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## Water main break generates “boil” notice



by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

The city issued a “drinking water warning” notice to boil your water after a water main break at the SW corner of Main St. and S. West Ave. last week caused a loss of pressure in the water distribution system, potentially causing bacteria to contaminate the local water supply.

City utilities supervisor Ralph Brecken said the reason for the main break was most likely due to stress caused by recent fluctuations in temperature.

“It’s a natural occurrence from the ground shifting over time,” Brecken said. “We call it a radial break

when a pipe breaks around the circumference. It just snaps like an uncooked spaghetti noodle. Sometimes it’s caused when the seasons change. The ground moves just enough to put a little crack in it and it just starts spraying, which lowers the water pressure.”

The break occurred on Friday, Jan. 30 right outside of the Speedway gas station. Traffic on Main St. was diverted to the middle lane until the damage was repaired. The store remained open, and customers continued to stream in and out despite the presence of a muddy, eight foot deep hole, large equipment from two contractors and a crew of seven municipal workers in bright neon vests.

“The traffic on M-21 adds to the length of time it takes

to get the repairs done,” Brecken said. “We’re always concerned about impeding traffic, our safety and the public’s safety. The other item that really complicates this is there are a lot of other utilities right in the area. This is a main transmission point for fiber optic communications, there is a medium pressure gas line, there is a lot of stuff, so we’re being extremely careful. We don’t want to disrupt utilities, for our safety and the public’s safety. We don’t want to make the evening news!”

There may not have actually been any bacteria released into the water. The “boil” warnings are issued as a precaution every time there’s a main break, just in case there was any contamination.

“Anytime you have a low pressure condition, we put it on just for safety,” Brecken said. “We don’t want to take any chances with the public’s health.”



## LPD officers honored at Feb. 3 council meeting



**LPD officers (L-R) Gordy Lauren, Ian Shears and Scot Van Solkema were honored by the department for their work that went well above and beyond the scope of their normal duties.**

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Feb. 3. The meeting lasted just under one hour and 20 minutes and was attended by 23 citizens.

The meeting began with special recognition for three Lowell police officers. Officers Scot Van Solkema and officer Ian Shears were awarded the “life saving” award for their quick, decisive responses

to incidents that ended up saving lives that could easily have been lost. Officer Van Solkema also received the “distinguished service” award for his management of the department’s military equipment surplus program, through which the department has been able to obtain more than \$100,000 worth of equipment and vehicles for a minimal investment. Some of the equipment has also been used by the Lowell

fire department and the department of public works. Finally, detective Gordy Lauren was also honored with the “distinguished service” award for his work raising funds for the Cold Weather Warriors program over the past four years. Through that program, over 150 children in the Lowell school district were provided with coats, snow pants, boots, hats and gloves.

The council also voted to spend \$7,500 to have low

bidder Risner’s Roofing replace the 26-year-old roof and gutters on the city’s pump station at 3211 Gee Dr., set a May 18 public hearing to discuss the city’s 2021 budget and struck \$582.99 in uncollected 2014 property taxes from the rolls.

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will take place at city hall at 7 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 18, delayed one day for the President’s Day holiday.

The council will also meet with the public during a “Coffee with the Council” event at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building on the Riverwalk from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, March 7.

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.

50¢



# New voting rules a burden on clerks, could be changed

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

The presidential primary election on Tuesday, March 10 will be the first statewide election since voters approved the “Promote the Vote” proposal in 2018. Michigan voters can now register the same day they vote, change their vote until the day before the election and take advantage of “no reason” absentee voting. The option of voting by mail is very attractive to voters, and this is expected to dramatically increase participation in elections. However, these new rules place an additional burden on the local clerks who are tasked with managing the state’s ballots and elections. “We’re working hand in hand with all of our clerks around the state to make sure they’re prepared for what we already know is going to be a significant increase of people registering to vote up to [Election Day], on Election

Day and voting from home,” said Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson in an address to the Detroit city council on Tuesday, Jan. 28. “This is the first statewide election on March 10 that we’ll see this in play. We have to prepare for that.” “It’s making it a little bit more difficult on the actual Election Day,” said Lowell city clerk Susan Ullery. “By adding people registering to vote, you’re adding more to the regular Election Day duties, but it’s not complicated. We would just get them registered here in our offices, then we print off a receipt, they take that receipt up to the precinct and the precinct workers will get them registered into the [electronic pollbook] and issue a ballot then.” Another issue slowing the process is that under the current law, clerks are not allowed count any of the absentee ballots until

Election Day. They are also prohibited from preparing for the count by taking the inner envelope that contains the ballot out of the outer envelope that conceals it. “Right now, the law says clerks are not permitted to even open envelopes and process ballots until election morning,” Benson said in Detroit on Jan. 28. “When those are mailed to us, we check those in and then they go into a locked, fireproof file drawer up until Election Day,” Ullery said. “Then we bring all of those absentee ballots up to the precinct, where they are then processed. I think it would be great if we could process the absentees ahead of time.” Ruth Johnson, a current state senator and the former Michigan Secretary of State, introduced two bills recently [SB 756 and SB 757] with the intention of tweaking the law a bit to make the process smoother for the vote counters.

“Clerks would be able to open that first envelope and pull out the second one, and that is then kept in a room that is locked and very secure,” Johnson said in an interview with NPR on Wednesday, Jan. 29. “But the ballots can never be exposed, because that’s when we’ve had problems in the past with people changing them.” “This is something that we’re sounding the alarm on now, and we have the benefit of seeing other states who have gone through this, who have reached the same solution and conclusion,” Benson said in an interview with NPR on Wednesday, Jan. 29. “It’s, to me, an easy change to make if you do so securely and carefully.” SB 756 would change the law to add a section that says, “If the clerk of a city or township with a population of 40,000 or more provides written notice to the secretary of state at

least 40 days or more before election day, the clerk of that city or township may allow the election inspectors appointed to an absent voter counting board in that city or township to work in shifts.” SB 757 would also change the law by adding a section allowing the envelopes to be opened early with permission: “If the clerk of a city or township with a population of 40,000 or more provides written notice in compliance with this subsection to the secretary of state 40 days or more before election day, that city or township clerk or his or her authorized designee may, between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm on the day before election day, perform certain absent voter ballot pre-processing activities.” There are 1,240 township clerks, 280 city clerks and 83 county clerks, a total of 1,603 officials directly involved in each election in

Michigan. Additionally, the Secretary of State acts as the chief election officer who supervises all of these people and their duties. Michigan is the largest of the eight states that administer elections on the local level like this, therefore Michigan has the most decentralized election system in the US. “We have six election workers that are going to work all day, then we have three different election workers that are going to be coming in and working half days,” Ullery said. “That is about the same as we usually have. We’ll have special paper on hand in case we were to happen to run out of ballots, then we’re able to print new ballots right here.” If you want to read Johnson’s bills for yourself, visit <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2020-SB-0756> and <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2020-SB-0757>.

# Roger MacNaughton & Friends at LowellArts Feb. 9

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

When Lowell musician Roger MacNaughton was chosen by the Mackinac State Historic Parks to be the “Artist-in-Residence” at Mackinac Island last summer, his assignment was to create new music inspired by the historic, picturesque surroundings. The compositions resulting from all that inspiration will have their first public performance during the “Roger MacNaughton and Friends” concert at LowellArts at 4 pm on Sunday, Feb. 9. “I was there to compose, and I did all the time,” MacNaughton said. “I also was there to get inspired, and it was fabulous. I wrote five when I was there and five since then. At first I was going to include everything about the island - the horses, the carriages, the fudge,

everything. Then I thought, wait a minute, that kind of song is hard to write! And so specific. So I decided to write a more generic song about, ‘Whatever place does it for you, this place does it for me.’ That, basically, is how the song ‘There Is Something About This Place’ came to be. I made it more universal so it could be sung by anybody about anyplace, but for me it’s Mackinac Island.” MacNaughton is still getting inspired by his trip to the island, last week he wrote yet another composition about it called “Carriage Ride.” “It was in my brain the whole time, but just this week I kind of pulled it out,” MacNaughton said. “I knew at the the time I wanted to write a song about the horses and carriages because they’re

so ubiquitous on the island. One morning I heard their hooves. I only heard them, I couldn’t see them because my window faced the water. That morning, they were at the perfect tempo. Most mornings they would kind of clop along real slow, but this was a much faster rhythm, and I thought, ‘Wow, that’s pretty good for a horse!’ So I made a song out of it.” Musicians helping MacNaughton bring his new work to life at the show will include vocalists Tami Hjelm and Kyle Rasche, Susan Mora on violin, Steve VanRavenswaay on cello and Charlie Hoats on fretless six-string bass, all of whom MacNaughton has a long history playing with. The ensemble will also perform a few well-known cover songs specifically arranged for the concert. “We’re going to do ‘Help!’ by the Beatles, but slow, ballad version,”

MacNaughton said. “A couple rock songs I wrote, an old standard by Fontella Bass called ‘Rescue Me,’ a whole list.” One of the new songs, “Mackinac, I’ve Come Home,” will feature vocals by Chain of Lakes frontman Kyle Rasche. Incidentally, that group is playing their own show at LowellArts on Saturday, Feb. 29. “When I met him, he was a backup singer to Josh Rose,” MacNaughton said. “I asked him to sing one of the songs, and I’m really excited to have him sing.” There will be a CD release of this music at some point, MacNaughton is currently in the middle of the recording process for that project. Tickets are \$16 at the door or \$14 in advance. For more information or to buy advance tickets, contact LowellArts at 616-897-8548 or [lowellartsmi.org/gallery-concerts](http://lowellartsmi.org/gallery-concerts).



Roger MacNaughton

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# Lakeshore permitting bills move to Senate floor

An immediate state environmental permit wouldn't be needed to build an emergency breakwall for Great Lakes beachfront property owners whose homes are at risk of falling into the water, under legislation that moved out of a Senate committee Tuesday afternoon.

Sen. Roger Victory's SB 0714 was kicked out of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on a party-line vote, even after Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy officials said a lack of quality contractors are holding up landowners looking to protect their properties from high lake levels and erosion.

With water levels statewide at record-high levels, EGLE Deputy Director James Clift told senators, "We don't think

we're the bottleneck here." In many parts of the state, the only people who are available to move large rocks in front of the dunes to prevent them from washing into the big lakes are "someone who has never done it before" or someone without a lot of experience doing it.

"We are worried who is moving into this space," said Clift, adding that two-thirds of all Great Lakes erosion permits are getting turned around within seven days. Those that aren't completed in a week were not properly filled out.

The issue in question is the state's record lake levels and the 10- to 12-foot waves that have washed away as much as 300 feet of beachfront from private property owners' lakefront.

Norman Dodd and Pam Stille of Spring Lake shared their story with Chair Sen. Rick Outman's committee Tuesday.

They told MIRS after Tuesday's hearing that increased media coverage has sped up EGLE's permitting process on this front. Prior to the last month or so, the "vagaries" of the lakefront permitting process prevented landowners from moving rocks ranging in size from a bowling ball to a 4-foot-tall boulder along the exposed dunes.

If landowners failed to fully complete an application, it was sent to "the bottom of the pile" for 30 days, at least.

"We need change. We need help and we need these laws to help homeowners save their property," Dodd said.

Desperate landowners are so frantic about saving their property, they are moving the rocks on their own - permits be damned, EGLE can catch up later. The landowners are willing to suffer whatever consequences come their way, Stille added.

Victory's bill reads that if lake levels for Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie are at a specified level, a property owner can hire a licensed contractor to use EGLE-approved material to construct a barrier so long as the Department is notified beforehand.

Jerod Sanders, EGLE's assistant division director for the Water Resources Division, noted a few issues with the bill. If landowners push forward with an

inexperienced contractor, it will take the department 78 months before it can do anything about it. In the meantime, the shoddy work could damage nearby dunes or someone else's property.

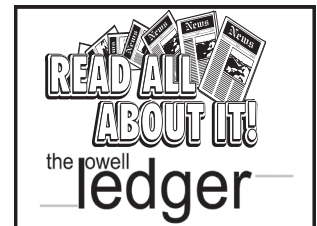
Also, he noted that landowners can't blaze ahead with work at the first sign of a problem. They still need U.S. Army Corps of Engineering permits, too.

"The department wants to acknowledge that it's been a tough time on the lakeshore and we appreciate that many constituents have been struggling," Sanders said. "I feel we have responded to the best of our ability and adapted to our customers."

The bill mandates that the materials used in the project be EGLE approved, Victory said.

"We're using lessons learned. We're not using old semi-trailers here," he said.

SB 0714 moved with both Democrats - Sen. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) and Rosemary Bayer (D-Beverly Hills) - voting no. Several environmental groups also came out as opposed to the bill - League of Conservation Voters, Michigan Environmental Council, Sierra Club and Tip of the Mitt. The Grand Haven, Grand Rapids and Muskegon Lakeshore chambers of commerce all came out in support.



# Lowell's Cookie Drive for Veterans housed at the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home in November 2019

The Cookie Drive for Veterans event, created by Jan Thompson in 2008, has been a huge success every year. However, this year a series of changes were made by the Veterans' Home.

The activity is now co-sponsored by the Lowell Women's Club and the American Legion, Post #52.


This year, because of a considerably lower number of veterans being housed due to a massive construction project, participants were asked to limit the number of cookies to 600 and the quantity of personal care products like socks, underwear, quilts, hats, gloves, games, puzzles, books and other items Lowell has provided every year.

"Any items we collected this year that the Veterans' Home was unable to store during the construction were distributed to other non-profit organizations who also support veterans," said Jan Thompson.

Many thanks go out to those who participated in this wonderful and thoughtful event.

"Every item found a useful home," Thompson reported.

Lowell has proven once again that this is the best and most caring place to live.



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Dec 30, 2019

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Donations to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans are tax deductible in the manner and to the extent provided under section 170 (C) of the Internal Revenue Code. Material donations are used for the benefit of the members of the Home, or if no practical purpose is found, are re-donated to other veteran support organizations that may find the item useful in their mission.

Quality of life for our residents is enhanced greatly by donations such as this. Once again, thank you for remembering the residents at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

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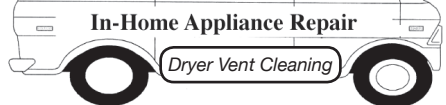
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## Anti-lobbying amendment

On Thursday, Progress Michigan announced a constitutional amendment initiative to ban lobbyist gift-giving to public officials, create a two-year "cooling-off period" for elected officials getting into lobbying and mandating more strenuous lobbyist reporting requirements.

At this point, Progress Michigan has funded most of the effort behind the Coalition to Close Lansing Loopholes, which seeks to collect 425,059 signatures before a July 6 deadline.

The coalition announced the filing of its petition language with the Bureau of Elections Thursday. It awaits approval to form from the Board of State Canvassers.

Progress Michigan Executive Director Lonnie Scott didn't rule out the possibility of using paid signature gatherers, but also said there were no firms under contract to do paid petition gathering at this time. The only public disclosure for Close Lansing Loopholes, issued back in October 2019, showed no money directly collected or spent.

"We do believe that this is something that the public is going to latch onto in the same way that they did around redistricting reform, and we hope that there will be a lot of volunteers," Scott said, referring to the Voters Not Politicians-backed constitutional amendment approved at the ballot in 2018 that got there without any paid signature gatherers.

Scott didn't specifically name any groups funding the coalition or considered part of the coalition, and aside from Michiganders for Fair and Transparent Elections, no other group representatives spoke Thursday.

"I think any group that believes in good government will be on our side," Scott said.

At a previous press event with the Close

Lansing Loopholes group, the Michigan Nurses Association and Planned Parenthood were among those associated with the committee.

The Close Lansing Loopholes proposal would ban all gifts from lobbyists and their clients to public officials and their immediate families. Scott said this would include lobbyists taking lawmakers out to lunch, for example.

It would also seek to end the "revolving door" of elected officials jumping into lobbying after office by mandating a two-year "cooling-off period" before that could occur.

The public officials included under the amendment would include the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, lawmakers, Supreme Court justices, Court of Appeals judges, the elected statewide education board members and "any other non-federal elective office with statewide duties," according to Progress Michigan.

The proposal would also include university presidents, the highest-ranking employee in the office of each lawmaker, members of state boards and commissions, heads of principal departments and executive branch staff exempt from civil service.

Other provisions highlighted in the proposal by Progress Michigan include:

- Prohibit "contingency pay" for lobbyists, where their pay depends on the success/failure of their lobbying.
- Require lobbyists and their clients to register and report all lobbying expenditures.
- Require lobbyists and public officials to keep a public record log of lobbying activities and communications.
- Require lobbying logs

from public officials and lobbyists as well as records of lobbying expenditures and public communications attempting to influence public officials to be kept for at least six years after the reports are filed.

- Require an identifier on all public communications that urge the general public to influence public officials.

- Give the Secretary of State powers to enforce these changes, implement penalties, and create forms and procedures to follow the law.

What the proposal doesn't do is change any federal regulations governing nonprofits that don't have to disclose their donors, which includes Progress Michigan.

Scott did say some provisions of the proposal would cover Progress Michigan in the sense that the group spends money to tell people about bills they like and don't like, and Progress Michigan would need to disclose that activity.

Among the reporting provisions, Scott said it would require lobbyists to disclose meetings they have with lawmakers and report what was discussed in those meetings. Phone calls and texts would need to be accounted for, too.

Scott said the proposal aims to make Michigan a "leader in lobby reform" and that "lobbyists are running things in Lansing, and they have been for too long."

Scott acknowledged Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) has previously spoken about making government more transparent and accountable, but "there's been nothing since then."

Scott was asked about VNP and its aspirations to push some sort of good government initiative. He said Progress Michigan tried to reach out to VNP, but didn't have any direct conversations with the group.

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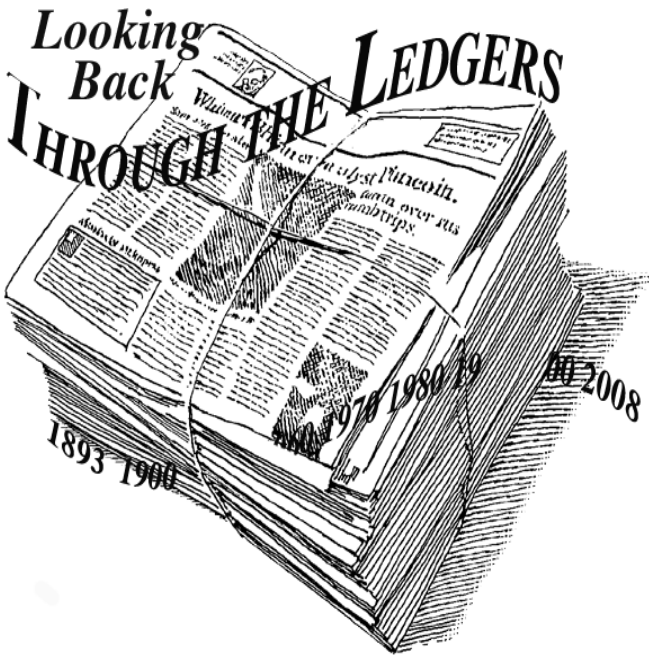
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# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger February 8, 1895

While driving into this village last Saturday about 1 pm, where he expected to meet a daughter, Bernard Hesché was thrown from his cutter and almost instantly killed. He turned the corner from the depot road to Main street at a rapid rate and his cutter was overturned. Mr. Hesché clung to the lines and was dragged or thrown head first against a telephone pole, and his lifeless body was carried into an adjacent dwelling.

Dr. H. E. Pope, a Detroit dentist, was murdered in his home by a barber named Wm. Brusseau, who had been engaged as a nurse for Mrs. Pope. The woman was addicted to liquor and narcotics and led her husband an awful life by her slovenly ways and she-devil temper. The murderer says he did the deed in self defense, during a fight. Pope's head was split open and chopped with a hatchet. The theory of the police is that Brusseau and Mrs. Pope had formed a conspiracy to murder the dentist while he was asleep to secure about \$14,000 life insurance which they had persuaded him to take out. The woman was taken to Harper hospital under police surveillance, and she tried to escape. Brusseau admits that he borrowed money to pay Pope's insurance assessments.

Our ingenious townsman, C. W. Parks, has gone and done it again. This time it is the "Globe Automatic Plaster Sifter," he has invented, and already he has assurances from prominent wholesale and retail dealers that there is a market for this article and the "Combined Water Sprinkler and Plaster Sifter" in quantities as large as can be manufactured and numerous large orders have been placed. The Globe Sprinkler Co. has been organized with headquarters at Lowell and manufacturing has already begun. The company has rented the Severy store building and employed those excellent workmen L. F. and Geo. Severy to superintend operations.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 5, 1920

Michigan's "hope chest" murder, which the authorities had considered solved by the affidavit of Walter O. Tabor accusing his 80-year-old mother of killing his sister with chloroform, is again clouded with complications. Attorneys for Mrs. Sarah O. Tabor, mother of Maude Tabor, gave notice that they would contest to the last the use of her son's affidavit. Tabor made another affidavit to his attorneys denying the truth of the one in which he accused his mother and asserting that it was obtained from him under false pretenses.

A Grand Rapids man just settled in his newly built

home, finds that what he could have had five years ago for \$4,000 has cost him \$10,000. Right here is the reason that people are securing homes in Lowell and other rural communities; because they can be had for a fraction of what they would cost to buy in the city or build any where. Those who cling to their city tenement rooms too long will find that their wiser fellows have picked up the best bargains in the old home town where life is really worth living.

Sheriff Peter Viergever is bemoaning the increased cost of foodstuffs which has boosted the average cost of the prisoners' meals to 10.21 cents. But he possesses a certain amount of pride in the records which show that the average prisoner gains 2-10 pounds while in jail.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger February 8, 1945

Mrs. Lucy Barkley of Lowell received a parcel of different kind of souvenirs from her son, Pvt. Arthur R Burrows, who is now stationed in Belgium after two years overseas.

Are members of Lowell's so-called sterner sex going to start setting their caps at a new angle, perhaps encouraged by the announcement in the daily press the first of the week, that Will Davey, who was raised in Lowell, now of New York and California, has taken for his bride the famous movie actress, Gloria Swanson. Mr. Davey is in his early 50's and Gloria is said to be in her middle 40's. Both have had previous ventures on the sea of matrimony, this being Mr. Davey's 3rd venture and Gloria's 5th.

A plea for a million better gardens in Michigan this year has been issued by Paul R. Krone, extension specialist in horticulture at Michigan State college and state victory garden director. There is a greater need than ever for victory gardens in 1945, he stresses. This is apparent because of rationing, the drafting of all available manpower for the army, and plans of commercial vegetable growers to reduce their acreage by about 10 percent.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger February 5, 1970

Extension of sewage lines outside the city limits and consideration for new water lines within occupied most of the brief Monday night meeting of the Lowell City Council. Councilmen weighed the merits of accepting a proposal by Cumberland Leisure Estates, a mobile home park located on M-21 in Lowell Township, that the city handle its sanitary waste.

Michigan took to the telephone like a talkative teenager during the 1960's. The state gained two million telephones in the past decade, twice as many as in the 1950s. On Jan. 1, 1960, Michigan had 2,877,000 telephones. At the beginning of 1970, the state has 4,900,000. Only seven foreign countries—Japan, United Kingdom, West Germany, Russia, Canada, Italy and France—have more phones than Michigan

On Monday, February 16, election history will be made in Lowell. The city primary election will be held in that date with the new automatic voting machines being used in this city for the first time.

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger February 8, 1995

Through a unanimous decision, the Lowell Zoning Board of Appeals moved to approve a variance request put forth by Gail Kloosterman. Her variance petition was to construct an 864 square foot single family home where 1,600 square feet of floor area is required.

Sandy Bartlett talks about the Lowell Area Arts Council Gallery as a great place to be and as an opportunity for people to be inspired. Those are simply words without meaning unless Bartlett's actions support them. Bartlett's commitment to promoting the arts in the Lowell area began 10 years ago when she worked as a member of the gallery committee after joining the Arts Council.

After nearly months of talk and discussion, Lowell's City Council moved to go ahead with the engineering services for the Bowes Road realignment project. "I'm in favor of funding the engineering study so that the city can find out what's all involved," Lowell Mayor James Maatman said. "I'm not sure the city has the money to go ahead with the project once we do find out."

## outdoors

a wonderful time

Dave Stegehuis

A significant consequence of hunting is having up close and personal relationships with a variety of game and non-game wildlife. Trail cameras record nighttime activity in the woods as raccoons, deer, and coyotes show up most often after dark.

Last deer season which included archery, firearm, muzzle loader, and late doe provided a reason to spend plenty of time in the woods. Sitting quietly in our woods for extended periods during daylight hours provides the opportunity to observe the daily routine of woodland residents from field mice to bobcats. Trail camera images and natural sign reveal that we share the property with black bears. So far, the bruins have been reluctant to meet us personally. Walking to a deer stand in the early morning darkness makes for a stimulating experience.

Hunting the same stand day after day may not be the best deer hunting strategy, but it provides the opportunity to meet the neighbors. Daylight slowly creeping into the woods brings out a gathering of creatures that work the day shift. The night prowlers were run off by human intrusion or had already went back to bed.

Squirrels are the most common and interesting residents. A striped ground

Outdoors, continued page 6

## We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

# HEALTH

## M METRO HEALTH UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

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 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



### FEBRUARY 5

Ann Mulder, Colleen Myers, Mandy Schneider, Mike Conklin.

### FEBRUARY 9

Tom Covell, Alan Ryder, Noah Newhouse, Madison Lombardo, Brady Foster, Dave Vankeulen, Charlotte Drake.

### FEBRUARY 6

Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.

### FEBRUARY 10

Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.

### FEBRUARY 7

Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.

### FEBRUARY 11

Julie Kenney, Judy Goodwin.

### FEBRUARY 8

Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes, Karis Dilly.

# Outdoors, continued

squirrel lives under a blow down several feet from the front window of my deer hunting shack. At about the same time everyday my squirrel friend pops up from under the tree trunk and travels the same route foraging around close to the blind. I always save some peanuts out of my lunch to share with my busy little partner. Several black squirrels live in the area and exhibit similar behavior but range out much farther. All are quite territorial because chases are a regular occurrence by both species. Managing our property

to maintain viable wildlife habitat has become a more important objective than our original plan to have a place to hunt. Although, each have compatible outcomes.

Hunting seasons come and go, but there is a lot of time in between. We didn't kill a deer this year. One buck was too far away, another was too smart, and Gwen passed on an early chip shot. All had a good time and nobody got hurt, so with some good luck we and our forest neighbors will get together again next year.

# college news

Elizabeth Kunkel, Micaela Plantinga, and Ellen Sullivan, all of Ada, and Olivia Richmond, of Lowell, have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

4.0 and carry no single grade lower than a C- during the course of their college career. Each student receives a letter of commendation and congratulation from their college dean.

Kunkel, Sullivan, and Richmond are pursuing a Bachelor of Science in nursing and Plantinga is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences.

Rene Guzman, of Ada, graduated from Spring Arbor University with a Master of Arts in counseling.

Northeastern University is pleased to recognize those students who distinguish themselves academically during the course of the school year. Alexander Jarecki, of Ada, a Northeastern University student majoring in biology, was recently named to the university's Dean's List for the fall semester, which ended in December 2019.

Chase Potter, of Saranac, and Madelin Darby, of Alto, were named to the Albion College Dean's List at the end of the fall 2019 semester.

To achieve the dean's list distinction, students must carry a full program of at least four courses, have a quality point average of 3.5 or greater out of a possible

Students named to Albion College's dean's list must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above, while taking four graded courses.

Potter is a first-year student at Albion College and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program and the Lisa and James Wilson Institute for Medicine.

Darby is majoring in kinesiology-exercise science with minors in management and art.

## - what the fungus?

Onychomycosis is a common fungal nail infection that can occur on the fingernails or toenails. This is estimated to account for 50-60 percent of nail disorders and is typically more common in males.

choose a salon that uses sterilized tools for every client

Symptoms of a fungal nail infection can include the nail turning yellow, white or brown. The nail may also thicken, change shape, lift upward, and it may break more easily.

- Wear shoes and socks made of breathable material

To reduce your chances of developing nail fungus:

- If your feet sweat, change your socks throughout the day

- Treat other existing fungal infections, such as Athlete's Foot

- Do not walk around barefoot in shared bathrooms or locker rooms

- Make sure you keep your feet clean and dry them thoroughly

There are a variety of treatments that can be used to treat nail infections, including over-the-counter and prescription medications. Keep in mind, nail fungus is difficult to treat and can take months before your nail looks normal again.

- Avoid sharing nail tools and disinfect them regularly

If you have concerns or questions regarding possible nail fungus, schedule an appointment with your healthcare provider to discuss them.

- If you get manicures or pedicures,



# business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Rick Seese received Realtor of the Month in January.

This award recognizes Seese for his outstanding success and achievements.



# area churches



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 Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM  
 Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM  
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 616-897-5906

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 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
 www.goodshepherdlowell.org  
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 Sunday School..... 9:15 AM  
 Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307  
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
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 Sunday School..... 11:20 AM  
 Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM  
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**St. Mary Catholic Church**  
 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820  
 Website: www.stmarylowell.com  
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 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm  
 Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm  
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 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**

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 Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

# LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 at the Lowell Charter Township offices 2910 Alden Nash, SE., Lowell, MI 49331 on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** A complete copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Lowell Charter Township office.

Any interested party may submit written comments concerning the proposed budget until the date and time of the hearing. The Township will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting for individuals with disabilities upon adequate notice to the Township Clerk in writing or by calling (616) 897-7600.

Monica Burt, Clerk  
 Lowell Charter Township

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

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



Sgt. Ken Ayres

### Remembering Christmas...

Christmas Parcel = 1 can turkey, 1 can plum pudding, 1 can cherries, 1 can honey, 2 sm. cans butter, 1 can mixed nuts, 1 can mixed candy, 2 fruit bars, 1 box dates, 1 can jam, 1 pkg. tea, 1 can deviled ham, 1 can vienna sausage, 2 pks. of gum, 2 pks. cigs., 1 pipe & tobacco, 1 washrag, 2 pictures.

**MAKE:** Pig-in-the-blanket...weenie slice down the middle, slab of cheese in middle, roll in bacon, wrap in pie dough & bake.

### April 23, 1945:

...didn't sleep a darn wink last night, just layed awake and thought of home all night. Smoked good old U.S. cigs. They say the news is good but we just walk, walk & walk. I am so damn tired of walking that it isn't funny. I've often thought about the time Junior told me he's sure like to be a gunner with me on my ship. And how damn glad I am now that he wasn't with me on our ship. Although, before I was shot down, I would have gave anything to have had him flying with me...but I'm sure glad he wasn't now.

### April 25, 1945:

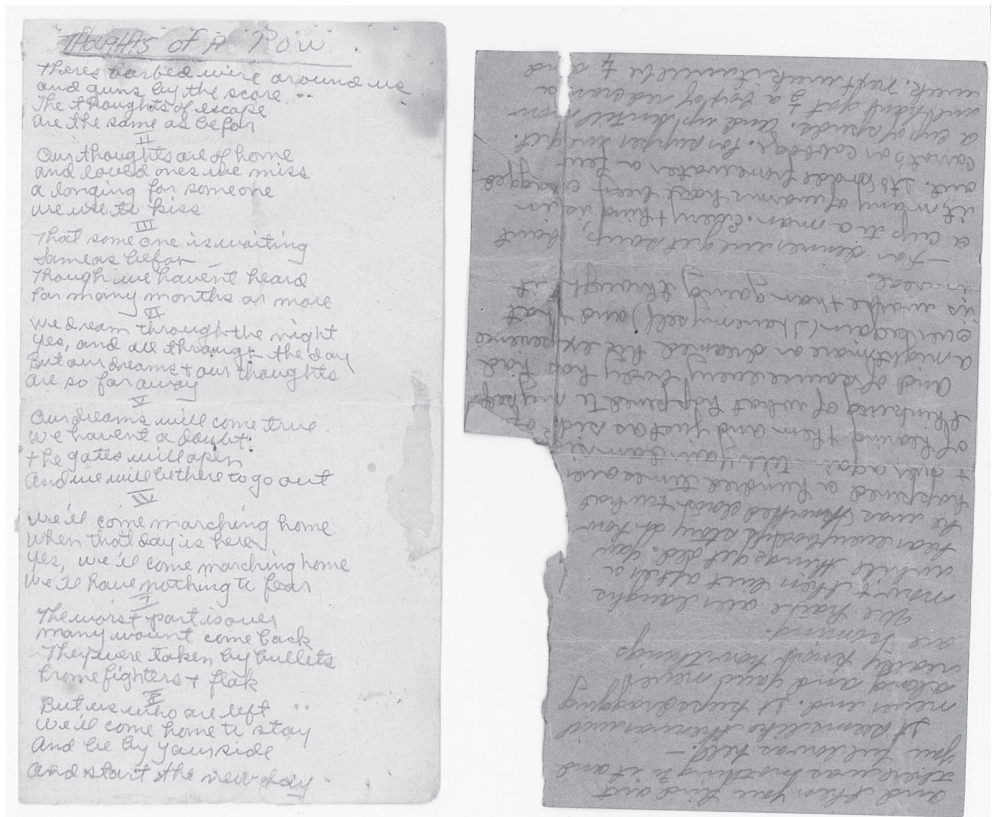
Ed & I are now in a rest barn with a hospital gp. We were taken out of our regular gp. yesterday and put with the sick & wounded. Then we were sent 20 klm. to this hospital (barn). They say we are to stay here and wait for U.S. troops or be sent over the lines and traded for Jerry P.O.W.'s. We did get a Red Cross pkg. yesterday. We also seen plenty of strafe jobs on the way here. Ph-7's all over the sky! A bunch of English were strafed on the road day before yesterday. 33 killed, 67 wounded. Also, Loger-D was strafed and 3 killed, 30 wounded, plus German guards killed. At this place there are a hundred & some of us. American & English mixed, plus another hundred & some down the road a couple of blocks. We are under an Australian Capt. (Doc). **\*\*SPECIAL\*\*** Ed & I had a cheese sandwich and a glass of milk for breakfast! Also, I finally seen Dixie Dean in person yesterday so my Krg. life has now been fulfilled. HaHa. Also, the Germans are really passing out the propaganda bout U.S.A.... Eng. breaking off with Russia and things like that.

### April 30, 1945:

Ed & I are still in the hospital barn. We both have a bad case of G.I.'s. Also, I have hellish gas pains & cramps. We are getting a good ration of spuds and a cup of milk every morn. Also, got Red Cross the 28th again. One Red Cross pkg. & one Canadian pkg. per 2 men. The news has been swell lately if it is true. They say the Yank are 20 klm. from us.

### May 1st, 1945:

Well, the first day of May started out like a bad day... rain and cold and even snowed a thin spread of snow on the ground. But it ended with the best news I heard yet!...The Padre came in about 8:00 last night all out of breath and gave us some real news! He said that Dixie Dean and some ranking Germans had made their way through the German lines and to the British lines. Made arrangements for us (the hospital grp.) to be taken through the lines and back to allied hands. A British outfit is coming after us. So, unless things take a turn for the worst, we should be in Yank & British hands before too long. If it hadn't been for Dixie making contact with our troops, we would have to stay here till the end of the war, as we are being out-flanked here and our troops would not have come this way. As we were hoping, there are many Germans passing the barn this morn., coming back from the font. They look like a beaten lot, and they aren't in a very good mood. When we received that news last night, I could hardly believe my ears! But it is official and came from the Padre...so it must be true. Although, funny, but I couldn't get a real rise out of it myself. Guess because we have been let down so many times before. But he says the



The poem below was originally composed by Ayres on the backs of old, disassembled cigarette packages.

British troops know exactly where we are now and are sending an outfit for us so now all we have to do is wait and hope. It sounds too good to be true.

### May 2nd, 1945:

This morn., Capt. Martin (Australian Doc) came in and told us that the Germans had upset the first plans made so the British troops are coming into this town sometime within the next 24 to 48 hrs. to get us and also some P.O.W.'s a few klm. down the road. We are to be taken to a town 30 klm. from here and from there they hope to have planes to take us to England. But we were just informed that our troops are 1/2 klm. from here and will be here in 10 minutes. So this may be my last few minutes as a P.O.W., and funny as it seems, I'm not a bit excited or anything like I had imagined time after time before. Dixie Dean and a German Col. just went by in a car and told us all to stay in the barn. All

the German troops that were in this town have been sent out by the Col. Also, our guards have taken off. Well, we are now free men again! The Padre first came in with his pistol on and told us the Germans threw the towel in, not a shot fired. As of May 2nd, 1945, 2:15pm, I am

no longer a German P.O.W. So, this booked started with my being a prisoner and so it shall end. I might add that white flags are up all over the town and what Germans are in town have all handed them in. And the town is under British law. The name of this village is Lassahm.

### "THOUGHTS OF A P.O.W."

A poem written by Ken Ayres during his captivity

- I  
There's barbed wire around us  
and guns by the score.  
The thoughts of escape  
are the same as before.
- II  
Our thoughts are of home  
and loved ones we miss,  
A longing for someone  
we use to kiss.
- III  
That someone is waiting  
same as before,  
though we haven't heard  
for many months or more.
- IV  
We dream through the night,  
yes, and all through the day.  
But our dreams and our thoughts  
are so far away.
- V  
Our dreams will come true.  
We haven't a doubt...  
the gates will open  
and we will be there to go out.
- VI  
We'll come marching home  
when that day is here.  
Yes, we'll come marching home  
we'll have nothing to fear.
- VII  
The worst part is over.  
Many won't come back.  
They were taken by bullets  
from fighters and flak.
- VIII  
But us who are left,  
we'll come home to stay,  
and be by your side,  
and start the new day.

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# Wounded Warrior Dogs Project & K9 War Stories exhibit to visit Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## The nationally-acclaimed sculptures and 2016 ArtPrize winner will be on display Feb. 15 - May 10

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, will host the traveling exhibit, "Wounded Warrior Dogs Project & K9 War Stories." The exhibit, on display Feb. 15 - May 10, is comprised of two installations, featuring seven wounded warrior dogs and four canine war dogs. The exhibit's Wounded Warrior Dogs Project received top ArtPrize honors in 2016. A new installation, K9 War Stories, tells the true stories of courage and sacrifice of actual K9 teams during the Global War on Terror.

"Wounded Warrior Dogs Project & K9 War Stories" was designed by Ohio master craftsman James Mellick to bring attention to the service and heroism of military working dogs, and also symbolize the courageous sacrifices and wounds their human companions suffered during battle and raise awareness about their needs.

"What I think is so poetic and so beautiful is this bond or melding that takes place between the handler and the dog of complete dependence, unconditional love, and the will to survive in the most dire of situations among the

two of them," said Mellick. "And the narrative way that I work of storytelling was perfect for this group, so I had to tell the story of the dogs and their handlers."

Mellick began wood carving while working as a teacher in New Hampshire in 1976. After retiring in 2014, he was inspired by news stories about soldiers coming home to the Veterans Administration with horrific injuries. It was then that Mellick received a new calling for his carving craft and began creating the Wounded Warriors Dog Project.

"The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is honored to have the opportunity to display James Mellick's Wounded Warrior Dogs & Canine War Dogs sculptures," said Joel Westphal, deputy director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. "The art piece speaks volumes to the heroic sacrifices our service men and women and their four-legged companions have made and continue to make for our country."

Mellick, who spent 14 months creating Wounded Warrior Dogs, spends an average of 160 hours on

each dog sculpture. He begins each project with a small sketch that he puts on his computer and enlarges, then cuts the drawing into patterns that he traces on blocks of wood. Mellick carves away the corners and starts shaping the sculpture, carving the heads, legs and tails separately before fastening them together at the end.

After winning the People's Choice Award at the Ohio State Fair in 2015, Mellick expanded his Wounded Warrior Dogs to seven dogs and started touring the exhibit.

In 2016, Mellick's project won the ArtPrize public vote and the \$200,000 grand prize. The entry also earned the most votes in its category, 3-D. Additionally, Mellick received a Commendation of Service from the Ohio state senate in the same year.

Since then, the exhibit has been featured at the Ohio Craft Museum, Southern Ohio Museum, Airborne and Special Operations Museum, National Museum of the Marine Corps and National Museum of the United States Air Force. It has also been featured in Ohio Magazine and The Bark.

Although Mellick did not serve in the military, he views his sculptures, which tell stories of courage, honor, faithfulness and sacrifice, as his payback to those who have served and continue serving today. Mellick has since become involved in the military dog community, serving as an honorary member of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association.

"I've had young veterans put their arms around me sobbing, crying and thanking me for doing this," Mellick said.

## Senate legalizes ticket scalping

The latest bills in the long-debated subject of decriminalizing ticket scalping passed the Senate Thursday with some protections designed to prevent purchasers from being scammed.

SB 0384 and 0385 passed, 28-10, after a Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) amendment passed that mandates ticket-sellers inform potential buyers 48 hours before an event if a ticket hadn't been secured. Bill sponsor Sen. Tom Barrett (R-Pottersville) argued the change was unnecessary, but it was adopted handily.

First introduced in 2013, legalizing ticket scalping has

become more of a formality with the advent of second hand ticket websites giving people who can't use their tickets an opportunity to sell and giving others who can't get a ticket through the venue an opportunity to buy.

The law banning ticket scalping, selling a ticket for more than its printed value, is rarely enforced, with StubHub making available on the internet what folks hanging around stadiums and arenas have been doing for years.

The Barrett and Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor) bills stops companies from using software to quickly buy up a lot of tickets that it can resell

then later for more money. It stops a company from using the name of a venue on their webpage to trick customers into coming onto their page.

Also, anyone claiming to resell a ticket must have the ticket in hand or have a written contract that the ticket is coming into his or her possession.

If they don't, that information needs to be made clear to the customer. Anyone who doesn't have the ticket in hand, but is trying to get the ticket, can request a deposit. However, the broker must make it clear to the customer that the prospective deal might not come together.

"I was proud to work with a bipartisan coalition to pass a bill package that is fundamentally about consumer protections," Geiss said. "These bills ensure that no one has to be afraid of selling their tickets if they aren't able to make an event, that bad actors

can't buy tickets in bulk to hold the market hostage, and that when you buy a ticket, you can use it. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives and Governor Whitmer to pass these consumer protection reforms into law."

Voting "no" were: Sens. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids), Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), Curtis Hertel, Jr. (D-East Lansing), Adam Hollier (D-Detroit), Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford), Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo), Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), Curt VanderWall (R-Ludington), Paul Wojno (D-Warren) and Dale Zorn (R-Ida).

MacGregor said he appreciated the new consumer protections in the bill, but it lacked protections for local venues that employ thousands of Michiganders across the state.



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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider a request from CRP-2 LLC for major amendments to the Cumberland Ridge Planned Unit Development (PUD) which was originally approved in 2005. The requested major amendments are:

- 1) To construct 54 condominium dwelling units on the remaining undeveloped portion of the PUD instead of the 63 units allowed in the 2005 approval and;
- 2) To construct these dwelling units on slabs instead of on full basements as required in the 2005 approval.

A minor amendment to permit dusk to dawn exterior lights on each dwelling unit instead of streetlights has also been requested and will be considered by the Planning Commission.

**ADDRESS AND GENERAL LOCATION:** 1416 Cumberland Avenue SE which is on the west side of Cumberland Avenue and north of Center Hill Street within the existing Cumberland Ridge Condominium development. PP #: 41-20-05-276-001.

The hearing will be held:

**WHEN: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

**WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI. 49331**

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

Tim Clements, Secretary  
Lowell Charter Township  
Planning Commission



# Students explore educational and career pathways during Career and Technical Education Month

Career and technical education offers high school students hands-on training that can be applied to real-world, in-demand education, training and career pathways.

With more than 545,000 Michigan job openings through the year 2026, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer joins Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and Michigan Department of Education to declare February as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. During this month, state officials encourage students and their influencers to explore viable programs across the state that teach skills needed for high-demand, high-skill, high-wage career opportunities.

“It’s important that

Michigan students understand and explore all education and training pathways that lead to a prosperous future,” Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said. “Career and technical education programs offer academic, technical and employability skills that prepare our high school students for rewarding postsecondary education and 21st century career opportunities.”

Schools across Michigan offer CTE programs that are aligned with high-demand, high-wage careers in fields such as finance, health sciences, business marketing and administration, information technology, skilled trades and advanced manufacturing. Most

programs also offer early college credit opportunities to provide a seamless transition to postsecondary education.

“Jobs requiring skilled employees today, as well as jobs on the horizon, demand greater education and training than ever before” Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Director Jeff Donofrio said. “By completing CTE programs, students get a head start on their pathway to a certificate in professional trades, apprenticeships or a two- or four-year college degree – ultimately preparing them for these high-skill, high-demand careers.”

Enrollment in Michigan CTE programs is up by

over 6,000 students since 2015 with total enrollment exceeding 110,000 in 2019. The number of CTE program completers has increased from 27,014 in 2015 to 47,314 in 2019 – a 75 percent increase. More than 95 percent of students who complete a CTE program go on to attend a postsecondary educational institution, seek advanced career and technical education training, sign up for military service, or find employment within a year of graduation, according to the Michigan Department of Education.

Michigan’s data also shows that students who completed a CTE program, and went on to earn a two-year degree, earn an average starting wage that is \$4,300 more than their peers with no CTE.

“We need to continue expanding career and technical education programs in Michigan schools to ensure students have the real-world, hands-on experiences they need for rewarding career opportunities,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. “As we move to make Michigan a Top 10

education state in 10 years, it is important that we inspire and encourage students to explore all options along their educational journey.”

Students, parents, educators and life-long learners interested in exploring career options, training, wages and projected openings may visit the state’s Pathfinder website.

Additional information about professional trades careers, Career and Technical Education Month and programs can be found at [Going-PRO.com/CTE](http://Going-PRO.com/CTE) and on the Michigan Department of Education’s website.



**Managing Fear**

by Stan Popovich

## Your mental health is more important than obtaining wealth or fame

Some celebrities and successful people occasionally pick money and fame over their mental health issues. This can be a fatal mistake in the long run. Money and fame will not help solve your mental health issues. Here are 7 things to consider regarding your mental health and the pursuit of money and fame.

1. People can’t control their own fame: A person must understand that fame comes and goes and that a person has no control over his or her popularity. Fame is elusive and can’t be controlled. Your mental health issues will remain with you for your entire life.

2. You will be miserable: You can’t enjoy your successes if your mental health issues are overwhelming you. Learning how to manage your mental health issues is the best thing you can do for yourself in the long run.

3. You will have to deal with the consequences:

Only you will experience the consequences when your fears and anxieties get the best of you. Money and fame will not take away your fears and anxieties regardless what anyone says. Don’t make the mistake of assuming otherwise.

4. Fear won’t rule your life: You will be in control of your life instead of your anxieties, addictions, and fears. Always being anxious and fearful is no way to live your life. Make the effort to do what you can to manage your mental health issues. You will be better off in the long run.

5. Always remember your values: Your values will be with you for your entire life while your fame lasts for a short time. Do what is right and follow your heart. Don’t give in to peer pressure. When the cameras disappear, it will be just you, your family, and closest friends.

6. You will enjoy your relationships: Managing

your mental health issues will help you to manage and enjoy your business and personal relationships. In addition, you will be able to make better decisions regarding your relationships and other aspects of your life.

7. Learn from the mistakes of others: There are many successful people who made the mistake of sacrificing their mental health for money and fame. As a result, their entire life was ruined and some of them even committed suicide. Don’t make the same mistake. If you are not sure of what to do in handling your fame, then talk to a professional who can give you some advice.

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 at <http://www.managingfear.com/>

## Today: February 5, 2020

February 5 is the 36th day of 2020. There are 329 days remaining until the end of the year.

### HISTORIC EVENTS

62: Earthquake in Pompeii, Italy.

1597: A group of early Japanese Christians are killed by the government of Japan for being seen as a threat to Japanese society.

1649: Charles Stuart, son of King Charles I, is declared King Charles II of England and Scotland by Scottish Parliament.

1778: South Carolina becomes the second state to ratify the Articles of Confederation.

1807: HMS Blenheim and HMS Java disappear off the coast of Rodrigues, Madagascar.

1907: Belgian chemist Leo Baekeland announces the creation of Bakelite, the world’s first synthetic plastic.

1913: Greek military aviators, Michael Moutoussis and Aristeidis Moraitinis perform the first naval air mission in history, with a Farman MF.7 hydroplane.

1917: The current constitution of Mexico is adopted.

1917: US Congress passes the Immigration Act of 1917 over President Woodrow Wilson’s veto.

1918: Stephen W. Thompson shoots down a German airplane, the first

aerial victory by the US military.

1918: SS Tuscania is torpedoed off the coast of Ireland, the first ship carrying American troops to Europe ever to be torpedoed and sunk.

1919: Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and D.W. Griffith launch United Artists.

1924: The Royal Greenwich Observatory begins broadcasting the hourly time signals known as the Greenwich Time Signal.

1939: Generalissimo Francisco Franco begins his rule of Spain.



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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

## SPORTS

## Assembly dual delivers electric wrestling atmosphere

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

Over 700 LHS students and fans packed the Lowell Performing Arts Center for a dual between the Lowell wrestling team and Brighton. Music from DJ Jeffrey Schildroth played

fans who were also able to attend the event would continue at 160 and 171 as Doak Dean and Jacob Lee both won decisions.

The Red Arrows led 18-0 after 171, and 21-3

front of our home crowd. We came up a little short, but I feel like we have been improving each week, and that holds true with this week. Brighton is a really

good team and we really appreciate them making the trip out to Lowell,” Coach Boudro told us.

With the score at 21-18, the bell rang which meant an exodus of the students who had provided a majority of the crowd had to leave for the day. Prior to this however, Lowell students were actively engaged in

the dual, which was only available to the first 600 students who signed up. Throughout the early stages of the match, students could be seen holding up two fingers for takedowns and cheering on their fellow students. Small pockets of Brighton and Lowell parents were able to attend as well.

“The assembly dual was a great way to put an end to our regular season. The atmosphere that was created is like none you will ever see, and I feel like it will help us a ton when it comes to the postseason

and possibly making a run at another state title.”

Later that day, Lowell dominated Forest Hills Central to continue their undefeated run in conference duals. Easton Lyons, Ramsy Mutschler, Zeth Strejc, Cole Huisman, Will Link, Keegan Nugent, Jacob Hough, Jacob Lee, James Fotis, and Doak Dean all recorded wins via pinfall. Karan Shahi won a decision and Ali Williams received a win via void to close out scoring for the Red Arrows. Forest Hills Central won via void at 215, and via decision at 125. The final

score was 69-9.

LHS will have the OK White Conference Meet this week with districts starting next week.

On Sunday at the Michigan Wrestling Association’s girls state championship, Lowell’s Reese Gonzales won her second state championship as an individual. Lowell entered two wrestlers and tied for sixth as a team with Constantine. Allison Williams, Lowell’s other wrestler went 1-2 on the day. Forest Hills Central won the team portion of the event.



James Fotis pins his opponent.

throughout the dual and the draw would provide for an exciting start.

Undeclared senior, Austin Boone kicked off the event. Boone pinned his opponent, as did James Fotis who came up at 152, sending the Lowell students into celebration. The excitement for the LHS students and the select few

after a decision by Grant Pratt 215, but wouldn’t record a win after that falling to Brighton by a score of 35-21. Division 1’s number three ranked team went on an eight-match win streak to end the dual.

“We wrestled one of the best teams in the country and I thought we performed pretty well in

good team and we really appreciate them making the trip out to Lowell,” Coach Boudro told us.

With the score at 21-18, the bell rang which meant an exodus of the students who had provided a majority of the crowd had to leave for the day. Prior to this however, Lowell students were actively engaged in



Lowell students pack the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

## Ski preparing for regionals

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

Last Wednesday in ski action at Cannonsburg, the Lowell ski team faced some tough snow conditions, but earned some good results nonetheless. In slalom, Kaylee Byrne took third for the Red Arrows. Colton Byrne took third in grand slalom, while Preston Sobeck took 17th in slalom.

At Caberfae on Friday, Kaylee Byrne would pace the Arrows in slalom along with Gina Redondo. Bryne’s time of 49.11 was good for third place.

In grand slalom, Kaylee’s time of 59.9 seconds was the only sub-minute result in the field of 64 as she took first place. Emma Schmidt was also one of the top two skiers for LHS in this event.

Cole Lillie led the co-ed team in the grand slalom with a time of 1:16.77 over his two runs. In the field of 65, Colton Byrne’s time of 1:04.91 was good for 35th place in slalom.

Regionals for the ski team take place next Monday at Caberfae.

Photo courtesy Lowell Red Arrows ski team.

Red Arrow

**BASKETBALL** **SPORTS**

**Basketball teams honor our heroes**

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

Both Lowell Basketball teams participated in their annual Heroes Night on Friday. Each team honored a hero in their lives with many honoring those serving in the Military such as Faith Stepek who played in honor of her Grandfather, John Schnieder. A former Lowell Area Schools employee, John served in the Korean War in the US Army.

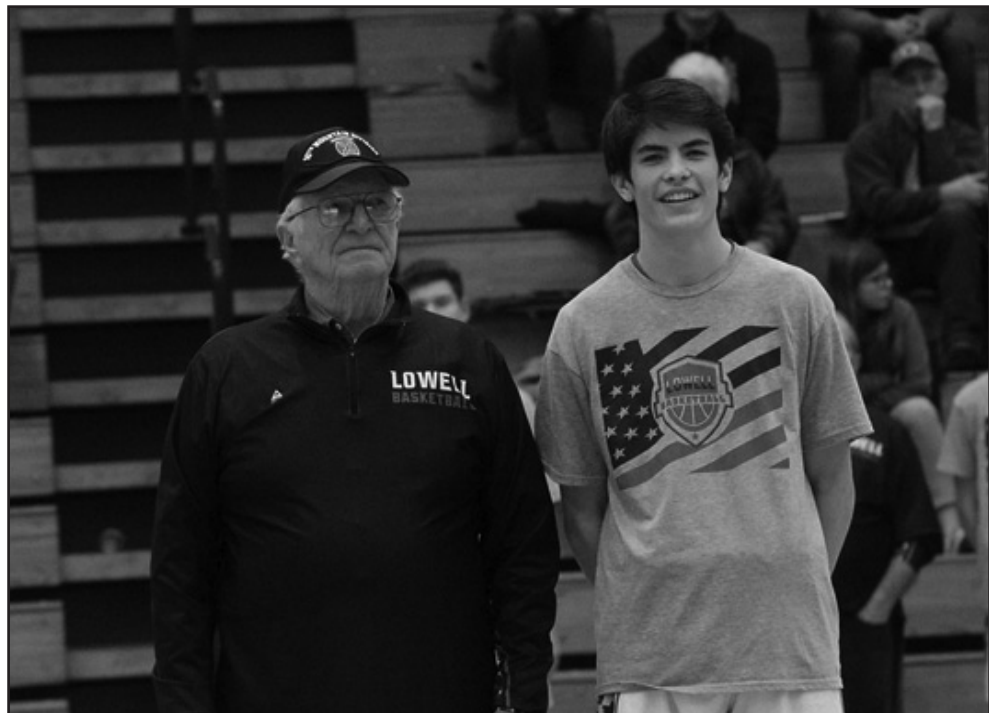
Others paid tribute to a first responder, such as a police officer, firefighter, 9-1-1 operator, or paramedic.

One of those was Jacob Cleaver, who honored family friend Jason Lowrie. Lowrie has served as a patrol officer and detective with the Grand Rapids Police Department.

Coaches Travis Slanger and Heath Kent coached in honor of the athletic department's hero Betsy Maki. Maki, who served as an administrative assistant with the athletic department for the past 26 years, retired on Friday. Each Lowell team wore special jerseys

that paid tribute to our heroes.

During the boys game, Lowell took advantage of a young Wayland team as they overpowered the Wildcats 62-39. The Arrows went into the half up 11 thanks in part to a buzzer-beater at the end of the first half. Nolan Cusack inbounded the ball three-quarters of the way down the court and found Brett Spanbauer who hit a jumper as time expired. Two of 20 points on the night for Spanbauer, he was able to



**Junior Brad VandenHout honoring family friend Ken Mankel, who served in the US Army from 1955-1959.**



**The Lady Arrows react to a basket during Friday's win over Wayland.**

get down low and put away tough shots consistently throughout the evening.

The Lady Arrows had a real defensive battle on their hands to start the game. Against Wayland, the Red Arrows went into halftime up 13-4 in a defensive first half. LHS would carry the momentum into the second half and pulled away from Wayland by a final score of

38-17. Molly Frederickson led the Red Arrows with 14 points, while junior Addison Buckius added eight points.

Against Ottawa Hills, the boys fell in a road game, while the girls beat the Bengals 62-29. Winners of their last two, the girls team is on the road this week at Caledonia and Northview. The boys, who have now won 3 of their last 4, host

Caledonia Tuesday and travel to Northview on Friday.

The wins for the Lady Arrows this week move the team to 10-2 historically against Ottawa Hills. It was also the program's first win over Wayland, now 1-1 against the Wildcats.

**Hockey firing on all cylinders as postseason play looms**

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

Winners of five straight games and six of their last seven, the Lowell-Caledonia Hockey team is on a tear with postseason play approaching.

At the Chelsea Showcase this past weekend, Lowell-Caledonia put up eight goals on Petoskey in an 8-5 win and beat Pinckney 3-1.

In the win over Pinckney, Dominic Huver's goal at 14:46 with the game tied at 1-1 proved to be the game-winner assisted by Austin Douma. Wade Fridley would add an empty netter to finish off the victory. Fridley also assisted Lowell-Caledonia's first goal scored by Dylan Olsen.

The team is at Grand Rapids Christian this Wednesday, and at home vs. East Kentwood on Saturday. LC drew the Muskegon district for regionals this year. Their region consists of Reeths-Puffer, Traverse City St. Francis, Northview, West Catholic, Traverse City West, Lowell-Caledonia, and Grand Haven. First round of regionals will take place February 25th against Grand Haven at Muskegon's LC Walker Arena.



**Lowell Caledonia during a game earlier this season.**

# obituaries

## HOOVER

Margaret (Peg Tesch) Hoover, 90, of Lowell, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 28th to join her husband of 65 years, Jacob Hoover. Peg was born in Sparta, Michigan on 9/6/1929 to John & Alvena (Strouse) Tesch and was blessed with one sister, Rachel (Tesch) Przybylo and one brother, John/Bud Tesch along with 10 Brother in laws and 8 Sister in laws that all preceded her in death. She leaves behind to mourn her loss Sons, Jacob (Sharon) Hoover, Vince (Lucy) Hoover, Matt (Kathy) Hoover and Daughter, Judy Hoover-Brown (Tony Chopp). Grandchildren, Jen (Chad) Tolson, Brianne (Matt) Schuiteman, Aaron (Sarah) Hoover, Andrew Hoover, Lisa Brown, Michael Brown, Devon Chopp and Derek Chopp. Great-grandchildren Cooper and Easton Tolson, Brody and Brock Schuiteman along with countless nieces and nephews and dozens of "adopted" children and grandchildren. Peg retired from Amway Corporation, wintered in Florida, supported the Grand Valley Blood Program and was a very active member of St. Mary's Church in Lowell. Peg's memory for numbers and dates impressed everyone. Her favorite past times were traveling (reached her 50th State on her 60th birthday), collecting knick-knacks, reading and crocheting more doilies than anyone might ever need. Visitation was Sunday, February 2, 2-5 pm with the Rosary recited at 4 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, February 3, 11:00 am at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St. S.E., Lowell with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Aaron Ferris presiding. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. In Lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Kindred Hospice, 625 Kenmoor Ave SE #115, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or St. Mary's Church, Lowell.



## OESCH

Joseph R. Oesch, age 93 of Alto, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Monday, January 27, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Melva Oesch; grandsons, Joseph Robert and Freddie; sisters, Ella Louise Blough, Virginia Schutte, Kate Wheeler, Margaret Oesch; and brother, Ernie Oesch. Joseph is survived by his children, Fredrick (Donna) Oesch, Bonnie (David) Stouffer, Sam (Randi) Oesch, Ken "Peny" (Denise) Oesch, Jeff (Brenda) Oesch, Tom (Michelle) Oesch, Sally (Don) Meyer; sister, Marilyn Byam; brothers-in-law, Gary (Jane) Crosby, Jim Crosby; sisters-in-law, Donna (Sim) Maier, Polly Vanderstel; 25 grandchildren; 57 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild, Thea; and many nieces and nephews. Joseph was first and foremost "a servant of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ". He was a lifelong dairy farmer in Alto. Alongside his wife Melva, they owned Oesch Soft Serve Ice-cream Wagon, where he enjoyed serving children ice-cream and skittles. He was known as "Skittleman" by all. Joseph will always be remembered by neighbors out mowing the grass up until the end, as it brought him great joy. Visitation was Thursday, January 30, from 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center, 7700 Wingeier Ave. SE, Alto, MI 49302. Funeral services were Friday, January 31, 10:30 AM at the Apostolic Christian Church, 7157 Wingeier Ave. SE, Alto, MI 49302. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE, Suite 300, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546; Legacies Assisted Living, 9031 North Rodgers, Ct. SE, Caledonia, MI 49316, or the Apostolic Christian Church.



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You can also use your *my Social Security* account to see your entire work history to be sure we have all of your wages recorded correctly, which is important because we base your benefit amount on the earnings reported to us. If you find an error with your work history, read this publication for more information: [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf).

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*Vonda Van Til is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at [vontil@ssa.gov](mailto:vontil@ssa.gov).*

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...  
**I love sleep. My life has the tendency to fall apart when I'm awake, you know?**  
**- Ernest Hemingway**

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1	6	9	7	3	5	4	8	2
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# classifieds

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## 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, Winter Fest, 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, 7 pm. 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

- SWIM &amp; DIVE

## SPORTS

## CLS wins big in Barry County, but both teams happy

by Brett Bremer  
J-ad Sports Editor

It isn't very often that both teams are so excited after one beats another by more than 60 points. That can happen at the pool though, where competitors are racing themselves and the clock as much as their opposition at times.

The Caledonia-Lowell-South Christian (CLS) varsity boys' swimming and diving team improved its OK Rainbow Conference Tier II record to 3-0 with a 125-61 victory over the host Barry County Barracudas (the new name of the Delton Kellogg-Thornapple Kellogg-Hastings boys' program) at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings Thursday.

Guys are pushing for school records, state cuts and personal records as hard as they're pushing for team victories. The CLS guys were clearly a step above the Barry County guys, winning all 12 events in the dual.

CLS senior Alexander Pollock set a new personal record by seven tenths of a second in winning the 100-yard breaststroke in 1 minute 1.28 seconds Thursday, finishing just a tenth of a second off the Division 1 State Meet qualifying time. He has already qualified for the state finals in the 50-yard freestyle, a race he won in 23.09 seconds Thursday.

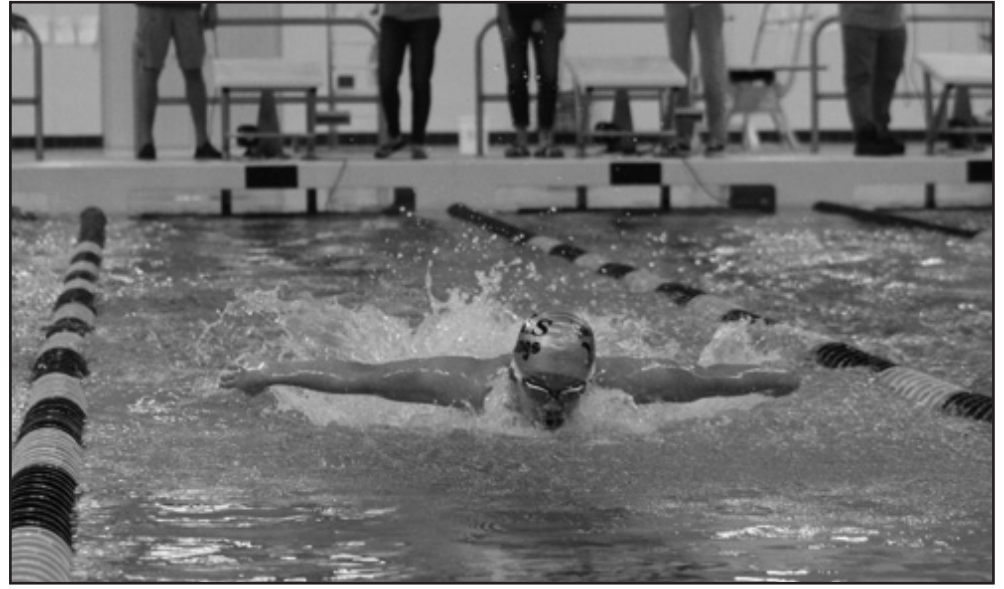
He was one of four CLS guys to win two individual races. Fellow senior Emmet Schmebling won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:53.65 and the 500-yard freestyle in 5:14.90. Sophomore Zach Logan won the 100-yard freestyle for the Vikings in 50.91 before taking the 100-yard backstroke in 59.97. Junior Alexander Le won the 200-yard individual medley in 2:08.89 and added a winning time of 57.22 seconds in the 100-yard butterfly by out-touching Barry County's Sam Randall at the finish. Randall was the runner-up in an outstanding

time of his own at 57.80.

CLS head coach Trenton Babcock was happy with how all of his guys swam Thursday, and was able to point to Le as an example of how his team's process oriented work is making guys faster all the time.

"We had a lot of guys show out tonight," Babcock said. "Alex Le, a junior, he swam really well, got some PRs. He's been putting in the work, especially on streamlines and doing the little things right, like working on fast turns, working on improving in his technique for his backstroke. It showed in his IM and his butterfly down the stretch. We've been working on our finishes. He touched a guy out in our 100-fly that showed to me he has put in the requisite work, the time and effort."

While CLS sophomore Ty Dykhous was the runner-up to Pollock with a time of 24.30 in the 50-yard freestyle, one of the



CLS Viking junior Alexander Le swims to victory in the 100-yard butterfly during his team's OK Rainbow Conference Tier II win over the Barry County Barracudas Thursday at Hastings High School.

highlights of the night for the Barry County boys junior Jon Arnold's finish in the race. He was third in 24.87, the first Barracuda to finish the race in less than 25 seconds this season and a new personal record for Arnold.

"We have been so close the last few meets just hovering at like 25.0, 25.1, so I told them today, 'all right guys, today one of you goes under 25 or next week you all swim the butterfly,'" new Barry County head coach DJ Cochran said. "So, they had the little bit of extra incentive."

The rest of those freestyle sprinters for Barry County chasing that mark this season have been freshman Jack Kensington and junior Britton Stevens, who didn't compete in the 50 free Thursday.

"That has been something we randomly stumbled into," Cochran said. "We call them our black cap gang, because they all wear just solid black caps. If you watch them swim they're all in a line with each other. The first meet of the season we were just trying to find events for some of the kids, because Jack is a freshman in there, Britton it is his first year back swimming after taking a year off playing basketball last year, and that first race they just went 1-2-3 right in a line with each other, so we have just been sticking with it. They're in a lane together every practice, so the three of them are just constantly pushing each other. They've been betting back and forth who is going to take that top spot."

Having guys like Pollock and Dykhous to chase certainly helped Arnold Thursday too.

Pollock and Dykhous led off CLS's victory in the 200-yard medley relay to open the night. They joined Ethan Arendsen and Logan for a time of 1:42.33 in the race.

That first event followed a moment of silence for Thornapple Kellogg junior Lydia Cole, who lost her months long battle with cancer just after midnight Thursday morning. Cole was a member of the Delton Kellogg-Thornapple Kellogg-Hastings varsity girls' swimming and diving team for three years. A few of her teammates were on hand, taking their usual place helping out on the bulkhead, wearing their purple Team Lydia shirts that were a part of the girls' program's annual cancer awareness meet in the fall.

CLS guys went on to win all three relay races. Schmebling, Logan, Mason Stanley and Zach Burghraef won the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:37.52 and the team of Le, Burghraef, Arendsen and Pollock won the 400-yard freestyle relay in 3:35.91.

CLS senior Logan Morse won the diving competition with 189.35 points, with Barry County junior Gram Price second with a score of 179.40. Barry County had the second, third and fourth place finishers in the event, with junior Blake Sheldon less than half a point behind Price in third place.

"I'm happy with it," Babcock said of his team's progress so far this winter.

"Our team is doing pretty well this year. Honestly, they're working hard. They come in every day and put in the work. We have been working on being process oriented, working on process-based goals like getting better at being good in practice, focusing on certain technique things in practice and then focusing on what we can control at meets. I think it has been paying dividends and the kids are buying in."

Babcock is in his second season leading the CLS program. The boys are the defending Tier II champions.

Cochran is a first-year head coach, but is no newcomer to the league. He spent the past couple seasons as an assistant with the Ottawa Hills program. He was intrigued to get the chance to lead a program of his own when he learned at the conference meet a year ago that DK-TK-HHS's long-time coach Tyler Bultema was retiring.

"I applied for it, and it was the most nerve-wracking interview of my life with three different athletic directors, six different parents, you've got the boosters on there," Cochran said. "Everybody is going on down the line asking you questions."

One of the first things he did with the guys was to work out a new name for the program as a whole, with the coach and many of his swimmers happy to build a new identity and not have to spend so much time rattling off the three-school, co-op title for the team.

## Esports popularity growing in West Michigan

Esports is becoming very popular for students in eighth through twelfth grades at Lowell Area Schools. Since about ten months ago, approximately 30 students have been involved in the Lowell Esports Club.

Games presently being played include Fortnite, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Rocket League, League of Legends, Overwatch and Apex Legends. Practices and competitions are held on a regular basis. Several

West Michigan schools, including East Grand Rapids, East Kentwood, Sparta, Godfrey-Lee, Kalamazoo Loy Norrix, Grand Rapids Catholic Central and Lowell, have teams competing in this start-up league.

For more information, contact Al Eckman at 616-450-4332 or aeckman@lowellschools.com.

**Pictured: Logan Smith, Landon Burgess, Hunter Wieland and Peter Kooi of Lowell's Fortnite Esports team competing at Aquinas College's Esports Lab. Smith and Burgess finished in first place against eight teams from East Grand Rapids, Sparta and Lowell.**



# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

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!

# GOOD SIGHT WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

GOOD SIGHT WORD SEARCH

CATARACT  
CONTACTS  
CORNEA  
DISORDER  
EYES  
EYESIGHT  
FOCUS  
GLASSES

INSTRUMENTS  
LENS  
MYOPIA  
OFFICE  
OPHTHALMOLOGIST  
OPTICIAN  
OPTOMETRIST  
REFLECTION

RETINA  
SCLERA  
VISION

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to vision.

S R I I

--	--	--	--

Answer: Iris

## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Colombia on February 2, 1977. I learned how to belly dance early as a child, and my dance moves and international flair helped launch a successful music career. I have since been a singing competition judge, and I am a mom to two boys.

Answer: Shakira

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
			22							23			24
25	26	27		28				29			30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42				43		44		
		45						46		47		48	
49	50		51			52				53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60						61					62		
63						64					65		
66						67					68		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Indicates number of days
- When you hope to get there
- Hairstyle
- Black (Spanish)
- Expresses pleasure
- Away from wind
- Tech pros organization
- Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
- Clean
- Saints' signal caller
- A way to hunt
- Poetries
- Automobile
- Secondary school (abbr.)
- Indicates before
- Male parent
- Short-billed rails
- It pays to keep yours
- On occasion
- David \_\_, US playwright
- Slang for cigarette
- Vaccine developer
- Returned to health
- Toni Morrison novel
- Period between eclipses
- Veterans battleground
- Gang
- A radio band
- Jaws of a voracious

### CLUES DOWN

- \_\_ Blyton, children's author
- Colleague
- "The African Queen" writer
- Crater on the moon
- Toward
- Overhang
- Identifies something close at hand
- Sign language
- Unbroken views
- Ancient Greek City
- Stretch out to grasp
- Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
- Humorous stories
- Long song for a solo

- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- City of Lights
- A place to sleep
- Advanced degree (abbr.)
- The back
- Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"
- Songs to a lover
- Gland secretion
- 10 meters
- Disfigure
- Stores grain
- Sacred book of Judaism
- Catch
- Promise
- Challenges
- Russian space station
- Banking giant
- Served as an omen
- Drenches
- Type of sword
- Minor planet
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Japanese ankle sock
- Obtain in return for services
- Waste matter
- A proposal to buy at a specified price
- Unit of loudness

# Chain of Lakes to perform at LowellArts on Leap Day

by Gerald Browning  
contributing reporter

Chain of Lakes, a folk rock group from Grand Rapids fronted by singer/songwriter Kyle Rasche, will bring their original and dynamic sound to Lowell in a few weeks.

The band was named after a collection of 14 lakes near Rasche's family cabin in Northern Michigan. Rasche spent a lot of precious time

at that cabin, it was even where he learned how to play the guitar. The band consists of Kyle Rasche (vocals and guitar), Mat Churchill (bass), Dana Jackson (vocals), Eric Ellis (drums) and Kyle VanderVeen (lead guitar). They have been creating and playing what they call "energetic folk/rock"



Chain of Lakes (Facebook photo)



Kyle Rasche (Facebook photo)

music for roughly ten years. Rasche credits the sound of the group to the "organic" collaboration with the other four members of Chain of Lakes.

"I've got some friends on the roster now," Rasche said. "I am the most blessed songwriter I know just to have the insane talent that's willing to help my music."

Rasche said he has a deep love for songs and songwriting, he is passionate about his songs and performances and his work ethic for composing comes from his love for the process.

He does not merely wait for inspiration. Instead, he focuses on creating, and the creative process is dictated by the pieces of music that he is working on at the time. What starts with a creative phrase and a few chord progressions can turn into a complex composition.

"I've always been in love with songs," Rasche said. "I love what makes a song a good song. I love what makes a song a specific genre. I love what makes a specific song great. The process of songwriting and making things is really the draw for

me. My creative process is an endeavor to write the best song that I can."

Rasche said he enjoys playing in Lowell and knows the community well. He relishes telling stories that people can relate to and appreciate. He said his goal at the Leap Day show is to bring Lowell stories in the tradition of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, and to create original music that is true to the identity of the band but still retains a hometown flair.

"As artists, we want nothing more than a room

full of people that are eager to listen to what we created," Rasche said. "For people to be able to listen to these stories and empathize is an absolute treasure."

Chain of Lakes will perform in the LowellArts gallery at 7 pm on Saturday, Feb. 29. If you want to listen to some of their music for free, visit [chainoflakesband.bandcamp.com](http://chainoflakesband.bandcamp.com); the band is also on social media. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. To purchase advance tickets or for more information, visit [lowellartsmi.org](http://lowellartsmi.org) or call 616-897-8545.

# Groundbreaking last week at 'Riverview Flats' condos

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Ground was officially broken at Riverview Flats, the controversial condominium project, on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

The ground breaking took place with little ceremony and was attended only by the contractors hard at work converting the historic school into 16 residential units.

Unity School Investors principals Todd Schaal

and Jerry Zandstra issued a press release to the media:

"We completed our demolition and continue to be blessed with a mild winter, allowing us to break ground and begin construction. Also, based on the strong level of interest and pre-commitments, we have begun our design for units in Phase II. Beginning construction is really

where it gets exciting for us. We are thrilled to be redeveloping these iconic buildings where so many people recall attending school. It will be a beautiful anchor for the Riverwalk Park and we look forward to what the spring and summer will bring. Parties interested in information on condominium units may contact Todd Schaal at 616-822-6477."



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