

The Louvin Brothers



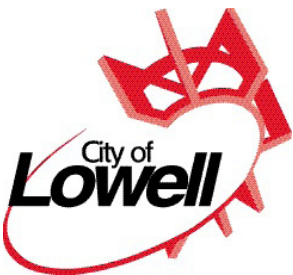
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LHS football coach Juston Miller resigns



Juston Miller resigned as LHS football coach but will continue as the baseball coach.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell High School football coach Juston Miller resigned from that position last weekend, but he will continue working as baseball coach.

“Coach Miller will continue to oversee the off-season opportunities for the football players and he will continue to teach and coach varsity baseball,” LHS athletic director Dee Crowley said in an email to the Ledger.

“We are grateful that Mr. Miller stepped in to lead our football team during a difficult transition last summer,” Crowley and Lowell Area schools superintendent Greg Pratt said in a joint press release on Monday, March 18. “Coaching two major sports and having a young family has proved challenging. Mr. Miller has resigned to spend

more time with his family and concentrate on coaching baseball.”

Despite only one season at the helm, Miller’s effect on the football program at the high school was dramatic.

“Over the offseason, the football program has been involved in many activities to help improve the opportunities for our young men on the football field,” the Pratt/Crowley press release said. “This includes more involvement in powerlifting competitions, seven on seven tournaments, while maintaining speed and agility training and lifting before and after school. Coach Miller and the coaching staff were instrumental in providing these opportunities for our players. We are hopeful that these opportunities will continue to occur and our boys will continue to

take advantage of these for continuous improvement.”

Right now, the goal is to find Miller’s replacement before the start of summer football practice.

“The position will be posted and applications will be collected from potential candidates,” Crowley said in an email to the Ledger. “A thorough multi-level interview and selection process will be in place to select the next head football coach.”

“Our plan moving forward will be to post the coaching position internally and externally to receive applications and follow a thorough interview and selection process,” the Pratt/Crowley press release said. “Our goal will be to have a head coach in place who will lead the team through the summer activities in preparation for the fall season.”

St. Patrick’s Day events around Lowell

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Local businesses joined forces this past weekend to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with the second annual ‘Get Lucky in Lowell’ event all along Main St. downtown. A total of 18 locations had special events or prize drawings for the occasion.

Martha Davis, the owner of Tap House Bo, and Laurie Chambers from Red Barn Consignment and Antiques organized the event.

“We’re glad people come out and support small,” declared Davis. “And we’re thankful that we have a great team of businesses along Main St. here that do participate and do go along with all the events we have coming up. There is a lot of camaraderie between store to store. I think that Lowell has gotten recognition for

St. Pat’s Day, continued, page 2



Paddy’s Cure, one of the Lowell area’s all time favorite Irish bands, played their rowdy annual St. Patrick’s Day show to a packed house at Larkin’s on Friday, March 15.

LaughFest at Larkin’s

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Gilda’s Club’s annual LaughFest comedy festival brought Seattle-based comedian Brad Upton to Larkin’s The Other Place for two hilarious sets of stand-up comedy on Friday, March 15.

The opening comedian, Holland native Allen Trieu, shared humorous anecdotes from his family life and was a tough act for Upton to follow, but Upton’s wry,

observational comedy, honed to perfection over three decades in the comedy business, was a hit with the Lowell audience.

“I saw Brad Upton on ‘Dry Bar Comedy,’ so that’s why we came to the show,” said attendee Carol DeYoung. “He was great. I also liked the other guy, the local guy, Allen Trieu, he was frickin’ hilarious.”



Brad Upton

LaughFest, continued, page 3

Time for Expo!



The Lowell Expo is happening at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes SE, on Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 9 am until 3 pm.

About 160 local businesses and organizations will show off their wares, hand out samples and perform demonstrations, plus there will be tons of activities, games and giveaways for kids, teens and adults.

Turn to page 16 for stories about **Adventures by Lori** and **J&K Roadside Service**, two of the many business and organizations you’ll be able to learn more about on Saturday.

50¢



St. Patrick's Day, continued



April McClure and Misty Anderson from Fans in the Stands.

that, that we are doing this together and trying to make a fun place for people to come and shop with all kind of different styles and places.”

“These little events that we do are just the downtown merchant events, and we have another one coming up in May,” Chambers commented. “We don’t have a catchy little name for it yet, but it will be on the Saturday before Mother’s Day.”

Part of the reason for the events is to get people out shopping during the cold winter months.

“This winter has been so bad that it’s just kind of kept people away, so at least

these events have brought a few more people out than normal,” said Davis.

Red Barn Consignment was doing a drawing to give away a \$50 store gift certificate and Tap House Bo was offering a basket in their giveaway for the day.

“We’re doing [a] bag of goodies between Kaleidoscope and Tap House Bo, so we are giving away a gift card, socks, chocolates, a wine glass and coasters,” Davis said.

Heather Masterson donned a festive St. Patrick’s day hat while browsing some of the many stores participating in the event.



Debbie Seese from Kaleidoscope Laser and Martha Davis from Tap House Bo.

“I love how Lowell does all of these promotions to get everyone excited,” Masterson mentioned. “It’s really fun to see what people have around town. So far we’ve gone to two different antique shops, the coffee shop and Springrove Variety.”

Springrove Variety was another store partaking in the event. They had a raffle giving away a large whiteboard. Maya Eaton and Hannah Ritsema were working throughout the day.

“We’ve been pretty busy,” explained Eaton. “I feel like it brings a lot of good traffic around. Plus there’s a reason for them to be there.”

Emma Reams from Lavender and Lace Boutique said customers were excited about the giveaways.

“People come in and ask about the giveaways and all of that,” Reams remarked. “I think that’s what they love.”

LowellArts was also giving away a \$50 gift certificate that could be used for the many art classes



Kevin Kapteyn from Sweet Seasons.

offered there. Betsy Ratzsch was helping out for the day, she was excited that people who might not normally stop in were able to take a look at the West Michigan Art Competition exhibition throughout the gallery.

“These events, what they can do is get people to come in who might otherwise not come in,” reported Ratzsch. “One woman was showing me her granddaughter’s painting of this tree, and it was lovely. So this woman, even though she herself didn’t feel so comfortable with art, she might give her

granddaughter the class [if she wins the raffle].”

Some local eateries and breweries were also participating in the event. Paddy’s Cure performed at Larkin’s on Friday night and Larkin’s offered corned beef and cabbage and green beer all weekend. Big Boiler brewery offered black and tans, plus shepherd’s pie. New Union Brewery offered Irish stout on tap, along with other drink specials.

Similar upcoming events include Girls Night Out on

St. Patrick, continued, page 3



Betsy Ratzsch



Emma Reams from Lavender and Lace Boutique.



Heather Masterson

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LaughFest at Larkin's, continued



LaughFest volunteer Ginger Feldman said her goal for the evening was to sell more than 100 of the \$5 "High Five" buttons during the evening's entertainment, which would, after matching donations from DTE Energy and Crystal Flash, raise \$2,000 for Gilda's Club in one night.

Most attendees of the show left with a new \$5 ornament affixed to their clothing, a low cost souvenir for a very good cause. DTE Energy and Crystal Flash each matched the \$5 donations at the Friday night shows.

"We are selling 'High Five' buttons today, which go directly to support Gilda's Club's grief and cancer support groups for adults and children," said LaughFest volunteer Ginger Feldman. "The 'High Five'



The Lowell crowd enjoyed the opening act, local comic Allen Trieu.

buttons are a way to directly give money to Gilda's Club. Also, DTE Energy is doing a \$50,000 match, so if we can sell enough buttons, we will capture that \$50,000. And we'll do it \$5 at a time!"

She said that her personal goal was to sell more than 100 of the \$5 buttons, which would raise \$1,000 for Gilda's Club after the DTE Energy match and double that after the Crystal Flash match. A cancer survivor herself, Feldman said that Gilda's Club was essential to her recovery.

"The support groups at Gilda's Club are amazing," Feldman said. "My kids, my husband and my family went to the caregivers support group and I attended the cancer support group. I made life-long friends there. We were able to help each other through that journey. It was just amazing."

In an interview between the 7 pm and 9 pm shows, Upton said that he had not yet had a chance to check Lowell out.

"The driver told me that we came in on back roads because traffic was bad, so I haven't seen anything in town yet," Upton said. "I read that it was 60 degrees here yesterday, but I got here today and it was snowing! I was like, 'What is this all about?!' Seattle's weather is crappy too, I guess, but I just don't understand the weather in the Midwest. Although, I'd like to come back and do a weekend at Dr. Grin's sometime."

In addition to Upton's shows at Larkin's, he also performed at Gun Lake Casino in Wayland and took part in a LaughFest panel discussion about the health benefits of laughter at Gilda's

Club of Grand Rapids on Saturday, March 16.

"They wanted a comedian there who's had some experience with that," Upton said. "My wife had kidney cancer, my mom had breast cancer, my brother has leukemia, my brother-in-law has colon cancer right now, it's in everybody's family."

Upton said that if Lowellians want to hear more from him, he recently released a comedy special called "Will Be Funny for Money" on Amazon Prime. Much of the material in that Amazon Prime special was performed by Upton on Friday.

"Just type my name into Amazon Prime and it'll take you right to my special," Upton said. "That's a big deal for a comedian. People should also follow my fan page on Facebook, I always keep that updated."



Brad Upton on stage at Larkin's The Other Place on Friday, March 15.

St. Patrick's, continued

April 18, which is organized by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. The next

merchant-organized event, mentioned earlier in this article by Laurie Chambers,

will take place on May 11, the Saturday before Mother's Day.



Maya Eaton and Hannah Ritsema from Springrove Variety.



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Marty and Laurie Chambers from Red Barn Consignment and Antiques.

Yep we cover Retirement



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Proceeds to be dedicated to Flat River Outreach Ministries, Lowell Baby Panty, Archdiocese for the Military Services and Vacation Bible School. There will be a special bake sale during the dinner sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women of St. Mary's Church

Additional sale of frozen pasty's (\$5 each) will also be held at the dinner provided by Viki's Bridge Street Pasty Shop in Saranac.

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Today is the 79th day of 2019 and the first day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was published.

In 1952, the U.S. Senate ratified a peace treaty returning sovereignty to Japan. In 1987, the FDA approved AZT, a drug shown to delay the development of AIDS.

In 1995, members of the Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo released sarin gas into the Tokyo Metro subway system, killing 13 and injuring more than 1,000.

In 2003, the United States and a coalition of allied states began military operations in Iraq.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), poet/playwright; B.F. Skinner (1904-1990), psychologist; Ozzie Nelson (1906-1975), actor/bandleader; Carl Reiner (1922-), comedy writer/director/performer; Fred Rogers (1928-2003), TV personality; Hal Linden (1931-), actor; Pat Riley (1945-), basketball coach/executive; Bobby Orr (1948-), hockey player; William Hurt (1950-), actor; Spike Lee (1957-), filmmaker; Holly Hunter (1958-), actress; Kathy Ireland (1963-), model/actress; David Thewlis (1963-), actor; Michael Rapaport (1970-), actor; Chester Bennington (1976-2017), singer-songwriter.



Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896)

TODAY'S FACT: The constitution of Japan, adopted in 1947, forbids the country from participating in wars.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1934, Mildred "Babe" Didrikson pitched one inning of exhibition baseball for the Philadelphia Athletics in a game against the Brooklyn Dodgers. She allowed one walk and no hits.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I hold that man is in the right who is most closely in league with the future." -- Henrik Ibsen

TODAY'S NUMBER: 542 -- length (in feet) of the USS Langley, commissioned on this day in 1922 as the first U.S. Navy aircraft carrier. The USS Gerald R. Ford, a supercarrier commissioned into the Navy's fleet in 2017, is 1,106 feet long.

TODAY'S MOON: Full moon (March 20).

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Cable Television in Michigan

More adults in Michigan read a newspaper than watch news networks* on cable television.¹



Newspapers are the most trusted media source.²

Adults, across all generations, identify newspapers as their most trusted source of news and information -- well ahead of radio.

the powell ledger

Newspapers are the preferred source of shopping information over television.³

47% of adults in Michigan choose newspapers for shopping information.

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than television ads.³

65% of U.S. adults say television ads are intrusive, and 42% feel unfavorably about them³

43.3% Only 43.3% of U.S. adults purchased or sought out information about a product as the result of a television ad⁴

Cord Cutting is Increasing.

25% of all U.S. households have eliminated cable or satellite television services.⁵

61% of new cord cutters will be married.⁵

56% of new cord cutters still have children under 18 in their home.⁵

54% of new cord cutters will have household income over \$75,000.⁵



Top 5 Frustrations Driving Cord Cutting⁶

1. Not getting competitive, reasonable rates/pricing
2. Having to pay for channels/content not watched
3. Being nickel and dimed with multiple fees and charges
4. Can no longer afford paid television/it was too expensive
5. New customers get better deals than existing ones



LPD statistics for Feb.

by Tim McAllister
 lead reporter

Lowell Police Department made 14 arrests during the month of February, down from 21 arrests in January 2019. The arrests included two for drunk driving, one drug law violation, one alcohol violation, one for driving with a suspended license, seven for outstanding warrants and two that are described in the police department's statistics as "other arrests." That adds up to a total of 35 people arrested

by Lowell Police during the first two months of the year. LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during February. There were four larceny calls, one dog/animal complaint, two breaking and entering complaints, one malicious destruction, two disorderly conduct calls and one assault. Lowell police issued 13 citations and notified one resident about an ordinance violation.

Out of 63 traffic stops in February, they let 58 drivers go with a warning. Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 13 times and called other agencies for assistance three times in February. They were also called for assistance by citizens and motorists 50 times. Lowell police were dispatched to 10 accidents during February, none with injuries.

¹2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ²Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; ³Morning Consult; 4GfK Ownership and Trend Report from The Home Technology Monitor™; ⁴Forrester Research; ⁵cg42 Cord Cutter & Cord Never Study; ⁶NAA

viewpoint

outdoors

fishing boats

Dave Stegehuis

Buying a fishing boat is serious business. It is important to find the best boat for the type of fishing it will be used for. The decision is made more difficult if one fishes for multiple species in different locations.

Covering all the bases in Michigan could take as many as four different watercraft. That may not be practical for most of us, so the objective is to choose and equip a boat that meets requirements for the majority of anticipated fishing situations.

A sixteen-foot Deep V aluminum is a happy medium

for a lot of fishermen. A 40-60hp outboard will get it up on plane and push it to the next spot at a reasonable speed. There is enough power to safely tackle rough seas.

The sixteen can be towed by a range of vehicles with an appropriate tow rating. On a single axel trailer, the rig will fit in a standard residential garage. Later model trailers have a swing tongue to conserve more space. A properly set up trailer allows for relatively easy launching and retrieval.

There are several options that can be added to make the craft a more effective fishing machine. A bow mounted electric motor provides precise boat control. Boat control is essential for walleye and bass fishing. A combination graph and G.P.S. lets one know what is under the boat, marks productive spots, and shows the way back to the dock. A second sonar unit mounted at the bow provides the information when navigating with the bow mount motor. A smaller auxiliary outboard allows slower trolling speeds as well as back up power for security.

Deep V sixteen footers have storage for rods, tackle

and other gear. One or two aerated fish wells keep bait and the catch fresh. The boat will accommodate a variety of other gear like pole holders, down riggers, and anchor management system.

The 16 comes in duel consoles with a full windshield, single consoles, and tiller models. Each set up has advantages and disadvantages. It is another choice to be made when selecting a boat.

It is best to thoroughly check out what is on the new and used markets and determine what will best serve one's particular needs. If the right decision is made, the boat will be a part of your fishing adventures for many years to come.



capitol matters

State Representative
Thomas Albert



Tax increases are not solutions

Earlier this month, Governor Whitmer revealed her 2019-20 budget proposal for the state of Michigan. The cornerstone of her plan is to skyrocket the gas tax and steeply raise taxes on small businesses. Overall, her plan would increase the state budget by \$2.5 billion. Frankly, this plan is unrealistic and would have disastrous consequences for Michigan families. Fiscal responsibility means investing in vital services like K-12 education, road repairs, and public safety, but also looking at ways to make government more effective and efficient.

Fixing Our Roads

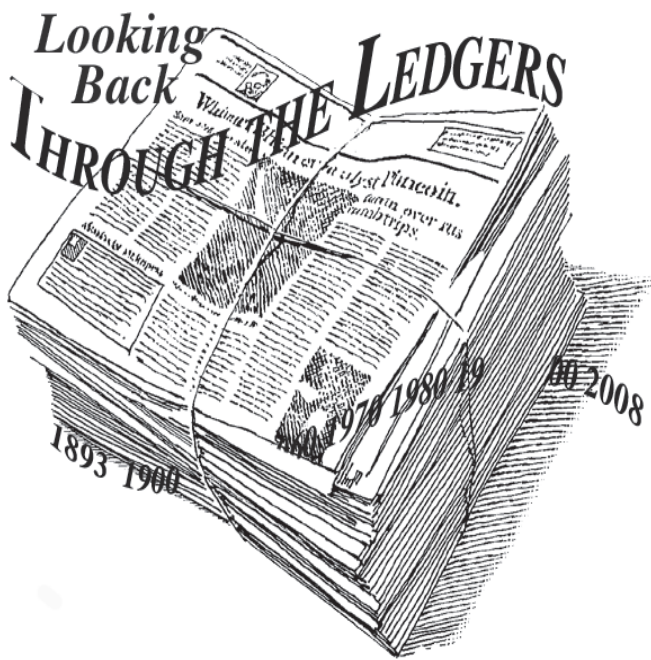
I have heard from countless residents who are deeply concerned about the governor's proposed 45-cent increase in fuel taxes. Michigan drivers are already frustrated to be paying the highest auto insurance rates in the nation, and they should not be forced to pay the highest fuel tax as well.

Even more alarming is the fact Governor Whitmer wants to use a substantial amount of this new revenue to offset other areas of the budget. When people fill their gas tanks, they want to know those taxes are going to improve the roads they drive on, not subsidize other projects. I don't know of anyone who wants to pay more at the pump so the state can give additional money to public universities.

In recent years, House Republicans have gone above and beyond the 2015 plan to speed up the process of fixing Michigan's roads. About \$600 million was added to road repairs in 2018 alone, all without raising taxes or fees. I want to continue this momentum and am working to find the most efficient way to pay for these much-needed infrastructure repairs across the state.

Taxing Small Businesses

Albert, continued, page 6



125 years ago Lowell Ledger March 24, 1894

McNaughton & Pardee wish to announce that they have formed a partnership for the purpose of carrying on the meat business. They are no strangers to each other or the public and expect to do business right and merit the patronage and approval of the public.

It is surprising how many people are ignorant of the postal laws. Postmaster Apsey says it frequently happens that unsealed letters are dropped in the office with only a one cent stamp on and newspapers with none at all. The public should bear in mind that it is strictly forbidden by law to send writing, no matter how little, for less than two cents and no papers, except those from the editorial rooms where they are paid for by the pound, can go without stamps. It causes great annoyance and much unnecessary delay, for they are always held until the sender can be notified or the party for whom they are intended, forwards the necessary postage.

100 years The Lowell Ledger March 20, 1919

Lowell township women turned out in large numbers to the Republican Caucus which was held at the City Hall Friday afternoon. In deference to their presence,

the men gallantly refrained from smoking and the improvement was noteworthy. The women conducted themselves like old-timers at their unaccustomed duty and the business was transacted expeditiously and with the utmost good will.

This Thursday morning at 9:30, Grand river below Main street dam, has fallen 9 inches from yesterday's water mark. Flood water reached its highest stage in Lowell yesterday and is slowly receding after inflicting the usual Spring time inconveniences upon residents in the lower sections of the village and upon businessmen through the flooding of basements. Goods were mostly removed to places of safety; but basement fires were put out and stoves are being used to warm the stores.

75 years The Lowell Ledger March 23, 1944

One fund to be supplied by the Veterans Administration would be that of training the seeing-eye dogs for our blind war veterans. The cost of buying and training each dog is figured at \$250 and a total of \$5 million is asked. The bill would provide a seeing-eye dog as a guide for any veteran who is entitled to government compensation for loss of sight. The good done by these animals is notable and that which is most satisfying is the new world of courage they build for their owners.

The 32nd Liberty ship to be launched in less than a year at a port in Florida was named for James L. Ackerson, a native of Lowell. Ackerson, who died in 1930, was appointed to Annapolis at the age of 15 and studied naval architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During the first world war he rose to the rank of captain in the navy and was considered an expert on ship building and design. At the time of his death he was director of the shipping board bureau of construction.

The Local ration board reports that many people were evidently of the opinion that value of "A" coupons had been reduced from 3 gallons to 2 gallons per coupon. This is erroneous. The value per coupon for "A" coupons still remains the same as before—3 gallons. The reduction recently announced will be accomplished through the procedure of making the coupons last for 3 months instead of two as formerly.

Looking back, continued, page 6

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.
Wayne A. Christenson III,
Tracy Lixie & John G. Meier



Looking back, continued

50 years The Lowell Ledger March 20, 1969

A 17-year-old Lowell youth has been arrested and another Lowell man is being sought on a charge of breaking-and-entering in Ionia County. Lowell Police assisted Ionia County Sheriff's deputies in recovering items that reportedly were stolen from a cottage located at 6591 Lakeview Drive on Long Lake in Ionia County.

Two 13-year-old Greenville boys bent on heading for warmer climes found themselves in hot water in Lowell early Monday morning instead. Even before receiving a bulletin from Greenville police that the boys were missing, along with a car belonging to the parents of one of them, Lowell police had spotted them for questioning. Several .22-calibre rifles and a large hunting knife were discovered in the car. The boys told Lowell police they were running away from home and were planning to head for a warmer climate.

A five-year plan to create a major tourist attraction in eastern Kent County was moving closer to reality today. The project, which calls for restoration of Fallasburg village on the Flat River four miles north of Lowell, is expected to cost about \$750,000 when completed.

25 years The Lowell Ledger March 23, 1994

A two-year wait for the construction of a public park in Lowell could end this summer with the appraisal of the property needed this month. Lowell Township would like to develop 70 acres of land located along the south side of Grand River Ave. and east of Alden Nash Ave., for a park which would include softball diamonds, hiking trails and picnic facilities.

Lisa Posthumus showed that she had the "right stuff" when she took first place at the Grand Rapids Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest held Monday, March 16 at the Holiday Inn North. Contestants were asked to write and deliver a four to five minute presentation following the subject "Optimism! The Right Stuff!" The speakers were judged on their poise, content of speech, delivery and presentation and overall effectiveness.

Lowell's City Hall office will look to improve its efficiency with a plain paper Okidata Fax 1000. Currently the City Hall office must use the fax machine located at the police station. The Okidata Fax will be purchased from the VanBelkum Business Systems for \$1,395.

Albert, continued

If nearly tripling the fuel tax was not enough, the governor's plan also proposed increasing small business taxes from 4.25 percent to 6 percent. The increase would target many small, family-owned businesses. This policy comes straight from the last decade and would mean job loss for our community. Since 2010, Michigan has added nearly 500,000 private sector jobs. I will continue supporting small businesses that provide great opportunities for employment and growth.

Investing in Education

I was happy to see Governor Whitmer wants to continue the trend set by the Legislature and the last administration of increasing the amount of per-pupil funding allocated to school districts. However, I'm concerned we aren't taking a critical look at the future of education funding.

I was especially disappointed the governor failed to address our school systems' growing unfunded liabilities. Costs related to retirement debt will increase from \$3.5 billion in 2018 to at least \$5 billion by 2027.

I also believe our K-12 education budget needs an increased focus on preparing students for careers in the skilled trades. Programs promoting these careers should receive the funding they need to help build Michigan's workforce. I am proud to have been part of past efforts to address educational budget challenges while ensuring record funding to our local schools and am committed to continuing this increased investment.

This is only the first step. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the administration to create a budget this year that works for Michigan taxpayers.

- impetigo

Impetigo is a bacterial infection of the top layer of the skin. It often is around the nose or mouth, or somewhere else on the face. It may also be on the legs, arms or diaper areas. Signs of impetigo include red sores that quickly burst, ooze, and then form a yellowish-brown crust, painless fluid-filled blisters, itching and rarely, fever with enlarged lymph nodes.

Impetigo is most common in children, but adults can also get it. It is more common in hot and humid weather. Crowded living condition and poor hygiene may contribute to getting impetigo. It often starts when bacteria enter the skin through scratches, cuts, or insect bites. It can later spread to healthy skin. The rash of impetigo can look like blisters, a sore, or a burn.

Impetigo can be treated with an antibiotic ointment or cream such as mupirocin (Bactroban). If the rash is on a large portion of the body, oral antibiotic may be needed. To help control the infection, you should remove any yellow crusts by softening them with soapy water. An antibiotic ointment can work deeper in the sore after the crust is removed.

Impetigo usually heals without scarring. Although it normally goes away on its own in a few weeks, treatment is still recommended because it can get worse before it gets better. Sometimes it can turn into a more serious skin infection. To prevent impetigo, be sure to completely clean minor cuts and scrapes with soap and clean water.

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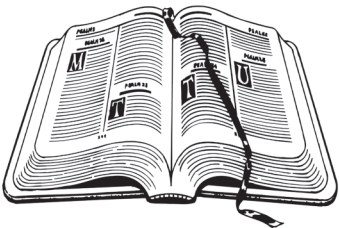
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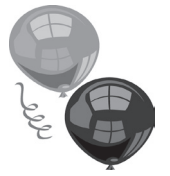
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- MARCH 21**
Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Gary Yeiter, Molly Clark, Steve Kovacs.
- MARCH 23**
Brian Gabrion, Richard King, Brendan Lally, Caleb Koepfel.

- MARCH 25**
Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan.
- MARCH 26**
Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.

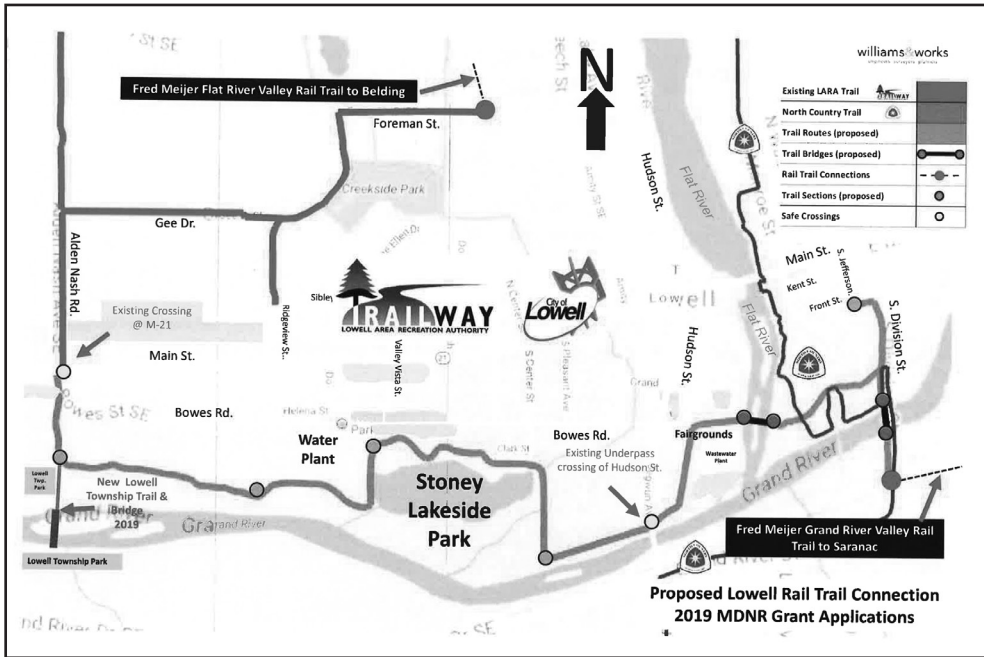
- MARCH 24**
Joe Vezino Jr., Candy Speerstra, Angela Titcombe, Marian Rutherford.



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City council discusses trails, more at latest meeting



A Williams and Works illustration of the proposed trail system through Lowell.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, March 18. The meeting lasted 51 minutes and was attended by seven citizens.

At the beginning of the meeting, councilor Greg Canfield attempted to add

votes. Canfield, councilor James Salzwedel and councilor Cliff Yankovich voted in favor of adding the closed session, mayor Michael DeVore and councilor Marty Chambers voted against it so the matter was dropped.

The council approved

complete the trail network through Lowell that will finally close the Lowell-shaped gap in the otherwise continuous 125-mile-long Fred Meijer River Valley Trail. When the Lowell portion is completed it will be the fifth longest rail trail in the United States.



The Lowell city council in discussion at their Monday, March 18 meeting.

an item to the agenda, but he was not successful.

“I would like to consider going into closed session to discuss property acquisition,” Canfield said. “[City attorney] Dick Wendt is out of town and can’t be here. Dick didn’t recommend that we go into closed session without him, that was relayed to me by Mike [Burns, Lowell city manager], but I feel that we have an opportunity to possibly solve this without attorneys involved. We wouldn’t make any decisions, ever, in closed session, but there was a meeting between some of the principals on this that the council members really haven’t gotten a chance to discuss yet and bounce off each other what was said. There is just a lot at stake here and I’d like to do everything we can to try to resolve this and move it forward.”

Adding the closed session to the agenda would have required four affirmative

a \$300,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant application and discussed upcoming updates to the local trail system. Engineer Dave Austin from Williams and Works is working with the city and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority to

“Last year we received a ‘thumbs up’ from the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program on behalf of the city for \$3.1 million,” Austin said. “It’s not an award, it’s a conditional commitment, given that we meet all of their requirements.”

The total cost for the

project is projected at about \$6,488,000. To pay for this, nearby townships, the city of Lowell and LARA have been applying for grants, accepting donations from large donors (including \$500,000 from Meijer recently) and fundraising.

Proposed improvements include the installation of new, paved, non-motorized trails, pedestrian bridges, picnic shelters and signage.

The council voted to officially accept the \$1,300,000 Michigan Economic Development Corporation grant for the Lowell Showboat. The grant expires on Jan. 31, 2021, so Lowell should see a new boat before that date.

The council approved a one year, \$1,000 per month rental agreement with Windcraft Aviation, an experimental aircraft company started by LHS senior Alex Taylor. Windcraft will occupy “Building 3” at the airport, where they will research and test personalized aircraft.

The council continued a discussion of social media archiving that was tabled at their last meeting so that Burns could find out whether or not the city would still be able to access archived posts if they decided to terminate their contract with the potential vendor, ArchiveSocial. Burns said they would be able to access them as long as the city exported the information within 30 days of termination, so the council voted to approve the \$2,388 a year contract with ArchiveSocial. From now on that company will archive the city’s and the police department’s Facebook pages and the city’s Twitter and YouTube accounts in case of future Freedom of Information Act requests.

Mayor DeVore presented two fire authority budget proposals to the council and invited further discussion at the fire authority’s next meeting at 3:30 pm on

Monday, April 8 at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson St. SE.

“The top one is a budget moving forward if they chose not to do full time employees, the second page is a budget with full time employees,” DeVore said. “The only notable increases, really, [are] \$2,000 to the chief’s [Ron van Overbeek] salary, a small decrease in operating supplies, a small decrease in travel and then the insurance raises that we do every single year.”

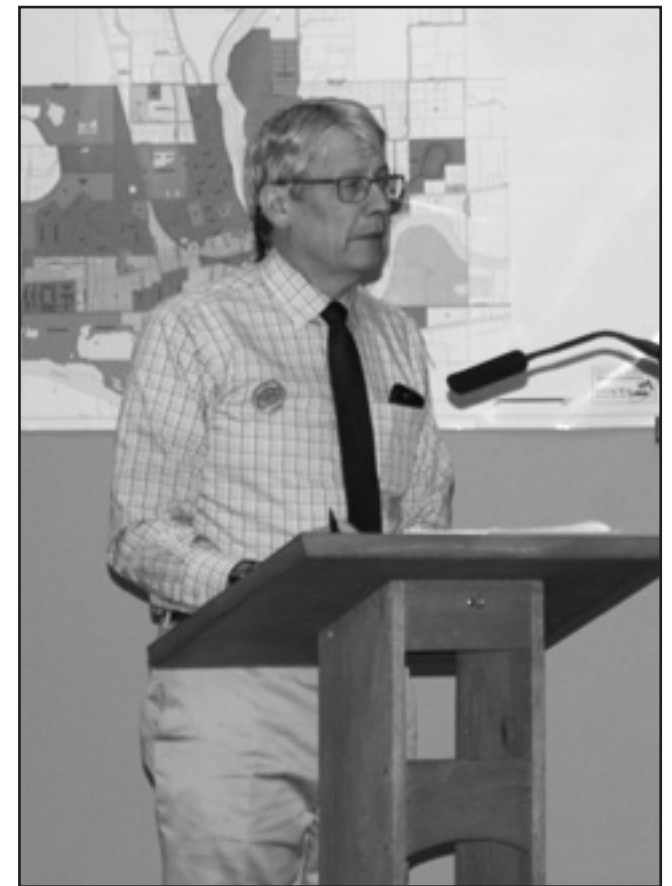
City manager Michael Burns pointed out this budget was higher than their last budget and asked DeVore to provide five years of supporting data to justify the increase.

“If we do go with the full time employees, the first year it looks like it’s roughly a \$62,000 increase,”

Burns said. “From what I understand, the consensus is the council is that they’re interested in full time fire [employees]. If that is what the council wants, we will budget for that. What I’d like to see, though, is something more than one year out. [...] I’d like to see a trend for at least five years.”

The council’s next regular meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 2. The council will also meet with the public at a “Coffee with the Council” event at Lowell Chamber of Commerce headquarters on the Riverwalk from 8 until 10 am on Saturday, April 6.

To watch many past city council, board and commission meetings, visit the city of Lowell’s YouTube channel.



Dr. James Reagan said the city’s arbor board will plant a tree at Betten Baker GMC, 749 W. Main, at a time to be determined on Friday, April 26. Reagan also said that date may change.

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Wilma Wondergem remembers the Louvin Brothers



A 1957 backstage photo of the Louvin Brothers, Ira and Charlie, signed by them in drippy green ink.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Louvin Brothers, Ira and Charlie, were born Lonnie and Charlie Loudermilk in Section, AL, a town of a few hundred residents near the Alabama/Tennessee border, in 1924 and 1927. They changed their last name to Louvin (after a brief stint as “the Radio Twins”) as their career in country, bluegrass and gospel music took off. They’re not very well-known anymore, but the Louvins enjoyed massive success making records and playing concerts from the 1940s until Ira’s tragic death in 1965.

They spent the majority of their career on Capitol Records, releasing 15 hit albums and dozens of singles. The brothers’ gorgeous vocal harmonies heavily influenced the Everly Brothers, Simon and

Garfunkel, Emmylou Harris, Gram Parsons, the Byrds and pretty much anybody who has made acoustic or country music with super close harmony vocals.

They were devout Baptists, and most of their albums and singles contained strict, pious Christian music, usually with dark, scary, apocalyptic messages. Typical Louvin Brothers songs included Are You Afraid to Die?, Do You Live What You Preach?, Don’t Let Them Take the Bible Out of Our School Rooms, Insured Beyond the Grave, Last Chance to Pray, Satan is Real, Satan’s Jeweled Crown, The Drunkard’s Doom, The Family Who Prays Never Shall Part, The Kneeling Drunkard’s Plea, The Weapon of Prayer and They’ve Got the Church

Outnumbered.

Most of their popular hit songs were with secular recordings, however, such as Childish Love, the Get Acquainted Waltz, In the Pines, Pitfall, You’re Running Wild, Cash on the Barrel Head, She Didn’t Even Know I Was Gone, When I Stop Dreaming, I Don’t Believe You’ve Met My Baby, Dog Sled, While You’re Cheating on Me, Knoxville Girl, Love Turned to Hate, Must You Throw Dirt in My Face? and I’m Glad That I’m Not Him.

Wilma Wondergem encountered the Louvin Brothers many times during her jaunts backstage at country music shows. Wondergem, a devout

Christian then and now who especially adores the Louvins’ gospel recordings, recalled that she was more comfortable interacting with the happily married Charlie than the married but still available Ira. While Ira sang a lot of religious songs and professed a deep Christian faith, his day-to-day behavior indicated a somewhat different set of operating principles.

“Ira was a lot more of a flirt than Charlie,” Wondergem said. “In one picture of myself with the Louvin Brothers, Charlie’s got his arm around me and

said anymore, but Charlie did NOT approve of it.”

Wondergem said she witnessed many Louvin Brothers performances around Michigan, the Midwest and down south in Nashville. No matter what city she was in, Wondergem was admitted backstage to chat with her country singer pals.

“Some way, I don’t even remember how, we could get backstage at the Grand Ole Opry, and my friends and I met a lot of stars there,” Wondergem said. “The radio station WSM in Nashville [the broadcast home of the

go to this coffee shop right next to the radio station, all them guys would come in there and we’d eat and talk all night long. We also went to the annual Deejay Convention in Nashville and everybody was there, in the hotel you’d see them coming and going.”

Ira was a terrible alcoholic, and when he was drunk the angel-voiced church-going mama’s boy turned into a violent, foul-mouthed, womanizing hellion. He cheated on and beat all of his wives relentlessly, one of whom shot him six times when, in a drunken rage,



Wilma Wondergem posing between Ira and Charlie Louvin in June, 1956.

he’s making sure that you can see his wedding ring. That was at Buck Lake Ranch [in Angola, IN]. I had a streak of bleached hair and Charlie did not like it. I don’t remember exactly what he

Opry] used to have talk shows that you could go to. Ralph Emery was a DJ on the radio who was on late at night. You could go upstairs in the studio where he was and sit in the audience. A lot of the singers would go up there and just chat with him, and we’d be sitting right there so we’d get to see and hear them too. Marty Robbins was on a lot because he couldn’t sleep at night. We also saw Roger Miller there and I don’t know who all, a lot. Then we used to

he tried to strangle her to death with a telephone cord. By 1963, Charlie could no longer tolerate Ira’s drunken antics and the brothers broke up the act. Charlie started a solo career that never really took off, while Ira continued down his self-destructive path.

According to Charlie’s 2012 autobiography “Satan is Real: The Ballad of the Louvin Brothers,” a belligerent, out-of-control Ira got into a fight with Elvis Louvins, continued, page 9

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“COVER NOTE: The fiery setting pictured on the cover of this album was conceived and built by the Louvin Brothers themselves, using chiefly rocks, scrap rubber and lots of imagination. The scene became a little too realistic, though, when Ira and Charlie were very nearly burned while actually directing the photography for this dramatic cover photo.” - text from “Satan Is Real” rear cover, Capitol Records, 1959.

The Louvin Brothers are possibly most well-known today thanks to this album showing up on multiple Internet lists of crazy covers.

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Louvin Brothers, continued



An undated photo of the Louvin Brothers with their good buddy, singer Hawkshaw Hawkins. Hawkins died in the March 5, 1963 plane crash that also took Patsy Cline and Cowboy Copas. "He always used to smoke a pipe, but I still liked him," Wondergem said of Hawkins.

Presley, ruined recording sessions by being drunk and unable to sing properly or play his mandolin, blew through thousands and thousands of dollars and didn't stop acting crazy until he was killed in a drunk driving accident in Williamsburg, MO at approximately 4:40 am on June 20, 1965. He was only 41 years old. For once, Ira was not the drunk in question - he had supposedly embraced sobriety in his last days and even talked to his mother about quitting music and joining the ministry. Ira played a solo show in Kansas City the evening of June 19, 1965 and decided to drive back home to Alabama through the night rather than

stay over and leave in the morning. "Ira's car ran straight into two guys who, according to Missouri law, were nine times over the limit for drunkenness," Charlie wrote in his autobiography. "They were on their way from St. Louis to Kansas City to celebrate Father's Day, and they crossed over the yellow line and plowed straight into Ira's car. One witness estimated each car was doing about 75 miles per hour. When two cars hit at that speed, there ain't much chance for anybody. It wasn't just Ira in the car, neither. His fourth wife, Anne, who I barely knew at all, was with him. She was a singer out of Canada that

he'd married somewhere along the way." After Ira's fatal accident, Charlie spent the rest of his life touring and recording with occasional moderate success, but he was never able to recapture the magic of the duets with his brother. The Louvin Brothers were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2001. A Louvin Brothers tribute CD with contributions from Dierks Bentley, Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, Rodney Crowell, Ronnie Dunn, Vince Gill, Merle Haggard, Emmylou Harris, The Jordanaires, Alison Krauss, Patty Loveless, Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt, James Taylor and Pam Tillis won the 2004 Grammy Award for Best Country Music Album.

Charlie's final album, "The Battles Rage On" was released in 2010; on it he re-recorded some old Louvin Brothers classics, plus tunes by Roy Acuff, Merle Haggard and Ernest Tubb. One of his three sons, Charlie "Sonny" Louvin Jr., played acoustic guitar on his father's last albums; other notable collaborators on Charlie's final recordings included Elvis Costello, Jeff Tweedy of Wilco, Tom T. Hall, Marty Stuart, George Jones, Dan and Tracee Miller of Blanche and Del McCoury. He died of pancreatic cancer on Jan. 26, 2011.

"Charlie was a lot better singer than Ira, but he never had any solo hits or anything after Ira died," Wondergem said. "He tried, but I think it was really hard for him to lose his brother. They were pretty close."



Ira and Charlie Louvin posing with Johanna Wondergem, Wilma's mother.



Ira Louvin, Wilma Wondergem and Charlie Louvin at Buck Lake Ranch in Angola, IN. Note Charlie's prominently-displayed wedding ring in the upper right corner.



The scene of Ira Louvin's fatal drunk driving accident in Williamsburg, MO on June 20, 1965.



Fellow country music fan Jack Harper, Charlie Louvin and Wilma Wondergem hanging out at Buck Lake Ranch in Angola, IN.



15,000 jobs available annually in Michigan's Professional Trades careers

Gov. Whitmer's call for increased educational attainment will help students prepare for high-demand career opportunities

The top high-wage, high-demand Professional Trades careers in Michigan all require education or training beyond high school and Gov. Whitmer's call for 60 percent of Michiganders achieving postsecondary credentials by 2030 elevates opportunities for students and job seekers to take advantage of apprenticeships, on-the-job training, certificates or associate degree programs for in-demand careers.

"We want students to not only know what high-wage, high-demand career opportunities are available right here in Michigan, but to also prepare them for the best path to learn and train for those careers after high school," said Talent and Economic Development (TED) Department of Michigan Acting Director Stephanie Beckhorn. "With more than 500,000 Professional Trades jobs coming open through 2024, it's critical that we educate students and job seekers on the typical education needed for that profession."

"When we talk about careers in the Professional Trades, we are talking about careers in high-tech,

high-demand industries that will position our state as a leader in innovation."

Michigan has launched a new campaign called Going PRO to help employers across the state fill more than 811,000 jobs in high-paying, highly



rewarding careers such as information technology and computer science, healthcare, manufacturing, and other business and Professional Trades fields.

But Michigan needs more apprentices and skilled workers to fill the talent gap.

The 2020 budget proposal presented by Gov. Whitmer, reaffirmed the need to address the state's talent gap and reach educational attainment goals – and ultimately lead Michigan to a healthier, stronger economy.

Learn more about these rewarding careers at www.Going-PRO.com.

Coyote sightings and tips to prevent conflicts

This time of year, it's not uncommon to hear about an uptick in coyote sightings around the state. That's because coyotes are more visible during their breeding season (January to March), as well as in the spring and summer months when they're caring for pups.

Coyotes are extremely adaptable and can be found just about everywhere: in forests, fields, farmlands, backyards, neighborhoods and cities. They've learned to survive in urban landscapes throughout Michigan. When food sources are available – things like trash bins, bird feeders and pet food – coyotes may become more comfortable around people.

To minimize potential conflicts and protect your small pets, DNR furbearer specialist Adam Bump has a few suggestions.

"The first thing to remember is never to intentionally feed or try to tame a coyote; leave wildlife in the wild,"



Bump said. "Remove those appealing food sources, fence off your gardens and fruit trees, clear out wood and brush piles, and accompany your pets outdoors rather than letting them roam free."

Additionally, there are some hunting and removal options:

Coyote hunting is open year-round. Michigan residents need a valid base license to hunt them. See the current-year Fur Harvester Digest for coyote hunting and trapping regulations.

On private property where coyotes are doing or about to do damage, a property owner or designee can take coyotes year-round; a license or written permit is not needed.

A permitted nuisance control business can assist in the safe removal of problem animals in urban or residential areas.

Get more tips on understanding this species in the Coexisting with Urban Coyotes video or on the DNR's coyotes webpage. Questions? Contact Hannah Schauer, 517-388-9678.

Hatch a plan to prevent Salmonella illness when raising backyard birds

A sure sign of spring is the arrival of chicks and ducklings in local feed and agriculture supply stores. Health experts at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) want people to know about the potential for baby poultry to carry Salmonella bacteria which can make people sick. If proper precautions are not taken, even handling baby birds displayed in stores can cause a Salmonella infection.

"Raising birds for eggs and meat can be fun and educational, but all poultry, even those that appear healthy and clean, have the potential to carry the Salmonella bacteria," said MDHHS Public Health Veterinarian Dr. Mary Grace Stobierski. "Washing your hands thoroughly before and after handling chicks and other poultry protects both you and your family from the risk of Salmonella, and also helps keep the birds healthy."

Salmonella usually does not make the birds sick but can cause illness in people. Salmonella can cause diarrhea, vomiting, fever and/or abdominal cramps lasting four to seven days or more. Certain groups have a greater chance of illness from handling live poultry or contact with areas where the birds live. Children younger than 5 years old, older adults or



people with weak immune systems should not handle or touch live poultry because they are more likely to become severely ill.

In 2018, 334 people from 47 states were sickened by Salmonella after having contact with live poultry in backyard flocks, including 18 people from Michigan. Of the 334 illnesses, 21 percent were children younger than 5 years.

Follow these simple steps to help protect your family and others:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching birds or anything in their environment. Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- Use hand sanitizer after touching birds or their environment until you can wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Do not kiss or snuggle birds, touch your mouth or eat or drink around live poultry.
- Don't let children younger than five years, adults older than 65 or people with weakened immune systems from conditions such as cancer treatment, HIV/AIDS or organ transplants, handle or touch chicks, ducklings or other live poultry.
- Do not keep live poultry inside the house where people live, eat or sleep.
- Keep live poultry away from areas where food or drink is prepared, served or stored, such as kitchens or outdoor patios.
- Frequently clean all equipment such as cages, feed, water containers and other materials associated with raising or caring for poultry. Always clean equipment outdoors.
- Set aside a pair of shoes to wear while caring for poultry and keep those shoes outside the home.

For more information, visit Cdc.gov/features/salmonellapoultry/index.html.

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Four Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams advance to world finals competition

On Saturday March 16, 116 Odyssey of the Mind teams from around the state gathered at Thornapple Kellogg Schools in Middleville to compete in the 39th annual Michigan Odyssey of the Mind competition. Seven teams from Lowell Area Schools were represented at the competition.

Four of the seven Lowell teams have advanced to the World Finals competition at Michigan State University in May. Lowell will be represented at the elementary, middle school and high school divisions.

The elementary team representing students from Murray Lake and Alto competed in the division one age bracket. The all fourth grade "OMER to the Rescue Again" team had to design, build and drive an original ride-on vehicle where it had to function in different ways to "save the day." Their vehicle also had to be disassembled, fit into two suitcases, then reassembled and driven again. These fourth graders were the state champions in their problem and division, earning

test the strength of their structure, they had to propel the structure through the air in a team-created device.

Another elementary team competed in the "Hide in Plain Sight" technical problem. This team was asked to create and build a mechanical creature that would hide in plain sight. The competition was tough, but the team was able to secure a fifth place finish in their problem and division.

In the "Opposites Distract" problem, Lowell had two teams competing. Both the elementary and middle school teams had to create and present a humorous performance about a sneaky character that distracts others. During the performance the sneaky character had to lure others into silly arguments using different dramatic styles. The middle school team

Since starting the program in Lowell thirteen years ago, this is the seventh time Lowell will be represented at the international world competition to be held at Michigan State University in May. Lowell will be doubling the number of teams it has sent in the past with a record four teams this year.

Over 800 teams from around the world will compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The competition emphasizes

creativity and teamwork and has grown into the largest international creative problem-solving competition worldwide. Millions of kids have been working hard all year, perfecting their solutions to OotM problems and competing within their regions and states. Only a few advance to World Finals – these teams represent the best of the best creative minds. While the competition is fierce, there is also a feeling of camaraderie among



The elementary "OMER to the Rescue Again" team showcasing their first place finish: front row: Ally Hollern; back row, left to right: Olivia Lothian, Brooklyn Haywood, Adelle Krueger, Ella Anne Pike, Brooklyn Jackson and Henry Oesch.



The "Structure Toss" Lowell Middle School team proudly displays their second place medals: front row, left to right: Mya Richmond, Isabelle Sternisha and Eliana Thompson; back row, left to right: Hudson Newell, Teige Bredin and Nicholas Lothian. Missing from picture is Dalton Charon.



The first and second place Lowell High School teams from the "Structure Toss" problem: front row, left to right: Hayden Burt, John Lothian, Kacey Leverage and Julia Tuuri; back row, left to right: Annabelle Johnson, Phoebe Looman, Nick Momany, Brecken Pawloski and Hope Winters. Missing from picture is Brooke Rempalski, Josh Momany and Brendan Duursma.

them the opportunity to compete at the World Finals competition.

Three other Lowell teams competed in the "Structure Toss" problem and have advanced to the World Finals competition. One team from Lowell Middle School and two from Lowell High School will be representing Lowell in May at Michigan State University. These three teams had to build a structure using only balsa wood and glue to hold as much weight as possible. Before the teams could

placed fifth overall and had the second highest style score and third highest long term score for their problem and division.

The day also brought a scholarship award for Lowell High School senior, Annabelle Johnson. Creativity Unlimited in Michigan, sponsor of the Odyssey of the Mind program in Michigan awarded four \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Johnson has participated in Odyssey of the Mind for the last four years.

...
You can never be overdressed or overeducated.
 - Oscar Wilde

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
 PROBATE COURT
 COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 19-204848-DE

Estate of LYNDASUZANNE LONGIELIERE, aka Lynda Longieliere, deceased. Date of birth: 01/14/1949.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lynda Suzanne Longieliere, died 11/14/2018.

Creditors of the decedent are notified

that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to David-Michael Longieliere, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

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

David-Michael Longieliere
 651 56th St. SE
 Kentwood, MI 49548
 616-430-2007

competitors. Many students form lifelong friendships that span the U.S. and the globe. At World Finals, the teams have the chance to learn about other cultures through a common goal. . . to be as creative as they can!

The students are beginning to raise funds to participate in the competition. Each team will need to raise approximately

\$5000 to attend the World Finals Tournament. Please consider making a donation to help the students who will be representing our community and state at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals Competition. If you or your organization would be interested in helping out the teams, please email lowellodyssey@gmail.com for more information.



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obituaries

CARNEY

Ronald Lee Carney, age 72 of Lowell, died Thursday, March 14, 2019. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Carney and Iva Grace (Norm) Webster; son, Scott Carney; brothers, Rick Carney and Larry Carney and step-sister, Pat Talsma. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Janys Aileen Carney; children, Kim (Mark) Silvis, Shawn Carney, David Thompson, Robyn Benjamin and Kelli (Matt) Mayer; 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He is also survived by his sister, Karen (John) Geisland; brother, Jim (Linda) Carney; and step-sister, Dee Webster; many nieces and nephews and more cousins than we can count. Ron loved bowling, golfing, hunting and above all, his friends and family. He built "Butterscotch Castle", a log home in Lowell, MI, for his wife and 6 children in 1985. After 30 years of dedication, he retired from General Motors. Visitation will be Saturday, March 23 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM with a service following at 5:00 PM, Jay DePoy, officiating at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Flowers can be sent to Roth-Gerst Funeral Home and memorial contributions may be made to Degage Ministries, 144 S. Division Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



RICHARDSON

A truly renaissance woman passed on to new challenges on March 13 at home in Lowell with her husband and Faith Hospice staff at her side. Randi Richardson (nee Rebecca Lane Walker) born to Glenn and Juanita Walker on July 29, 1950 began her journey in Madison, West Virginia at Glover's Clinic. Randi grew up in Garden City, Michigan and attended Schoolcraft College and the University of Michigan. Like many, she began her career in retailing ably serviced by her electric personality. She found success at Montgomery Wards and JC Penney, but she found her true calling in the world of broadcasting in radio and television. Beginning in local television in South Lyon she quickly graduated to more exciting markets in Howell, Ann Arbor, Alpena, Flint, Mt. Pleasant, and Detroit. Randi worked in a number of stations in both radio and TV. Along her journey Randi found time to participate in community theater both as a performer and director. Her involvement help launch the fledgling Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) in Michigan, which necessitated her testifying before a Congressional committee. Randi's creative talents were demonstrated by her work in photography, quilt making, and nationally recognized doll house creations. More recently she worked with her special friend Martha Hayden, on a stand up comedy routine. Just weeks ago, her last adventure included attending the NASA Space Camp with Martha, where she received 'the Right Stuff' award. Randi also enjoyed the waters that dominate Michigan's terrain. She loved an afternoon sailing her Catalina or basking in the sun on the sandbar on Torch Lake. Above all else Randi was perhaps most proud of her four grand daughters...Alexis, Kaylee, Arianna, and Keira. Their smiling faces brought great joy. Randi is survived by her husband Roger, who she married in 1970. She will be missed by her brother Randy, sisters in law Linda, Shirley, Karen, her mother Juanita, and numerous nieces and nephews. Also surviving are sister and brother in law, Darcy and Chuck Foster and nieces, Devon and Kendal. A celebration of life will be held Friday, March 29 at Thousand Oaks Country Club in Grand Rapids, commencing at 6:30 PM.



SARB



John T. (Jack) Sarb of Lowell, MI, age 83, passed away peacefully on March 16, 2019. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Aileen Sarb; and brother, Jerry Sarb. Jack is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Vee Sarb; children, Steven (Kathy) Sarb, Lisa (Bill) Jourdan, Jon (Janet) Sarb, Sheila (Peter) Walby, Patty (Mark) McCune and Denise Sarb; three grandchildren, Katie, Clare and Jack; brother, James (Jackie) Sarb; sister-in-law, Cathy Sarb; five granddogs; and many nieces and nephews. Jack was first and foremost a family man, who enjoyed camping and time at the family cottage with all the kids and grandchildren. Jack also enjoyed boating, fishing, hunting, and travel by RV with Vee. A special memory was their trip to Alaska by RV caravan. Jack had a remarkable career in the logistics industry, rising from the loading dock to the executive ranks, first with Associated Truck Lines of Grand Rapids and later Standard Products Company. Jack loved all his granddogs equally even though none of them hunt. The family will receive visitors on Wednesday, March 20 from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM with a rosary at 7:30 PM at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N Hudson, Lowell. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, March 21 at 11 AM at St. Mary, Great Mother of God Catholic Church, 402 Amity St SE, Lowell with visitation at 10 AM before mass. Rev. Aaron Ferris presiding. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Baby Pantry of Lowell/St. Mary's Pregnancy Center, 11535 Fulton St E, Lowell, MI 49331.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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



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...
I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.
 - Jimmy Dean

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

Unity School/Riverwalk Flats condo project update

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Unity School condo developers announced that they have changed their minds and, instead of leaving the property to rot indefinitely, will move ahead with their “Riverview Flats” project and will allow the city to use land owned by them during special events such as the Riverwalk Festival and the Sizzlin’ Summer Concerts.

“These are great events for Lowell and bring people from miles around into our beautiful downtown area to the benefit of local shops, restaurants and businesses,” said developer Todd Schaal in a press release on Wednesday, March 13.

“I’m thrilled that we get to use the Riverwalk,” said

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker. “This is really great, not only for the Chamber and the Riverwalk Festival, but it’s good news for the community. I’m happy to hear that they’re going to allow us to use the Riverwalk and be able to do the concerts. That was a huge concern for me. I knew we could work around it somehow, but at the same time it was a big concern.”

The developers’ new plans no longer include use of the seven foot strip of land that was one of the issues that contributed to the project’s recent denial by the city.

“We looked at our blueprints and, meeting with our builder, we

have determined that we no longer require the seven feet,” Schaal said in the press release. “We have figured out a better solution that will provide an incredible patio and view of the Flat River.”

“We are looking forward to bringing new life to a long-blighted property in the core of downtown Lowell,” said Jerry Zandstra, Schaal’s partner, in a press release. “We are appreciative of the overwhelming public support and encouragement. We will provide 14 exquisite condos for residents and will add to the tax base of our wonderful city. Several years ago we brought new life to the former Lowell Antique

Mall by repurposing it into condos and retail space and we anticipate the same level of success and benefit to the residents of the city of Lowell.”

The city said they will approve or deny the project based on the new paperwork submitted and not take into account the project’s contentious past history.

“The city will look forward to evaluating and reviewing the project when the site plan and other paperwork is submitted,” said city manager Michael Burns in an email to the Ledger.

“The necessary paperwork and plans will be submitted to the city in the near future,” Schaal said.



Special events on the Riverwalk bring huge crowds downtown, especially when the weather is warm.

Understanding social security survivor benefits



Unfortunately, tragedy can strike without any warning. The loss of the family wage earner can be devastating both emotionally and financially. Social Security helps by providing income for the families of workers who die.

Some of the Social Security taxes you pay go toward survivors benefits for workers and their families. The value of the survivors benefits you have under Social Security may even be more than the value of your individual life insurance. When you die, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits. These include widows and widowers (and divorced widows and widowers), children, and dependent parents. Here are the people who

can get survivors benefits based on your work:

- **Your widow or widower may be able to get full benefits at full retirement age.** The full retirement age for survivors is age 66 for people born in 1945-1956, with the full retirement age gradually increasing to age 67 for people born in 1962 or later. Your widow or widower can get reduced benefits as early as age 60. If your surviving spouse is disabled, benefits can begin as early as age 50.
- **Your widow or widower can get benefits at any age if they take care of your child younger than age 16 or disabled, who is receiving Social Security benefits.**
- **Your unmarried children, younger than age 18 (or up to age 19 if they’re attending**

elementary or secondary school full time), can also get benefits.

Your children can get benefits at any age if they were disabled before age 22. Under certain circumstances, we can also pay benefits to your stepchildren, grandchildren, step grandchildren, or adopted children.

- **Your dependent parents can get benefits if they’re age 62 or older.** (For your parents to qualify as dependents, you must have provided at least half of their support.) How much your family can get from Social Security depends on your average lifetime earnings. The more you earned, the more their benefits will be. For more information on widows, widowers, and other survivors, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/survivors.

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 vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

Get your “SSA-1099” Social Security Benefit Statement

Tax season is approaching, and Social Security has made replacing your annual Benefit Statement, also known as the SSA-1099 or the SSA-1042S, even easier. Now you can get a copy of your 1099 anytime and anywhere you want using our online services.

A Social Security 1099 is a tax form Social Security mails each year in January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from Social Security in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on your tax return.

If you live in the United States and you need a replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, simply go online and request an instant, printable replacement form through your personal *my Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

A replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S is available for the previous tax year after February 1.

If you already have a *my Social Security* account, you can log in



to your online account to view and print your SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S. If you don’t have access to a printer, you can save the document on your computer or laptop or even email it. If you don’t have a *my Social Security* account, creating one is very easy to do and usually takes less than 10 minutes.

If you receive benefits or have Medicare, your *my Social Security* account is also the best way to:

- **Get your benefit verification letter;**
- **Check your benefit and payment information;**
- **Change your address and phone number;**
- **Change your direct deposit information;**
- **Request a replacement Medicare card; or**
- **Report your wages if you work and receive Social Security disability insurance or**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

If you’re a noncitizen who lives outside of the United States and you received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we will send you form SSA-1042S in the mail. The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

With a personal *my Social Security* account, you can do much of your business with us online, on your time, like get a copy of your SSA-1099 form. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov to find out more.

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 vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

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!

VEGGIE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

VEGGIE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

ACIDIC
 AERATION
 AIR
 ALKALINE
 AMENDMENT
 ANNUAL
 BACTERIA

BEDS
 BENEFICIAL
 BIENNIAL
 BLOSSOM
 COMPOST
 CONSERVE
 CONTAINER
 DROUGHT
 EDGING
 FERTILIZER

FLOWERS
 FURROW
 HARDY
 HARVEST
 HERBS
 INSECTS
 MANURE
 MATURITY
 MULCH
 NETTING

PEAT
 PREDATOR
 ROOTS
 ROT
 SANDY
 SOIL
 SPACING
 TOP DRESS
 WATERING

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New York on June 17, 1943. I went to the Julliard School and worked on jingles early in my career. I've written and performed many famous songs, and used to play the piano for Bette Midler during her performances.

Answer: Barry Manilow

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the beach.

N S Y U N

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Sunny

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

CLUES ACROSS

- In bed
- Project portfolio management
- Notre Dame legend Parseghian
- Nothing (Spanish)
- Not level
- Self-contained aircraft unit
- Baseball broadcaster Caray
- ___ Tomei, actress
- "The Raven" writer
- Bathrooms
- Skilled inventors
- Forcefully silence
- Remove
- The arrival of daylight
- Split lentils
- "Walking Dead" actress
- A lazy person
- Doctors' group
- Crooks
- Fragrant essential oil
- Conjured
- One who predicts
- Scarlett's home
- Television network

- Something comparable to another
- What a thespian does
- Word element meaning life
- Italian island
- "King of Queens" actress Remini
- Jogged
- Norse gods
- Lazily
- Midway between northeast and east
- Hindu queen

- One and only
- The Golden State
- Fabric baby carrier (abbr.)
- Quid pro ___
- New England research university
- Baseball pitcher's stat
- Western India island
- ___ Angeles
- Midway between east and southeast
- British singer Stewart
- Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- Riding horse
- Where wrestlers work
- Regions
- Of a main artery
- Not classy
- Competed against
- Biscuit-like cake
- Large ankle bones
- Computer company
- "Friends" actress Kudrow
- "Chocolat" actress Lena
- Brain folds

CLUES DOWN

- Top Rank boxing promoter
- ___ fide (Latin)
- At all times
- Hindu female deity
- Tufts of hairs on plant seeds
- Edited
- Portuguese archipelago
- Your parents' brothers
- Pakistani city
- Farewell
- Short sleep sessions
- Remove salt
- Drug officers

Travel agency Adventures by Lori will be at the Expo

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lori Spoelstra, owner of the Lowell travel agency, Adventures by Lori, has been helping Lowellians and many others plan their vacations for 13 years.

“We personally craft vacation dreams for our families, couples, friends and solo travelers,” Spoelstra said. “I have an amazing support team at Adventures by Lori. We have Brianna, Elaine, and Annie who service each of our clients with great detail in their areas of expertise. From the spark of an idea, to the detailed planning that comes with a successful journey, all the way to the completion of the dream, we take care of every meticulous detail so our clients don’t have to. Lowell is a great place to make my agency’s home base. My clients find me from all around the globe, but those who reach out to me locally have a special place in my heart and business.”

At the Lowell Expo, Spoelstra will be highlighting the many popular travel destinations she helps send clients to and offering prizes, including a NYC vacation.

“We will be showcasing family and adult get-aways,”

Spoelstra said. “Sandals, Beaches, Hard Rock Resorts, ocean cruises, a river cruise in Europe, Hawaii, and for those that know us, Disney and Universal Orlando. We will be giving away a set of plush Mickey and Minnie, a beach bag full of goodies and a chance to win a three night New York City vacation for two from the Benjamin Hotel. Come by and talk to us about your next travel dreams.”

Adventures by Lori has been a fixture at the Expo for over a decade. She said she has noticed that it isn’t only Lowellians who visit the annual event.

“I’ve been doing the Lowell Expo for over 10 years, and I am always amazed at the distances that people drive to come to our Expo,” Spoelstra said. “We have quality businesses in Lowell. Talented crafters, expert professionals, friendly services, and welcoming non-profit organizations. To have that much energy in one building makes the Lowell Expo ‘The Next Place to Be.’ Some of the greatest aspects of Lowell Expo are the variety of businesses and organizations that



Lori Spoelstra, owner of Adventures by Lori [Facebook photo]

are gathered in one place. There is something here for everyone. I challenge anyone to come and visit and not go away learning something new, finding a new business or organization that they didn’t know about before and just having a great time.”

It’s the “everything you

can think of under one roof” facet of the Expo that keeps people coming back year after year.

“The Lowell Expo is like going to a mall for services,” Spoelstra said. “Shopping locally is important, but you have to know who is here. We, the businesses of

Lowell, are here in these two gyms for one day each year so the community can come out and see what a vast array of talent and opportunities we have. Not only that, but it’s super fun and lots of fun goodies are available all day long. It may be gray, cold and colorless outside,

but Lowell High School is going to be full of vibrant color, warmth and energy on Saturday, March 23.”

For more information, visit AdventuresbyLori.com, send a message to Lori@AdventuresbyLori.com, call 616-648-6488 or find one of the company’s social media accounts.

J&K Roadside Assistance another Expo participant

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Jason Cupp is the owner of J&K Roadside Service, one of Lowell’s most reliable towing services. Cupp has been in the towing business for over a decade. He worked for R2C Towing for a few years to learn about the business, then in 2012 he started his own company. For the first few years, J&K

Roadside Service was a one man/one truck show, but by now the business has grown to include office staff, multiple drivers and newer tow trucks.

“Lowell is where I live and raised my five kids, and I thought my hometown could use a reliable towing company,” Cupp said. “I



J&K owner Jason Cupp in action.



J&K Roadside Assistance towed a wrecked car to last year’s Expo to illustrate the dangers of texting while driving.

have five employees: three drivers, four if you count me, and two office personnel.”

Cupp and his staff are always on call for situations such as lockouts, jump starts, tire changes, fuel deliveries and, of course, towing.

“We’re on call constantly, 24 hours a day, even Christmas,” Cupp said.

Cupp said he and his crew aren’t averse to doing simple roadside repairs such as driving somebody to the store to buy a battery, depositing them back at

their stalled vehicle and then installing the new battery.

“Lowell is a great place to do business,” Cupp said. “I love Lowell. The people are good.”

J&K Roadside Service usually has one of their biggest tow trucks parked in front of the Expo, sometimes with a crushed-up car hanging off the back.

“At the Expo, we will be providing pamphlets on what to do when you are involved in an accident, along with some J&K freebies,” Cupp

said. “I think the greatest aspects of the Expo are the demonstrations and the products you get to try out yourself. You see if the business is legit and if it’ll work for what you need.”

Cupp said that the Expo is an easy way to find ethical companies and organizations to do business with, and not only Lowell-based operations.

“The Expo is basically a meet and greet with companies that are supporters of the Lowell

community,” Cupp said. “There are businesses that have been around since the beginning and there are some that are just starting up that you have yet to hear about. But the Lowell Expo is more than just companies in Lowell. Businesses from surrounding areas come to the Expo, like Ada, Grand Rapids and other cities. The Expo is a great way to find trustworthy people who want to continue to grow their business.”