added Eminem to one of his songs using ChatGPT to generate lyrics and Uberduck.AI to generate the vocals, likely to prompt a rebuttal (and an inevitable signal boost) from the bombastic rapper, and electronic artist Grimes has promised a 50/50 split agreement with anyone who wants to use her AI voice, available via her own software called Elf.Tech, on a recording.

As for the ‘final’ Beatles recording, fans have reason to be skeptical. Jackson has hinted, during numerous interviews, that there are a number of sources of possible future Beatles songs. Martin acknowledges that there are demos available, but with Lennon and Harrison long gone, and McCartney and Starr in their 80s, it’s unclear if any further recordings will ever have a four Beatle quorum, or if any tune would even be worth it for the remaining Beatles. Only time will tell.

NEWSPAPER

Fridaywww.sitename.news

THANKS to Our Readers!

Your subscription helps support the future of journalism.

School Board, continued

said handouts given to the Board are put in an appendix, along with the Board minutes posted online.

Kim Lum brought up the chemical TCE that was found near the Lowell Middle School and the chemical PFAS was found in the Lowell dump on Ware Road. She said there is not hard proof that cancer cases in Lowell

are linked to these chemicals. She said the Lowell community needs to figure out a way to address this situation, however.

Superintendent Fowler said that LAS received a \$5,000 rebate from Lowell Light and Power for the energy-efficiency lighting that was installed. He said there is a bond proposal meeting upcoming with the State

Treasury to go over the application for the bond. He said there will be a presentation in January to go over the language of the bond. Fowler also commended the Lowell Middle School robotics team for their inaugural year in competing.

Arctic Heating and Cooling serving the Lowell community for 40 years

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Forty years. That’s how long Evert and Catherine Bek have been working with, and serving, the Lowell area community as owners of Arctic Inc. Heating and Cooling. The company recently celebrated its milestone with advertisements in newspapers, and we thought it’d be a good idea to celebrate them with an article in the *Ledger*.

The couple’s story is a unique American story. As natives of the Netherlands,

in those days: cold calling. “It took a little bit,” said Evert Bek. “My partner and I bought two service vans and started going up and down 28th Street, knocking on doors. We had proven ourselves, working for the other company, so the word got out. We used to go to the Woodland Mall and park one of the vans there to advertise, and then the other van, we’d use to drive up the road to knock on doors. (The Woodland Mall) It was a busy intersection, so people would see your name on

at 18 percent. He joked how after his first year of payments, they only owned the front door because of the interest. At the time, Dave Clark was the only HVAC guy in the town of Lowell, and for almost two years, there was no one filling that void when Clark retired. Bek bought-out his partner, and Arctic Heating and Cooling began its run in Lowell, and the Beks, along with their daughter (who was born in the US), have enjoyed living and working in Lowell ever since. “I like to take care of people, and

Although Evert has stepped away from the physical labor part of the business, he is still involved, but has begun to hand the keys over to his son-in-law, Steven Simon. “I’m 71 so the handwriting is on the wall. I don’t know how I did everything, with working and building three houses in my spare time while I was working. Now I don’t have time to read the newspaper... It’s not like you walk away from it like you do from a company, have a retirement party. It’s still your baby and you want things to go well.”

Slowly stepping away has allowed him to pursue other passion projects, like doing community service in Lowell and working with the people of the impoverished island of Haiti. He has traveled there

over 15 times in the last few years, helping to install water filters for families and work on air-conditioning units for hospitals. Also, there has been time for vacationing – he and Catherine have traveled across the United States visiting places like Yellowstone and Maine.

As he looks back on his career, he has experienced lots of challenges, whether it was dealing with high interest rates or the Covid pandemic, but also has some interesting stories, something that is bound



Evert Bek

to happen when one visits hundreds of homes over the decades. “Nothing surprises me anymore,” said Bek. “I can write a book about that. But I’m not there to judge.” Bek shared one story of a phone call he received from a man desperate to get his air-conditioning fixed. “A guy called me one time and said, ‘I’m going to have a heart attack if you don’t get here to fix my air-conditioner in the next ten minutes.’ Bek told him he called the wrong number. ‘You need to call 911 because I can’t help you with your heart attack.’ Then the man slowed down and knew that his trick didn’t work.”

With all the challenges, the Beks are glad to be business owners and are

grateful for the small town that helped them, two immigrants from the Netherlands, establish their family in Lowell. “Most businesses, you’re a number. As a business owner you have nobody to blame. You either kick yourself in the butt or tap yourself on the shoulder. You control your own destiny... we’re thankful for our customers. If it wasn’t for our customers, we wouldn’t be talking here right now. There are a lot of good people. We’re thankful for the town of Lowell.”

You can find out more about Arctic Inc. Heating and Cooling by going to their Facebook page or their website www.heatingcoolingonline.com



Arctic Inc.
Heating & Cooling
Call Us At 616-897-4123

A Big thank you to our customers

Celebrating 40 YEARS!

Website - www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com
Email - info.HeatingCoolingOnline.com

they emigrated to western Michigan in 1977 when they were in their mid-twenties. Initially, they lived with some family members in Forest Hills and Evert, who already had training in heating and air conditioning from the Netherlands, and began working for a contractor in Grand Rapids. After seven years of that, he and a friend decided to go into business together. Starting a new business is never easy, but Bek and his partner burned the midnight oil and did what most salespeople did

the truck...in the beginning, we used to call ourselves to make sure the phone was working. You can burn the candle at both ends and in the middle if you want to. I used to come home from service calls, have a quick bite to eat, change clothes and then go do sales calls... And that’s how it all started. And then one thing leads to another.”

What happened next was Evert’s in-laws moved to Lowell, and he and Catherine decided to follow them and build a home... when interest rates were

Lowell has been great to us,” said Bek. “For a few years, we were the only game in town, and then the contractors came into town and started, but there is enough work for everybody. Ninety-nine percent of what we do is residential. It’s fun to deal with people. A lot of good people. We go to their house, the door is unlocked, the check is on the counter. ‘Don’t let the cat out.’ That’s very nice about Lowell. We’ve been involved with the community, with the Chamber, Rotary Club and helping out with Flat River Outreach Ministries.”

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2024. 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.

2024 grant applications should be submitted to the Lowell City Clerk’s office, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The deadline for submitting 2024 applications is 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2024. Questions should be directed to Susan Ullery, City Clerk.

Toys-for-Tots Benefits from Alto Elementary Early Act Club Collection

The Alto Elementary Early Act Club gathered 598 toys for Toys-for-Tots, a charitable program overseen by the United States Marine Corps since 1947.

Amber Stirrup’s class earned third place, contributing 70 toys, while Laura Kamp’s class secured second place with a notable collection of 64 toys. Kelsey Schult’s class claimed the top honor, receiving a pizza party to celebrate their outstanding achievement and leading with an impressive 105 toys.

Aligned with the principles of Rotary International, the Early Act Club embodies the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self.” This commitment to community service



Alto Elementary Early Act Club members celebrate incredible results from the Toys-for-Tots Toy Drive. Photo courtesy of LAS website.

aims to instill a sense of responsibility and empathy in the students.

Toys for Tots will distribute these gifts to

children in need, offering hope to families facing challenges this holiday season. The Early Act Club’s commitment to

service and the success of this toy drive highlight the effectiveness of community collaboration in creating meaningful change.

Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestling B fourth place finish in Kent County

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The problem with having a very good wrestling program is there’s only 14 weights; only 14 starting spots. So when you talk about a team’s B team, you might think, “Oh there’s a lot of freshmen, a lot of inexperience.” That’s not the case with the Lowell B team. It’s why Lowell can send out their B team to the Kent County Championships and beat every team but three. Because Lowell B is actually loaded with a lot of talent and experience, and why, if the Lowell B team was put head-to-head with any team across the state, they could win 50+ percent of those matchups.

On Saturday, at East Kentwood, Lowell only had one champion, but plenty of placers, as they finished fourth in a field filled with

all the Kent County teams. Rockford took home top honors; the Division 1 squad will look to make a return to the state tournament this year. They were followed by future Rivers Cities squad Cedar Springs, and then current OK White conference member Byron Center. Then, it was Lowell who topped Sparta, Kenowa Hills, FHE, among others, including Kent City, who was among those that traveled farthest for the tournament, including Fennville, Montague, and West Ottawa.

Cody Foss took the spotlight for Lowell winning by major decision in the finals to win his weight class. Also placing for Lowell was Colton Barney (6th), Pistachio Gonzales (2nd), Jack Lamoreaux (5th), Seth Harvey (3rd),

Weston McFarland (6th), Braddock King (5th), Cole Cichocki (4th), Gage Lyons (4th), Analize Tapia (LHS girls, 4th), Angelica Acosta (LHS girls, 4th), Veronica Tapia (LHS girls, 2nd).

Earlier in the week, Lowell B bested Vermontville Maple Valley’s A team, 72-7. Elijah Knapp, Chase Wilder, Seth Harvey, Weston McFarland, Max Bigard, Kenny Kinyon, Colton Barney, Marshall Huhn, Sawyer Wilder, Gage Lyons, Braddock King, and Ben Homolka were among the match winners.

They then faced one of those A teams they weren’t able to match-up with, a perennial strong team in Hudsonville who won 53-16. Kenny Kinyon, Gage Lyons, and Pistachio Gonzales were the match winners for Lowell.



Analize Tapia wrestling for Lowell in the Kent County Championships.

Wrestlers take on midwest powers

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Crown Point - Mt. Carmel - Brownsburg - St. Paris Graham - The Might of the Midwest was on full display at this year’s Crown Point Invitational, as nationally-ranked squads and nationally-ranked wrestlers took to the circle and dualed it out.

Lowell held their own, finishing as the top Michigan team this weekend, in a sixth-place finish in Indiana. Some of the teams in front of Lowell: Brownsburg (OH) - 16th, Bishop McCort (PA) - 15th, Crown Point (IN) - 26th. Behind them included Michigan D3 juggernaut Dundee and D1’s Davison.

The Red Arrows were led by Jarrett Smith at 106,

who became Lowell’s second ever Crown Point champion. The sophomore may be one of the smaller members of the team, but he’s been among the most impressive, finishing with three straight falls and a decision in the championship match over Jake Landis of St. Paris Graham. Smith moved into the national rankings after a pin over 11th-ranked Wyatt Lees of Catholic Central last week.

Jackson Blum returned to the lineup this week for Lowell, and he placed third at 126. The highlighted match was between Blum, ranked 10th in the nation at 126, where he fell to the fourth-ranked wrestler in the nation, Seth Mendoza 8-0.

Logan Dawson placed an impressive second, but ran into 14th-ranked Jake Hockaday of Brownsburg, who won in the championship round by technical fall.

Other placers for Lowell were Trevor Boone (6th), Owen Segorski (5th), Tacho Gonzales (4th), Jared Boone (4th), Casey Engle (6th), and Ari McFarland (6th).

On Wednesday Lowell took on D4 power Hudson, and Grand Rapids Catholic Central. Against Hudson, in a battle of teams no stranger to state championships, the Red Arrows outmatched the Tigers 46-18. Lowell was boosted by Juan Acosta’s return to the lineup, as he gave Lowell a high-scoring 11-6 decision at heavyweight. Lowell got pins from Ari McFarland, Jared Boone, Jarrett Smith, Cole Cichocki, and Owen Segorski.

In the other match of the night, Lowell had no problem with Grand Rapids Catholic Central, dispatching of the Cougars 69-8. LHS is back in action with their assembly dual this Friday.

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

We’ve had a month of podcasts on the new lowellledger.org, and over that month, we’ve been able to record in the world-class WRWW Radio studio.

The studio is a tremendous asset to the high school and low-community streaming 24/7 across the 92.3 FM radio station and lowellradio.org. The program streams a family-friendly variety mix, in addition to student programming, radio shows, sporting events and, of course, now the *Lowell Ledger* podcast. The radio program is currently being run full-time by Laurie Summerfield, including the elective class at LHS, Radio Broadcasting 101, with station founder Al Eckman, serving on a part-time basis.

In October, we planned out our podcast series with both Al and Laurie, and are excited to be able to offer this additional media

opportunity to the Lowell community.

As one of our first podcasts, we sat down with Al to learn a little bit more about WRWW. The story of the radio station has been well documented across plenty of outlets over the years, including the *Ledger*, a piece I wrote in college for the high school website in college in 2016, and most recently, in School News Network.

Eckman, age 80, graduated from LHS in 1960, and since, served the school as a coach, security director, and since 2004, at the helm of the radio program. When it comes to sporting events, thanks to the tireless work of Eckman and the students that work within the sporting radio program, Lowell has become one of the area’s best in terms of media.

Take the video broadcast of sporting events through the NFHS Network, for example, and specifically football, since many of us know what those broadcasts look like. A Lowell home event aired over NFHS Network, not only has an audio overlay with LHS sportscasters, but they also have graphics showing the current score, time left on the clock, and camera operator following the play.

“We have what we call a laptop graphics technician that puts up these overlays

and stuff onto the screens for those that are watching it through the National Federation of High Schools. You know, that’s what we’re looking for. I just get a lot of enjoyment out of it. Seeing students get a lot of enjoyment out of what they do,” Eckman said.

In an away event on NFHS, you can get a game that is broadcasted, not only without those features, but also a camera that would turn from the play, inexplicably, during some of the games most important plays. Since individual schools are in charge of the broadcasts, it can be maddening. Lowell is fortunate in that regard. One of those things that you don’t even think about until it’s gone.

“The NFHS cameras don’t really have the ability to zoom, as you would with a regular camera, with a camera operator at the stadium. So, starting this football season, I asked Patrick Russell, our athletic director, Would it be okay if we could involve students with operating cameras during some of the contests, basically varsity contests, although, we did a few JV football contests, as well.

So, we set up cameras, and now we have a camera operator that has the ability to zoom in, zoom out. And

WRWW, continued
page 12

Combine and get in on the surprise.



Here's the deal, our Home and Auto rates are already great. But when you combine with State Farm®, you can save even more. Call me to discover your surprisingly great rates on Home and Auto today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.*

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.

Deborah Wilks Ins Agency Inc
Deborah Wilks, Agent
11827 Fulton St E
Lowell, MI 49331
Bus: 616-897-9237



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company; State Farm Indemnity Company; State Farm Fire and Casualty Company; State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL; State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas; State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX; State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL 2001865

THIS AD FOR SALE!

More than 50% of adults have a positive perception of ads in print newspapers.*

Want to be next to trusted content? Place your ad in this newspaper and a network of newspapers in the state!

Call this paper or 800-227-7636

www.cnaads.com



*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Girls basketball moves to 2-0

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

It remains to be seen how good either Lowell or Muskegon girls basketball will be this year, but one thing for sure is both teams are loaded with talent. That talent was on full display on Monday night, last week, as the Red Arrows knocked off the Lady Reds 52-43.

Muskegon entered the game 1-1 against the then 1-0 Red Arrows coming off an overtime win over Caledonia. The Red Arrows brought out Gracyn Hamilton and R.J. Wagamon. The two speedy juniors, that also play soccer together, paired with the senior trio of Piper Risdon, Braxcynn Baker, and Taryn Jackson for Lowell's starting five.

Both teams had different strategies, as Lowell looked to go inside more, while Muskegon

wasn't afraid to shoot the long ball. Muskegon is a basketball power, but this year, they featured a starting lineup in Lowell of all sophomores, in what is likely to be more of a rebuilding season for the Lady Reds. Not something they're used to.

Risdon proved to be dominant in the paint, which really proved to be a difference maker. She led all scorers with 23 points, Baker had 19, and Jackson had eight; the trio scoring 50 of Lowell's 52 points. The other two came from Wagamon.

Up 20-1, Allison Smith came up with an offensive board for a second straight game that led to a foul, she got another offensive rebound in the same series that would lead to a Baker three. Risdon ended the half, emphatically, with a block

to end the half and Lowell led 25-21.

Muskegon, down 29-28 in the third, would have a lead-changing shot denied by Baker, one of her three blocks on the night. Offensive boards continued to dominate the glass, getting four shots off in the next possession, leading to a pair of Jackson rebounds. In a game, where at times, both teams went through scoring droughts, the ability to out rebound Muskegon played a big part in Lowell's win.

Up 38-37, with five minutes to play, Lowell started to hit their shots and began to pull away, as Baker hit a three. Then up 43-40, Jackson hit a three-pointer that finally gave the Red Arrows the separation they needed to solidify the win.

The Red Arrows head to Cornerstone for a pair of games on Thursday and Saturday.



Head Coach Heath Kent speaks with his team during a timeout.

Basketball winning run comes to end

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Middleville Thornapple Kellogg got the best of Lowell last Tuesday night, taking advantage of a hot start, to pick up a win on the road by a final score of 54-48.

A non-conference, early season basketball game, near the holiday break, isn't supposed to have a lot of emotional investment. These games are meant to tune-up teams for what they hope are deep conference and playoff runs. Lowell and Middleville Thornapple Kellogg, though, they really wanted to win this one.

From the players to the fans, the atmosphere in the gym was full of passion, maybe even a little too much passion at times. Perhaps it was the start of the game, as the Trojans jumped out to a 27-8 start, thanks to their zone defense and quick baskets. The home team, though, would quietly get their way back into the game, and toward the end, it was anybody's ball game. It was a game both teams were giving their all and came down to the wire.

Like Lowell, Thornapple Kellogg jumped out to a 3-0 start to the season

before falling to Forest Hills Central, just prior to taking on the Red Arrows. A Jackson Reisbig steal, midway through the third quarter, led to a transition layup for Weston Godbold closing the Trojan lead to 12. Shortly after, back-to-back threes, include one by Jackson Liley, made it a seven-point game. Despite the slow start, by the end of the third quarter, it was just an eight-point game, and the Lowell student section and fans, who started the game pretty quiet, were all of a sudden, very much into things.

Lowell got to within four, late in the fourth, on a reverse layup by Weston Godbold with 1:10 left. One new rule in high school this year is the elimination of the one-and-one free throw. At five fouls each quarter, the opposing team simply will just get two free throws. Very much a change to the way end games are played.

A Trojan layup, though, and missed three-pointer for Lowell, would be enough, and Thornapple Kellogg would be able to hold Lowell off and give them their first loss of the season.

The Red Arrows shot much better than the Trojans at the free-throw line, but Thornapple Kellogg's advantage shooting on the floor gave them the edge in the end. Gaskin led the Red Arrows with 21 points on the night. Jackson Liley followed with 11 and Nick Williams added seven.

Lowell bounced back with a dominant win at home, on Friday night against Comstock Park 78-41, to move to 4-1 on the season.against Thornapple Kellogg.



Jackson Liley looks to score against Thornapple Kellogg.



The Lowell Rotary Club

is accepting grant applications from local non-profit organizations seeking financial assistance with projects. Grant eligibility requirements and the grant application can be found at our website www.lowellrotary.org if you have any questions email us at info@lowellrotary.org. Applications must be received by Jan. 10

FULL TIME BODY SHOP TECHNICIAN WANTED!

Harvey All Car Collision - a local, family owned & operated Grand Rapids collision repair facility for Harvey Cadillac, Harvey Lexus & Harvey Auto Outlet is looking to hire a full time body shop technician to repair client's vehicles of all makes & models at our busy body shop! **Up to \$3,000 signing bonus based upon experience - ask for details in your interview!**

Benefits: ♦Competitive wages ♦Continued training ♦Health insurance ♦Vacation time ♦ Available 401k with matching contributions, dental and other insurance options

Body Shop Technician Requirements: ♦State Certification ♦Body shop/collision experience ♦ICAR experience preferred ♦Ability to multi-task in a busy work environment ♦Detail oriented outlook ♦Valid driver's license

Interested in this great opportunity? e-mail your resume or work history to jhoekstra@harveyautomotive.com or call 616-954-1164

obituaries

LENARD

Phillip Russell Lenard, age 43, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord on December 14, 2023. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jennie and Harold Huntly, Kenneth and Redetha Lenard. Phillip is survived by his children, Hayden, Sage, Elijah, Jennie and Timberlee; parents, Alice Kiley and Larry Lenard; sister, Cindy Howard; nephews Jesse, Dusty Howard; and several aunts and uncles. Phillip dedicated himself to various construction jobs. Additionally, he served as a warm and welcoming greeter at Impact Church, where his infectious energy and radiant spirit left an indelible mark on the congregation. If you ever attended Impact Church, chances are you were embraced by Phillip's genuine smile, accompanied by a hug or a handshake. His joyful presence at the front door made it a happy place for everyone who crossed its threshold. Beyond his work and church service, Phillip found joy in playing darts and pool, creating cherished memories with friends and loved ones.



gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

PIPE

On Sunday, December 10th, Deborah Ann (Jett) Pipe, 71, of Saranac, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly in an automobile crash, following a medical incident. Her loyal dog, Max, was with her. Born on March 22, 1952, Deb was a fixture in the community of Lowell for many years. She and her late husband, Dan Pipe, were the owners of Rupert's Drop gift and coffee shop in downtown Lowell, Michigan. She will be deeply missed by family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Ina Jett, and by her husband, Daniel M. Pipe. She leaves behind their children, Daniel Pipe II and his wife, Jax Anger-Pipe, and Rebecca Pipe and her partner, Jeffery Webber. Her siblings, Sharon Jett, James Jett II, Robert Jett. Her grandchildren, Alex Smith, Anna Smith, Rowan Pipe, Thea Anger-Pipe, Edric (Daniel) Anger-Pipe, Astrid Anger-Pipe and her two step-grandchildren, Ari Webber and Lily Webber. A celebration of life is planned for March 23rd, just after her birthday. Details to be announced at a later time. To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign Deb's online guest book, or to share a favorite memory or photo, please visit: www.MichiganCremation.com



**Find Out
What The Buzz
Is All About
with a subscription to
the lowell ledger**

**Call to start your
subscription
897-9261**

WRWW continued

so, it's just so much more interesting when you can do that, when you can be right in there on the tackle. You can be right alongside the runner," Eckman said of the enhanced camera operation of LHS sporting events.

The sports program does broadcast away events, just not in charge of the NFHS broadcast. They still do the audio broadcast, though, and that means plenty of work in preparation to get permission to record there, find a spot, then to staff the event, and transport equipment.

One of the away events was Byron Center for football, perhaps Lowell's marquee victory this season. When you're in that press box, when you're part of the broadcast crew, there is a goal to try to maintain a bit of neutrality. Eckman encourages trying to keep bias out of the call.

"We try to tell our students not to scream on air. That's not always possible.

You're going to get excited. This past year, there were a couple times where the sportscasters would jump up and down and almost pull the course out of a couple pieces of equipment in doing so, but you know, I'm just pleased to see them get that excited about what they're doing." Eckman said of his students.

The radio program is always looking for interested students in seventh grade through senior year. Whether it's the radio broadcasting elective, being a sportscaster, camera operator, running their own radio show, or many other options that WRWW offers. It's an exciting way to enter the field of broadcast media.

Future podcast plans include interviews with students affiliated with both the radio and sportscasting, in order to continue to highlight all the benefits the radio program provides to the community.

Tony Helms, continued

motion nearby. Not only has it become a meme to do silly things around someone else's Tesla so they can post video online, but these features can hold drivers accountable in hit-and-run situations, where the at-fault driver could not be tracked down otherwise. Helms himself was rear-ended in a hit-and-run, and his Tesla caught the guy's plate, allowing Helms to gain recompense for the damages.

Following a series of storms in Lowell this past August, a neighbor in Lowell MI Community Chatter suggested that power outages, like those that followed, would serve as a nail in the coffin of peoples' dreams to go full-electric. However, not only do Helms' vehicles have hundreds of miles of range, far more than what would be required to get to the nearest working charging station, but some EVs these days are

equipped with technology that allows them to redirect power into another vehicle, into the driver's home, or even back into the grid.

Perhaps Helms would have been better off as an auto mechanic, bringing dead vehicles back to life and making a big difference to their owners. Instead, Helms spends his days fixing "dumb, little things," like retractable door handles, Bluetooth connection issues, and rattles in dashboards that you would never hear in a traditional vehicle over the sound of the engine, but Helms is satisfied with his decision. He has no problem working on these mundane problems because electric vehicles are simpler, and their parts last much longer, and moreover, he knows he is doing his part to clean-up the environment and leave his kids a better future.

Stay safe on the roads during winter holiday

Before and during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, law enforcement officials throughout Michigan are participating in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. To protect lives, there will be increased patrols on roads

everyone else on the road," said Katie Bower, Director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). "The aim of the enforcement campaign is to drastically reduce deaths and serious injuries caused by impaired driving.

"We want all Michiganders to have a great time with friends and family over the holidays, but to keep everyone safe, we are also urging people to be responsible, make smart choices and plan for a sober ride home."

From 2018 to 2022, during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, 66 people were killed in traffic crashes in Michigan, including 17 people who died in alcohol-involved crashes.

Officers will be on the lookout for motorists under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol throughout the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement period. In Michigan, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, although motorists can be arrested at any BAC level if an officer thinks they



Impaired-driving enforcement campaign encourages sober driving

from December 15, 2023 to January 1, 2024, with zero tolerance for those who drive impaired.

Throughout 2022 in Michigan, there were 9,331 alcohol-involved crashes with 322 fatalities and 2,452 drug involved crashes with 249 fatalities statewide, according to the University of Michigan Transportation

Research Institute.

That is why, over the 2023 winter holidays, the Michigan State Police, county sheriff offices and municipal police agencies, across Michigan, are encouraging motorists to celebrate safely and make

are impaired.

To increase awareness and encourage safe and sober driving, the OHSP is funding a statewide media campaign about the dangers of impaired driving. Also, December has been recognized as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month to remember those who lost their lives due to impaired driving and remind people that helping prevent impaired-driving deaths and injuries is every driver's responsibility.

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is supported with federal traffic safety funds provided by the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and coordinated by the OHSP.

**Got a Great
Local News Story?**

Tell us about it today!

Call or email the Lowell Ledger Crew!
Phone: 616-897-9261
email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

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}

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

PART-TIME NEWSPAPER REPORTER WANTED - The Lowell Ledger is looking for a news/feature reporter with strong writing skills and can meet a deadline. One township meeting a month is required. This is a stringer position - paid by the story. Please send writing samples and brief resume to: The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or email to: ledger@lowell-buyersguide.com

free

FREE KITTEN - to a loving home. Tiger-stripe female. Housebroken, has had her 3 vaccines and wellness checks. Adorable & very playful. If interested, call 616-841-0098.

misc.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION SAL UPCOMING DINNERS AND RAFFLES - Build-A-Burger, Sat., Jan. 6, 5:30 - 7 pm, \$8; 1/2 Chicken BBQ, Sat., Jan. 20, 5:30 - 7pm, \$14. King of Spades Progressive Drawing - Every Thursday at 7 pm. Lic. # C31399

NEED IT PRINTED?

FROM
SIGNS & BANNERS
to
BUSINESS CARDS & BOOKLETS
and everything
in between!!!

CONTACT

^{Lowell}
Litho & Printing

616.897.9261
FOR INFORMATION OR AN ESTIMATE!

LOWELL LITHO
Your Hometown Printer

misc.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-866-495-1709

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-718-3124

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-877-957-1264

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 Roadwide Service, 616-690-0983. Towing, tire change, jump starts, fuel delivery.

coming events

TOPS(TAKEOFFPOUNDS 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

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.

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 TO BE LOCAL

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

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



The Restless Viking

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

~ Fayette citizens fight for justice

by Martha Hayden

Many of you are familiar with the settlement of Fayette, in Michigan’s upper peninsula. My husband, Chuck, and I uncovered a *True Tales* story which painted the picture of moral mishaps in the Fayette community. The residents had countered these ill behaviors with surprising human strength. Join us as we explore the ghost town of Fayette and learn how the citizen’s rose

furnaces had shut down, in 1891, the town had swiftly been abandoned.

State Park

In 1959, this land became a state park, which continues to be a popular destination. With a nearby campground, visitors can explore Fayette’s buildings and displays over the

there were dark characters threaded through the village and nearby.

Adele Elliot, a Fayette resident, had been recorded as saying that Fayette had been full of good citizens. “Saloons and stockades” had been kept outside of town.

Many men had flocked to “Pig Iron Fred’s Bar”

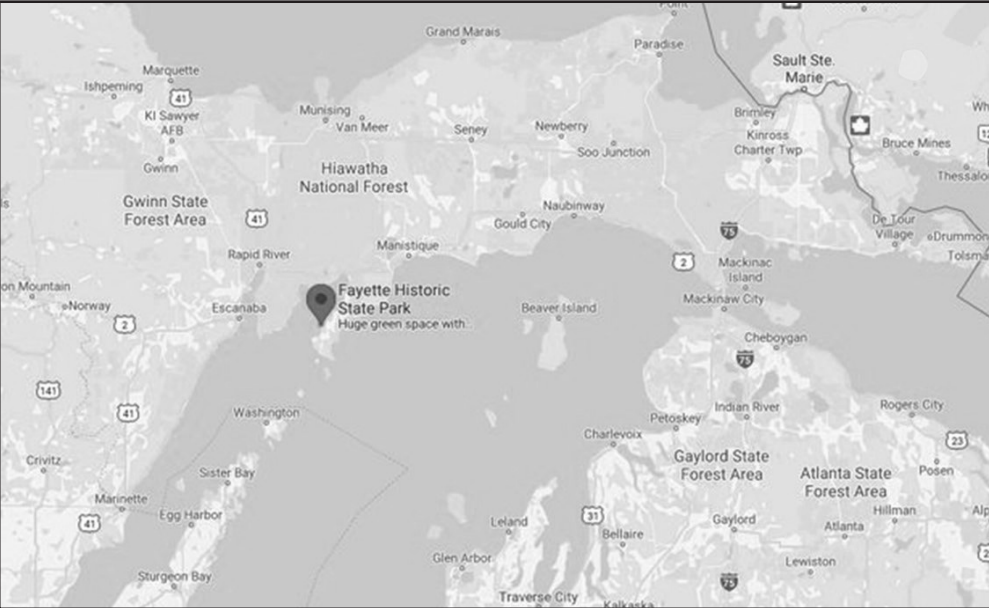
young girl escaped from Jim Sommers’ stockade in nearby Sac Bay. This brave soul crept through the woods for two days. When she finally arrived

she had been shocked to realize that this leader of the law, was escorting her right back to Jim Sommers, who had been waiting in his wagon.

miles away. The mob hauled Jim Sommers out of bed and beat him on the sandy shore. The women were freed and the structures were set ablaze.



The nineteen-room hotel, in Fayette, had been permitted to serve alcohol at its bar; otherwise alcohol hadn’t been available for purchase in the town.



In 1864, the railroad had been built all the way down The Garden Peninsula to Fayette. Processing pig iron along Lake Michigan, instead of Lake Superior, made it much easier to transport goods to Chicago and Detroit.

up against the corruption.

Fayette’s Brief History

Even with all the prospects of success, this boomtown only survived for 24 years from 1867-1891. Improved methods for processing pig iron had made their system obsolete. Also, the wooded resources in the area had become significantly depleted. Once the blast

course of their vacation. There’s so much to see!

A Story of Strength

Now, back to the story of ill morals and the citizen’s strength. . . Throughout history, humans have stirred-up extreme behaviors for the good and for the bad. During Fayette’s short span of existence, people had created an amazingly self-sufficient settlement, but

within walking distance a mile away. Others would often take the train six miles to The Sac Bay Stockade where they could indulge in drinking and pay for intimacies with women. Jim Sommers, the owner of The Stockade, had forced these young females to work at his establishment.

A Woman Escapes

In August of 1880, a

in Fayette, seeking refuge from her forced servanthood, the young gal had sought out the sheriff’s office. I imagined her finally feeling safe with a long exhale after entering the law enforcement building.

Law Enforcement Betrayal

Feeling a sense of relief, the youthful girl willingly followed the sheriff back outside. There

Citizens Fight For Justice

Hearing how the sheriff had turned the woman back over to Jim Sommers, the citizens were appalled!

The upstanding residents of Fayette had rapidly assembled for a meeting to find a solution to this despicable behavior conducted by their own lawman and Jim Sommers.

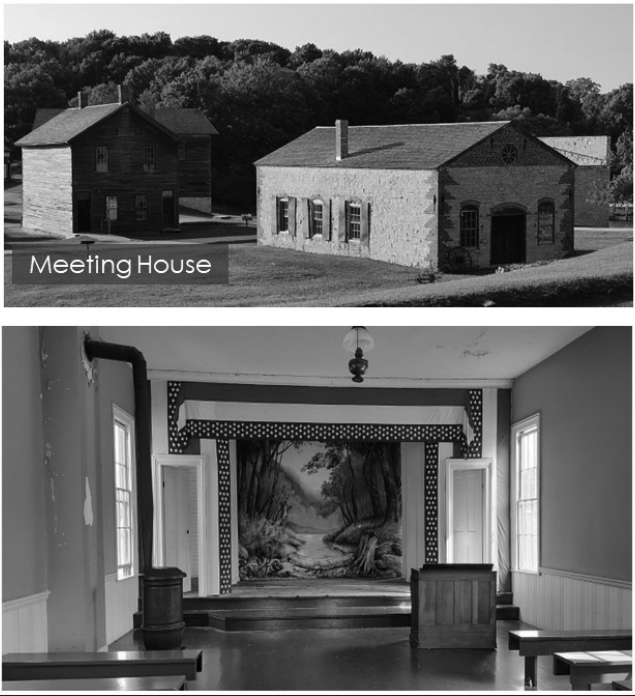
Jim Sommers had been left on the beach. When his pals returned the next day to bury him, his body was gone. The mystery of his disappearance remains today.

Citizens Had Reset Their Community’s Morals

The citizens of Fayette had come together and stood firmly against Jim Sommers’ oppression and the ill behavior of his gang.



The Company Store (above) held all the goods needed for the residents of Fayette.



The Meeting House had an upper-level room used for performances, dances and gatherings.

The Raid
Armed with household implements, the Fayette citizens descended upon “Pig Iron Fred’s Bar,” one mile to the east. With the element of surprise, they located some of Jim Sommers’ clan. I imagine that the sheriff had been there slurping whiskey, when the raid busted through the doors. The citizens, using violence fueled by their anger, had “coerced” the gang to stop their oppression.

Next the citizens headed to the actual stockade which was located at Sac Bay, six

I imagine that the sheriff had been held accountable, as well. The next eleven years at Fayette appeared to have gone much more smoothly, as the citizens had set the moral tone for their settlement.

Long ago, and today, I marvel at people and their choices: good and bad.

Resources:
The Iron Hunter By Chase Osborn available on Amazon
Upper Peninsula Article
Only in Your State article
My North article
Michigan Water Trails website

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

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!

ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

ENTERTAINING
WORD SEARCH

CHAFING DISHES
CHARGERS
ENTERTAIN

HOSTING
INVITE
ITINERARY
MENU
MUSIC
OVERNIGHT
PARTY

PLANNING
PLAYLIST
RECEPTION
RSVP
VALET

ACTIVITIES
ARRIVAL
BARTENDER
BEVERAGES

FOOD
GIFT
GUEST LIST
HOME

Guess Who?

I am a magician and escape artist born in New York on December 19, 1967. Despite objections from my parents, I chose being a professional magician over going to college. I broke the record for being on TV more hours than any other magician.

Answer: Criss Angel

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to entertaining.

T F E B U F

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

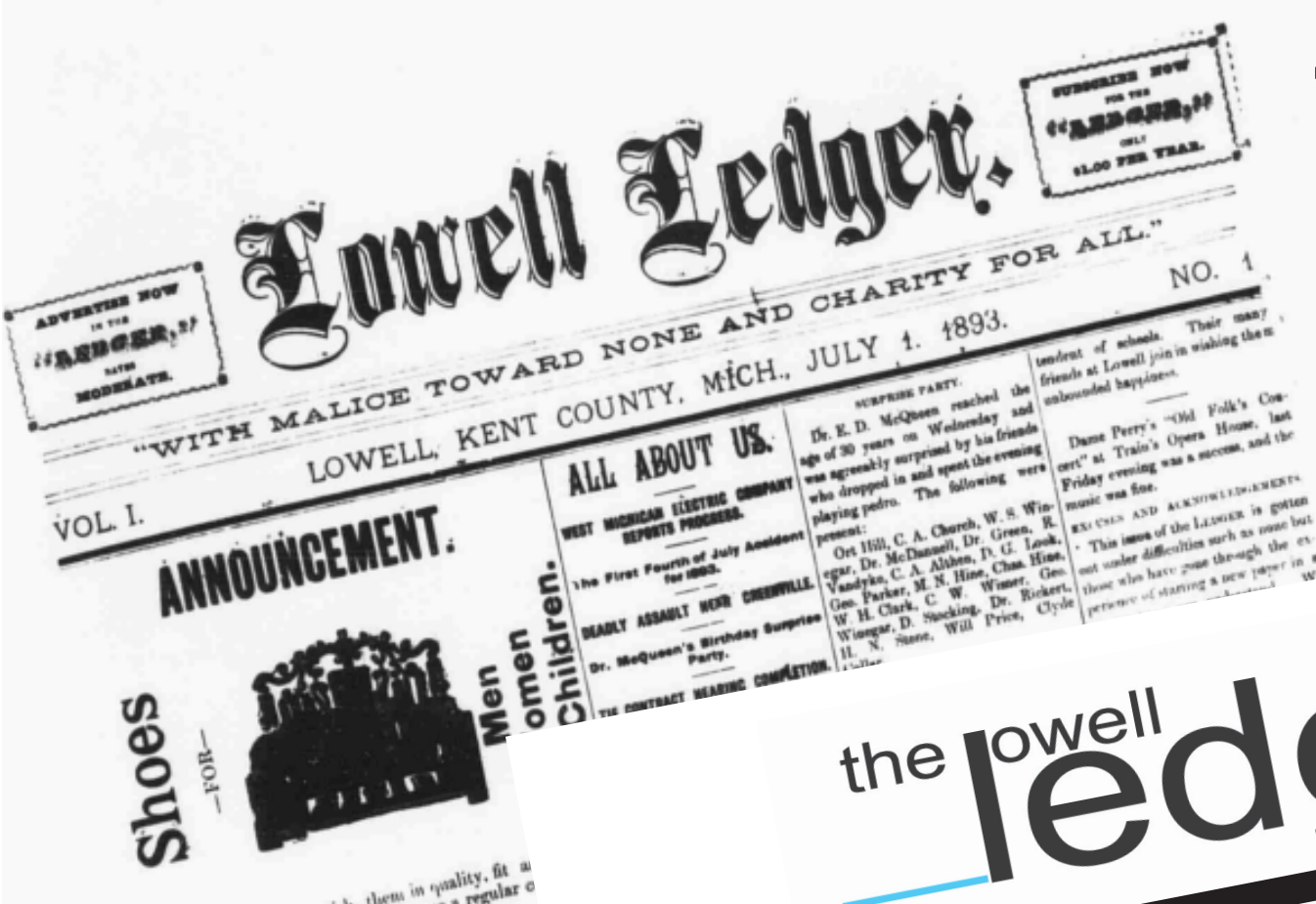
Answer: Buffet

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					65						66			
67					68						69			

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Droops
5. Subatomic particle
10. Not in danger
14. Nursemaid
15. Black band worn in mourning
16. Long song in opera
17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
18. Chicago political family
19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
20. Appetizer
22. Hill (Celtic)
23. Simple shoe
24. Songs to one you love
27. Secret activities
30. Upset
31. Popular hot drink
32. Body art (slang)
35. Fired
37. Blood relation
38. Identical
39. Porticos
40. Partner to cheese
41. Type of sword
42. Enough (archaic)
43. Surface layer of ground
44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
45. Choose for a post
46. Father
47. Tell on
48. Indian title of respect
49. Fonts
52. Fencing sword
55. Mock
56. Vaccine developer
60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
61. Marten with a short tail
63. Chinese temple
64. Invests in little enterprises
65. Popular cut of meat
66. Charity
67. Iron-containing compound
68. River in Northern Europe
69. One point east of southeast
- CLUES DOWN
1. Exhausts
2. Genus of fish related to gars
3. Impudent behavior
4. Adherents to Islam
5. They come after A
6. Spoke
7. Room to receive guests
8. About opera
9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Dog's name
13. Opposite of west
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Ocean
25. Cool!
26. Young woman about to enter society
27. One from central Caucasus
28. Indian city
29. A way to serve ice cream
32. Emaciation
33. Escort aircraft carrier
34. Italian city
36. Mythical settler of Kansas
37. Unhappy
38. High schoolers' test
40. Measured in pace
41. Satisfies
43. Gullible person
44. Enclosed space
46. Substance used to color something
47. Shirt type
49. Discover by investigation
50. __-Castell, makers of pens
51. Semitic Sun god
52. Grads wear one
53. French river
54. Part of a cap
57. Digestive fluid
58. Metrical foot
59. Body part
61. Very fast airplane
62. Supplement with difficulty

Help Us Celebrate our 130th Anniversary

*Delivering Local News and Supporting
Our Local Community for 130 Years!*



**We encourage
you to
celebrate
your years in
business**

*Let's Make
2024 a Great
Year in Our
Community!*



Ad Prices

- Post card size - \$70
- Quarter page - \$134
- Half page - \$250
- Full page - \$450
- Discount on full color

the lowell
ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 616-897-9261
Email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com