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Teacher, community member honored with awards at school board meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their regular monthly meeting at 7 pm on Monday, Oct. 8.

Two award winners were honored at the meeting. First, the Marsha Wilcox Award was presented to State Farm Insurance agent Deborah Wilks, who was instrumental in helping LHS students win \$25,000 grant from State Farm's 'Celebrate My Drive' program.

"She has, from its inception, mentored Chaye Klomparsen's youth advisory council at LHS and has volunteered time to help with the leadership classes that started 11 years ago," said board trustee Laurie Kuna. "Also, she has employed several of our students over the years."

One hundred schools were eligible to receive a grant ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Lowell made the top 100 and was awarded a \$25,000 grant from State Farm. The grant requires that 10 percent of the money

is used to support ongoing teen driver safety efforts. The students decided that the rest will be equally divided between the arts, athletics and technology.

"We're so lucky and fortunate that the school is so open to having people from the community and from the business community come into the school system in different ways," Wilks said. "I'm grateful for that opportunity."

Orchestra teacher Wendy Tenney was named West Michigan Teacher of the Year for 2018 by the Michigan Department of Education. Tenney, a cellist, started the orchestra program in Lowell schools over 14 years ago.

"That special tenacity that Wendy has shines through," said LAS superintendent Greg Pratt. "Not only on nights that she's working with kids out on the stage putting together a performance, but also behind the scenes, making sure that all the kids get what they need."

Bushnell Elementary principal Erin Walters and kindergarten teacher Cathy Wood updated the board about the state-mandated 'Kindergarten Readiness Assessment' test that is currently in progress. The test is given to all kindergarten students and includes assessments of math, literacy, social and physical skills.

The board accepted gifts of supplies and cold weather apparel from three local residents. There was a gift of \$200 from Michael Stephens to be used for school supplies and winter gear, a Meijer gift card for \$450 from Mary Benedict to Bushnell Elementary for winter gear and a \$250 worth of winter coats for all area schools from Ronda Benedict.

The school board's next regular meeting will be in the Runciman Building, 300 High St., at 7 pm on Monday, Nov. 12. They will also have a work session meeting in the same location at 6 pm on Monday, Oct. 22.



Board trustee Laurie Kuna and Marsha Wilcox Award winner Deborah Wilks, who helped LHS students win a \$25,000 grant.

Date set to reveal Vergennes church mural

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr., will unveil their 175th anniversary mural after the regular worship services at 9:30 am and 11 am on Sunday, Oct. 14.

"The actual presentation will occur in both the first and second worship services, then the unveiling of the mural with some comments will take place somewhere very shortly after noon," said VUMC congregant Mac McPherson. "If you skip the worship services, then you'd need to be here by noon just to make sure."

The mural was painted by local artist Gary Eldridge. It is located on a wall inside the church and will offer a graphic representation of their exceptionally long history.

"Some of [the mural] is a timeline of landmark events," said VUMC pastor Thomas Fifer. "Mac McPherson and Roger Odell have been working really hard on capturing the story

of our church and getting a lot of those landmark dates and things that have happened. It's really a chance for us to remember those significant moments and for us to be able to tell the story of our church. We get to beautifully present that on the wall in our gathering place. [...] We'll get together, have some cake and have a chance to gather, chat and reflect on the fact that this church has been in ministry for 175 years. There won't be a long ceremony or anything, it's just a chance to share what's going on, unveil the mural and thank everyone for being a part of it."

The congregation was founded in the spring of 1843 when a group of families from around the Vergennes Township area gathered to worship in the log home of Anthony Yerkes, about a mile east of the current location at the NE corner of Bailey and Parnell. The first members

of the congregation were the Yerkes family, Charles Collar, Joseph Wright, Mrs. Amos Hodges, Mrs. Anna Van Deusen, and Ebenezer Smith. Rev. Bush preached the first sermon. When the current church building was constructed in 1864, the members of the church were the Fairchilds, Kerrs, McPhersons, Odells, Bieris and Andersons. They have updated and added onto the building over the years and have more updates planned, but the property retains many of the original 19th century features like an ornate tin ceiling. The church was named an official historical site by the state of Michigan in 1978 and a historical marker was placed there in 1986.

For more information about Vergennes United Methodist Church, visit vergenneschurch.org or call 616-897-6141.



On Sunday, Oct. 14, Vergennes United Methodist Church at the corner of Parnell and Bailey will unveil a mural by Gary Eldridge to celebrate its 175th anniversary.

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Gov. Snyder debuts statewide broadband project

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

In August, Gov. Rick Snyder unveiled an ambitious plan to bring broadband Internet to the approximately 368,000 households and businesses in the state that do not currently have access. The goal is to complete the project by 2026. To facilitate this, Snyder created the Michigan Consortium of Advanced Networks, who came up with recommendations on how to go about it. Their recommendations were published in late August in the form of a 109-page report called ‘Michigan Broadband Roadmap.’

Large providers like AT&T and Comcast do not find it sufficiently profitable to do business in rural areas with low population density. Michigan currently ranks 30th among the 50 states in broadband availability and 34th on broadband adoption. In Alcona County, for example, there are a little over 5,000 homes and 20 percent of them lack access to high speed Internet. In Presque Isle County, about 68 percent of the 6,000 homes have no access to broadband Internet. According to the

report, lack of broadband is depriving Michigan of \$2.5 billion in economic opportunities.

“As technology continues to rapidly change and evolve, having access to fast, reliable Internet is now a necessity for everyday life,” Snyder said during an Aug. 15 speech at Escanaba High School. “There are many regions of Michigan where Internet is inaccessible or ineffective and this plan works to make broadband Internet available to Michigan residents in every corner of the state.”

The report cites several sources of funds for the project, including grants from federal agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission, the US Department of Agriculture and the White House’s \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan. The report also recommends using a \$20 million Connecting Michigan Communities grant to support between 50 and 100 broadband projects each year.

Other ideas included in the report:

“Convening a workgroup of outside experts in

the fields of community development and philanthropy to develop guidelines for the creation of a Kalamazoo Promise-style funding program for broadband. The Kalamazoo Promise is a philanthropic program that funds college education for students graduating from the Kalamazoo school district, which has yielded numerous indirect benefits for the city by making it a more attractive place to live.

Leverage the resources offered by Snyder’s Marshall Plan for Talent to identify opportunities for training residents to meet the workforce needs of internet service providers.

Identify and aggregate broadband infrastructure data, building on the work of the Michigan Asset Management Pilot. The report cites a useful initiative undertaken in Michigan’s Ogemaw county to create an inventory or ‘vertical assets’ such as barns, water towers and silos that can be used to install broadband infrastructure – an initiative Telecompetitor previously covered last year.

Inventory the location and current connectivity of Michigan’s community



Gov. Rick Snyder announced the plan during a speech at Escanaba High School. (photo from Wikipedia)

anchor institutions such as health care facilities, libraries and government agencies.”

The members of the Michigan Consortium of Advanced Networks were Dave DeVries, chair of the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget; Gavin Leach, vice chair of Northern Michigan University; Bonnie Alfonso from Alfie Logo Gear; Peter

Anastor of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Dawn Brinningstaull from the Michigan State Police; Craig D’Agostini, the Speaker of the House of Representatives’ appointee; Daniel Dundas, the Senate Majority Leader’s appointee; Seth Earl from the US Dept. of Agriculture; Linglong He from Quicken Loans; Jeff Mason of the Michigan Economic

Development Corporation; Sally Talberg from the Michigan Public Service Commission; Scott Thayer from Michigan Department of Transportation and Daniel Williams of the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology.

The entire Michigan Broadband Roadmap is available at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/MCAN_final_report_629873_7.pdf.

Medicare Explained

Social Security and Medicare have a few things in common. Both programs help safeguard millions of Americans as well as improve the quality of life for our family and friends. Although both programs are household names, many people may not be familiar with the details of Medicare.

Medicare is our country’s health insurance program for people age 65 or older. The program helps with the cost of health care, but it doesn’t cover all medical expenses

or the cost of most long-term care. You have choices for how you get Medicare coverage. If you choose to have original Medicare coverage, you can buy a Medicare supplement policy (called Medigap) from a private insurance company to cover some of the costs that Medicare does not.

Medicare has four parts:

Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility (following a hospital

stay). Part A also pays for some home health care and hospice care.

Medicare Part B (medical insurance) helps pay for services from doctors and other health care providers, outpatient care, home health care, durable medical equipment, and some preventive services.

Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) includes all benefits and services covered under Part A and Part B. Some plans include Medicare

prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) and other extra benefits and services.

Medicare Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage) helps cover the cost of prescription drugs. Some people with limited resources and income may also be able to get Extra Help with the costs—monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments—related to a Medicare prescription drug plan. The Extra Help is estimated to be worth about \$4,900 per year. You must meet the resources

and income requirement.

Medicare’s different parts are further explained in our publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf.

If you can’t afford to pay your Medicare premiums and other medical costs, you may be able to get help from your state. States offer programs for people eligible for or entitled to Medicare who have low income. Some programs may pay for Medicare premiums and some pay Medicare deductibles and coinsurance. To qualify, you

must have Medicare Part A and have limited income and resources.

You can learn more about Medicare, including how to apply for Medicare and get a replacement Medicare card, at www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare.

Vonda VanTil is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vondavantil@ssa.gov



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Secretary of State forgives driver responsibility fees

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

There have been long lines at the Secretary of State offices this week, substantially longer than usual, because the bills eliminating driver's license reinstatement fees went into effect on Monday, Oct. 1. Sponsored by state Reps. Lee Chatfield, Daire Rendon, Roger Hauck and

Joseph Bellino, the bills amended the state vehicle code on several points and eliminated about \$650 million in debt owed by about 350,000 Michigan drivers. First, after Sept. 30, the Department of Treasury can no longer collect outstanding fees. If a driver entered into an installment agreement to

pay their fees on or before Feb. 1, 2018, they are instantly eligible and no longer have to make those payments. No new fees will be assessed starting Oct. 1. Individuals enrolled in workforce training programs are eligible to have their licenses reinstated and fees waived upon completion of the program. The bills eliminate the separate reinstatement fee of \$125 charged by the Secretary of State to reinstate a license that was suspended due to unpaid fees from the date the bill is signed (March 1, 2018) until December 31, 2018. Finally, the bills designate \$250,000 to the Department of Treasury to implement and administer changes to the act and the workforce training program.

"I have long opposed these fees and worked with the Legislature since taking office to phase them out," Gov. Rick Snyder said when he signed the bills in March. "I'm pleased we found a solution that eliminates them without creating new state debt and helps remove barriers to work for more Michiganders."

For more information, check out the state's FAQ document online at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/driverresponsibility/DRF_Elimination_FAQs_621523_7.pdf.



Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson



Secretary Johnson thanks staff for busting identity theft, driver's license fraud ring

SOS staff first identified, investigated fraudulent paperwork before turning over findings to state, federal law enforcement.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson praised her office's staff for detecting and investigating a suspected document fraud and identity theft ring, and ensuring the suspects were prosecuted and convicted. Three individuals pleaded guilty recently to federal crimes after Secretary of State staff turned over their investigation to state and federal law enforcement agencies.

"These prosecutions should be a warning to anyone who believes they can get away with passing fraudulent documents at a Secretary of State office: Felony convictions and possible time in federal

prison lie ahead for you," Johnson said.

Pleading guilty were Eddie Michael Balderramas, 51, and his son, Michael James Balderramas, 28, both of Kalamazoo, and Michelle Martinez-Marte, 37, of Rhode Island. According to the plea agreements, between April 4, 2016 and July 20, 2017, the three defendants allegedly conspired to assist individuals primarily from the Dominican Republic who were not legally present in the United States in obtaining Michigan driver's licenses using false or stolen Puerto Rican identification documents.

"I am grateful and

proud of the role that the Secretary of State Office of Investigative Services played in the investigation that will put these criminals behind bars as well as the excellent work of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Investigations, the Michigan State Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration," Johnson said. "These convictions would not have been possible without the incredible teamwork shown by all of the agencies."

After receiving information about an individual with a fraudulently issued

Michigan driver's license who had been arrested out of state, the Secretary of State Office of Investigative Services' staff worked with other state and federal law enforcement agencies over the past year. Irregularities in driver's license applications and other documents were just some of the red flags that tipped off Office of Investigative Services' staff to the illegal activity. Once the activities of the Balderramases at Secretary of State offices were identified by investigators, federal and state law enforcement agencies were contacted.

The defendants face

up to 15 years in prison on the conspiracy charge. Martinez-Marte and Eddie Balderramas face an additional two years imprisonment for aggravated identity theft. Martinez-Marte faces an additional two years in prison for an additional conviction of illegally re-entering the United States after having been previously deported.

With fraudulent identification, recipients are more easily able to get loans and open credit card accounts under the name of the person's identity that was stolen, possibly resulting in the victim owing the money.

As part of her focus

on strengthening the department's consumer protection efforts and to fight fraud, Johnson created the Office of Investigative Services, which inspects automotive-related businesses and investigates consumer complaints and suspected fraudulent activity. The office has made 468 criminal investigation referrals since its creation.

Michigan residents who want to pass on a tip about possible fraudulent activity involving driver's licenses or other Secretary of State services are encouraged to call the Office of Investigative Services complaint line at (517) 335-1410.

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Lowell Area School superintendent Greg Pratt with Teacher of the Year Wendy Tenney at the school board meeting on Monday, Oct. 8. Tenney teaches orchestra to students from sixth grade through high school. Full story on front page.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, October 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider a special exception use and rezone application as summarized below:

Kent County Dispatch Authority has applied for a special exception use permit to construct a 300' high lattice tower with a 4' lightning rod for the purpose of attaching emergency radio communication antennas on it so that Central Dispatch 911 can communicate with all emergency persons such as fire and rescue during emergency situations and locations in all areas of the County. There will be 12 of these towers/antennas throughout Kent County to provide this service that the voters approved in 2016. The property proposed for this tower location is on the Kent County owned gravel pit at 1000 Cumberland Ave across from the Bennett St intersection.

Kent County Dispatch Authority is also requesting that the County owned gravel pit parcel be rezoned from R-1 to R-A to permit the location and application of the above tower.

The complete application can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671**. Due to the size of the application, it is not suitable to be on the website. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Direct Mail in Michigan

Michiganians depend on newspapers for advertising inserts¹

Newspapers are the preferred source of coupons over direct mail.

82% of consumers use coupons received through newspaper inserts¹

33% of Michigan adults prefer receiving coupons from direct mail.²

Michigan consumers prefer to receive advertising inserts in printed newspapers – higher than those who prefer to receive them through direct mail²

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than direct mail.²

79% of Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days⁴

17.2% of adults made a purchase in the past 90 days as the result of a direct mail flyer³

Direct mail lacks the effective reach of newspaper advertising.

86% of adults look at newspaper inserts to get the best deals³

72% of Michigan adults never bought anything as the result of a direct mail piece²

50% of Michigan adults did not buy anything as the result of a direct mail piece in the past year²



Sources: ¹2K17 Valassis Coupon Intelligence Report; ²2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ³Triad/Coda Ventures Insert Study; ⁴NAA; ⁵Pulse of America 2018

viewpoint

to the editor

Letter to the Editor:

I appreciate that the Buyers Guide and Lowell Ledger have been running articles on opioid addiction and all the advertisers who paid to support the articles August 26, 2018. As a state, we have the opportunity to vote yes or no on legalizing marijuana in our state on November 6, 2018. Do we want to make an addictive drug more readily available

to the public? Find out more about pot by checking out an excellent website, Smart Approach to Marijuana www.learnaboutsam.org. Educate yourself about pot, three ballot referendums and all judges and political positions before you vote on November 6, 2018.

Sincerely,
James Reagan

Letter to the Editor:

In the past, you have supported us at Fallasburg Festival, loving our Italian sausage sandwiches with the marinara sauce, onions, and green peppers, as well as the chips and drinks, not to mention the very tasty BC Pizza and our delicious homemade pumpkin pies.

You have waited in line at Christmas Thru Lowell for our savory soups and scrumptious sandwiches, followed by visiting our Christmas crafts and jam booth at the Lowell First Congregational Church.

You have had coffee and donuts and stopped by for a friendly chat with us at Lowell Expo, which we appreciate.

And now, we would like for you to visit us during Girls' Night Out, Thursday, October 18, at the patio of Tap House Bo, for our next fundraiser and our first time participating in GNO. We will be having a bake sale featuring homemade baked goods of various sorts: cupcakes, cookies, bars, candies, etc. (You can smell the goodies now.) We are excited about participating

in this event, and with your support it can be yet another way to help us continue to raise funds for the following:

- During the 2017-2018 year, we raised money for student member scholarships (senior girl members). This included 10 annual community gifts:
- Alpha Family Center
- Baby Pantry of Lowell
- First Congregational Church (UCC) for Lowell Women's Club meetings
- FROM Food Fight
- Gilda's Club of Lowell
- Lowell Area Historical Museum
- Lowell Farm & Wildlife Center
- Lowell's Open Table
- Lowell Senior Neighbors
- Pink Arrow Pride
- Additional community gifts are awarded as funds are available.

Who are we? Why, we are Lowell Women's Club (celebrating 91 years) and our purpose is to enrich members through programs, volunteerism and fellowship, and to raise money for scholarships and community needs, as previously mentioned.

So we ask for your support one more time at Girl's Night Out. Bring your friends, bring your family members, make it an evening of fun and laughter, and make it an evening of savory delight by visiting with us at the Tap House Bo patio. Please join us and share in the quest to continue these very worthwhile scholarships and community gifts. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lynette Swan
Salzwedel
Lowell Women's Club
Member



125 years ago Lowell Ledger October 14, 1893

The Water and Light Co. treat all people alike in regard to water rates. Porter Carr has been instructed to shut off the water from any customer who is wasting it.

W. B. B. Harter, a banker, from Ionia, Mich., committed suicide Monday morning by taking morphine. The matter was kept quiet by the coroner and friends of the dead man and only became public tonight, when the remains were sent to his home in Michigan.

Geo. Summs of Ionia was arrested for drunkenness in Lowell last week Friday. It cost him \$6.85. P.W. Burns of Grattan was also arrested for drunkenness and the fines and costs amounted to \$18.79.

100 years The Lowell Ledger October 10, 1918

The body of Delos H. Owen was found in Grand river Tuesday morning, following his disappearance the night before after leaving a note at his office which caused fears for his safety. Friends had been searching during the night; but the discovery was not made until about 10 o'clock the following day, when Albert Johnson located it just below the upper Grand river bridge.

Mrs. Mary Cook has received a box of sea shells from her sister at Nantucket, Mass.

We will pay a straight salary of \$35.00 per week for man or women with rig to introduce Eureka Egg Producer. Six months contract. Eureka Mfg. Co., East St. Louis, Ill.

75 years The Lowell Ledger October 14, 1943

No more alcoholic beverages after January 1, 1944, to men and women between the ages of 21 and 25, inclusive, without an identification card issued by the County Clerk.

K.K. Vining, Kent County agent talked to all the high school boys, 15 years or older, recently, asking their help in getting in the fall crops. The first group of volunteers picked apples last week Thursday and Friday at the Timpson orchard, followed by other groups of boys on other days. The boys will also help later in picking up potatoes if needed.

C.H. Runciman has finished his apple picking, the fruit being of excellent quality. The last big day was a week ago Saturday, Mr. Runciman states, when about 40 schools boys helped with the picking.

Not many shotguns left in dealers hands, according to reports. Second hand guns are also scarce and bringing good prices. At this writing shells are about as scarce as hen's teeth, although a limited supply may be rationed, but in any event hunters are sure to be disappointed in the number of shells.

50 years The Lowell Ledger October 10, 1968

A new communications system, designed to provide immediate contact with the Lowell Police Department on a 24-hour basis, will be installed in the near future.

Arthur Blough is a relative newcomer to motorcycle competition, but the 24-year-old Lowell rider is already carving a niche for himself in the sport. Blough finished third in heavyweight class in the recent 500-mile endural held in Lansing.

School officials hope for a freeze on county allocation of school millage and abolishing the Tax Allocation Board so that they can plan meaningful budgets each year.

Councilman Carlen Anderson persuades City Council to take action on needed city improvements without waiting for citizen petitions.

25 years The Lowell Ledger October 13, 1993

A two-and-a-half day blackout of WWMT-TV Channel 3 by Lowell Cable ended Friday night a little after 7 pm. Lowell Cable Superintendent Paul Christman said the two sides reached a tentative two-week extension agreement.

Six factors affecting known revenues of the Lowell School District persuaded the Lowell School Board to

give the administration permission to reinstate a six-hour day beginning the second semester.

The need for a telephone near I-96 has reopened discussion about building a gas station at the southwest corner of Alden Nash Ave and Cascade Road intersection. Lowell Township Trustee Carol Wieland has asked Planning Commission member and Lowell Township Trustee, Herb VanderBilt, why the planning commission is not willing to allow a gas station on the corner.

The Lowell Township Planning Commission has agreed to grant a special use permit to Rudy Smith and Robert and Carlinda Boyd for the purpose of operating an archery range.

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.

HEALTH

With Drs. Paul Gauthier,
Jim Lang,
Wayne A. Christenson III,
John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie



Treasures Thrift Shop makes updates to donation policy

Treasures Thrift Shop, the place to go in Lowell for great deals on gently used items, is making changes to their donation policy including items accepted and donation room hours.

Treasures Thrift Shop helps fund the mission of Flat River Outreach Ministries, but lately some of those funds have been diverted in order to address an increasing amount of items dropped off at the organization that are in no condition to resell.

"We live in an incredibly generous community that for twenty years has supported our mission of walking alongside our neighbors in need," says Dawn Broene, executive director at FROM. "We appreciate all the support, but lately we have seen a large increase in donations that we are unable to sell. People are dropping off items that are moldy, stained, broken, missing pieces or covered in bugs or animal feces. Other times, donations are left outside in the rain. If an item can't be sold, we have to pay to dispose of it, which means those funds are taken away from programs."

Volunteers, many of whom are retirees, sort all the items dropped off at the donation center to determine if something is able to be sold. Items deemed sellable are then sent to the individual departments to be priced. If an item can't be sold it may end up in recycling or in the trash.

"Our volunteers do an excellent job sorting through the donations to make sure we are putting items in the store that still have a lot of life in them, but simply need a new home. Sometimes when these volunteers arrive at 7 am they can't even get in the door of our donation room because it's blocked by furniture left outside or items piled so high they can't open the doors," says Broene. "While this seems like a great problem to have, some of these items, unfortunately, have to be thrown away because we simply can't sell them; and that comes at a cost. So far this year the amount we've spent in additional dumpster and removal fees is equivalent to providing a gallon of milk and a dozen eggs for the 200 families that use our Food Pantry each month."

In an effort to curb rising trash removal costs, FROM has enacted new donation rules, including no longer accepting fabric furniture, such as couches. The donation room will also close its doors at 8 pm and will be closed on Sundays. The agency is asking that people review their list of accepted items before donating and to not drop off donations after hours or outside.

"On one weekend we received half a dozen furniture items that we couldn't sell because some were covered in mold and others were left outside

in the rain. These large items require a special dumpster and some require an additional removal fee which takes resources away from supporting programs," states Broene.

Proceeds from Treasures Thrift Shop provide about 40 percent of the funding for FROM programs like the food pantry, kid's Summer Lunch program, employment services and more. FROM is hopeful that making changes to their donation policy will decrease the cost and help ensure those funds are going to help those living in the Lowell Area School District.

"We have reached out to other organizations and know this is not a problem unique to FROM, but we believe we live in a community that wants us to be good stewards of both our resources and our volunteers' time. Right now this problem is

putting additional strain on our volunteers who already go above and beyond and is diverting resources away from helping our neighbors," says Broene. "We are asking people to look at our list of items we can and can't accept and think before they donate: 'Is this item something I would purchase in its current condition.' If it's something that doesn't follow our guidelines or isn't in a condition to re-sell please consider other ways to dispose of it without putting that cost burden on FROM."

The new donation room hours will go into effect on October 14, 2018 with donations being accepted Monday-Saturday from 6 am to 8 pm and closed Sunday. A complete list of items accepted for donation can be found at www.fromlowell.org/thriftshopdonations and in the Donation Room.

- hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is a virus which attacks the liver. It can lead to serious liver damage and liver failure, or liver cancer. Hepatitis C is an infection that remains silent for many, many years until it starts causing symptoms.

Symptoms include: easy bruising and bleeding, fatigue, yellow skin and eyes, dark urine, itching, swelling of the abdomen and legs, and confusion.

Hepatitis C spreads when contaminated blood enters the bloodstream of an uninfected individual. Some people clear the infection spontaneously.

Risk factors for infection include: Injecting drugs, non-sterile tattoos, blood or organ transplant before 1992, being born between 1945 and 1965. This population is five times more likely to be infected than those born in other years.

There is now treatment available to cure hepatitis C. This is a remarkable result of direct acting antiviral medication. Some people require a liver transplant (which does not cure the infection). There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C.

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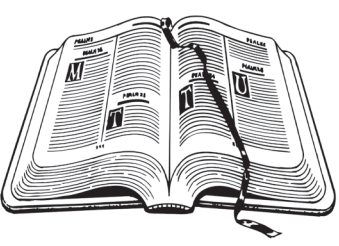
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- OCTOBER 11**
Susan Merriman, Ashley Hendrick, Dale Ruse.
- OCTOBER 12**
Neille Stephens, Becky Batt.
- OCTOBER 13**
Adam Thaler, Joe VanLaan, Patrick Doyle, Kurtis Clouser, Jr.
- OCTOBER 14**
Ericka Onan, Barb Erickson, Debra Duiven, Court Duiven, Kyle Hildenbrand, Stacey Kinyon, Kelsey Callihan, Jim Watrous, Caleb Baker.
- OCTOBER 15**
Jamie Roth, Jason Roth, Elizabeth Raab, Mark Russell, Jan Lippert, Annie Oesch, Kevin Clouser, Frank Grudzinskas, Doug Felling.
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US, Mexico and Canada could replace NAFTA with new deal

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The United States/Mexico/Canada Agreement, aka 'NAFTA 2.0,' is a new free trade agreement between Mexico, Canada and the United States. The three parties agreed to the terms on Oct. 1. Final ratification and implementation is still pending.



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with Enrique Peña Nieto, the President of Mexico.

USMCA will change country of origin rules. Automobiles must have 75 percent of their components manufactured in Mexico, the US or Canada in order to qualify for zero tariffs. This is an increase from the 62.5 percent required under NAFTA.

Labor rules will change. By 2023, 40 to 45 percent of automobile parts must be made by workers who earn at least \$16 an hour. In addition, Mexico has agreed to pass laws giving workers the right to unionize, to extend labor protections to migrant workers and to protect women from discrimination. The three countries can sanction one another for labor violations.

There will be changes to intellectual property and digital trade laws. The deal extends the terms of copyright to 70 years beyond the life of the author; it used to be 50 years. The USMCA also extends the period that a pharmaceutical drug can be protected from generic competition.

The USMCA has a clause stating that the agreement will expire in 16 years. It is subject to a review every six years, a time when the three countries can decide to amend or extend the agreement for another 16 years.

The deal isn't final yet. All three countries must now take the agreement back to their governments for approval. The US Congress will most likely wait until early 2019 to consider it.

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SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana

preventing another big tobacco

WHO WE ARE

SAM is the leading non-partisan, non-profit policy group supporting a science-based, common-sense approach to marijuana. We bring the brightest scientific minds to the table on this issue, including top decision-makers and researchers from the most prestigious universities in the world. Based on their advice, we:

- Support a marijuana policy based on science, not slogans
- Educate citizens on the science of marijuana
- Fight and stop marijuana legalization
- Advocate for alternatives to incarceration for marijuana users, and support research on marijuana
- Orchestrate non-partisan campaigns to stop Big Marijuana through our lobbying arm, SAM Action (a 501(c)(4) organization)

SAM also works with noted policy leaders, including the heads of U.S. federal agencies, federal and state representatives, and ambassadors.

OUR ADVISORS

SAM benefits from an all-star list of advisors from public service and the scientific community, whose perspectives on public health and safety guide our work.

HONORARY ADVISORS

- **The Honorable Patrick Kennedy**
Former U.S. Representative, Rhode Island; Co-Founder, One Mind, and Founder, Kennedy Forum
- **David Frum**
Senior Editor, *The Atlantic*, speechwriter to President George H. W. Bush
- **Gen. Barry R. McCaffery (Ret.)**
Former Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

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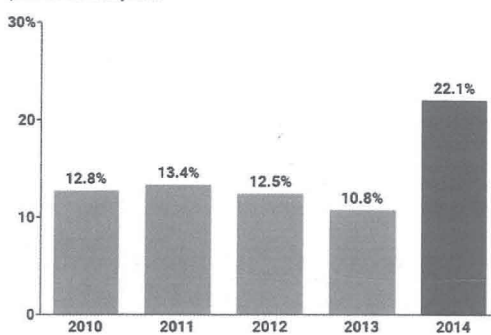
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SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana

preventing another big tobacco

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION: QUICK FACTS

WA traffic fatalities where driver tested positive for marijuana



Source: AAA Foundation (2016).

HEALTH RISKS

According to virtually every scientific review, including a 2016 World Health Organization report and a 2017 National Academy of Sciences study, **marijuana is addictive and harmful**—despite rhetoric from the marijuana industry.

The chances of becoming dependent on marijuana can be up to 50% for some users, and regular use is indisputably dangerous to the adolescent brain, in some cases linked to permanent reductions in IQ.

Unlike cigarettes, marijuana also intoxicates, sometimes with tragic results. **The percentage of traffic deaths related to marijuana more than doubled in Washington State the year retail marijuana sales were allowed**, and Colorado has seen similar increases in pot-related accidents.

MARIJUANA EDIBLES

Marijuana legalization has spurred a boom in pot "edibles." THC concentrate is mixed into almost any type of food or drink, including gummy candy, soda, and lollipops. Today, **these edibles comprise at least half of Colorado's marijuana market.**

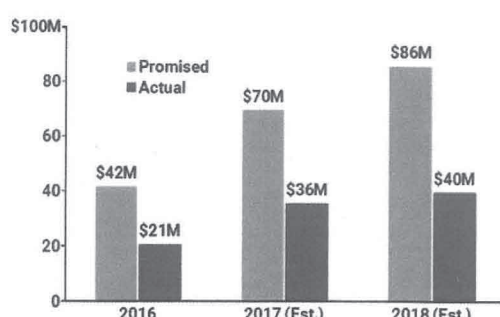
Edibles' potency (several times that of an average joint) and their attractiveness to kids have led to **serious problems in legalized states like Colorado:**

- A 19-year-old jumped to his death from a fourth-floor balcony after eating a highly potent pot candy.
- Emergency poison control calls for children aged 0 to 8 more than tripled in Colorado after legalization.
- More high school seniors are using pot now than a decade ago, even as use of cigarettes, alcohol, and all other drugs combined has declined.



THC-infused sodas currently on the market as of February 2017.

Marijuana tax money for prevention & education, WA



Source: Initiative 502; Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (as reported by The Seattle Times)

COSTS OUTWEIGH TAX REVENUE

Although it is still early for comprehensive cost studies on the costs of marijuana legalization, unsettling trends have already surfaced in Colorado & Washington state, suggesting that, like tobacco and alcohol, costs outweigh revenues:

- Over half the pot money promised for drug prevention, education & treatment in WA **never materialized.**
- **Bureaucracy consumes a significant portion of Colorado marijuana tax revenue.**
- **More CO youth - especially black & Latino kids - are being arrested for pot-related offenses post-legalization.**
- Adolescent suicide victims in Colorado are **increasingly found with marijuana in their systems.**
- Marijuana offenses in Colorado elementary and high schools have **increased 34 percent since legalization.**

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Assumptions & Priorities

- Anticipate a ZERO mill increase
- Allow bonding capacity for future needs in approximately [8 to 10 years.
- Include infrastructure needs for the next five years
- Every school building to receive some improvements
- Limit Elementary school capacity to 600 students
- Move pre-school, for capacity at Bushnell
- Accommodate student growth at Alto
- Long-range plan for facility improvements with NO tax increases

Existing Infrastructure

Highest Priority Needs:

- **Alto** – new mechanical system, air conditioning, lighting & ceilings
- **Bushnell** – new mechanical system, boilers, public address system
- **Cherry Creek** – roofing, exterior doors, office cooling, public address system
- **Murray Lake** – new lighting control system, public address system
- **Middle School** – four basketball backboards, mezzanine flooring

Infrastructure Sub-Total \$5,860,000

Lowell Area Schools holding ‘listening tour’

Lowell Area Schools will have two special meetings to gather public input on facility planning and to keep district residents informed about the status of school buildings, the challenges the schools face and the district’s plans for the future. The meetings will take place in the cafeteria at Lowell Middle School, 750 Foreman, on Wednesday, Oct. 17 and Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 7 pm until 8:30 pm.

Here are a few informational slides from a 22-page informational PowerPoint presentation developed by LAS superintendent Greg Pratt.

High School Athletics



• Tennis	– 4 post-tensioned concrete courts, sidewalks, bleachers and shade structure	\$0.75 million
• North Athletic Fields	– Synthetic Turf Field, bleachers, press box, team room, lighting & toilet building	\$3.6 million
• Baseball / Softball	– Dugouts, press box, bleachers, concrete (no lighting)	\$0.60 million
Athletics sub – total		\$4.95 million
• ALTERNATE (not included) Indoor Athletics	– 2,400 seat Competition Gym with wrestling, team rooms, toilets, concession, lobby	\$12.8 million



Budget Summary

Infrastructure Needs (all schools)	\$5.86 million
Alto Classrooms	\$3.50 million
High School Athletics	\$4.95 million
Middle school additions & renovations	\$33.0 million +/-
Technology & Furnishings	\$2.0 million
Pre-School	by owner
Approximate Budget Target	\$49.31

Funding



What are our Funding Options?

- General Fund: District has Committed Some Items to be Completed with General Fund
- Sinking Fund: 7 years - Ends in 2020
- Bond Issue – goal is to be able to provide for improvements to district buildings without increasing taxes (zero mill increase).



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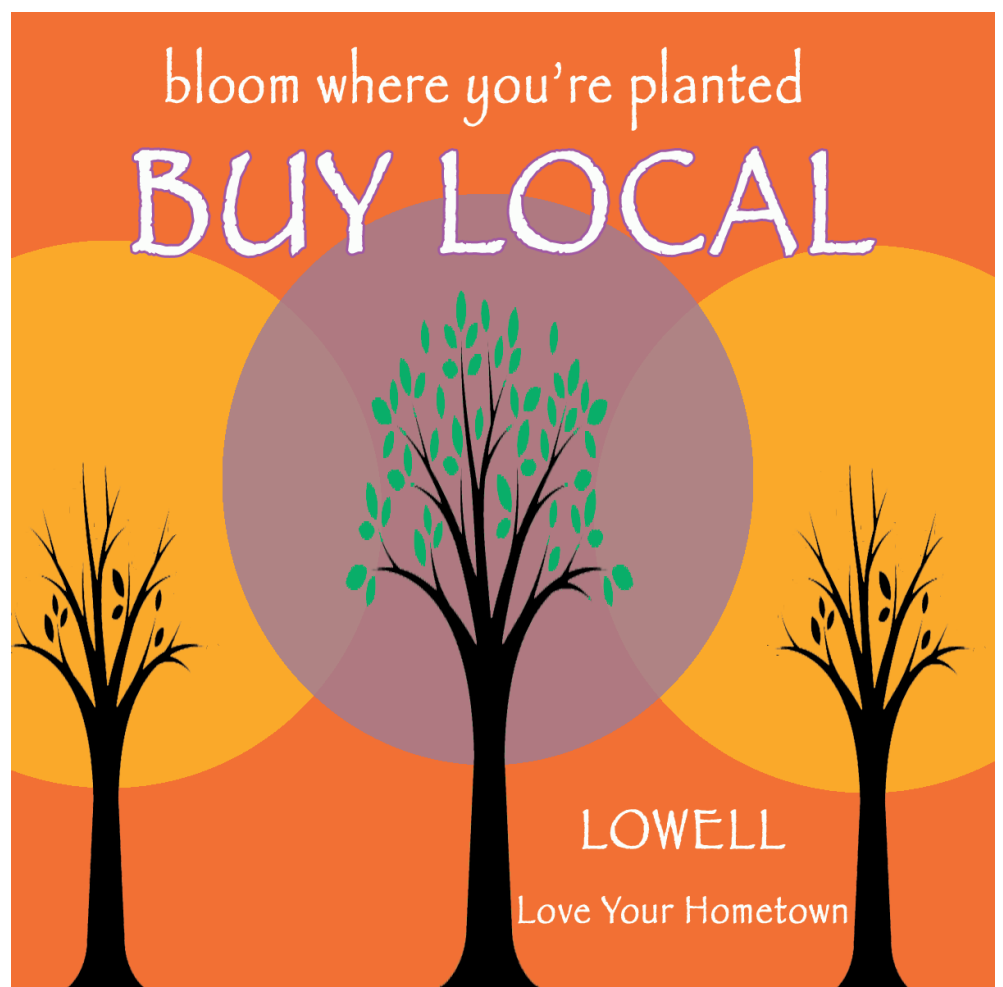
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SOCCER Player Spotlight

Our Spotlight Athlete This Week: *Isabel Remar*

Pursued by several Division II and III schools for her prowess on the soccer field, Red Arrow senior Isabel Remar recently landed on Siena Heights University, signing her commitment papers surrounded by family, friends, coaches and administrators. A member of the National Honor Society and the community service-minded Interact Club, Remar has already collected both her JV and varsity letter, an all district team award and a team all academic award.

Ledger: When did you begin to play soccer and what drew you to the sport?

Remar: I started playing soccer when I was four years old for YMCA and have loved the sport ever since. I loved the inclusive atmosphere no matter what team I was on, or what club I played for.

Ledger: What is your favorite aspect of soccer?

Remar: My favorite aspect of soccer is the overall simplicity of the game, as well as each underlying aspect that makes it the most popular sport in the world.



Ledger: Who has most inspired you on your athletics journey thus far?

Remar: There is one person who almost never misses a game. His personal athletic background has inspired me and pushed me to strive for the goals I set for myself. He yells across the field "Let's go, Bell!" at every game and gives me endless support. My dad is my number one fan.

Ledger: What are your goals for the upcoming season?

Remar: My goals for the upcoming season include beating our rivals, Forest Hills Northern, and working towards a district title.

Ledger: What is your favorite moment on the field thus far with the varsity team?

Remar: My favorite moment was this past season in district play, when our team was facing Northern and I scored the first goal of the night with a header off of a corner kick from Darby Dean.

Ledger: What made Siena Heights University the right choice for you?

Remar: Everything about Siena Heights, I love. The campus is beautiful, the cafeteria is great - that's a big plus - and the medium size of the school is perfect for me. But the best part about SHU is the people. The staff and faculty are amazing, as well as my coach and my future teammates.

Ledger: What career path do you intend to pursue at the university?

Remar: In college, I intend to peruse a career based in pre-medicine with a minor in the Spanish language.



Remar on the field for the Red Arrows varsity team last spring during their winning 7-3-1 conference season, and at just six years old in her first soccer jersey through the local YMCA.

Ledger: What feelings did you experience during your signing night event?

Remar: The morning of my college signing was stressful, yet so satisfying. All the eyes of so many family members and staff members focused on me was a bit nerve-racking, but once I had really signed my letter of intent I felt as though an enormous weight had been lifted off my shoulders, because finally the college search and planning and application process was over.

Ledger: How do you feel being a Red Arrow has prepared you for your future?

Remar: I am very proud to have grown up in such an amazing community. Being a Red Arrow has not only given me a wholesome education, but it has also taught me so many values and overall has shaped me into the person I am today. The personal values I have learned as a Red Arrow will bring me big places in my future.

MLE volunteer of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary has named Susan Barry as their Volunteer of the Month. Barry volunteers in the kindergarten classrooms on a weekly basis. She enjoys volunteering her time in the classroom by helping with assessments, reading with students, managing literacy

stations, and preparing materials. Most recently, Barry was a huge support to all of the kindergarten teachers, helping them with the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

"After retiring from 30 years of teaching, I was afraid I might miss watching students learn something

new and being a part of that process. I am so excited to have the opportunity to volunteer at Murray Lake. I get the chance to reconnect with staff I had taught with in the past and work with students excited to learn. I enjoy the creative and nurturing atmosphere found at Murray Lake," said Barry.



MLE staff member of the Month



Nicole Bosco has been named Staff Member of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary. Bosco comes up with such creative activities to engage her students. She finds ways to reach all types of learners and gets them excited about the process and history of art in all forms. She truly cares about every one of her students. She has a huge heart and shares it with students at

Bushnell, St. Pat's, and Murray Lake.

"I've been teaching art for 16 years!!! I love teaching at Murray Lake because of the awesome students and the staff. They are like family to me. All 4 of my kids go to school in the district because we love Lowell so much! I'm so honored to teach and live in this community," Bosco commented.

Red Arrow

- CROSS COUNTRY

SPORTS

Boys and girls both place first at Saturday Jamboree

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Competing twice last week, the boys and girls varsity cross country teams took part in the third OK White Jamboree of the season, placing third and fourth respectively. Both earned meet championships at the annual Allegan Cross Country Jamboree.

Wednesday, Belding High School hosted the conference jamboree. The boys earned their second third-place finish of the season with a points tally of 57. Placing first for the Arrows and third overall,

was junior Caleb Swart, who clocked a time of 16:47, to lead his tenth competition of the season.

Also representing Lowell were junior Ben Kinnucan who placed ninth overall with a 17:21, junior Lucas Cossar who came in eleventh with a 17:24, senior Calvin Simmet who placed 17th with a time of 18:06 and freshman Cole Weston who crossed the finish line in the 23rd position with a time of 18:10.

Finishing with a score of 84, the girls team placed

fourth at the same event led by Haley Nieuwkoop. The senior placed first for Lowell with a time of 20:33, which placed her ninth among her league competition. Nieuwkoop's performance was followed by that of junior Jada Millhisler who placed sixteenth with a time of 21:14, junior Audrey Conrad came in 17th with a time of 21:18. This was the third consecutive fourth-place OK White finish for the team.

Saturday, at a rain delayed Allegan Cross Country Jamboree both Red

Arrow teams ran their way to first place on a soggy course at the Allegan County Fairgrounds.

Running through mud and puddles en route to the win, the boys team bested their second place finish from last, season winning the event with a points tally of 35.

Picking up his eleventh first place finish for the team, Swart placed first of all competitors at the meet, completing the run in 16:41. His teammates began crossing the finish line just thirty seconds later, beginning with Kinnucan

who placed third with a time of 17:11 and Cossar who came in sixth with a time of 17:26.

Defending their last season title, the Lady Arrows also left the tournament victorious, led for the eleventh time by Nieuwkoop who placed third among all competitors with a time of 20:14. Her performance was followed by that of consistent second-place finisher Millhisler who clocked a 20:42, good for a sixth place overall.

On the calendar for the teams next week is the Kent

Ottawa Classic which will host some of the fiercest competition in the area at the Gainey Athletic Complex in Grand Rapids. The event is scheduled to begin at 10 am on Saturday. The team will compete in their fourth and final OK White competition of the season the following Wednesday, October 17th at Riverside Park beginning at 5:15 pm.

Boys varsity tennis has a strong season on the court

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Putting together their best season since head coach Chris Phillips took over the program in 2013, the Lowell varsity tennis team has impressed on the court this fall, collecting a winning record of 10-3-1 and a strong showing in the OK White Conference.

With Forest Hills Northern (FHN) and Forest Hills Central (FHC) holding steady in the top two spots, the OK White is one of the most difficult conferences in the state. Last week the Arrows faced the Northview Wildcats, who currently hold the third position in the OK White. Battling until the end, Lowell eventually fell 6-2, placing them fourth in the conference, with their victories coming from junior Collier Kaufman at second singles and freshman Ty Knottnerus and Winton Garrelts at third doubles.

The freshman pair of Knottnerus and Garrelts have proven to be an asset

to the team. "They're really having a great season," said Phillips of the pair. "It's nice to have young players like that, knowing you'll be able to work with them and see them improve over the course of four years."

Phillips also makes note of the talent of sophomores Terrick Stewart and Will de Voest who have been solid for the Arrows, "Terrick plays fourth doubles and it's his first year on varsity. I've enjoyed having him on the team as he's a hard working and has improved a ton over this season. Will is playing first singles which is the highest spot on the team. This is the position he played last year as well. You don't often see a freshman or sophomore at this position and that's a testament to his skill level as a tennis player."

Adding a shut out 6-0 non-conference win to their tally later in the week over Kenowa Hills, the team completed their conference season on Friday at the

OK White Conference meet hosted by FHN and FHC. "The conference tournament went well. All of our players won their first match and headed into the winners bracket. I don't believe I've had that since I've been coaching," reported Phillips after the contest. "I also had my second singles, Collier Kaufman, beat Forest Hills Central to move him into the finals with Forest Hills Northern. Many of the matches came down to a match up with Northview at the end."

Due to rain that came down during the Friday tournament, the team will have to wait for additional play this week before the season's results can be officially calculated, "I do know that we will finish no lower than fourth and there is a chance, because of how well we played, that we could edge Northview out for third place."

Phillips credits this year's success to pure grit, "For the past few years,

this group of guys have put in lots of extra time outside of practice. They are constantly coming up to the courts in the evening and weekends to just keep playing. They even play at night and bring lights out to the courts so they can see. And all that extra work has paid off."

Helping to keep the team driven, focused and organized this season are elected team captains

Kaufman senior Phillip Thompson. According to Phillips, "They are both very trustworthy and great leaders on the team."

The boys will wrap up their regular season this week with two non-conference road games versus NorthPointe Christian on Tuesday and Hamilton High School on Wednesday. Both games are scheduled for 4 pm.

Having already achieved their season goal of having fun and improving their games, the team waits to hear the outcome of the conference meet and is planning for their regional appearance this Thursday, October 11 at FHN starting at 8:30 am, where they are hoping to earn enough points to make a run at the state finals.

Three golfers receive conference honors

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Closing out their conference season last Wednesday at Quail Ridge Golf Course, the Lady Arrows of the varsity golf team earned a fourth place finish among their OK White competition placing them third overall for the season.

Led by junior Mary Jo Buechler on the course, Lowell earned a combined card total of 385 at the conference meet for a fourth place finish. Buechler came in at 94 and was followed by sophomore Lexy Kapcia who tallied a 96, senior Kenzie Uhen who carded a 97 and junior Olivia Decator who came in just one stroke behind with a 98.

Following the competition, three Red Arrows were awarded with conference honors. Senior Tristan Fogarty-Thomas

was named All-Conference Honorable Mention while Uhen and Buechler were named All-Conference. This is the fourth consecutive title for Uhen.

The ladies competed just once this week, wrapping up their regular season with the Ernie Popiel Memorial Invite which will take place at the Egypt Valley Golf Course.



Girls varsity golf All-Conference honorees junior Mary Joe Buechler, senior Tristan Fogarty-Thomas and senior Kenzie Uhen. (Photo provided by Lowell Golf)



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Red Arrow

- VOLLEYBALL

SPORTS

Varsity volleyball team now 11-0 after big win this weekend

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Adding a duo of conference victories to their already flawless OK White season tally, as well as a non-conference tournament victory last week, the ladies of the Red Arrow varsity volleyball team pushed their season record to 11-0 overall and 7-0 in conference.

Defeating both the Northview Wildcats and the Cedar Springs Red Hawks by 3-0 margins, Lowell dominated on the road last week. They took down the Wildcats 25-10, 25-13 and 25-17 and the Red Hawks 25-6, 25-11 and 25-15.

Over the weekend the team continued their successful run with a victory at the bracket-style St. Johns Invitational. Working their way into the finals with some impressive pool play, the team advanced to the quarterfinals and then finals where they earned the tournament crown over Dewitt.

With just one non-conference matchup and five OK White competitions remaining on the schedule the ladies will continue their work to maintain undefeated status this week. The Arrows will be traveling to Lakewood

High School on Monday and hosting Forest Hills Northern this Thursday at 6 pm for their second showdown of the season. The Arrows previously bested the Huskies by a wide margin of 25-14, 25-11 and 25-13.

Right: Lowell varsity volleyball shows off their tournament hardware after their big win in St. Johns.



LHS research students visit Van Andel Research Institute

On Friday, September 28 Lowell High School research students visited the Van Andel Research Institute in downtown Grand Rapids.

The students were able to view a real-world research institute and participate in a few of the scientific tests Dr. Megan Senchuk performs in her studies of

neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's using the model organism *Caenorhabditis elegans* (*C. elegans*) microscopic worms.

For the past three years, a grant provided by the VanAndel Institute has allowed the Lowell High School to purchase supplies

and equipment that support the use of *C. elegans* and other organisms in the classroom. Students choose a model organism, some students use the worms, others rats and still others choose zebra fish to work with in order to carry out a hands-on scientific approach to laboratory research. This

class gives students a chance to apply all of the Next Generation Science Standard Practices and is a unique opportunity for students to engage in research well before beginning college.

Students will be visiting the Michigan State Research Facility downtown Grand Rapids on Oct 17.



Pictured in the lobby of the Van Andel research Institute under the glass sculpture chihuly of DNA left to right: VARI researcher Dr. Megan Senchuk, LHS research students: Kaitlyn Florian, Isabel Remar, Teacher Heather DeJonge, Olyvia Johnson, Ryan Roest, and Samantha Kurti all seniors currently in the research class.

Sports Summaries

Boys Soccer

A break-even season continues for the Lowell Red Arrow boys varsity soccer team with one victory and one loss in OK White action last week. Hosting Greenville on Tuesday, the team picked up an 11-2 win over the Yellow Jackets with goals coming from six Red Arrows in the wide-spread offensive onslaught. Leading the charge with four goals was junior Evan Groeneweg. Freshman Nate Ryan scored three goals with additional single scores coming from seniors Brenan Conlan, Connor Cater and Jonas Thompson, as well as junior Carlos Campos. Aiding their teammates with assists were Conlan, Cater, Ryan, Groeneweg, junior Braiden Hamilton and freshman Ben Mika. The boys traveled to Cedar Springs on Thursday where four first-half goals were not enough to top the Red Hawks, who triumphed 6-4 after a furious second half comeback. The week's action moves Lowell's season record to 6-8-3 overall and 5-5-1 in conference. The team will complete their regular season this week against the Forest Hills Central Rangers Thursday at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium with kick off scheduled for 6:45 pm.

Girls Swim and Dive

Wrapping up their regular season with four wins and one loss the Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian girls varsity swim and dive team boasts another strong season as they head into the postseason. In their most recent competitions the ladies topped Calvin Christian 120-63 taking all but one first place position at the meet, fell in a close competition with Mona Shores/Muskegon 92.5-90.5 picking up 14 personal bests and a new team record in the 100 breaststroke and beat Ottawa Hills 150-50 placing first in every single event. Last week the team added two more victories with

a 106-80 win over the co-op team of Delton/Middleville/Hastings and completed their regular season with a 129-56 victory over the Wildcats of Wayland. The team will have nearly a month to prepare before their conference meet, which is scheduled for November 3-4 at Hastings High School.

Football

Under immense pressure from the Cedar Springs Red Hawks, the Red Arrow varsity football team lost in a shutout 50-0 game on the road last Friday. The loss, on the back of the team's only season win over Ottawa Hills last Friday, moved the team's season record to 1-6 overall and 1-3 in the OK White. The boys will hit the field again this Friday, hosting Forest Hills Central for their homecoming celebration. Festivities will begin in downtown Lowell with the Homecoming Parade at 6 pm and feature Lowell sports teams and groups, as well as this year's elected homecoming court. Game time will be pushed to 7:30 for the event.

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Red Arrow Fall
SPORTS SCHEDULES

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL
* Denotes a home game
10/16 at 6 pm Greenville*
10/18 at 6 pm at Forest Hills Central
10/23 at 6 pm at Ottawa Hills
10/25 at 6 pm Northview*

BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL
* Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium
10/12 at 7:30 pm Forest Hills Central* (homecoming)
10/19 at 7 pm Northview* (senior parent night)

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
* Denotes a meet at LHS
10/13 at 10 am Kent Ottawa Classic at Grand Rapids Christian
10/17 boys at 4:30 pm • girls at 5:15 pm
OK White Jamboree #4 at Riverside Park

obituaries

CHESEBRO

Dorothy Eva (Hetzman) Chesebro, our beloved mom, grandma, great-grandma, passed away peacefully at the age of 93 on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. She was preceded in death by her husband of 18 years, Ronald E. Chesebro; parents, Ralph and Eva (Melle) Hetzman; grandparents Albert and Nina Melle; and their children, Orson, Orval, Leone, Florence, Wilbur, and Charles. Dorothy is survived by her loving son, Ronald L. Chesebro; daughter Arlynn D. (Kenneth) Beimers; five grandchildren, Denise (Jules) Beimers, Rhonda (Richard) Olmstead, Angela (Tracy) Beimers, Melissa (Dawn) Beimers, Brenda (Joseph) Tinney; seven great-grandchildren, Sydney, Matthew, Jadon, Alexis, Jacob, Eva, Lola; brother-in-law Lawrence (Edith) Chesebro; and several nieces and nephews. She resided in Lowell all her life, and had very fond memories. Dorothy frequently dined at the Backwater Café and Keiser's Kitchen, which was built on the foundation of her childhood home. Dorothy's mother, Eva, passed away before her 1st birthday, so Dorothy was raised by her maternal grandparents, Albert and Nina, and family. Dorothy often reminisced of growing up during the Great Depression, when living room carpet was rolled back, guests and family arrived and then music and dancing followed. Her grandmother played the piano while the rest of the family would play violins and other instruments. Dorothy was one of the original five employees at Amway, as it started out in a garage in Ada. She always praised the founder of Amway for being honest, fair and gracious. She was baptized as one of Jehovah's witnesses in 1959. She spent the remainder of her life doing what she loved most, teaching others the Bible's truths, like the promise of everlasting life on a beautiful paradise earth under God's Kingdom. Her faith and love of Jehovah is encouraging and sustaining to all of us. This loving, caring, generous person will be dearly missed by her family and friends. Memorial service will be held at 4:00 PM Sunday, October 14, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 69 Lincoln Lake Ave. NE, Lowell, MI 49331. Craig Willison officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Cascade Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1250 Spaulding Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



GOCHENOUR

Cecil Charles Gochenour, age 80 of Lowell, passed away Saturday, October 6, 2018. He was preceded in death by his wife, Norma; and granddaughter, April Gochenour. Cecil is survived by his children, Chuck (Kathy) Gochenour, Cathy (Steve) List, Tim (Christine) Gochenour; brother Jerry (Ruby) Gochenour; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Cecil served in the US Army, and worked for General Motors for 30 years before retiring. He loved baseball, and was an avid Detroit Tigers fan. A private family graveside service will be held at Merriman Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Humane Society of West Michigan, 3077 Wilson NW Grand Rapids, MI 49534.



MULL

Joseph Allan Mull, age 32 of Portland, formerly of Lowell, died unexpectedly Monday, October 1, 2018 from injuries received when a tree fell on his car as he drove to work. Joseph is lovingly survived by his parents, Allan and Patricia (Miller) Mull; loving daughter Amelia Mull; fiancée Sarah Morris; brothers Michael Mull, Thomas (Lindsey) Mull, Jonathon (Stephanie) Mull; nieces Jade Perez, Delaney Mull, Josephine Mull; nephews, Wyatt Mull, Carter Perez; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Joseph was well known in the Lansing area for his work acting in the Lansing Community Theatre. Joe loved his daughter, Amelia, more than the world itself. Funeral was held Sunday, October 7, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be directed to the Amelia Mull Education Fund; please make checks payable to Amelia's mother, Sarah Morris, c/o Roth-Gerst Funeral Home. Contributions may also be made online at <https://www.gofundme.com/support-baby-amelia>.



Rep. Albert's plan to evaluate state's economic incentives approved by Michigan House

Legislator: Taxpayers deserve to know if programs are effective

State Rep. Thomas Albert's plan to determine the effectiveness of Michigan's economic incentive programs was approved by the state House.

The plan would require the state to hire an independent outside contractor to evaluate and recommend modifications to Michigan's economic incentive programs, which generally provide business tax incentives with the goal of promoting economic development and job creation.

"Michigan's hard-working taxpayers deserve to know whether they are getting appropriate value through these programs," said Albert, of Lowell, after the House approved his plan. "A top-to-bottom independent review of these programs will promote government accountability and efficiency. It's the right thing to do and the right time to do it."

Albert said a thorough and transparent review from an independent analyst is the best way to determine which incentive programs

should continue, which need improving and which should be discarded.

The evaluations would determine whether goals of incentive programs are being met. Reviews also would consider economic impact and effects on other businesses, along with impact on the state budget.

Albert said his proposal is not designed to take sides in the philosophical debate over economic incentives, but rather to produce better-informed decisions about various programs.

Albert is chair of the House Financial Liability Reform Committee. He formerly worked as an investor with the Michigan Department of Treasury, where he monitored investments and made recommendations on new investment opportunities for state retirement funds.

"If our state is going to invest taxpayer money through economic incentive programs, we owe it to the people of Michigan to determine if these programs work," Albert said.

House Bill 6052 advances to the Senate for further consideration.



LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE FOR TESTING OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 6, 2018 State General Election will be conducted October 15, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI 49331.

The public accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of law.

Monica Burt, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

FREE WILL

astrology

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Aries

(March 21-April 19)



In his book *The Snow Leopard*, Peter

Matthiessen describes his quest to glimpse the elusive and rarely seen creature in the Himalayas. "Its uncompromising yellow eyes, wired into the depths of its unfathomable spirit," he writes, give it a "terrible beauty" that is "the very stuff of human longing." He loves the snow leopard so much, he says, that it is the animal he "would most like to be eaten by." I bring this up, Aries, because now would be a good time, astrologically speaking, for you to identify what animal you would most like to be eaten by. In other words, what creature would you most like to learn from and be inspired by? What beautiful beast has the most to give you?

Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

Richard Nelson is an anthropologist who has



lived for years with the indigenous Koyukon

people of Alaska. He lauds their "careful watching of the same events in the same place" over long periods of time, noting how this enables them to cultivate a rich relationship with their surroundings that is incomprehensible to us civilized Westerners. He concludes, "There may be more to learn by climbing the same mountain a hundred

times than by climbing a hundred different mountains." I think that's excellent counsel for you to employ in the coming weeks.

Gemini

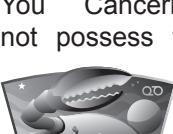
(May 21-June 20)



"It is sad that unless you are born a god, your life, from its very beginning, is a mystery to you," writes Gemini author Jamaica Kincaid. I disagree with her because she implies that if you're human, your life is a complete and utter mystery; whereas my observation has been that for most of us, our lives are no more than eighty percent mystery. Some lucky ones have even deciphered as much as sixty-five percent, leaving only thirty-five percent mystery. What's your percentage? I expect that between now and November 1, you can increase your understanding by at least ten percent.

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)



You Cancerians may not possess the mental dexterity of Virgos or the acute cleverness of Geminis, but you have the most soulful intelligence in the zodiac. Your empathetic intuition is among your greatest treasures. Your capacity to feel deeply gives you the ability to intensely understand

the inner workings of life. Sometimes you take this subtle acumen for granted. It may be hard for you to believe that others are stuck at a high-school level of emotional skill when you have the equivalent of a PhD. Everything I just said is a prelude to my advice. In the coming weeks, I doubt you can solve your big riddle through rational analysis. Your best strategy is to deeply experience all the interesting feelings that are rising up in you.

Leo

(July 23-August 22)



Do you ever experience stress from having to be so interesting and attractive all the time? It may on occasion feel like an onerous responsibility to be the only artful egomaniac amidst swarms of amateur egomaniacs. I have a suggestion that might help. Twice a year, celebrate a holiday I call Dare to Be Boring Week. During these periods of release and relief, you won't live up to people's expectations that you keep them amused and excited. You'll be free to be solely focused on amusing and exciting yourself, even if that means they'll think you're dull. Now is an excellent time to observe Dare to Be Boring Week.

Virgo

(August 23-September 22)



A Chinese proverb says, "Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are." I'm happy to let you know that you are currently more receptive to this truth than maybe you have ever been. Furthermore, you have more power than usual to change your life in ways that incorporate this truth. To get started, meditate on the hypothesis that you can get more good work done if you're calm and composed than if you're agitated and trying too hard.

Libra

(September 23-October 22)

My astrological analysis suggests that life is



conspiring to render you extra excited and unusually animated and highly motivated. I bet that if you cooperate with the natural rhythms, you will feel stirred, playful, and delighted. So how can you best use this gift? How might you take maximum advantage of the lucky breaks and bursts of grace that will be arriving? Here's my opinion: be more focused on discovering possibilities than making final decisions. Feed your sense of wonder and awe rather than your drive to figure everything out. Give more power to what you can imagine than to what you already know. Being practical is fine as long as you're idealistically practical.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)



How far is it from the Land of the Lost to the Land of the Lost and Found? What's the best route to take? Who and what are likely to provide the best help? If you approach those questions with a crisply optimistic attitude, you can gather a wealth of useful information in a relatively short time. The more research you do about the journey, the faster it will go and the more painless it will be. Here's another fertile question to meditate on: is there a smart and kind way to give up your attachment to a supposedly important thing that is actually quite burdensome?

Sagittarius

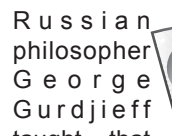
(November 22-December 21)



In her only novel, *Save Me the Waltz*, Zeldia Fitzgerald described her main character like this: "She quietly expected great things to happen to her, and no doubt that's one of the reasons why they did." That's a bit too much like fairy-tale wisdom for me to endorse it unconditionally. But I do believe it may sometimes be a valid hypothesis—especially for you Sagittarians in the coming months. Your faith in yourself and your desire to have interesting fun will be even more important than usual in determining what adventures you will have. I suggest you start now to lay the groundwork for this exhilarating challenge.

Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)



Russian philosopher George Gurdjieff taught that most people are virtually sleepwalking even during the day. He said we're permanently stuck on automatic pilot, prone to reacting in mechanical ways to every event that comes our way. Psychology pioneer Sigmund Freud had an equally dim view of us humans. He believed

that it's our normal state to be neurotic; that most of us are chronically out of sync with our surroundings. Now here's the good news, Capricorn. You're at least temporarily in a favorable position to refute both men's theories. In fact, I'll boldly predict that in the next three weeks you'll be as authentic and awake and at peace as you've been in years.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 18)



In the late 19th-century, American botanist George Washington Carver began to champion the nutritional value of peanuts. His influence led to the plant being grown and used more extensively. Although he accomplished many other innovations, including techniques for enhancing depleted soils, he became famous as the Peanut Man. Later in life, he told the story that while young he had prayed to God to show him the mystery of the universe, but God turned him down, saying, "That's for me alone." So George asked God to show him the mystery of the peanut, and God agreed, saying, "that's more nearly your size." The coming weeks will be a great time for you to seek a comparable revelation, Aquarius.

Pisces

(February 19-March 20)



Every year, people discard 3.3 million pounds of chewing gum on the streets of Amsterdam. A company named Gumdrop has begun to harvest that waste and use it to make soles for its new brand of sneakers, Gumshoe. A spokesperson said the intention was to "create a product people actually want from something no one cares about." I'd love it if you were inspired by this visionary act of recycling, Pisces. According to my reading of the cosmic omens, you now have exceptional powers to transform something you don't want into something you do want.

NEWS OF THE

weird

What? Is That a Problem?

The Wagner Funeral Home in Jordan, Minnesota, made news on Sept. 26 when a judge released the details of a ruling against the mortuary for, among other violations, storing jarred applesauce in the same room where embalming takes place. Joseph Wagner, who runs the funeral home, was just helping out his brother, who owns nearby Wagner Bros. Orchard and needed some extra storage space, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune. But the Minnesota Department of Health took issue with the jars being stored adjacent to a hazardous waste container, where blood and other waste from the embalming process are disposed of, and under an emergency shower and blocking an emergency eyewash station. Wagner was ordered to correct the violations and pay a \$5,000 penalty.

Bold Moves

Three cheeky raccoons jolted a Toronto, Ontario, Canada, woman awake late on Sept. 18 when they broke into her kitchen. Jenny Serwylo heard noises

coming from her kitchen and approached the critters with a broom, which scared away two out of the three. But a third wouldn't budge, barricaded behind her toaster oven and munching on a package of English muffins. "He was like, 'I'm eating, get out of here,'" Serwylo told the Toronto Star. She tried calling authorities but couldn't get any help, and her contest of wills with the raccoon lasted for more than a half-hour. "I was growling at him and hissing at him," she said. As she pointed the broom handle at the animal, it would grab the end and "yank it really hard." Finally, having consumed all the bread in the kitchen, the raccoon calmly went out the window, which Serwylo locked behind it. Toronto Animal Services spokesperson Bruce Hawkins told the Star that such encounters are unusual, but you be the judge: The city has created a guide for residents about how to deal with raccoon intrusions.

Weird Science

It's been a banner year for the spider population of Aitoliko, Greece, according to the Associated Press. Fueled by a huge increase in the numbers of lake flies, which the spiders eat, the spiders reproduced unusually fast and have covered coastal trees, bushes and low vegetation with blankets of thick, sticky webs. The webs run along a few hundred meters of the shoreline in the western Greek town and, according to residents,

have the unexpected advantage of keeping mosquitoes away.

Oops

Things got tense for passengers on a GoAir flight from New Delhi to Patna, India, on Sept. 22 when a first-time flyer mistook an emergency exit door for the restroom. Travel + Leisure magazine reported that fellow passengers asked the man, in his 20s, what he was doing, to which he replied that he "needed to use the washroom urgently" and returned to tugging at the door. Airport official Mohammad Sanowar Khan explained: "Pandemonium prevailed ... and he was restrained. ... He said that the confusion happened because he had boarded a flight for the first time in his life." The unnamed traveler was questioned at the Patna airport.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: CIVICS LESSON

ACROSS

- 1. Leprosy colony inhabitant
- 6. Pendulum's path
- 9. Vegan's protein choice
- 13. Friend from Mexico
- 14. H in HMS
- 15. Challenges
- 16. Pocket bread, pl.
- 17. "____ to Joy"
- 18. Subside
- 19. * ____ election for choosing a party representative
- 21. *Alternative to electoral
- 23. Am is to I as ____ is to we
- 24. At the summit
- 25. ____-been
- 28. *One is a quarter of a Presidential term
- 30. Serfs of ancient Sparta
- 35. Lode deposits
- 37. Fireplace conduit
- 39. Stitch again
- 40. It's hard to resist
- 41. Relating to certain Hindu philosophy
- 43. #33 Down, alt. sp.
- 44. Somer ____
- 46. EU money
- 47. "As ____ on TV"
- 48. Eye cover
- 50. What libraries do
- 52. Not decaf.
- 53. Kind of cola
- 55. Deborah, to friends
- 57. One who destroys

CROSSWORD

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72						73				74				

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- 72. Cremation pile
 - 73. Lamb's momma
 - 74. Glorify
- DOWN**
- 1. Nordic native
 - 2. ____ of Qatar, or Prince of Qatar
 - 3. Rigatoni relative
 - 4. Old World lizard

- 5. Prayer beads
- 6. Call to matey
- 7. *As opposed to blue
- 8. Moved like ivy
- 9. Not to be mentioned
- 10. *Like the citizenship Oath of Allegiance
- 11. Cheese on Peloponnese
- 12. One on drugs
- 15. ____ Dan, olden-day hair pomade
- 20. Full of corals
- 22. Expression of amazement
- 24. Salad green
- 25. *Lower chamber of Congress
- 26. Orderly arrangement
- 27. Smooth transition
- 29. Soothing plant gel
- 31. Classic game show "____ Make a Deal"
- 32. Willow twig
- 33. Conical dwelling

- 34. * ____ state
- 36. Unload
- 38. Michael Collins' country
- 42. Owned apartment
- 45. *Party's list of candidates
- 49. Buck's mate
- 51. "Get rid of" button
- 54. Desire something
- 56. Inflammatory swelling
- 57. Sandwich alternative
- 58. Bank on
- 59. At any time
- 60. "Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me" band, The ____
- 61. Give a traffic ticket
- 62. Makes mistakes
- 63. STEM enthusiast?
- 64. Whirlpool
- 67. *Rule of ____

Puzzle solutions on page 12



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Friday: 8 am - Noon
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SUDOKO

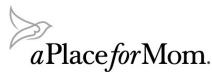
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Online POLL QUESTION

How will you vote on Prop 1, which will legalize recreational marijuana in Michigan?



- Yes
- No
- Undecided
- Can't/won't vote

TO VOTE, GO TO .
WWW.
thelowelledger.com

Then watch

for the results in



Lowell's Only Hometown Newspaper!

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Our poll asked ...

Based on the information available today, would you vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh and give him a lifetime appointment to the US Supreme Court?

Yes 38%

No 62%

Don't Care 0%

WWW.
thelowelledger.com

Senior Services Fair on Sunday, Oct. 14

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

There will be a senior services fair at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake, from 11:30 am until 1 pm on Sunday, Oct. 14. The event will include guest speakers, vendors and a ton of information about many of the services available to older adults. They'll also have a flu shot clinic open to everybody, not only seniors, plus lunch food like soup, sandwiches and desserts.

"There is no set age to be considered a senior. AARP membership notices are sent to folks on their 50th birthdays and various discounts are offered at restaurants, etc., maybe starting at 55 or so," said event coordinator Candace Wise. "Historically, I think the idea of 'senior citizens' was related to the concept of not working any longer, retiring and becoming eligible for Social Security as early as 62 and being eligible for Medicare at 65. Our goal with the senior services fair is to provide information on topics and services of interest to seniors in the community, as well as those who may be caring for seniors. It is understood that 'senior citizens' don't always like the term because

we think it might connote old age or lack of vitality. So, 'seniors.'"

"Often with aging comes feelings of isolation or loneliness, or even lack of support," said FCUCC pastor Jon Propper. "It's important for seniors to know there are folks who care and who can help. As Christians, we believe the church should be a non-threatening place to serve others. Religious or not religious, you're welcome here to get the support you need."

"Finding information can be difficult," Wise said. "Sitting in a coffee hour, I heard the following: 'There seems to be so much available for seniors now, it must be too good to be true.' 'I had to change my insurance a couple of years ago and it took me weeks to find an agent to help me.' 'I don't know how to go about pre-planning my funeral. I don't want my kids to have to worry about it.' 'I think I might be the victim of insurance fraud, what do I do?' The senior services fair is intended to make information available to the community."

"Seniors are inundated daily with tons of information on services, etc., that are beneficial for them," said FCUCC missions chair Paul

Benjamin. "People can interact directly with the vendors and speakers one-on-one or in a group. We'll have round tables that seat about 10 people for each vendor. These representatives truly care about providing the best service they can, whether it be through personal care and assistance, education, exercise or all of those and more."

"Vendors will cover everything from items discussed above to Tai Chi classes, insurance sales, area cancer support and retirement communities, funeral homes and much, much more," Wise said.

"The vendors there won't really be 'selling' anything during the event," Benjamin said. "They will be there to inform people on services they offer, which may or may not be things requiring a purchase. But we've asked that any monetary transactions take place outside the event."

The guest speakers will be two experts on how to approach various aspects of life as an older adult.

"Terra Bieneman [from] Senior Neighbors of



Lowell will speak about an organization here in Lowell that enhances the lives of seniors by helping them stay connected and independent," Wise said. "Stephanie Hecksel Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan will speak about services available to Kent County Seniors to help them stay in their homes. Funding for many of the services are funded by the Kent County Senior Millage since 1998, and others by state and federal dollars dedicated

to older adults. Everything from adaptive equipment to caregiver and grandparent support to foreclosure assistance and legal assistance is included. Robert Callery [from the] Michigan Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Program will discuss Medicare changes for 2019 and the benefits offered by MMAP to assist older and disabled citizens in making informed healthcare decisions."

"Much of the information the speakers and vendors will

be presenting is available right here in Lowell or the greater Grand Rapids area," Benjamin said. "We really wanted to focus on the local community. A lot of online resources will be available, but every speaker and vendor is local and can be easily contacted over the phone. Many are willing to set up in-person meetings."

For more information, contact Wise at 989-335-3941 or ccwise2011@hotmail.com, or look for the event page on Facebook.


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