

## Council discusses rental home, LL&P, Showboat, more at latest regular meeting



Lowell city council in discussion at their meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

“I know there’s people that want to point a finger and find somebody to blame, but when Lou D’Agostino got up and told us [at the Dec. 16 city council meeting] that he’s been there from the get-go and there really isn’t a clear [person to] blame. The boat builders aren’t at fault because they’ve made boats to various heights. I’ve been on boats and they don’t have eight or ten foot ceilings all the time, so that’s why I’m voting to get it done.”

The council voted to give a pay raise to Lowell Light & Power board members.

“For the past six years, 2014 through 2019, the Lowell Light & Power board compensation has been set at \$35 per meeting,” said LL&P executive director Steve Donkersloot. “We meet once a month, typically the second Thursday of every month. Because there hasn’t been an adjustment to the compensation for the previous six years and due to the fact that Light & Power board meetings

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LHS sports

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Ken Rings' POW diary continues



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Mary Rings



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Exchange student



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by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Tuesday, Jan. 21. The council discussed a home they’ve been renting out for decades, the water treatment plant, Lowell Light & Power and the Lowell Showboat. The meeting

lasted about 35 minutes and was attended by eight residents. City councilors Marty Chambers and Greg Canfield were absent.

The council voted to approve a \$39,421.80 “change order” for Lowell Showboat construction.

Funds from the Showboat grants will be used for this.

“There was an issue pertaining to the height on the two deck and the wheel house,” said city manager Michael Burns. “The attached order is for the time and material to

make the proper corrections to the vessel. [...] This is an increase of the total project cost by 2.6 percent.”

“The reason that I’m voting for it is because I want the project to move ahead as quickly as possible,” said councilor Cliff Yankovich.

## No limit on how much Gov. could bond for roads

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer could go ahead and bond for \$2.5 billion - or really, any amount she wanted - for new road revenue through the gubernatorial-appointed State Transportation Commission, based on updated information from numerous sources.

Whitmer could, theoretically, bond against the revenues from future gas taxes and registration fees for any amount - there’s no constitutional or statutory limit on the actual size of the debt, according to numerous people with knowledge of the state’s bonding law speaking to MIRS both on and off the record.

The only limit spelled out in statute is how much can be paid on the debt in a given year. And the STC’s standard for how much it commits to debt service payments on an annual basis is even lower.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) acknowledged this in an interview Thursday. He said he believes Whitmer could do as much as \$6 billion a year in bonding, according to his calculation.

“There’s flexibility there, no question about it,” he said, adding there’s flexibility as to over what period of time this can be done.

Shirkey told MIRS that Whitmer “can do more than what was originally proffered as \$1 billion a year,” a reference to the Citizens Research Council saying Whitmer could bond up to \$1 billion a year without legislative approval through the STC.

CRC President Eric Lupher said Thursday, “Yes, they could borrow more than a billion [but] I wouldn’t

Roads, continued, page 3

## DuPont, 3M, others face billions in liability as lawsuits pour in

After last week’s announced legal action by the state of Michigan, 3M, DuPont and other manufacturers of PFAS chemicals and their predecessors are facing suits from across the globe.

For example, 3M is presently being sued by the government of Guam, among others.

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, 3M has entered into an \$850 million pollution settlement over PFAS with the state of Minnesota. It settled a \$35 million case with an Alabama water authority in April.

The company, according to media reports, is facing relatively new lawsuits from the state of New York

(filed last fall), which were preceded by suits filed by the states of New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Vermont in the spring and summer of 2019.

Data assembled by the Environmental Work Group suggests that PFAS contamination may be present in at a total of 610 sites, spread across 43 states.

An online map showing contamination at military sites, in drinking water, and at other known sites (current as of October 2019) shows Michigan among the top two or three most-contaminated states.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel argued that Michigan is actually closer to the front of the line on the PFAS litigation than it is with its lawsuit against opioid manufacturers.

“Am I concerned that

we’ll be able to get the necessary amount of money, given that there will be multiple suits?” asked Nessel. “I am, but on the other hand, in the opioid litigation, I’d say we were on the tail end. There were so many, dozens of other states that had already filed. On the PFAS we’d be the third or fourth state. So, we are starting this at an earlier process.”

Just as with Michigan, officials from other states contend that 3M and others who produced PFAS chemicals knew exactly what they were dealing with and what they were doing.

“The companies we’re suing today knew full-well the risks involved with these harmful

PFAS, continued, page 2

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# Should MSP get out of forensic testing?

Pulling forensic testing in criminal cases out of the Michigan State Police's (MSP) arena and turning it over to an independent body was given serious consideration Thursday amid a Senate panel's look into this week's bad breathalyzer testing equipment story.

Michigan State Police director Joseph Gasper laid out to the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee why 203 Datamaster breath-alcohol testing instruments were pulled out of circulation.

It led to discussion over SB 0276 and SB 0277, which transfers the testing to an independent body.

"We have an opportunity generated by this breath-test mini-scandal to take a look at how we gather, analyze and use this type of forensic evidence in Michigan courtrooms," drunk driving and drugged driving defense attorney Mike Nichols told the committee.

"Other states do that," Nichols continued. "In Ohio it's the Department of Public Health that writes the rules for these calibration checks and maintains at least one of these breath-testing instruments. The reason to move forensic science and chemical testing out of the MSP is twofold, one is the general appearance that you have law enforcement hovering over, regulating or overseeing the forensic science. The other is -- you've got to serve two masters -- the science, the other is that no one can forget about the fact that their paycheck comes from a law enforcement agency."

MIRS asked Sen. Tom Barrett (R-Pottsville) what he thinks of the idea that an entity other than MSP should be handling forensics for the state.

"The concern is -- should you have your crime lab housed in a department that's tasked with going after the bad guys and putting them in jail?" Barrett said. "I'm not saying State Police crime labs are in cahoots with prosecutors or police departments, but what myself and Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) have put forward is a Forensic Science Commission bill package. That's a neutral body that could administer best practices and oversee forensic science for the state. It would also take out some of the private labs that are not accredited."

MIRS asked Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) about the idea of getting the forensics and testing off MSP's plate.

"I think the best model for producing lab results in an adversarial system like we have is one where crime labs and forensic science is done by an independent body," Irwin said. "That's not the way we do it in Michigan."

"That independent body wouldn't necessarily need to be a private entity," he continued. "It could be a public entity."

Gasper said Thursday a discrepancy noticed by staff during a routine documentation audit is what led to the discovery that "technicians" employed by Intoximeters, Inc. had not been properly servicing and maintaining the state's 203

Datamaster breath-alcohol testing instruments.

That discovery on Jan. 2, 2020, at the Alpena County Sheriff's Department, along with follow-up investigation, resulted in MSP pulling all 203 of the breathalyzers used statewide until they can be checked and certified as having been properly calibrated. Meanwhile, law enforcement will need to use more blood draws to determine whether drivers are or aren't considered to have been too intoxicated to operate a motor vehicle.

Gasper reviewed aspects of the three-year \$1.26 million contract MSP signed with Intoximeter Inc. in September of 2018.

"The contract requires the vendor's three technicians to conduct the 120-day certifications of all instruments, perform service calls and routine maintenance, and provide court testimony on the service and maintenance," Gasper explained, adding that after the irregularity had been discovered in Alpena, MSP opened a criminal investigation into possible forgery of a public document, which is still ongoing.

"On Jan. 3, a stop-work order was issued to the vendor (Intoximeters, Inc.) and all equipment and paperwork were secured from the three technicians," Gasper said. "MSP personnel continued through the weekend (Jan. 11-12) to review the records from the technicians, yielding additional discrepancies involving a second technician and three more impacted instruments at Beverly Hills Police Department, Pittsfield Township Police Department and the Tecumseh Police Department."

Gasper told the committee that MSP suspects the instrument calibration tests were fabricated. He also said that, on Jan. 10, MSP started an emergency plan, to be overseen by a "technical leader" to take

over the responsibility for maintenance of the instruments, which would include acquiring three new technicians. In addition, all 203 breathalyzers need to be checked and re-certified as calibrated. So far, 37 have been, and it's possible that they may all be ready again as soon as within about 30 days.

Sen. Curt VanderWall (R-Ludington) asked how the technicians under investigation could have been fraudulently doctoring the paperwork.

"What it appears is that this is a traditional cut-and-paste -- not an electronic cut-and-paste," Gasper explained. "They took some of the tickets, cut them in half -- taped them together in a format that closely resembled [a genuine ticket.]"

Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Holly) asked if the science behind the breathalyzers used by the state is the same as what's used for the in-vehicle testers that can be court-ordered for some drivers.

The answer was "no, those are something different."

"We had a vendor when I was Secretary of State for the in-vehicle device, and there were many complaints," Johnson said. "It gave false positives and false negatives."

Irwin asked if some breath test results can no longer be used for evidence in drunk driving cases.

"When the calibration's not done that does not automatically mean the test was inaccurate," Gasper said. "But it could potentially be inadmissible because it's outside of the time period that it was calibrated. So that could possibly not be admissible. That's not for us to weigh in on. That's up to the prosecutor's offices, the judges or the court system in this state."

MIRS asked Irwin about the potential for defense attorneys to be scouring

past convictions that based on test results -- due to this false calibration certification situation -- shouldn't have been admitted as evidence.

"It's unclear still the magnitude of these kinds of cases and claims about cases," Irwin said. "We're going to hear from defense attorneys who are going to look back at this error that was made by the State Police and they'll assert it may be related to their client's case."

"We don't understand what the magnitude of that's going to be," he continued. "MSP is still in the middle of auditing all the Datamasters and trying to get to the bottom of whether there was certification failure at other sites. They've already identified a handful of jurisdictions where they

weren't properly certifying the machines. That's definitely going to lead to defense attorney asking questions."

MIRS asked Barrett the same question.

"That's certainly a potential," Barrett said. "I think the State Police tried to contain some of that likelihood by suggesting the [suspect] calibration was only during a shortened window of time, saying the contract was signed, the contract was working and then they found out there was this relatively short period of time the calibrations weren't validated. It's not as if you were convicted of drunk driving nine years ago and now your conviction might be invalid."

## PFAS, continued

chemicals, but chose to foul our soil, waterways, and other precious natural resources," New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal was quoted by The Wall Street Journal on March 27 of last year when his state filed suit against 3M.

3M, the historic major producer of PFAS-type chemicals, also is being sued by business customers who purchased PFAS-based chemicals to waterproof products as well as facing legal claims from farmers impacted by PFAS water contamination from nearby military installations.

In total, The Minneapolis Star Tribune is pegging the potential legal and environmental liabilities facing 3M alone as approaching \$10 billion. The mounting legal liability costs facing 3M has led to questions about the value of the industrial giant. Over the past year, 3M stock has ranged from a high of \$219 a share to low of \$150 a share. It's presently trading in the \$180 range, according to Marketwatch.

In early December, Barron's reported that 3M stock is being given a "thumbs down" as the company faces cleanup, not potential legal liability, costs of between \$100 million and \$850 million

per state, according to some estimates, with between 3 and 10 states affected.

Likewise, DuPont faces substantial legal liability of its own.

A New York Times article contends that DuPont's history with purchasing PFAS or PFOA from 3M began as far back as 1951 and that company documents released under court order showed that DuPont and 3M had conducted secret medical studies on PFAS for more than four decades. Records also indicate that DuPont discharged into surface waters thousands of tons of PFAS powder.

"In 1961, DuPont researchers found that the chemical could increase the size of the liver in rats and rabbits," reads the New York Times article. Later, studies found the chemical caused birth defects in rats and that workers handling the chemical had high levels of it in their bloodstreams.

Documents forced into the public spotlight by court actions showed that DuPont, by the 1990s, was aware from its own tests that the chemicals caused cancerous testicular, pancreatic and liver tumors in lab animals.

By October 2016, DuPont was facing 3,535 personal-injury lawsuits.

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\*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018



# Council, continued

routinely take a minimum of two hours - most of the time they're at least three hours - it is my recommendation to bump that compensation up to \$45 per regular or special meeting, not to exceed \$900 per annual year."

The council voted to approve LL&P's request to change the retirement benefits for its employees. The changes were already approved by the L&P board earlier this month. They will close the open LL&P hybrid retirement plan, and all new hires will instead be enrolled in a defined contribution retirement plan.

"The LL&P defined benefit pension plan is

underfunded and poses a significant future financial risk to conduct normal and routine operations," Donkersloot wrote in a Jan. 13 memorandum. "Moving to a [defined contribution] plan eliminates the potential for an additional future unfunded liability, our current problem, for new hires."

"By doing this, it does begin the process of reducing the future liability," Burns said. "Your costs are going to go up by doing this because there is an additional cost for closing a plan, but what it does do, though, is that liability, over time, will diminish."

Workers performing the previously-approved \$19,894.92 overhaul and cleaning of pump four at the water treatment plant discovered the need for \$9,633.74 worth of new equipment. The total cost for the project is now \$29,528.66. The 40-year-old pump bowls are worn out, cannot be reused and need to be replaced, along with the pump column suction pipe that connects the bowls to the motor.

"We got 40 years out of it, we might as well fix it right," said mayor Michael DeVore. "We'll save on labor by doing it all at once."

Finally, the council tabled their discussion of 990 N.

Washington, a city-owned home on three acres of land in Vergennes Township that the city has been renting to Sandra Bartlett and Gary Dietzel since 1979. Their current rent is \$450 a month, and the lease is set to expire on June 30, 2020. The council's discussion included breaking the parcel into three pieces and selling them, bringing the home up to code, auctioning the property and selling to the highest bidder, selling the house to the pair for \$1 and merging the property (or a portion of it) with Scout Park.

"I do not understand what the justification was to rent

the property for all these years," Burns said. "In my opinion, the property and home are not a need of the city. We don't have a use for it. [...] It is also not a good practice for municipalities to be landlords."

"When they moved into the house it was very disheveled and they made it into a livable place," Yankovich said.

"Even if they do stay there, we need to get out of the landlord business," DeVore said.

The council will discuss the issue in more detail at a future meeting when all five city councilors are present.

Lowell city council's next

meeting will be a special one "to consider resolution 02-20 pertaining to the transfer of property with Unity School" at 7 pm on Monday, Jan. 27. The council will also meet with the public during a "Coffee with the Council" at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, Feb. 1. Their next regular meeting will take place on Monday, Feb. 3.

To watch city council, board and commission meetings from the past few years, look for the "City of Lowell" or "Lowell Light and Power" channels on YouTube or visit archive.org.

# Roads, continued



recommend it."

Lupher was asked how the CRC got to its \$1 billion borrowing limit figure previously reported.

He explained the CRC crunched the numbers, looking at the annual debt service payment restrictions and the debt payments still on the books, and found it only allowed for about \$60 million more in additional debt payments.

Add in paying the new bond off over a limited

period of time and factoring in current interest rates, and the CRC arrived at its total \$1 billion bonding number.

But when asked if the realm of possibility includes the state bonding for any amount it so chooses, Lupher said, "The essence of your question is yes, but it's tempered by [...] the realities of bond issuers setting the terms and ongoing revenue streams to make those notes."

A recent bill intended to

rein in the STC's ability to bond - SB 0716, sponsored by Sen. Roger Victory (R-Hudsonville) - aims at restricting bonding at no more than \$100 million in a year without the Legislature's approval.

What the state is limited on when it comes to these road bonds is how much the state can pay back on the debt in a given year.

State law restricts debt service payments to 50 percent of annual State

Trunkline Fund revenues, or the portion of the Michigan Transportation Fund constitutionally restricted for road funding. The STC's policy is half that, or 25 percent.

According to current figures, about \$1.2 billion of the MTF is constitutionally restricted to road funding. That means the state could only pay out \$600 million each year on any sort of bond it issued against the revenue. The STC, under its current policy, would only pay out \$300 million per year.

The argument is that the requirement is to make sure annual road revenues aren't eaten up entirely by debt service payments. Lupher said it's a way for the state to live within its means.

But that still doesn't actually restrict the administration from issuing a bond for any amount it desires.

Asked to confirm there's no restriction on a bond issuance through the STC, neither the Governor's office nor the Michigan Department of Transportation disputed that.

The Governor is expected

to outline her intentions on how to address roads in her State of the State address next Wednesday, and bonding has been suspected to be a part of her plan.

Shirkey reiterated in the interview with MIRS that bonding isn't a funding

source, but rather a financing source. There still needs to be funding to pay off the bond.

"If you don't have that, then all you're doing is acting like a millennial and pretending money is free," he said.

## Today in history:

1819: Stamford Raffles lands on the island of Singapore after first making sure there were no Dutch people there.

1861: Kansas is admitted as the 34th state.

1863: The Bear River Massacre: A detachment of "California Volunteers" led by Colonel Patrick Edward Connor "engage" the Shoshone at Bear River in Washington Territory, killing hundreds of men, women and children.

1886: Karl Benz patents the first successful gasoline-powered automobile.

1891: Queen Liliuokalani (pictured below) is proclaimed the last monarch and only queen regnant of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

1907: Charles Curtis of Kansas becomes the first Native American US Senator.

1936: The initial five inductees into the Baseball Hall of Fame are announced: Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson.



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**Managing Fear**  
by Stan Popovich

## Managing your mental health and your pets

Many people who struggle with depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues sometimes have a difficult time taking care of their pets. Here are six ways on how to take care of your pets while you deal with your mental health needs.

1. **Do What Is Most Important:** It is vital that you take care of your pet's main needs when you are struggling with your anxieties. Feeding your pet, making sure their healthy, and making sure they are living in a safe environment is what is most important. Remember to focus on your pet's basic needs when you are having a difficult time in managing your anxieties. When you feel better, you can go back to your normal routine of taking care of your pet.

2. **Ask For Help:** If you have trouble taking care of your pet, ask a friend or relative for some help. Some weeks can be tough to manage when your mental health issues get the best of you. Your friends or relatives will be happy to help you out if your struggling with your anxieties and fears.

3. **Consider A Pet Sitter:** There are many pet sitters who would be willing to provide some assistance

in making sure your pet is taken care of while your struggling with your mental health. Anxiety and depression can come and go for some people. As a result, some weeks are better than others. Use the services of a pet sitter when you need it.

4. **Plan Ahead:** If you know you struggle with certain mental health issues, don't wait until the last minute to figure out how to take care of your pets. Develop a plan so when your mental health issues get the best of you, you will know what to do. This will give you the peace of mind that your pets are being taken care of while you get back on your feet.

5. **Learn From Your Past Experiences:** Many people struggle with their anxieties on a regular basis. Try to learn from your experiences on how you can take care of yourself and your pet's


needs. This will help you the next time you struggle with your mental health because you will be better able to take care of your pets when your anxieties are out of control.

6. **Talk To The Vet:** Talk to your pet's veterinarian on how to take care of your mental health and your pet at the same time. Remember that many people who deal with depression and anxiety have pets. The key is knowing what to do when your mental health issues get the best of you.

Now is the time to plan ahead for taking care of your pet.

*Stan Popovich is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear Using Psychology, Christianity and Non Resistant Methods". For more Info go to Stan's website: <http://www.managingfear.com/>*

**In the time of darkest defeat, victory may be nearest.**  
~ William McKinley (1843-1901)



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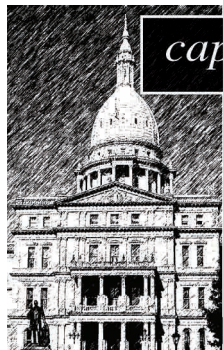
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# viewpoint



capitol matters

State Representative  
Thomas Albert



## MDOC oversteps with decision to close bootcamp-style facility

My role as chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections has led me to tour many of Michigan's correctional facilities. One of the locations that impressed

me most was the Special Alternative Incarceration Facility in Chelsea. Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI) is a regimented, 90-day intensive program that uses a military

bootcamp approach to change negative behavior into socially acceptable behavior. Successful completion of the program can help shorten the length of their sentence.

As a veteran, I immediately noticed the environment at the SAI facility in Chelsea was unique, and very similar to the experience I had while training in the Marine Corps. I was impressed by the unique way they are successfully instilling integrity and discipline into the people in the program – referred to as trainees, rather than prisoners.

Unfortunately, the Michigan Department of Corrections recently announced plans to close the facility and relocate the SAI program without informing or seeking input from the Legislature. Last week, MDOC told its employees it intends to move the program to the Cooper Street Correctional Facility in Jackson, a general population prison, by March 7.

The atmosphere I witnessed at the SAI facility in Chelsea is unique. The trainees were even tasked with cutting their own firewood to heat some of the

housing units. Corrections officers complete special training and dress like military drill instructors. I just don't believe this is an environment that can be recreated in a general population prison. And I've heard from people across the state who have similar concerns.

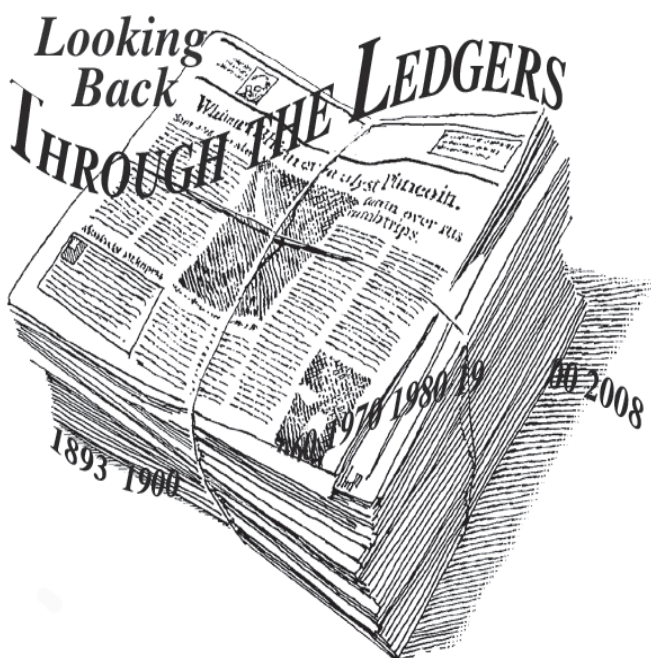
It's frustrating that myself and other legislators on the corrections budget subcommittees were not looped in on the decision – especially considering the department's justification for the consolidation was to save money.

The Legislature has

always weighed in on prison closures in the past, and it is important to continue this process going forward because the facilities employ thousands of people and greatly impact the surrounding communities.

The Legislature has the power of the purse and has already funded this program in Chelsea throughout 2020. This is a clear case of the administrative state overstepping their bounds.

I urge the administration to allow this facility to remain open and work in collaboration with our subcommittee moving forward.



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger February 1, 1895

A colt running loose in the streets Tuesday, caused a collision between Arthur Morgan and R. D. Stocking, who were out riding, breaking the cross piece to the shafts of Morgan's cutter.

If you don't want the grip keep your feet dry. If you have the grip, don't neglect it. Some people seem to think that the grip is a joke – but these people have never had it.

Henry Proctor of South Lowell, who was fatally injured about Jan. 15 by being pressed between his barn door and his moving wagon, died last week Tuesday from his injuries. Funeral services were held at the house on Friday, Jan. 25. Mr. Proctor was 52 years old and leaves a widow, an aged father and a brother and sister, also a half-brother, R. W. Graham of this village.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 29, 1920

There should be a baby experiment station at M. A. C., just as there is a cattle experiment station, students were told by Mr. Stockman, of the State Board of Agriculture. "young woman students should get practical experience in caring for children, just as the boys get experience in caring for cattle," she said. "They might make some blunders in caring for cattle. The superintendent of the poor in our cities could tell you, however, that there are plenty of children that

would be much better off in our experiment station."

A considerable majority of Michigan autoists either violated the law or refrained from using their cars on Jan. 1, according to figures announced by the department of state. These show that only 140,000 persons had secured auto licenses to that date.

Couty Drain Commissioner Robert B. Patterson, the Woolman Construction Co. and its president, Henry Halhoff are made defendants in injunction proceedings brought in Circuit court by Lewis Yeiter, supervisor of Lowell township, and Henry R. Johnson, supervisor of Bowne township, seeking to hold up the construction of Pratt Lake and Kilgus drains. Irregular methods in awarding the contract and conspiracy among the defendants to keep the contract and a conspiracy. Among the defendants to keep the contract from other bidders is charged in the bill of complaint.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger February 1, 1945

Lowell is falling in line this week with other Michigan communities observing the "brownout" of outdoor commercial electric illumination in a program to conserve coal. With two or three minor exceptions, the "brownout" will be in force in every city and village throughout the entire country.

The C. H. Runciman company method of packaging beans for overseas shipment has been endorsed by the army quartermaster corps as the best in the country, and for that reason, other concerns engaged in packaging dry food products have been coming to Lowell from all parts of the country to learn the Runciman method first hand.

Col. Larry MacPhail, formerly of Grand Rapids, who has been a speaker at Lowell Rotary club on a couple of occasions, on Friday became one of three purchasers of the New York Yankees. Col. MacPhail will be remembered as the man who almost captured the Kaiser during the first World War.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger January 29, 1970

Michigan's five millionth telephone will be installed some time during 1970, an official of the Michigan Department of Commerce (MDC) predicts. Willis F. Ward, chairman of the MDC's Public Service Commission, said Michigan's 65 telephone companies had more than 4.8 million telephones in service on

## to the editor

Dear Editor,

It is deeply ironic that Nancy and Sharon ask the Ledger to publish their letter about religion in order to bemoan the public discussion of religion. They ridicule Rep. Tom Albert for his Christian convictions, insisting the public is better served by their anti-Christian convictions. They label themselves "Indivisible" although the

sole purpose of their letter is to divide us; by religion, by the idea that personal integrity can somehow be divided from public integrity, by the idea that equal right under the law demands the suppression of religious expression - except, of course, their own.

Jeff Ostrander  
Lowell

## We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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



# HEALTH

## M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Johnathan G. Meier, D.O.    Laura E. Kass, PA-C  
 Wayne A. Christenson, D.O.    Kaili M. Walker, PA-C  
 Tracy L. Lixie, D.O.    Alexandria Clum, PA-C  
    Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

# happy birthday



### JANUARY 29

Brenda Traetz, Kim Call, Karen Potter, Zach DeBold.

### FEBRUARY 2

Marie Wade, Sarah Baker.

### JANUARY 30

Susan Bell, Nicholas Kinsley, Tyler Call, Josh Dietz, Shirley Stevens.

### FEBRUARY 3

Dale Phillips, Clarice Poisson, Sana Bryant, Cassandra Thomas, Chris Dennie, Olivia Dennie, Jon Jacobs.

### JANUARY 31

Rick Fonger, Brian Rasch.

### FEBRUARY 4

Kelsey Scheider, Alan Lally.

### FEBRUARY 1

Chris Vezino, Ryan Teelander, Sommer Mercer, Monica Burt, Ryan Peel, Lydia Koeppl.



# college news

Emily Johnson, a 2019 semester at Clemson University of Iowa student from Alto, has been named to the Dean's List for the recently-completed fall 2019 semester. Johnson's major is English in the UI's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Treash is majoring in architecture.

Undergraduate students who achieve a grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 or higher on 12 semester hours or more of UI graded coursework during a given semester or summer session and who have no semester hours of "I" (incomplete) or "O" (no grade reported) during the same semester are recognized by inclusion on the list for that semester.

Zachary Tykocki, of Alto, is among the more than 1,300 undergraduate students at Aurora University who earned Dean's List honors for the fall 2019 semester. The Dean's List recognizes students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher. Tykocki, a sophomore studying finance, is recognized with high honors, having earned a perfect 4.0. Students included on the Dean's List completed a minimum of 12 semester hours for a letter grade in the term.

Caileigh C. Treash, of Alto, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall



# At Your Local Library

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

**Sci-Fi book club** - Join us for a informal book discussion where we will talk about science fiction titles, as well as speculative fiction, fantasy, and dystopian selections. Mon., Feb. 10 at 6:30 pm, *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* by Hank Green.

**Bookworms** - Join us for a lively book discussion. Please note, if Lowell Area Schools is cancelled for the day, Bookworms will not meet. Tues., Feb. 11 at 10 am, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris.

**Hand Lettering** - Do you ever want to send a card or write a place cards but you can't figure out how to make those fancy fonts? Introducing the art of calligraphy! Using tips from our alphabetical illustrators, you will learn the basics of hand lettering. Wed., Feb. 12 at 6 pm.

**Heart to Heart Craft Party** - Come play games, make crafts and hear a story. Thurs., Feb. 13 at 10 am.

**February is for Library Lovers** - We love our library and what better way to show it than to celebrate all February long! Every time you visit the library in February, register to win a Book Basket courtesy of the Friends of the Englehardt Library. All books, videos and audiobooks in our Friends Book Nook are half off during the month. And on Friday, February 14, stop by the library from 12-5 pm for complimentary refreshments offered by our Friends group as they share the love!

# business matters



Greenridge Realty would like to announce that Ryan Hesché received Realtor Of The Year for 2019 for the Lowell office. This award recognizes Hesché for all his successes and achievements.



# Eat. Shop. Explore.

## LOCAL

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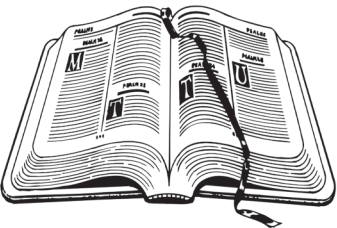
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# area churches



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 Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM  
 Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM  
**Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive**  
 616-897-5906

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
 www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service ..... Sunday - 10:30 AM  
 Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307  
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

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Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor  
 Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship  
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM** (Nursery provided)  
**LIFE GROUPS..... 11:00 AM** (Nursery-Adult)  
**Awana** (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
 897-7060  
 Pastor Ryan Landt  
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
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 Sunday School..... 11:20 AM  
 Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM  
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# Actress Mary Rings' journey from Lowell to Hollywood

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Mary Rings is a successful Hollywood actress who has spent decades working in film and television. Rings also founded the Born to Act Players, an acting company for people with Down syndrome. That really took off, especially in the past few years, and her students have gone on to roles in big productions like ER, CSI and American Horror Story.

Rings is a native of West Michigan whose family origins in Lowell run deep. Her mother, Orpha Stauffer, was a 1934 graduate of Lowell High School, she grew up in a home on Montcalm Avenue slightly east of downtown. It was a dirt road back then and it still is.

"My mom was one of six children, and my grandparents had a farmhouse on Montcalm," Rings said. "Our family home was in Wyoming Park, now it's just called Wyoming. We also had a cottage on Olin Lake [midway between Kent City and Cedar Springs] where we spent every summer. Every Sunday we would go to church together and then go visit grandma and grandpa. My uncle Harry Stauffer and his wife lived there too, and they also had six children. My grandparents were so charming and sweet. Grandma played the piano, grandpa played the violin, my dad played the ukulele and the harmonica and we would all sing. It was so beautiful. They would cook chicken, homemade noodles and pies, we got to run around and play outside, there were goats and chickens, apple trees in the front yard, everything was wonderful, it was the best time ever. Montcalm, at that time, was not even paved, I don't know if it is now. My cousin Roger Stauffer still lives in that house. He is a wonderful guy, he helps take care of his sisters and he is just great. I love Lowell. I loved the Lowell Showboat, we used to go see that. My sister Nancy even performed in a couple shows on it but I never did. I moved away from Michigan when I was 12. It's been a long time, but I go back to visit because my whole family is there, my siblings, my cousins, nieces and nephews."

Roger Stauffer said he is her biggest fan and always made sure to tune in whenever his cousin was going to be in something.

"I've been very proud of Mary for many years," Stauffer said. "Most of my memories are when she was already in California. Mary

is very, very talented. She lives in California so I don't see her that often, but I talk to her on the phone when I can, every so often. She doesn't come every summer, but she comes out to Michigan to visit some summers, and then we always have a get-together with family and hang out. We would go visit California sometimes and that was great. It was quite a while ago, years and years. We went to Grauman's Chinese Theater, the Wax Museum and visited a lot of different things. To see the lights of Hollywood at night from that big hill! It was really cool."

Rings' career as a professional entertainer began during those innocent years in West Michigan.

"I always loved entertaining and singing and dancing," Rings said. "When I lived in Michigan, I used to take dance classes. I took tap and modern jazz. We had a lot of shows that we would participate in. We would go entertain, we would wear costumes and sing and dance, it was lovely. When I was 12, I was hired to dance with a line of girls ages 18 to 21. We would dance at the Pantlind Hotel [now the Amway Grand Plaza] and places like that. You had to be 18 to be in there. I was tall - five foot six and a half at 12 - so they said, 'Mary, you look 18, you dance 18, but if you open your mouth and say 'Hello' to anybody you won't get paid, so just put your nose up and walk!' They would've gotten in trouble, but that was still pretty funny."

Rings' father Robert Rings was a Golden Gloves boxing champion and close friends with Gerald Ford. Robert Rings also fought in carnivals and, after serving as a glider pilot in World War II, became a professional middleweight boxer, eventually a referee. His work moved the Rings family around the country, but when Robert and Orpha Rings realized how talented and dedicated their daughter Mary was they made one final move, to Hollywood. Robert Rings spent the rest of his career working as a professional boxing referee at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, he even made a brief appearance as a referee in the 1980 film "Raging Bull."

"My dad had to move for business, they transferred him a couple times," Rings said. "First we moved to Baltimore for a year, then Washington DC for a summer, then Kansas City, MO for a year. I was



Mary Rings today (left) and a classic headshot from early in her acting career (right).

doing modeling and always entertaining, so my dad and mom decided they would move to Los Angeles for me, for my career. It was so amazing. They believed in me so much and they were so supportive of me. I would do plays, and I had friends whose parents wouldn't even come to see them in shows. My parents came to every single performance, they would send me telegrams and flowers on opening night. I started acting before I started driving, so my parents had to drive me to every rehearsal. I was so blessed by them and their support. They just were so, so supportive. And they were sweet and funny, everybody loved my mom and dad. My mom managed an apartment building some of the time when I was

growing up out here, and if anybody in the building didn't have a place to go for Thanksgiving, they would have a place at our table. And if they wouldn't come she'd send them up a plate!"

Step one in becoming a Hollywood actor is to get an agent, a task that is often incredibly difficult. Rings said she got her agent after they observed the high quality of her performance in a play and approached her.

"I started doing theater out here in California when I was in ninth grade," Rings said. "My drama teacher's name was Edith Heckman, she was Deanna Durbin's older sister, and she really believed in me."

Rings' first role on television was "girl student" on an NBC sitcom called

"Hank" (starring Dick Kallman as "Hank") in 1966. Next was a 1968 TV movie called "Elizabeth the Queen." A big step up, her costars in that one were Charlton Heston and Dame Judith Anderson.

"I always thought it was great when Mary was going to be on TV," Stauffer said.

"She's been in so many things, it's hard to pick a favorite. I'm trying to track down some of the ones she was on a long time ago, but it's hard to find them. I'm not even sure if they're on DVD. When I had a VCR

Mary Rings, continued, page 8

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Vergennes Township Board has adopted a Dwelling Accommodation Ordinance at a regular Board meeting on January 20, 2020 as summarized below.

The new ordinance # 2020-1 will provide a method where persons with a handicap or disability can make a request for an accommodation if other Township Laws (such as setbacks) do not allow a specific type of access for occupancy of their dwelling. A written request will be submitted according to a list of documents and plans. The Zoning Administrator will review requests for ramps from a dwelling to the driveway or street. Other types of accommodations requests will be reviewed by the Township Board. Conditions may be added onto an approval. Accommodation improvements must meet the ADA regulations. The accommodation structure must be removed and the area restored to the previously existing conditions when the person requiring it no longer resides at the dwelling.

The complete text of the adopted ordinance can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 or on the website [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org). This ordinance takes effect 30 days after publication.

Heather Hoffman  
Vergennes Township Clerk

## LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent**

**In the matter of Kelly Suttorp Guardianship File No. 20-206,797-GA**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his brothers: Steven Suttorp, Scott Suttorp, and Stacy Suttorp, and sister: Kathy Willard, and any other unknown sibling, children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held**

**on February 12, 2020, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.**

**Dated: January 24, 2020**

**Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 260-6443**

**VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Atty.s for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 3425 Kelly St. Hudsonville, MI 49426 (616) 633-0196**



# Mary Rings, continued



Mary Rings (bottom row, fourth from left) and the Born to Act Players.

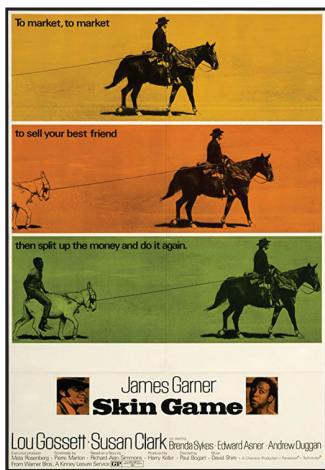
I tried to record a lot of her stuff, so I've got a lot on VHS, but it's better to have it digital."

Rings had a part in a 1971 movie called "Skin Game" with James Garner, Lou Gossett, Jr., Susan Clark and Ed Asner, but most of her work has been in television dramas. Her many appearances include episodes of Gunsmoke, Marcus Welby MD, Emergency!, The Six Million Dollar Man, Wonder Woman, Dr. Quinn and Chicago Hope.

"I had a baby in a restaurant on Emergency! with Julie London and Robert Fuller attending, that was fun," Rings said. "I did a couple episodes of 'The Six Million Dollar Man,' where I had a scene with Lee Majors and a scene with William Shatner, who was a guest star for an episode called 'Look Alike.' He played the look-alike and I was the look-alike's girlfriend."

"I loved the 'Gunsmoke' episode she was in from 1971," Stauffer said when pestered enough to name his favorite Mary Rings role. "I liked 'Gunsmoke' a lot anyway, but that was a very good episode. It was called 'Mirage,' she had a big part in it and her acting

was particularly wonderful in that role. She was in a couple episodes of 'The



Six Million Dollar Man,' those were wonderful too. William Shatner was in one with her, and she had very good acting qualities in those. When she was on 'Emergency!,' that one was awesome. She gave birth in the middle of a restaurant, it was a really great."

Rings described her time on the set of Wonder Woman as "an incredible day."

"I was doing a scene with Lyle Waggoner, Christopher George, Lynda Day George and Lynda Carter, and I felt like a potted plant," Rings joked. "Nobody even looked at me or said anything to me. They were all stars, I was just a player, and it was

very funny. They weren't mean to me or anything, it was just as if I didn't exist! I was there all day, probably a six o'clock am call until around 10 at night. We were on location and the hills had gotten all moist and damp. I was supposed to run up this hill at the end of the night, and I couldn't get up in time! My boots kept slipping because it was muddy. I heard the director calling me, but he said 'the girl with the braids,' he didn't even know my name! Finally I told one of the assistant directors that I kept slipping, that was why I couldn't get up in time, and they cut steps in the side of the hill so I could get up there in time. Then I had to go stand between Lynda Day George and Lynda Carter after the makeup people were over there powdering them. I'd been there all day and nobody was touching me up at all, and then I had to go stand between these two gorgeous babes! Oh my gosh!"

On one production, Rings got to do a scene with the wife of an old school friend.

"On 'Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman' I had a scene with Jane Seymour," Rings said. "It was an emotional scene and she applauded my close-

up. She was so sweet to me. I had gone to high school and done drama with her husband at that time James Keach. She said to me, 'Tell me about James as a little boy!' I had to break it to her, even then he was a big guy! He was a football player in high school, so he was NOT a little boy! But she was very, very sweet to me."

Looking back, Rings said she is very happy with how her acting career has turned out.

"I love love love acting, and I feel really blessed," Rings said. "I used to feel like, why aren't I getting more parts or why aren't I getting bigger parts, but now I'm so thankful for it and so proud of the work that I was able to do. I was able to work with some very big stars and it really was a lot of fun. I had some really good parts, and I am so grateful for every part that I got."

In 1994, Rings founded the Born to Act Players, a theater company for people with Down syndrome. She was inspired by her son Casey Powell, who was interested in acting and talented, but no outlet was available to him because he has Down syndrome.

"An actor friend of mine who knew Casey and some of his friends said, 'Mary, I think you should start an acting class for Casey and his friends,'" Rings said. "His wife had a nutritional office in North Hollywood, there was a back room with a tiny stage and about 20 seats. He said, 'I want to donate that to you on Saturdays so you can do a class.' I told Casey's best friend Blair Williamson and his mom Gail Williamson that I was offered a space and I wanted to start a class for Casey, Blair and some of their friends. Blair also has Down syndrome, and he had done some acting work already. Gail said, 'I will help you get students,' which she did, and I also put fliers up. I did a year with eight students, which was



Casey Powell and Mary Rings

great, so much fun, and it's grown since then."

Now, with a few assistants and some other volunteers, Rings works with three groups of Born to Act Players each week, from beginners to professionals, over 50 people in all. They learn about body awareness, staying focused and in the moment, how to exercise their voices and how to improve their improvisational skills, they perform full plays, one act plays and monologues and they receive musical training, including singing and dancing.

"The Born to Act Players are just awesome," Stauffer said. "Mary gives them a lot of hope, inspires their interest in acting and helps them achieve different things they don't get a chance to do very often. I know those actors and actresses love her a lot. They did a show in Canada, I have a DVD of that, it was very good. Casey is quite a good kid, a smart boy. Well, I guess he's not a kid anymore, he's a young man!"

Several of the Born to Act Players have found professional acting work,

and Rings expects a lot more to follow as society changes to become more accepting of people with different abilities.

"Many of my students are in the Screen Actors Guild now, including my son Casey," Rings said. "It's really something. They're getting training and they're getting chances. They're confident and they love it. Casey had a co-starring role on an episode of 'Switched at Birth.' He did great, I'm so proud of his work on that. He had an emotional part and it was wonderful. He, along with some of my other students, also got a pilot with Loni Anderson. Jamie Brewer is a great actress with Down syndrome, she is a former student of mine and now she really has a career going. Her mother used to drive her two and a half hours each way to my class in Temecula. She played Jessica Lange's sister and other parts on 'American Horror Story,' she was the first runway model with Down syndrome to walk during Fashion Week in New York City, and somebody wrote an Off-Broadway play for



Scenes from "Mirage," the Jan. 11, 1971 episode of "Gunsmoke" starring Mary Rings, James Arness, John Anderson, Gary Wood and Dan White.



# Mary Rings, continued



Far left, Mary Rings on "Chicago Hope" with Peter Berg and Michael Jeter. Middle and right photos, Mary Rings on "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."



Scenes from "The Six Million Dollar Man." Far left, Mary Rings with William Shatner. Middle and right photos, Mary Rings in a scene with Lee Majors.

her. There is a show called 'Born This Way' where they follow seven young adults with Down syndrome around. They have won Emmys. One of the guys on that show, John Tucker, a rapper, singer and dancer, was another student of mine. He has a big personality!"

Twice a year the Born to Act Players put on big fundraising shows that keep the program

going. The cast performs elaborate Broadway-style musical numbers, comedy, improvisation, drama, music and dance. Everything "from Woody Allen to Shakespeare," according to their website, [borntoactplayers.com](http://borntoactplayers.com), which incidentally also features a "donate" button.

"We are like a family, there is so much love and joy you can't even believe

it," Rings said. "I have students and assistants who have stayed for 18, 20 years. Casey and Blair have been with me for all 26 years. I think this is what God wants me to do. I know it is. I love teaching acting so much, and I'm very proud of my students. These are his very special children, and they've been mistreated and misunderstood over the years. They are such

a blessing. They're like angels. They're sweeter and kinder than anybody else, they don't judge and they forgive quicker. They are courageous and they love to perform. The only fear a lot of my students have is not enough time on stage. I've

seen my students change in miraculous ways. Some of them come in very shy with their heads down, later they're bold, self confident, strong and amazing. They're not shy anymore! They are successful, they are talented, they have hearts of gold and

they are changing the world. It's such a gift to me, it's so fun and I love it so much. Anybody who sees them and knows somebody with a disability, it gives them hope. We are so blessed. It's so wonderful it makes me want to weep!"



Lynda Day George, Mary Rings, Lyle Waggoner and Lynda Carter in "Fausta the Nazi Wonder Woman," the April 28, 1976 episode of "Wonder Woman."



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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

## SPORTS

## Busy week for wrestling includes induction of first two hall of fame members

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

499 wins is an impressive statistic, but it only scrapes the surface of the legacy left by the late Lowell wrestling coach Gary Rivers. He was one of the first two members inducted into the newly created Lowell wrestling hall of fame. Rivers, fondly called "Chief" by many, coached the Lowell program from 1960 until his

Friday night at LHS in the intermission of the program's "wrestlemania" event. In front of nearly 100 Lowell wrestling alumni, Rivers, represented by his son Mike, was presented with a quarter-zip jacket by current head wrestling coach R.J. Boudro. A plaque is being created for those inducted in the hall of fame where both Rivers

We had alumni in the house from the 1960's and we had 6-year-olds wrestling next to the varsity wrestlers, just an all-around cool event."

Joe Mendez, Lowell's first four-time individual state champion and a two-time team state champion was also inducted at the event. He earned 211 wins during his four years as a Red Arrow.

a celebration of the sport of wrestling as three duals would go on at the same time involving Lowell's high school and youth programs against Clinton's. In the varsity match, the Red Arrows coasted through Division 4's number one-ranked program by a score of 52-12.

The dual started with wins by Derek Mohr, Keegan Nugent and Tyler DeLooff giving LHS an 11-0 lead. Clinton would strike back with a pin at 103 in a match that was in double overtime. The Red Arrows would go on another run including wins by Ramsy Mutschler, Nick Korhorn, James Link, and a void awarded to Cole Huisman before Clinton would score again. Zeth Strejc was leading for LHS at 135 before being caught in a headlock and pinned.

From there it was all Lowell who closed the match on 23-0 run thanks to wins by Will Link, Austin Boone, James Fotis, Doak Dean and Jacob Lee. Lee's win was especially impressive, a 12-3 major over the highest-ranked competitor in his weight class in Division 4.

Saturday was more difficult for Lowell as they faced Division 3's Dundee and Division 2's Davison.



Joe Mendez being honored by head wrestling coach R.J. Boudro.



Mike Rivers, son of legendary Lowell wrestling coach Gary Rivers, standing in on his father's behalf at the LHS Wrestling Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

death in 1998. He amassed 20 conference titles, 14 district titles and many other accomplishments during his time at LHS.

Gary Rivers and Joe Mendez were inducted into the hall of fame

and Mendez's names will be etched.

"It was a really powerful night for the Lowell wrestling program," Coach Boudro told us. "The turnout was great and the environment was electric.

"Joe Mendez and Gary Rivers are names that will live on forever in Lowell and that is a well-deserved honor," added Coach Boudro.

The program's "wrestlemania" event was

Both programs, nationally ranked, defeated the Red Arrows with Dundee winning 36-21 and Davison winning 41-21. Nearly every match over the weekend featured ranked wrestlers.

Lowell would continue their quest toward an OK White championship by beating Northview 64-15, Ottawa Hills 75-6 and Greenville 51-24. Several wrestlers were able to rotate in for conference duals from a Lowell B squad who beat a state-ranked Leslie team on Saturday to win the Charlotte Duals title. 5-0 or 4-1 wrestlers from the day

on Saturday included Nate Cleaver, Dom Peplinski, Carter Blough, Carson Crace, Grant Pratt and Jacob Hough. Several B team members who posted wins in the OK White duals included those mentioned previously as well as Steve Skinner, Easton Lyons, Bryce McCune, Jacob Cutler, Bryson Vandermeulen, Terrick Stewart and Josh Meier.

The varsity team will host yet another highly-ranked opponent in Brighton at their annual assembly dual this upcoming Friday in the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

## Gymnastics places third at Kenowa Hills

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

Despite the cancelation of the Lowell Invitational earlier this month, the Lowell Gymnastics team was still able to honor our Military in a shorter version of their Military Appreciation Meet this past Wednesday against Rockford/Sparta.

The Lady Arrows wore military-themed leotards for the event. Members of the Lowell Boy Scout troop held American flags high in the air as Jack Misner played taps and the Star-Spangled Banner on his trumpet.

At the Kenowa Hills Invitational on Saturday, Lowell placed third as a team. They were led on beam by Marissa Weaver (Division 1 - 3rd), Kira Jungblut (Division 2 - 9th), Katy Hockey (Division 2 - 7th) and Ivy McDonald (Division 2 - 4th). On floor team leaders were Wever (Division 1 - 3rd), Greta Forward (Division 2 - 10th) and McDonald (Division 2 - 5th). On vault, Wever placed 3rd in division 1, while in division 2 Aubri Lemke placed 7th and Forward placed 2nd. On bars, Lemke placed 7th.

Wever also placed 3rd in the division 1 all-around. In the division 2 all-around, Forward placed 9th and McDonald placed 7th.

The team travels to Kenowa Hills for competition on Monday, Feb. 3.

Pictured right: Lowell gymnasts in their military themed leotards for the LHS Military Appreciation meet.





Red Arrow

HOCKEY

# SPORTS

## Lowell Caledonia hockey stuns #5 Grandville

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

Showing the state their potential, the Lowell Caledonia hockey team upset Division One's fifth-ranked team in the state, Grandville, on Saturday by a score of 4-1. Trailing 1-0 heading into the third period the team made four straight goals including two shorthanded to surprise the 11-6-1 Bulldogs.

With 14:35 left in the game, Wade Fridley scored a shorthanded goal assisted by Dylan Olsen and Owen Carpenter to tie the game. The eventual game-winner would be scored just four minutes later by Ryan Klieliszewski on an assist by Austin Douma.

Douma would score the second of Lowell

Caledonia's shorthanded goals with 1:59 to play with Grandville chasing an equalizer. Dylan Olsen tacked on an empty netter to seal the upset over the hosts.

Lowell Caledonia went into the game 68 spots behind Grandville in the latest My Hockey Rankings. The upset even caught the attention of Craig Peterson in a column on Michigan High School Hockey Hub, one of the state's top online high school hockey resources. He called it along with Capital City over FHNE and Gabriel Richard over Canton one of the three top upsets in the state all year.



Lowell Caledonia celebrates their win over Grandville winning the OK Red Conference Showcase.

## Young ski team impressing on the slopes

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

A young, but talented group of skiers is back at LHS for the second year of the re-organized Lowell ski program.

Division One is Rockford, Forest Hills Northern-Forest Hills Eastern co-op and Grand Haven.

The team is coached by

brought back thanks to the efforts of Coach Byrne.

Freshman Colton Byrne will certainly be one student-athlete to keep

Olympics last year as well."

His sister, Kaylee Byrne is talented as well. In her freshman year last year, Kaylee competed at the Division Two state finals placing 13th in slalom and giant slalom. "This was a huge accomplishment for her in her first year of high school racing. She is looking to be a top contender at states again this year as a sophomore." She also competes at the USSA level has qualified the past two years to compete out in Colorado at the Junior Olympics.

Last week the team competed in Cannonsburg with the co-ed placing ninth in slalom and eighth in GS. Bringing in points for GS was Colton Byrne taking fourth, Preston Sobeck taking 26th, Hunter Stepanovich and Clara Eriksson also scored points for the Arrows.

Adding to the team points for slalom were Colton Byrne in 14th, Sobeck in 21st, Cole Lillie and Hunter Stepanovich skied well to add in more points for the co-ed team.

The Lady Arrows took eighth in the conference for GS and seventh in slalom. Kaylee Byrne placed first in the grand slalom with Olivia Torline, Emma Schmidt and Gina Redondo

helping add on to the team score as well.

In slalom Kaylee Byrne took fourth, Schmidt took 38th, Torline and Redondo brought in more points.

"Our boys/co-ed team has placed seventh in the conference each week so far and our girls team has struggled to earn the points they need to get higher than ninth or tenth place. We

have eight team members that are brand new to the racing scene and the entire team continues to make improvements each week," Coach Byrne told us last week.

This week the team competes Tuesday at 4:30 pm at Cannonsburg and Friday, Jan. 31st at Caberfae Peaks with a start time of 10:00 am.



Members of the Lowell ski team from The @Redarrowskiteam instagram page.

The Lowell ski team participates in the Greater Grand Rapids High School Ski Conference (GGRHSSC) in Division Two with Spring Lake, East Grand Rapids, Northview, GR Catholic Central-GR West Catholic co-op, Forest Hills Central and Grand Rapids Christian. In

Karla Byrne and includes two teams this season. One team is an all-girls team and another is a co-ed team that competes in the boys division. Ski has been held at LHS for decades in the form of a club or organized sport, but after a brief absence in the mid-2010s has been

an eye on over his next few years at LHS. "He is a freshman this year and has already shown great potential for our team. He has consistently placed in the top 6 for the past two weeks in GS. He also competes at the USSA level and competed at the Junior

### RED ARROW WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

**BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING**  
\* Denotes a home game  
1/31 at 1 pm Brighton Assembly Dual\*  
1/31 at 6 pm White Quad at FHC

**BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE**  
2/6 at 6 pm at West Catholic

**GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
\* Denotes a home game at LHS  
2/3 at 7 pm at Kenowa Hills

**GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL**  
\* Denotes a game at LHS main gym  
1/31 at 5:30 pm Wayland Union\*

**BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL**  
\* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym  
1/31 at 7 pm Wayland Union\*

**GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER**  
2/1 time TBA LMCCOA at Northview



# obituaries

## CYROCKI

Patricia Jean Cyrocki, age 85 of Vergennes Twp. passed away January 22, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband, Philip Cyrocki; parents, James Huff and Vera Huff (Bohen); sisters, Susie Ortega, Mary McCarthy. Patricia is survived by her children, Michael Cyrocki of Lowell, MI, David (Lori) Cyrocki of Greenville, MI, Carrie (Greg) Karol of Ft. Worth, TX, Craig Cyrocki of Lowell, MI; brothers, Mike (Martha) Huff of Mayer, AZ, Tom (Vicki) Huff of Phoenix, AZ; grandchildren, Emily (Cameron) Cannon of Rockford, MI, Emma (Eric) Luster of Aubrey, TX, Sarah Cyrocki and fiancée Dillon Buck of Saranac, MI, Adam Karol of Ft. Worth, TX, Annie Karol of Fort Worth, TX; great-grandchildren, Calvin Cannon, Emmett Cannon; brother-in-law, John Cyrocki; also several good friends in her Vergennes Twp. Neighborhood. She retired from Forest Hills Central School District where she worked in the cafeteria. Patricia loved attending Lowell Summer Concerts, family picnics at Fallasburg Park and coffee with friends, reading, traveling, and doing genealogy research. Following Pat's wishes there will be no formal services. Private burial took place at Bailey Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in her honor to Lowell Pink Arrow, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



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## ARNOLD



David Allen Arnold, age 79 of Lowell, passed away peacefully on January 25, 2020 in Kentwood, MI surrounded by loving family. David was born in Flint, MI on October 30, 1940 and

graduated from Holy Redeemer High School in 1958. He enlisted in the United States Army out of high school, serving in the artillery until his discharge in 1964 as an E-5 Specialist. David then spent his career of 30 years at General Motors, retiring to build a house in Colorado. He was an avid outdoorsman; an affable man with a great sense of humor, he loved hunting and the time he spent in Colorado. David was a handy "jack of all trades"; he loved helping friends and family and couldn't sit still for longer than a cup of coffee. He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Gertrude Arnold; sisters, Diane Arnold, Lynn Gearhart, Robin (John) Arnold-Williams; and brother, James (Marion) Arnold. David is survived and will be remembered dearly by his wife of 56 years, Barbara (Prill) Arnold; children, Michael Arnold, Brian (Patricia) Arnold, Pamela (Joseph) Thompson; brother, Jerry (Tina) Arnold; sister, Sally (Dennis) Worden; 10 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and his 3 best friends, his grand-dogs, Chop, Zoe and Murphy that were spoiled rotten by him with donuts, crackers and cheese and anything else that was on the table honestly. David was loved, and will be dearly missed by family and friends. Committal services with Military Honors will be held at a later date at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI followed by a celebration of life in Lowell, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Hospice, 750 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



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# Looking Back, continued

December 31 compared to 4.5 million the previous year.

U. S. Air Force Airman First Class Jerry J. Metternick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Metternick, 10483 Grand River Ave., Lowell, is on duty at Takhli Royal AFB, Thailand. Airman Metternick, an aircraft mechanic, is assigned to the 355th Field Maintenance Squadron, a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and Pacific area. Before his arrival in Thailand, he served at McConnell AFB, Kansas.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway crossing at McPherson Road, scene of a fatal accident last October, has been subjected to thorough inspection by a combined group made up of Vergennes township officials, Michigan Public Service railroad safety inspectors, C & O officials and safety engineers, Kent County traffic engineers, Sheriff Department traffic officers and a Lowell School official. Purpose of the railroad crossing inspection was to learn if a signal light was needed at the McPherson crossing. Reports of the group indicate that there is no need for a railroad signal at this time.

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger February 1, 1995

A sophisticated pharmacological computer service has been unveiled that is aimed at curbing the nation's growing problem with drug mis dosing. Instead of thumbing through textbooks to determine how a patient will react to a drug, a physician may use MediSource to access up-to-date information on a drug and determine how it would interact with the patient's other medications.

The possibility of the M-21/Bowes Road intersection being restructured has hit a major road block with Lowell Charter Township Officials. Recently the Lowell City Council refused to move forward with engineering services until the township pays half the cost instead of 25 percent.

Christian Life Center's desire to have a paved parking lot took a step in the right direction following a public hearing with the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission. Pastor Daniel Wansten presented the commission with a 20-year site plan and a request to reduce the property setback limit in order to allow for the paving of their parking lot and the possible construction of new facilities.

# PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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...  
**Every heart sings a song,  
incomplete, until another  
heart whispers back. Those  
who wish to sing always  
find a song. At the touch of  
a lover, everyone becomes  
a poet.**

- Plato

G	G	U	G	Z	Y	R	U	C	R	E	M	R	B	T	I	E	C	E	P
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**office hours:**  
**Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.**  
**Fri. 8 a.m. - noon**  
**closed Sat. & Sun.**

# classifieds

## for sale

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND VALUE - Requires less wood & provides more heat. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge OUT-DOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today! 616-554-8669. SOS Property Maintenance LLC, 6950 Hammond Ave, Caledonia. We are your local sales, service & parts dealer! TFN

2005 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB 4x4 - 3.7L V6, A/C, 173,000 miles. \$3,000. Call 897-5365.

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

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

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads & must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

LIVE EDGE SLAB WOOD - Walnut, pine, hickory. Call 485-4680.

## for rent

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

**PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.** TFN

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 2 bedroom, 1 bath, laundry hookup, referral, background check. No pets. No smoking. \$800/month + \$400 deposit. Call 616-813-8937.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. All Vets Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday of each month at Keiser's. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303. TFN EDW

## wanted

WANTED FREON R12: We pay CASH. R12 R500 R11 Convenient, Certified Professionals (312) 291-9169 RefrigerantFinders.com/ads

## misc.

STEAK DINNER - Fri., Jan. 31, 5-7:30 pm. Alto American Legion Post 528. Sunday breakfast, Feb. 2, 8-10:30 am. 6056 Linfield, Alto. Public welcome.

## services

**BUSINESS CARDS** - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Fast turn around! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

## services

NOREEN K. MYERS, ATTORNEY AT LAW - Compassionate, experienced, effective legal representation. Specialties include: wills & trusts, work related injuries, employment discrimination. 307 E. Main, Lowell, 897-5460.

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger now offers this service! Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 5 p.m. & Fri., 8 - noon. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions.

**TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE** - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 616-642-9180. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Dave Traver head mechanic.

## services

UPS SHIPPING & PICKUP - At the Buyers Guide office, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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

NEED A DUMPSTER - Want great service? 10 - 15- 20 & 30 yards. Same day delivery. Best prices. Mention this ad & save \$10. Call 616-915-0506.

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

## services

UPS SHIPPING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING PRINTING BANNERS POSTERS & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-noon Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

## Community Calendar

# February

## AND ONGOING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not accept ANY Garage or sales (including fundraisers) as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway.

**LHS SENIORS** - General local scholarship applications are available online beginning Fri., Jan. 31. Check your school email for details. Non-LHS students in the Lowell area, scholarship information is available at both the Englehardt & Alto Branch Libraries & the LHS Counseling Office. To be fair to all students, applications will not be accepted after 3 pm Feb. 28, unless otherwise noted. Don't forget to include 2 letters of recommendation, transcript & personal statement. For more information please call Mrs. Pratt at 987-2908.

**TEEN ZONE** - Mondays from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Teen-only fun for you & your friends at the library. Stop by for activities that may include board games, food & more. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

**SATURDAY CRAFTERNON** - Saturdays, 1 pm, now thru February 29. Come enjoy open crafting at the library! Bring your current project and see what others are working on. Hot beverages provided. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

**FAMILY YOGA** - Saturdays at 11 am. Family yoga is an all-ages activity with a focus on the benefits of mindfulness. Together we will engage in the fun poses, learn how to breathe, be creative with yoga activities/games & relax. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins. Englehardt

Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

**SCI-FI BOOK CLUB** - Meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. February 10 book: An Absolutely Remarkable Thing by Hank Green. If Lowell Schools is cancelled for the day, Bookworms will not meet. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

**ATTENTION SENIORS** - Every Friday evening seniors get together for conversation, food, dancing and music. Cunningham Acre, 4980 W. Pepper Lake Rd. on route M-50, 1 1/4 miles W. of Lake Odessa. For more information contact Betty at 616-374-7512.

**TECH SESSIONS** - 3-5 pm by appointment on Wednesdays. One-on-one assistance with basic computer, tablets, smart phones, downloadable library materials, etc. Please call to schedule your appointment, 616-693-1001. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville.

**MAHJONG AT THE LIBRARY** - Every Friday at 1 pm. Join us for American Mahjong; a game of skill, strategy & calculation. All skill levels welcome. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** - a Christ-centered, Biblically-based 12 step program for people with hurts, hang-ups and habits. Meets every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Impact, 11840 Fulton St., Lowell. Open to all who are 18 years or older. Fourth Thursday of each month is Chip Night when we celebrate a meal together starting at 6 pm.

**NEEDLERS** - Meet the second & fourth Tuesday of the month from 5 to 8 pm at Franciscan Life Processing Center, 11650 Downes St. NE, Lowell.

**WOMEN OF THE MOOSE** - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** - at Wittenbach Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes, Lowell. Stewardship projects, trail maintenance - adopt a trail! and

community events (night hikes, luminary hikes, WinterFest, Maple Syrup days & more!) Anyone interested in these opportunities please email Courtney Cheers: ccheers@lowellschools.com

**ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

**V.F.W. POST #8303** - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 102** - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Clay VanderWarf, 616-485-3429 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

**AMERICAN LEGION #152 MEETING** - fourth Monday of the month, 7pm. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash SE, Lowell.

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372** - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. in the activity room at Schneider Manor, Lowell.

**SENSORY TODDLER TIMES** - Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30. Thru Feb. 18. (except Dec. 24). Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

**FAMILY STORYTIME** - Thursdays at 10 am, through Feb. 20 (except Dec. 26 & Jan. 2). Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

**BOOKWORMS BOOK CLUB** - Meets second Tuesday of the month at 10 am. Feb. 11 book: The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris. If Lowell Schools is cancelled for the day, Bookworms will not meet. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

**WITTENBACH WEGE CENTER** - 11715 Vergennes, Lowell. Trails are open dusk to dawn, 365 days a year.

**STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION?** - Lowell Serenity Club is available for all in need of relief and hope. LSC offers 12 step meet-

ings, 365 days a year. Meetings daily 8-9 pm, Mon. - Fri. 12-1 pm, Tues. & Fri. 4:30-5:30 pm and Sat. & Sun. 10-11 am. 101 E. Main St., Lowell, 616-550-6688.

**BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** - A monthly support group for those diagnosed with breast cancer to learn and share together. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month from 6-7:30 pm. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

**FREE MOVIE NIGHT** - Second Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. Free movie & popcorn at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding. 616-794-1450.

**FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER RIVER VALLEY RAIL-TRAIL** - Meets second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Pere Marquette depot, 100 Depot St., Belding. Meetings are broadcast on Google hangouts. FMRVRT.org/Facebook: FMRVRT

**TECH SESSIONS** - 2 - 4 pm by appointment on Thursdays. One-on-one assistance with basic computer, tablets, smart phones, downloadable library material, etc. Please call to schedule an appointment, Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

**CUB SCOUT PACK 3188** - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

**LEGO CLUB** - First Tuesday of the month from 4-6 pm. A monthly club for kids to build theme lego creations. For ages 5 & up. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

**FROM'S MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET** - is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm; donate gently used medical equipment or borrow equipment including wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and more.

**QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB** - meets second and third Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

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Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

## SPORTS

## Red Arrows pick up first wins

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

After weeks of playing tough competition, the Red Arrows varsity boys basketball team was able to pick up their first wins of the season last week against Greenville and Cedar Springs.

On Tuesday at home, the varsity basketball team faced Greenville at the conclusion of a tripleheader. The freshman and junior varsity teams knocked off the Yellowjackets in the opening two games.

LHS led 23-18 at halftime. Bret Spanbauer started the second half with a putback two followed up with a Braiden Hamilton basket to set the tone for the

second half. Lowell came out on top by a score of 50-35.

On Friday, the Red Arrows traveled out to Cedar Springs for a game with the Red Hawks. LHS won a closely fought contest by a score of 48-44.

The Lady Arrows lost a pair of closely contested games last week against Greenville and Cedar Springs. In the 43-38 loss to Greenville, LHS was led by Molly Frederickson who scored 11 points. Jena Lyon added 9 points for the Arrows as well. In the game at Cedar Springs on Friday night, Lowell fell by a score of 48-39.

Both teams are at home this week for their annual Military Tribute games on Friday against Wayland Union. The girls will kick off the action at 5:30 pm followed by the Military Honoree Tribute, followed by the boys game.

**Pictured right: Brad Vandenhout and the Red Arrows return home this Friday for their annual Military Tribute games.**



## Brazilian exchange student reflects on her American experience

by Sierra Hieshetter  
contributing reporter

Lowell is a small town with a big heart, and the world is a vast place with lots of stories to share. It can be hard to gain perspective of what the world has to offer our community. But every year, a tiny slice of the big, wide world arrives

global knowledge into our community.

Anna is a tenth grader in her home country of Brazil. She lives (in her words) a pretty average life, going to school, and the club. "By the club I mean the place with pools and stuff like that. It is very hot

a bit more money I could spend a whole year."

At age thirteen, she decided to pursue the idea with her mom. "I was at that age when I wanted to get away from my family a little bit. I was always an early bird- I mean I was always more independent than my

on Thursday and I left on Friday. I knew nothing. I could've gone to Alaska or Hawaii or anywhere in America. I barely had time to do any research before. I mostly just looked up the temperature because I was a little worried about that!"

While in Lowell, Anna lives with a local family, the Andersons. "I love my host family. I was kind of nervous getting off the plane, and there were a lot of people with big signs saying 'Welcome to America' and stuff like that. And my host family was there with a big yellow sign- it was a good sign- and we hugged each other, it was great."

America has definitely been a bit of a culture shock for Anna. "I was in the New York airport and I went to the bathroom, and the toilet flushed on its own, and I thought it was a ghost. It happens." She also loves the food! "The first time I ate Reese's I cried!" Our high school has also been a new experience. "I went to the (football) games, and was so fun! I mean, I don't care about the games, I don't get it at all, I don't even look at the score, but it's fun!"

The exchange student program requires the students to take certain classes, "We all have to take English and History and Biology," but Anna also



gets to experiment with her schedule, "I was a good student at my school, and it's kind of hard because of the language but I can do it! Psychology is my favorite class so far. I have a lot of things I'm considering for college, I'd take all classes if I could but I have to choose." Anna has also loved her English classes, "I love writing, I even wrote some poems in English, they're not great, but I tried! I love writing, you can do a lot of stuff with it."

The best part about the experience for her has been the great people she's met. "I've made a lot of great friends, there is Sophia who is from Brazil too, but she is like eighteen hours away from my home, so we wouldn't have met

otherwise! All of the exchange students are great friends for me."

Overall, Anna is having an amazing time in America. "The exchange student process has both positives and negatives. I've met a bunch of people, great people, it's such a great experience for me. I learn how to be more responsible and to accept differences between people. But I miss my family and I'm away from everything that I know. It's an awesome opportunity I'd recommend to anyone, you just gotta go for it."

And is she happy to have landed in our little town? "Yes! I'm very happy, I like it here. There's no better place I could be."



in Lowell in the form of our global high school exchange students. This year one of Lowell High School's exchange students is Anna Beatriz Santana, a sixteen year old from Brazil. She shared her story with our paper to help bring

there!" She started learning English when she was nine years old and has always wanted to come to America. "I always wanted to come visit Disneyland," she said, "But I realized that it's too much money for a short amount of time, and for

friends. So I started asking my mom, and three years later she finally let me." After deciding to become an exchange student, Anna had to be assigned a location. "It was pretty crazy for us because I found out I was going to be in Michigan



# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

Level: Advanced

### 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!

# CHILLY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

### CHILLY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

AIR MASS  
 ALTITUDE  
 ARCTIC  
 BAROMETER  
 BLACK ICE

### BLIZZARD CLIMATE COLD

CONDENSATION  
 CRYSTALIZATION  
 DEGREE  
 FOG  
 FREEZING

### FRONT FROSTBITE FROZEN

GALE  
 HYPOTHERMIA  
 MERCURY  
 SNOW  
 TEMPERATURE

### VISIBILITY WINDCHILL WINTER

## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New York on January 28, 1980. I was once a commercial actor and I got my big break in a popular boy band in the 1990s. I also starred in two reality series about my family and me.

Answer: Nick Carter

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.

**D O S R E R**

□	□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Orders

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

- Fall down
- American TV company (abbr.)
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Gallantry
- Chinese word signifying "doctrine"
- Prefix meaning "beside"
- Act of imitating
- Tall, rounded vase
- Sixth month of Jewish civil calendar
- Rural Iranian village
- Time zone
- Military weapon (abbr.)
- Gets rid of
- Aggressive
- Addressed one's appearance
- Affirmative
- Denoting Indo-European languages
- French noble family
- Shock therapy
- Having characteristics of both sexes
- Large suitcase
- One who identifies God with the universe
- Swiss river

### CLUES DOWN

- Frequently
- Wipe out
- Invests in little enterprises
- Waste
- Resembles a large shrimp
- Derogatory name for rural resident
- Menswear accessory
- Tropical American tree
- Pitching statistic
- Camera type
- Cardinal number that is the sum of five and one
- Surgical procedure of the heart (abbr.)
- Northern Scandinavia indigenous person
- Evergreen trees and shrubs
- Meat from a domestic hog
- State of insensibility
- Herb
- Annuity
- San Diego-based ballplayer
- Members of a Semitic people
- Any physical damage
- Woolen rug
- Alsos Mission leader

- Aromatic plant used as culinary herb
- Where you sleep
- Ruled Russia
- Indicates density of data (abbr.)
- Sea eagle
- Type of light bulb
- Wreath
- Graduate with a degree
- What thespians do
- "Orange is the New Black" character
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Romanian monetary unit
- People treated as a group
- Small European plant
- First responder group
- A person's head
- Giggle
- Bura-\_: Chadic language
- Snout moth genus
- Body part
- Inspirational Wimbledon champ
- Revolutions per minute
- American software developer
- Ancient Greek city
- Female sheep
- "The Science Guy"



# World War II P.O.W. diary of Sgt. Kenneth L. Ayres

## Prisoner of War: Sept. 13, 1944 - May 2, 1945



Sgt. Ken Ayres

**April 18, 1945:**

Laying over today. Got 1 pack Red Cross yesterday after crossing the Elbe River. Lots of men escaping or trying. Ed, myself and Grover Dobson tried on the 16th to hide out in a barn but were found. See and hear plenty of strafe jobs all the time. Our fighters are always around overhead. They say there's a couple spearheads on the N. & S. of us going towards Hamburg. If they meet, we still have a chance of being recaptured, if not, we sweat the war out to the end. Ed & I really hit our Red Cross last night. Ate the cho., jam, crackers, had some milk...boy, how a person misses sweet things!

We're starved to death for sweets. And then I just layed awake all night and thought of home and smoked good old U.S. cigs. We get to feeling like we never will get home or something and then get a taste of jam & cho. It really gives you a lift and makes you keep going.

**Thoughts:**

Chicken, fried oysters, french fried spuds, catsup, peanut butter fudge, apples, fried spuds, onions, catsup, hamburg or bologna, bread with butter & jam, cake, milk, bean salad, scalaped spuds, moms butter jam, fruit salad, applegrunt & cream, milk, bean & weenies, catsup, bread & butter &

jam, milk, cherrie pie, jam & pineapple sause, sweet spuds, squash, creamed peas, sweet pickels, rolls with butter & jam, bean salad, jellow, cake with chipped cream, milk, much & surpe, roast beef, mashed spuds, brown gravy, salad fruit, bead, butter & jam, sweet pickles, creamed carrots, apple pie with cream, roast pork, mashed spuds, brn. gravy, rolls with butter & jam, raisin cake, bean salad, squash, olives, pickles, creamed peas, upside down cake with cream, meat pie, coconut cookies, apple butter, stuffed dates, cinnamon rolls, steak & mushrooms, pork steak & applesause. TRY: Oatmeal cooked with raisins. Put in bowl. Add dabs of marshmellow like you get on Sundays, cover with cream, add sugar (brown), if needed. Eat with plenty of toast & jam, couple eggs & bacon. Also, put dab of butter in oatmeal. Then...cranberrie sause, applesause, tarts, raspberries & cream!

**Snappy Special:** Three 5¢ pies (apple, cherrie, mince), spread with peanut butter, a slab of ice cream on each, three different kinds (strawberrie, cho., vanilla). Pour cho. sause over ice cream, put strawberrie jam around edge, sprinkle with crushed or chopped peanuts, and bananas & whip cream may be added!

**MAKE:** Shredded wheat, cream, fruit, toast, butter & jam and doughnuts.

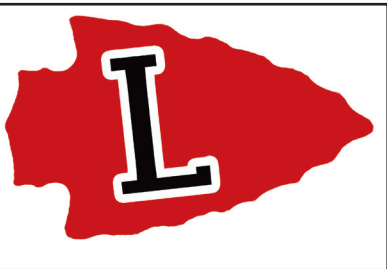
**PREAMEA!!** Gram crackers spread with butter, put big slice of Kraft cheese on and spread butter over cheese and then spread with peach jam. Eat with cho. drink.

**FRIED P.B.** = Take pie crust & lie flat. Put stewed fruit (cold) on one half of crust, lap other half of crust over, pinch edges together and fry.

**April 22, 1945:**

We are still on the road. Laying over today. Lots of rumors & all, but never the less, we are still on the road. Ed & I have bout put an end to our Red Cross. All but one can of chopped ham, 1/2 can peanut butter. They say the Russian flag is flying in Berlin. Also, the Yanks are in Lubeck and in a town that we were in two days ago, Boizenburg. Also, a rumor that we will get more Red Cross soon. Also, I met a guy, "Jack", that was on the first crew I had in Sioux City. He came down in May, 1944. Also met a guy that was the second crew I was on. He came down in August, 1944. So all the crews that I had have been knocked.

**Right:** An example of the cigarette papers and candy wrappers Ayres used to write his diary on.



# LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER TEAMS

## FRESHMAN BASKETBALL



Alexander Binns, Patrick De Voest, Ian George, Ethan Krieger, Connor Lixie, Gavin Mazarka, Cameron Sluss, Noah VanLaan, Ryan Visser, Brenden Wittenbach, and Caleb Yomtoob.



Samantha Conrad, Maeve Dougherty, Rylee Jannenga, Alexis Lamoreaux, Autumn Lamoreaux, Ava Peterson, Emma Rich, Hope Rummelt, Ava Skoog, and Grace VanTimmeren.