

Lowell shuts down during COVID-19 outbreak

A Lowellian living in Italy



pages 2 - 4

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

To slow the spread of the coronavirus outbreak, on Monday, March 23 Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered all non-critical businesses to close and all residents to either stay home or maintain a six foot distance from others.

At this point, here in Lowell, most restaurants are open; only Flat River Grill and Main Street BBQ have announced they're closed. Most of the fast food chain restaurants have converted to drive-through only service, including Arby's, Biggby Coffee, Burger King, McDonald's, Subway and Taco Bell.



A much less busy downtown, as pictured on Tuesday, March 25.

out only, call 616-987-9307
New Union Brewery: take-out only, Tuesday through Friday 4 pm to 7 pm, Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 pm, call 616-319-7171

Red Barn Market: take-out only, call 616-987-3182

Sneaker's: take-out, full menu, specials on Facebook

Sweet Seasons Bakery & Cafe: full menu, take-out, 9 am - 2 pm Wednesday - Friday, 8 am - 1 pm Saturday

Lowell city hall, Lowell Charter Township, Vergennes Township and Lowell Light & Power offices are closed to visitors. LowellArts is closed and the Lowell Area Historical Museum is closed to patrons, but you can still explore the museum's artifacts at <https://collection.lowellmuseum.org/>.

Before they were finally forced to close for the outbreak, Chimera Design, 208 E. Main, was having specials such as free ring

Lowell, continued, page 7

Other restaurant information:

Big Boiler Brewing: take-out/delivery (including beer), creating small \$2 food orders to help parents feed kids while they're away from school, menu is on Facebook, \$15 minimum

order within two mile radius, \$30 minimum order in 2.1 - four mile radius

Fairway Fish Fry: take-out, Fridays from 5 pm - 8 pm

Fry Daddy's: take-out, call half hour in advance, menu on Facebook

Keiser's Kitchen: take-out, chicken strips, fish and fries on Friday from 4 pm - 7 pm, limited menu on Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 1 pm

La Te Da's: take-out, full menu, delivery within five miles

Larkin's: food, beer and wine take-out, 4 pm - 7 pm Monday through Saturday

Miss P's Catering: delivery of small catered breakfasts and lunches, call 616-437-2006, menu at misspscatering.com

Mynt Fusion Bistro: take-

City council meeting



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Gov. Whitmer signs "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order

Governor directs all non-critical businesses to temporarily close, all Michiganders to stay home or six feet away from others during COVID-19 crisis

Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order (EO 2020-21), directing all Michigan businesses and operations to temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. The order also directs Michiganders to stay in their homes unless they're a part of that critical infrastructure workforce, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, like going to the hospital or grocery store.

Effective at 12:01 am on March 24, 2020, for at least the next three weeks, individuals may only leave their home or place of residence under very limited circumstances, and they must adhere to social distancing measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention when they do so, including remaining at least six feet from people from outside the individual's household to the extent feasible under the



Gov. Whitmer about to sign the order on Monday, March 23.

circumstances.

"In just 13 days, we've gone from 0 to over 1,000 COVID-19 cases," said Governor Whitmer. "This is an unprecedented crisis that requires all of us working together to protect our families and our communities. The most effective way we can slow down the virus is to stay

home. I know this will be hard, but it will be temporary. If we all come together, get serious, and do our part by staying home, we can stay safe and save lives."

"Taking aggressive action to protect our communities is the most important thing we can do to mitigate further spread of COVID-19," said Michigan Department of

Health and Human Services Chief Deputy for Health and Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun. "If we do this now, we can make sure our hospitals and healthcare workers are prepared to take care of the sickest people. It is crucial that people do the right thing by staying home and staying safe."

Executive Order 2020-21

prohibits all businesses and operations from requiring workers to leave their homes, unless those workers are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations. Businesses and operations are to designate the workers that meet those criteria, and must adopt social distancing practices and other mitigation measures to protect workers and patrons in the performance of that necessary in-person work.

Workers that are necessary to sustain or protect life include those in health care and public health, law enforcement and public safety, grocery store workers, and more. For a full list of these critical infrastructure workers, click the link to Executive Order 2020-21 at the bottom of this page.

Additionally, under Executive Order 2020-21, all public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring among persons outside a single household are temporarily prohibited. People may leave the house to perform for limited,

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Expat Lowellian reports from Italy about coronavirus



Tenley Ysseldyke on Skype from Italy on Monday, March 23.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Italy is second only to China in the total number of cases of coronavirus, with over 63,000 positive tests as of Monday, March 23, and Italy leads the world with most deaths from the virus. America is currently in third place for number of cases, but the virus is spreading rapidly here.

Coronavirus was first detected in Italy on Jan. 31, when two Chinese tourists tested positive in Rome. A week later, the third case was brought into the country by an Italian man returning from a trip to Wuhan, China. On Jan. 31, all flights into Italy from China were suspended and a countrywide state of emergency was declared. The first deaths from the disease in Italy took place on Feb. 22. The Italian government placed all of Italy in quarantine on March 10, and on March 11 almost all commerce except for supermarkets and pharmacies were closed, and further closings and travel restrictions were announced on March 21.

Tenley Ysseldyke, LHS

class of 1983, has lived in Italy for the past eight years and has been maintaining a blog with a fascinating and humorous account of her experiences there during and before the pandemic.

Ysseldyke said she cherishes her memories of her time attending Lowell High School. Her family lived in the farthest reaches of the Lowell school district and she moved away to college immediately after finishing 12th grade. After attending Western Michigan University and Michigan State University, she lived and worked in Chicago from 1987 until 2012. Since then, Ysseldyke has been the only American residing in a remote town in the northern Italian province of Treviso, where she teaches English to native Italian speakers. She said that rural Italy is somewhat reminiscent of the Lowell area.

The official lockdown in Treviso began on March 9, but Ysseldyke has been in self-imposed exile since Feb. 23, the day she made her final excursion to the grocery store. She expressed concern that people in the States might

not be taking this pandemic as seriously as they should.

“For me it was serious before it was serious for anyone else,” Ysseldyke said during an interview conducted via Skype on Monday, March 23. “I just talked to a friend in Chicago who said she is still out taking walks. I said, ‘Well, do you need groceries?’ And she said, ‘No, but I go every day or so.’ She’s 77 years old!”

By law, Ysseldyke’s travel is currently limited to a 200 meter radius around her home. Luckily the neighbors don’t mind if she hops the fence on the frequent walks she takes to stay active and pass the time.

“Today was the first day of my 200 meter restriction,” Ysseldyke said during the Skype interview. “I can only travel 200 meters from home. So I Googled it. I drew a little circle. I had to climb my neighbor’s fence. I asked him first if I could! I got in six and a half miles there, just going back and forth, back and forth.”

Her description of the early days of the outbreak in Italy sounded eerily like the past few weeks in Michigan. First jokes and bluster, then discomfort as the number of cases quickly increased.

“People said that if the virus ever really spread in Italy, we would be doomed,” Ysseldyke wrote in a post dated Feb. 24. “Jokes flew freely because Italy’s initial few cases and the cases in France and Germany had stopped increasing. On Friday afternoon, the 21st of February, we had four cases. With my usual obsessive check before bed I know the number was higher, but I can’t remember how much higher. That night, it still wasn’t alarming enough to count sheep.”

“At 10 am on Saturday, the 22nd of February there were 22 cases,” Ysseldyke wrote in a second Feb. 24 post. “At the same time the day before, there had

been only four. [...] [I] was shocked to see that the number was rising. At that time, the US had 35 cases and Italy was still below that. But as I approached home after a one-hour walk, we had hit 39. More cases in tiny little Italy than all of the United States.”

Her final trip for provisions was during the brief calm before the storm. The situation in Italy was escalating rapidly, but people were not yet in preparation mode.

“On Sunday, February 23 I had one thing on my mind, getting groceries before everyone else woke

from and wondered how close they were to the ones that were already locked down. I decided cans were the safest and had the longest shelf life in case we continued following in China’s footsteps (more than a month.) I bought lots of rice and lots of pasta, but I’m embarrassed to tell you just how much. Three bottles of olive oil seemed like enough. My cart was filled with toilet paper and paper towels. I couldn’t find little bottles of hand sanitizer, that had already been sold out. So I went to the first aid section and bought five bottles of the

close and crackers seemed like a good substitute. The two giant bags of potatoes made me think of photos during the war that I’ve seen in museums and films. In addition to no hand sanitizer, there were also no masks. That’s proof that even though I was the only one filling up a cart with groceries on Sunday morning, I wasn’t the only one planning ahead. The cashiers had unmasked smiles and gloveless hands, but I wondered how long that would last. I, on the other hand, was bundled up with my high collared coat and favorite mittens, which



“Somewhere over the rainbow there’s Italy, number one on the list for blue skies and dreams and number two on the list of worldwide coronavirus cases. We’re hopeful that soon our troubles will melt like lemon drops and Italy will once again be that pot of gold.” [photo and caption by Tenley Ysseldyke, March 9, 2020, one day before nationwide lockdown]

up,” Ysseldyke wrote on Feb. 26. “What do you buy when you don’t really know what’s happening? All I could think of were the photos I’d seen of Wuhan on lockdown. And the closed grocery stores. And the ghost towns. And I wondered if I was about to enter the same situation. I told myself that fresh produce wasn’t safe. Who had put it on the shelves? I didn’t even trust bags of lettuce. I checked to see what towns they came

stuff you put on fresh cuts to kill the bacteria. I bought five colorful bottles of pink alcohol to sterilize surfaces that needed sterilizing, lots of envelopes of soup like Mrs. Grass with the bouillon cube and three huge bags of individualized packs of soda crackers. I was afraid the bakeries would

I put in the laundry basket as soon as I got home.”

As she approached her home, Ysseldyke wrote that she was greeted with a disturbing sight.

“When I arrived at my street I saw the ambulance boat parked at the dock,” Ysseldyke wrote on Feb. 24. “All of my neighbors

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Expat Lowellian reports from Italy about coronavirus

were out by the lagoon whispering and looking down my calle (that's what you call a street in Venice). I stopped, a little wobbly, to sit on the wall alone. I'm not one for ambulances - even if they're boats. A neighbor came over and explained what was happening. The family that lived next door to me was being tested for the coronavirus. I waited with the others. When I saw them leaving my calle I looked away. But not before seeing the medical team in their lime green suits with gloves and glasses and masks carrying a plastic garbage can back to their boat. I really didn't even look, but the quick glimpse is an image that won't fade."

Ysseldyke's job as a private English teacher means she has lessons in her home, in coffee shops, offices, anywhere that is convenient for her clients. Before it got out of hand, Ysseldyke said she observed that many had overconfident, blasé attitudes about the pandemic, a sentiment that may sound familiar to many Americans.

"The past couple of days that the coronavirus has been running around northern Italy, I've received a whole lot of messages that say this: 'I'm not afraid of the coronavirus,'" Ysseldyke wrote on Feb. 27. "And when I sent a message to cancel English lessons a few of them wrote, 'For the virus?! Oh, okay Tenley. See you next week.' They seemed to be saying that I was the dumb one here."

On Wednesday, March 25, all 60 million residents of Italy will have been on lockdown for 15 days. The official lockdown in Ysseldyke's province of Treviso began one day before that, and her self-imposed quarantine began two weeks earlier. It's scheduled to end on April 3, but that deadline is likely to be extended.

"On March 10 at 9:40 pm the Prime Minister gave a live update of the coronavirus outbreak in Italy," Ysseldyke wrote on March 12. "Instead of a list of everything that's closed, it's much easier to tell you what's still open. Grocery stores. Post offices. Banks. Pharmacies."

Because of drastic restrictions on commerce and travel, Ysseldyke is among those whose source of income has been curtailed or eliminated. She still does some lessons electronically, but not nearly as many as

before the pandemic. "I can't have any more English lessons," Ysseldyke wrote on March 10. "First, because all forms of private lessons must be stopped immediately. And secondly, because most of my students live in the province next door where I'm no longer welcome. The only people that can move between locked down and non-locked down provinces are commuters. If they're stopped, they have to show proof of their place of employment. And if they have no proof, they'll be fined. Schools and universities are closed. All events are canceled. Pools and gyms are closed. I'm not so sure about public transportation. Funerals and weddings can be attended only by close family."

Even during strict lockdown rules, there are still some selfish, inconsiderate souls who refuse to do their part to impede the spread of the virus.

"The current rule in Italy during the coronavirus lockdown is that only

one person in the family is allowed to shop [...] and that one person can only shop for articles of the utmost necessity," Ysseldyke wrote on March 17. "That's why it's hard for me to understand why some of my friends feel the need to grocery shop again and again. I went 22 days ago and I haven't been back. I don't really like much of what I'm eating, but I eat. [...] These rule-breaking friends make me mad, both angry and crazy. My initial frustration came out of concern for them. They shouldn't be out so much, they shouldn't touch the dirty shopping cart and then accidentally touch their mouth or eyes, they shouldn't be in a place where they might be sneezed on. But this frustration has since turned to anger because I don't think they're doing their part. For the moment, I have enough food to avoid the grocery store. But one of these days I'll have to go because I'll have run out of canned peas and pasta."

"I've learned how to



"I'm not sure why it looks like I'm giving the peace sign. I think I was just trying to get used to the gloves. Or maybe it's foreshadowing that peaceful times are coming." [photo and caption supplied by Tenley Ysseldyke]

make do," Ysseldyke said on Skype. "But I don't have fresh vegetables, I don't have lettuce, I don't have fruit, and I would rather go without all that than go to the grocery store. I know, I won't die if I go to the grocery store! When I finally don't have any more stuff, I'll go. But for now, I don't have to. For me, it just doesn't make sense. I know that I don't have [coronavirus] because I haven't been anywhere."

Ysseldyke said she was already "a worrywart" before this, so dealing with the isolation, paranoia and insecurity of the coronavirus pandemic has put her through a tremendous amount of stress.

"My fear of the coronavirus in Italy has

brought on a handful of new habits," wrote on March 19. "Opening doors, turning on faucets, checking the fridge, turning on lights, pulling out chairs, opening the fireplace, sweeping, opening the door, turning on the shower (well, I guess I'm sleeveless at that point, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't stand there perplexed for a second) are all done with my sleeves. The undoing of these tasks is done with my sleeves, too."

To help cope with some of the stress, Ysseldyke said she always brings a "coronavirus emergency kit" along with whenever she leaves the house, containing items like a pen, plastic gloves, paper towels and alcohol. She also spends time writing

- especially on her blog - taking frequent walks around the countryside and working on "a million projects."

We will continue to check in with Ysseldyke in upcoming editions of the Lowell Ledger. To keep up with Ysseldyke's blog entries, visit <http://10leaves.blogspot.com>.

"The rapid spread of the coronavirus is the dangerous part," wrote on March 17. "The spread is why there aren't enough test kits or hospital beds. It's essential to learn from the first unfortunate countries that had no guidelines and stop the spread now."

One of Ysseldyke's blog entries is printed on page 4 of this edition.



"I asked my neighbor if I could climb his fence and I discovered this. If only my 200 meters didn't stop at the bottom of the hill." [photo and caption by Tenley Ysseldyke]

Lowell Women's Club Student Member Applicant

If you are a current high school junior applying for student membership in LWC for the 2020-21 school year, please read the following:

- If you have already submitted your application to the LHS Student Service Center, you need not take any further action.
- If you are holding an unsubmitted application, please mail it to the address below by April 5.
- If you had an application but left it at school, you may mail a request for a new one to the address below.

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Guidelines for food rationing during the coronavirus lockdown

by Tenley Ysseldyke
foreign correspondent

Before most Italians were very worried about the coronavirus, I Americana was starting to panic. I did my grocery shopping early. I didn't clear out the shelves, I was just thinking ahead. No more weekends on the island meant I needed more food at the house in the country. No more trips to the pizzeria meant I needed frozen pizza. I certainly bought more than I've ever bought before, but I only filled one cart. I even thought I'd be laughing at myself in a week or so when my cupboards were filled with this extra stuff that I don't really even like and I was back to going out for pizza.

That was three weeks ago. I still have almost everything I bought. I've been eating the old stuff that's been in the cupboard for months. There are jars of things I never sent as Christmas gifts because the package weighed too much at the post office, so I removed them. I found boxes of tea that I tried and didn't like and had frivolously gone out to buy new flavors.

Today I ate frozen zucchini curry soup that had gone uneaten because I'd added too much peperoncino. It's homemade soup because in Italy we don't have an aisle dedicated to Campbell's.

Don't get the wrong idea. Grocery stores in Italy are still open, but I haven't been in one for three weeks. Living without lettuce and carrots seems a little easier than living with the Coronavirus. I'm sure I'm overexaggerating, but it doesn't make sense to have cancelled English lessons two weeks before the lockdown and then head out into the real world at the peak (wishful thinking) of the problem. Instead of waiting in line in the grocery store parking lot to enter one at a time and then follow the newly painted lines at the checkout indicating the safe distance, I'm thinking about how to ration.

I've already started diluting my beverages. Six bottles becomes 12 if you fill the glass halfway with water first. Crackers (I've been out of bread for two weeks).

Don't need peanut butter AND jelly. Unfortunately I found myself with more jelly than peanut butter, so I go two days with jelly and the third with Jif (wishful thinking again... it costs 6 euros in Italy). Fortunately I've found five different brands at Gli Africani (Italians' friendly name for the African food stores) and they're all reasonably priced.

Expiration dates are being read more carefully. First, to make sure you consume the fresh mozzarella that only has a few days left before you grate the parmesan which seems to last forever. Secondly, because what used to be thrown out on the date of expiration probably doesn't really have to be.

The most difficult decision is when to eat the chocolate. I'm still cutting the Lindt balls in half and have just opened a box of individually wrapped Loacker cookies from Christmas. I made brownies and froze them because the eggs were about to expire and I thought brownies in the future sounded better than scrambled eggs right now. I've found a simple hot chocolate recipe that takes nothing more than melting a chocolate bar and pouring it in a cup of hot milk. I just can't decide when to open the last carton of milk.

I was also thrilled to find a container of frozen chocolate chip cookie balls. It's an attempt at being a good Italian hostess. No matter how big your surprise visit is, you're always invited in for coffee and something sweet. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work for me. While waiting for those unexpected guests I usually end up eating the balls of dough one at a time... until now. It was already in my mouth when I thought of my brother-in-law that easily refused raw cookie dough for fear of salmonella. His fear of salmonella became my fear of an Italian hospital during the Cornavirus outbreak. Spitting out the half eaten ball was one of the saddest, and grossest, decisions I've had to make in the past three weeks.

Nutella, which is cheaper here than in the States, has always been well-scraped from the inside of the jar before opening a new one. Now the scraping resembles that last squeeze of toothpaste, when there's always a little bit more. Until that day when there really isn't. Fortunately I found a new jar because it wouldn't be a real Italian household without Nutella.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Lowell is accepting sealed bid proposals from individual General Contractors to provide management of construction of the interior of the Lowell Showboat.

Sealed bid proposals should be sent to:
City of Lowell
Attn: City Clerk
301 E. Main St.
Lowell, MI 49331

All bid proposals must be received by **Wednesday May 6, 2020 at 11:00 AM**, after which time no further bids will be accepted, and at which time the bids received will be publicly opened and read. All bids must be in a sealed envelope identifying the item being bid as "**Lowell Showboat General Contractor**".

To receive bid specifications, please contact our Project Manager, Jim Van Overloop at 616-299-2905 and/or jimvo1950@yahoo.com.

The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals received, waive informalities, or accept any proposal it deems to be in the City's best interests. The City is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or bids.

The City is not obligated to reimburse responding Vendors for any expenses incurred in preparing or submitting proposals in response to this request, nor is the City responsible for such expenses. All such expenses are solely the responsibility of the Vendor.

Michael Burns
City Manager

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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger March 29, 1895

Attention has been called to the apparent necessity for legislation concerning a phase of the liquor question which has not been yet brought before the present legislature. In a letter written by a prominent citizen of Saginaw Gov. Rich is informed that a saloonkeeper of that city was acquitted on a charge of selling liquor without a license, on the plea that he was running a social club. The saloonkeeper who was acquitted organized the "Bismarck Club," which anyone can join by simply signing the roll of membership, no fee being exacted. Once a member, he can get all the drinks he wants, and the keeper of the club avoids the paying of the tax. A stranger desiring a drink first enters his name on the books of the club. The writer suggests that Saginaw will soon be a city without saloons, but with numerous clubs open all night and on Sunday, and suggests the propriety of having the legislature amend the liquor law so as to bring these clubs within its provisions.

It is now figured out from company lists and payrolls that fifty-nine men perished in the mine disaster at Red Canyon, Wyo., Wednesday evening. Seven were killed on the outside whose names have been given.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 25, 1920

Manager Buck, of the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture company was in town Monday with a party of men who were unloading material at the company's Lowell plant and announced that it intended to begin operations here on Monday, April 5, and that our former townsman, Fred Jacobi would be manager of the Lowell factory, news that will certainly please the many old Lowell friends of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobi.

The Hoover boom for president is now to be fostered by a group of progressive republicans. Ever since Mr. Hoover gave out his letter of last Tuesday to Ralph Arnold, of Los Angeles, in which he describes himself as an "independent progressive" and adds that before the war he was known to be "a progressive republican," this boom has been under way.

The National Spring & Wire company, which refused to grant the demands for wage increases by 150 union machine operators who went on strike, announces the men will not return. Women have been employed.

75 years The Lowell Ledger March 29, 1945

Michigan State College students probably are less affected by the nationwide cigarette shortage than any comparable group, because of the no-smoking-on-campus tradition which goes back to the very beginning of the college in 1855.

Technical Sergeant Perry C. Peckham, of Lowell, engineer and top turret gunner on the B-17 Flying Fortress, Skyway Chariot, took part in an unusual Eighth Air Force attack—a one-bomber assault on a communications center at Hanover, Germany.

As previously announced in this newspaper the collection of tin cans and other varieties of tin, in Lowell and neighboring areas, begins next week Monday, April 2, and will continue regularly thereafter until tin for the support of the war effort is no longer needed—and that means until the day of final victory.

50 years The Lowell Ledger March 26, 1970

An extensive program to flush iron from water mains in Lowell will be held next week with indications that a regular schedule will be maintained throughout the year. City Manager Blaine Bacon reports that numerous complaints have been received in the past several weeks regarding the "red water" coming from water taps throughout the city.

Lowell police reported issuance of numerous speeding citations during the past week, many to youthful offenders apparently suffering from spring fever.

Pfc. Richard Dale Minier suffered shrapnel wounds in the Left arm while engaged in combat action near Guan Lou, Vietnam last month. He is presently confined to Cam Rahn Bay hospital where physical therapists are working with Minier to restore full use of him arm.

25 years The Lowell Ledger March 29, 1995

After a week of testimony and closing statements on Monday, the case of the State vs. Terry Kinsley was sent to the jury for deliberation. The case was tried by 17th District Court Judge Robert Benson. Kinsley was charged on 27 occasions with intent to attain money under false pretenses by filing for overtime pay for hours the Lowell School District said she never worked.

Two juveniles from Lowell will be referred to probate court on charges of trespassing on the Showboat March 18.

A sizeable amount of funding has been secured by the Lowell Public Library building committee toward the proposed 1996 spring construction of a new \$1.2 million library. The Lowell Ledger has learned that the building committee has secured a foundation grant from the Helen Look Memorial Fund in the amount of \$270,000.

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.

the lowell ledger

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HEALTH

M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

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

- seasonal affective disorder (SAD)

Although we are almost into spring, it's not uncommon for those who live in Michigan to still be suffering the effects on our moods from shortened days and lack of sunlight. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) typically causes depression symptoms that begin in the late fall and continue through the winter. It affects nearly half a million Americans. It is more common in those who live in high latitudes or in cloudy regions (aka West Michigan).

Signs and symptoms of SAD may include:

- Feeling depressed most of the day, nearly every day
- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Having low energy
- Having problems with sleeping

• Experiencing changes in your appetite or weight

• Feeling sluggish or agitated

• Having difficulty concentrating

• Feeling hopeless, worthless or guilty

• Having frequent thoughts of death or suicide

If you are having any of these symptoms, reach out to your healthcare provider as treatment is available. Light therapy is recommended in treatment. Medication and therapy can also be beneficial in the treatment of SAD.

To prevent SAD, get outdoors every day when possible, even when cloudy. Try to get regular exercise and eat a well balanced diet.

COVID-19 scams on the rise

Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 outbreak in various ways, including impersonating Red Cross volunteers offering coronavirus testing door-to-door.

The Red Cross does not provide coronavirus testing. If someone comes to your residence claiming to be with the Red Cross, do not open the door and notify the police immediately.

Additionally, if you receive a text message

from someone claiming to be a healthcare professional or from the Red Cross who is selling or giving away supplies such as masks or testing kits, do not click any links. It is not a legitimate offer.

Remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Kent County Sheriff Department at 911 or 616-632-6357.

Telehealth for mental health and health care

Today's technology makes it so convenient to obtain all sorts of goods and services. Technology allows us to shop, complete webinars, hold meetings, and even video chat with friends and loved ones living on the other side of the world, all via the internet. Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, many medical and mental health professionals are now using this technology to continue to see patients. However, telehealth services are not a good fit for everyone. So, what type of client is ideal for telehealth?

In general, telehealth can be used effectively for individuals:

- That have mobility issues, chronic pain, or general health issues
- Those that are required to be "seen" by the doctor to refill certain types of prescriptions
- Being counseled for life transitions, mild stress, some types of mild mood disorders (anxiety, depression), certain panic disorders, some phobias such as Agoraphobia, relationship issues, career exploration, anger, and certain types of mental health trauma

In general, telehealth is not for individuals:

- In crisis
- At risk for suicide
- Self-harming
- Diagnosed with moderate to severe depression

• Needing urgent or emergency treatment

• With personality disorders

• Individuals dealing with certain traumas or moderate to severe PTSD

• Individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder

• That do not have a good internet or cellular connection

Please know that not every type of issue can be listed or this article would be extremely long! Health care providers realize that not everyone has access to this type of technology so telephonic consultations are also being utilized.

Finally, let's touch on HIPAA compliance and your privacy. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the Department of Health and Human Services has issued a telehealth notice during this COVID-19 public health emergency. During the current public health emergency, the OCR will exercise its enforcement discretion and will not impose penalties for noncompliance with HIPAA rules if healthcare providers provide telehealth services through remote communication technologies. So, health professionals have some flexibility to continue to provide needed services to clients.

happy birthday



MARCH 25
 Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan.

MARCH 26
 Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.

MARCH 27
 Joel Roudabush, Kelly Geldersma.

MARCH 28
 Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek, Beck Butler.

MARCH 29
 John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Judith Schafer Eiseman, Laura Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing.

MARCH 30
 Deb Maxim, Erin Wade, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake.

MARCH 31
 Katelynn Fonger, Jennifer McCaul, Ben Lobbezoo, Tera Raab, Rudy Smith, Michaela Blough.

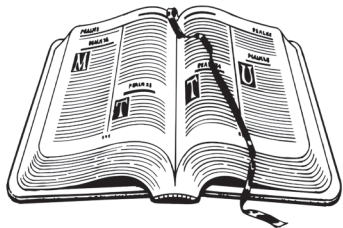
college news

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh students received diplomas in December during the University's 55th Midyear Commencement. The new grads from three UWO campuses - Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh - include nearly 900 with bachelor's degrees, more

than 140 with master's degrees and three who earned Doctor of Education degrees. The degrees became official Jan. 24.

Emily A. Jacobs, of Alto, was among the students who received their diplomas. Jacobs graduated from the College of Nursing earning her Nursing degree.

area churches



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org

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

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
 CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
 2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
 897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org

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

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
 897-7060
 Pastor Ryan Landt
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
 Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
 Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
 Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
 Nursery available at both services
 Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church
 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
 Website: www.stmarylowell.com
 Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
 Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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WORSHIP
 9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary
 Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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Lowell, continued



inspections and a daily drawing for \$10 worth of Lowell Bucks.

“One of the reasons we decided to do a daily drawing for Lowell Bucks was to just support the community as a whole,” said co-owner Cliff Yankovich. “Everything is so interconnected.

Obviously all of us with businesses on Main Street are being affected by this, but it’s really hard for the restaurants because they can’t even be open, they can only do take out. So we were trying to help that situation if we could.”

“We’re open to take care of the dead and the living,

just like we’ve been doing it for 135 years,” said Mark Gerst of Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson. “We’re not changing our hours at the funeral home, we’re available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And we’re still going to have funerals. But if you’re sick, please don’t come in. If you don’t feel well, avoid coming in. We’re going to be open the regular hours, but we’ve given staff more time off because we are doing less.”



Chimera Design co-owner Cliff Yankovich

Other notices:
Alpha Family Center:

GED and ESL classes canceled

BP gas station: new hours: Monday-Friday 6 am until 9 pm, Saturday 7 am until 9 pm, Sunday 8 am until 8 pm

Bettie’s Pages: creating “Boredom Survival Kits” for children, teens and adults, closed to browsing, offering curbside pickup or delivery, call 616-319-1614

Canfield Plumbing & Heating: delayed invoicing, reduced cost services

Creative Party Bug: making “Creative Kits” for children, teens and adults, front door delivery of kits available depending on location, owner Ashley Dunn donated some of her



homemade hand sanitizer to the Green Acres assisted living facility when they were running low

Dery Physical Therapy: suspended all non-essential appointments

Englehardt Library: programming canceled, closed to patrons indefinitely

Flat River Outreach Ministries: remaining open, including food pantry and “Lunch Buddies” during spring break. Main office closed. Drive-up food pantry hours: Tuesday 2-4 pm, Wednesday 5-7 pm and Friday 10-noon

Fountain View of Lowell: closed to visitors

Green Acres of Lowell: closed to visitors, canceling all outside activities and any in-house activities that require the presence of a

non-employee

Huntington Bank: drive-through only

Lowell Senior Neighbors: closed indefinitely, fitness classes suspended

Lowell YMCA: all classes and programs canceled

North Star Antiques: free local delivery

To keep up with the latest news and information about the coronavirus pandemic, visit one of these websites:

Kent County: <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus.htm>

Michigan: <https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus>

USA: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

Earth: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

February police and fire incidents

Lowell Police Department made 13 arrests during the month of February, one more than they made in January.



stops in February, they let 101 drivers go with a warning and gave out 47 citations.

Lowell police were

These arrests included two for drunk driving, two for outstanding warrants, four for driving with a suspended license and five that are described in the police department’s statistics as “other arrests.”

LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during February. There were two larceny calls, two dog/animal complaints, two malicious destructions, four disorderly conduct calls and five assaults. Lowell police issued 47 citations and notified six residents about ordinance violations. Out of 130 traffic

called to assist other law enforcement agencies 20 times and called other agencies for assistance nine times in February. They were also called for assistance by citizens and motorists 32 different times.

Lowell police were also dispatched to nine accidents during February, three with injuries.

The Lowell Area Fire Department responded to 76 incidents during February; 27 in the city of Lowell, 31 in Lowell Township, one in Grattan Township, one in Alto and 16 in Vergennes Township.



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BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 at the Historic Township, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Alto, MI 49302 on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

The property tax millage rate of 2.4299 proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2020-2021 budget will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the township office Wednesday 9-12 & 1-3, Thursday 9-12 & 1-3, Friday 9-12. Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 10 day notice to the Bowne Township Board.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

obituaries

HOWLETT

Patricia Ann Howlett, longtime resident of Clarksville, passed away on February 8, 2020, after a short stay in the hospital. She remained sharp as a tack until the very end of her life and the doctors and nurses were quite amused by her feisty attitude! That attitude kept her strong and in her home until she went into the hospital. Patricia was born on September 9, 1930. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vere and Marian Howlett and sister, Joyce Alderink. She is survived by her beloved sister, Rosemary Kauffman (Bob); nieces and nephews, Robin Kauffman, Becky Eckstrom (Jeff), Lee Kauffman (Melissa), Ron Kauffman (Dawn), Shane Kauffman (Shannon Hughes), James Alderink (Diane), Jane Alderink, Sue Parris (Craig), Thomas Alderink, Mary VanDenburg (Mike) Lori Alderink (Bruce Stinson), Amy Alderink (Brian Stinson); as well as many great-nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. Patricia was a public school teacher for 35 years. She earned her teaching certificate and then a Masters from Western Michigan University. She taught in many one-room school houses throughout the area the last one being the Bowne Center School in Alto. When it closed, she joined the elementary school in Alto which was part of the Lowell School District. She ended her career at Alto teaching kindergarten. She loved reading anything. Books, magazines, newspapers – she didn't care what the subject was! Her quest for knowledge never stopped. In the last few years, sharing lunch with her sister, telling stories from their childhood while enjoying a strawberry daiquiri were among her favorite times. We will honor her memory with a celebration of life sometime in the spring/summer.

KING

Richard A. King, 81, of Clarksville, went to be with the Lord on Monday, March 16, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wives, Ruth Ann & Clara. He is survived



by his son, Earl King; grandchildren, Jordan King & Taylor King; great-granddaughters, Vera & Evie; sister, Frances Walling; also, several nieces & nephews. Richard graduated from Lowell H.S. in 1957 and was a lifelong farmer. He loved his John Deere tractors, enjoyed traveling and spent his

career at Superior Furniture. Visitation will be Sunday, March 22, 2020, 2-6 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services will be 11:00 am Monday, March 23, 2020 at the funeral home Chapel. Rev. Brad Brillhart officiating. Interment Bowne Mennonite Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E Main St, Lowell, MI 49331 or a Charity of your choice.

ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

With funding secure, Michigan Reconnect bills fly out of committee

Separate House and Senate committees on Wednesday, March 18 moved out legislation creating Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Michigan Reconnect program, designed to give last-dollar support to those over 25 seeking a community college or skilled trades training certificate.

The bills take \$35 million out of the prior administration's "Marshall Plan for Talent" to dial back the estimated 80,000 unfilled skilled trades jobs in Michigan and move closer to hitting the Governor's goal of having 60 percent of adults obtaining a post-secondary degree by 2030.

Movement of Michigan Reconnect, first introduced in Whitmer's first State of the State address in 2019,

comes after lawmakers agreed to set aside \$35 million for the program in the mid-year supplemental that the House passed Tuesday.

To implement the program, three bills are moving through the process, with two of them popping out of the House Government Operations Committee on March 18. Rep. Ben Frederick (R-Owosso) shared with the committee his story of how personal events caused him to stretch out four years of schooling over 14 years.

"There's a story like that to be shared around our state by tens of thousands of Michiganders, each with different reasons as to why they didn't achieve a post-secondary credential," Frederick told the House

Government Operations Committee, which unanimously moved out his HB 5576 and Rep. Sarah Anthony's HB 5580.

Anthony noted how her prior work at the Michigan College Access Network and her personal journey from poverty to prosperity drove her to sponsor the tuition incentive plan that makes advanced training available for those who otherwise couldn't afford it.

"I'm so proud that our state is taking a stand for higher education and workforce development," Anthony said.

AFSMCE and the Michigan Community College Association each spoke in favor of the bills, and numerous other organizations are supportive.

"Including funding for the program in this budget supplemental is an important first step in giving our colleges the ability to work quickly and get the program up and running before the fall semester begins," said MCCA President Michael Hansen. "Michigan's community colleges are excited to make Reconnect a reality for residents who are eager to gain new skills and improve their lives."

Meanwhile, the S-4 version of SB 0268, which would also put the Reconnect program in place, was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee Wednesday on a 16-2 vote.

"In 2015, my economic development committee began to study the talent-gap," said Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth), the bill

sponsor. "For the first six weeks we heard testimony from stakeholders of all kinds. There isn't an industry that isn't seeing some kind of a shortage in talent. [...] We've got shortages in medicine, in teaching, in truck driving. These are programs that are either degreed or carry certification. Michigan can't afford to let any of its residents fall through the cracks."

Horn described how Whitmer, as incoming governor, added her support to the discussion and highlighted an example from another state.

"The governor came to us, first in her State of the State in 2019, with the Reconnect program and the opportunity she saw modeled in Tennessee," Horn continued. "I give the governor full credit for bringing this program to our attention. We worked with the administration closely."

According to Horn, the language in SB 0268 was crafted precisely. The first people who qualify for the program are those 25 years of age or older with a high school diploma who may or may not have started postsecondary education. But if they did, they never finished.

"Part A focuses on community college," Horn explained. "This is for an associates degree. Part B is about getting people into skilled trades."

The \$35 million to fund Reconnect is from an unused portion of the Marshall Plan that was in the 2019 budget, Horn said.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Lorraine V. Pylman Trust

Re: Lorraine V. Pylman, decedent, Date of Birth May 4, 1928

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lorraine V. Pylman, who lived at 1139 Amber Cove Dr. S.W., Byron Center, MI 49315, died March 6, 2020.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased or the trust

will be forever barred unless presented to Sherre L. Granger, Trustee, of P.O. Box 44, Kapowsin, WA 98344, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

March 20, 2020

John D. Mitus, Attorney (P-31244) 410 Bridge Street, N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-774-4001

Sherre L. Granger, Trustee P.O. Box 44 Kapowsin, WA 98344

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

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

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

NEW DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BUYER'S GUIDE & NEWS - Ads must now be in by noon on Thursday.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - a refrigerator, stove, washer & dryer. Have cash. Call 517-204-0600. TFN

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PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900. TFN

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

help wanted

TRAILER MECHANIC WANTED - Position available for a trailer mechanic. Job responsibilities include maintaining a fleet of flatbed and dump trailers by completing preventative maintenance requirements, aluminum & steel welding & fabricating, paint & electrical, and keeping records. Candidate should be capable of operating various types of heavy equipment. CDL not required. Some experience or education required. 40 hrs/week plus overtime and full benefits. Please apply in person at Timpson Transport; 3175 Segwun Ave. Lowell, MI 49331 Monday-Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to Info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 616-897-5905.

HIRING ALL SHIFTS - for assembly workers. Call Jennifer at 616-888-0076.

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED - Multiple positions available for truck drivers. Must have Class A CDL and clear driving record. Hauling sand, topsoil and other similar products. Lowboy, dump, flatbed and heavy equipment experience preferred. Progressive pay scale, bonuses, and full benefits including health, 401k with match, and life insurance. Dental & vision also available. Apply in person at Timpson Transport; 3175 Segwun Ave. Lowell, MI 49331. Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to Info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to (616) 897-5905.

misc.

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DIRECTV - Switch and Save! \$39.99/month. Select All-Included Package. 155 Channels. 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 mos! Call 1-855-293-4417

services

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

EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE - Lowell & surrounding areas. On road repairs. Rob's Towing & Auto Salvage. "CHEAP HOOKER" 616-292-7649 or 616-295-8820.

THE LOWELL LEDGER - No longer accepts Federal Express packages at our office.

services

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PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER NEEDS WORK - Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

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

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees... I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: \$3500 incl. all filing fees AND FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

services

STUMP GRINDING - Call Dan for free estimate, 616-970-3832.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dumpster rental, 10-20 yards. Mention this ad for \$10 to \$20 off. Call or text Doug for estimates at 616-295-6640. TFN

WORK WANTED - Double D's Tree & Handyman Service. 40' & 70' bucket truck, tree trimming & removal, gutter cleaning, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates. TFN

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NEWSPAPERS Outperform Direct Mail in Michigan

Michiganians depend on newspapers for advertising inserts²

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

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

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

17.2% of adults made a purchase in the past 90 days as the result of a direct mail flyer⁵

Direct mail lacks the effective reach of newspaper advertising.

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

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

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

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

Re-surveying of state \$85M above estimates, not having 'meaningful impact'

A county-by-county project to preserve the original public land survey that set up Michigan's township boundaries could take 30 years longer, cost 3.5 times more than originally expected and isn't proving to have a "meaningful impact" on residents' lives, according to a report released Wednesday.

A 1990 law required each county to make plans to preserve the state's original public land survey first conducted between 1815 and 1857. That first survey established Michigan's 1,231 townships, each of which were subdivided into 36 one-mile square sections, according to the Office of the

Auditor General.

Those sections were defined by corners that were marked - or monumented, as the state refers to it - by four-foot pine or cedar posts that have deteriorated, been removed or destroyed over the years, the OAG said.

So, the 1990 law required counties to develop a "remonumentation" plan and also set up the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund, which is doled out to locals by the Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation within the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

The original remarking plan was supposed to take 20 years and cost \$82.6 million.

But to date, it's cost \$168.4 million - \$85.8 million above the original estimate - and isn't expected to be completed until 2042, or 30 years longer than expected.

The OAG found the state could spend another \$104 million to \$149.5 million to complete the task, which could bring the final bill north of \$300 million, to \$317 million.

Every county register of deeds office collects \$4 per document recordation fee and remits 98.5 percent of that to the state and the SSRF, which is then doled out by the state to counties to complete the remarking plans.

A Senate Fiscal Agency analysis of the 1990 law estimated 165,200 surveyed corners would need to be replaced for \$500 each. However, counties' original plans estimated 225,218 corners or 36.3 percent more than the SFA estimate.

On top of that, a 2014 law required counties to come up with new plans to estimate a new number of corners, and those were due March 1 of this year.

The OAG said the "total number of corners yet to be completed could increase significantly."

David Harns, spokesperson for the OLSR, said future costs can't be calculated right now because

of the 2014 law requiring counties to submit their plans. He said the state is "still negotiating with 15 counties to get a plan clear and definitive enough to compute how much needs to be done."

Harns also said these corners that need replacing aren't the same throughout the state. The ones not completed, he said, "are because of challenges due to the complexity of determining the location and require a lot of fieldwork, while others may take cutting through 20 inches or more of concrete and asphalt to replace."

The audit noted the grant program for this remarking

program - the State Survey and Remonumentation Grant Program - was created to reduce property disputes and make property surveys less difficult and expensive.

Yet, the OAG said there's been no data or research over the past 28 years to determine whether the program "has had a meaningful impact for the citizens of Michigan."

The audit also recommended better oversight on the state's part toward its county grantees, finding that one county overpaid its remittances by \$1.1 million, and as many 17 counties didn't provide enough documentation to support their grant expenditures.

Open Meetings Act changed to let governments meet electronically

Gov. Whitmer Wednesday signed an order temporarily changing the Open Meetings Act to allow public bodies to conduct meetings electronically.

Under the order, public bodies subject to the Open Meetings Act - including boards, commissions, committees, subcommittees, authorities, councils, and nonprofit boards - can use telephone or video-conferencing methods

to continue meeting and conducting business during the coronavirus public health crisis, so long as they follow certain procedures to ensure meaningful access and participation by members of the public body and the general public.

The order is in place until April 15. The Governor laid out a number of criteria to ensure transparency, like making sure there's two-way communication for members

and the public to hear each other.

The Michigan Municipal League commended Whitmer for issuing the order, "given the conflicts between traditional meetings of elected officials and the public health recommendations to limit face-to-face gathering."

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) expressed concerns, however, about the public's

ability to participate in the democratic process. He called on the Governor to provide greater guidance to ensure elected bodies aren't using the ability to use technology to limit access for some citizens' ability to participate in their government.

"Older Michiganders are most at risk during these times," Shirkey said. "They are also the least likely to have the technology

necessary to access public meetings electronically. In a time of crisis, citizens should have more access to their elected officials, not less."

He offered to work with the Governor on ways to improve the order to "defend the fundamental elements of our democracy while at the same time doing what we can to protect public health."

House Minority Leader Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills)

commended Whitmer's "decisive action" as necessary. She was bothered the Legislature didn't take action on a similar measure.

"This is an issue the legislature should have acted more quickly to address, and I hope that we can do so in a bipartisan way without further delay," Greig said. "That's what the people of Michigan are expecting from legislators during this time of crisis."

Graduated income tax advocates want to collect signatures electronically



The ballot committee to essentially ask voters to create a graduated state income tax in Michigan is asking Republican legislative leaders to pass a bill that would allow them and other petition-circulating efforts to collect signatures electronically in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

With residents looking to avoid face-to-face contact with this highly contagious virus floating around, Eli Isaguirre, campaign manager for Fair Tax Michigan, said allowing for an electronic signature would help Michigan "flatten the curve and keep people safe."

"This crisis has shown us that the massive inequality and lack of investment in critical infrastructure puts us all in a perilous situation," Isaguirre said. "We believe that a pathway to allow for signatures to be collected can be done and hope our legislative leaders are able to prioritize keeping us safe, ensuring

everyone has the means to survive the economic crisis facing us and ensuring our democracy continues. This is a moment for leadership."

Fair Tax Michigan needs to gather 425,059 valid Michigan signatures by July 6 to put on the November ballot their question to allow for a graduated income tax that would mandate giving those making less than \$175,000 a year - or \$350,000 for those filing jointly - a tax cut.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said during an interview this week on Michigan's Big Show that the idea was worth looking at.

"Our priority in regards to petition and signature gathering is the health and safety of everyone, but protecting our democracy and ensuring that the decisions we make have minimal impact on ballot

access," Benson said. "We don't want to make decisions that will enable people to get on the ballot who under our current laws wouldn't be able to and vice versa. We also don't want to keep people or questions off the ballot that otherwise would have access under normal circumstances."

But Rep. Ann Bollin (R-Brighton Twp.) said that "On the surface, it's not a good idea," and that she fears it would become a "gateway to fraudulent signatures."

"It's easier to generate a fraudulent electronic signature than a printed one," said the former township clerk, noting that there could be "manipulating" of an electronic signature in a world where folks are more than familiar with "cutting and pasting."

"It's just creating a greater opportunity for

shenanigans," Bollin said.

Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Holly), chair of the Senate Elections Committee, said she'd need to look at the idea more closely before coming down on it one way or the other. She did say she would be concerned with "unintended consequences."

And Sen. Paul Wojno (D-Warren), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Elections Committee, said he wants to know more information on how the Secretary of State could securely verify an electronic signature against that of one on the Qualified Voter File. He'd have other questions, too, while recognizing that technology is rapidly evolving.

"I'm not saying I'm against it, but I would want to see more information," he said.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Puzzle solutions on page 8

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in California on February 25, 1976. I have famous parents in the entertainment industry, but originally I wanted to be a lawyer and attended Harvard University. I have been in several films and a TV show about office life.

Answer: *Rashida Jones*

WELLNESS WORD SEARCH

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

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

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| WELLNESS
WORD SEARCH | COMPOSITION
ENDURANCE
EXERCISE
FITNESS
GYM
HEART
INTENSITY
ISOMETRIC | LIFESTYLE
MEDICATIONS
MUSCLES
PHYSICAL
PHYSICIAN
RESPIRATION
STRENGTH
STRETCHING | TRAINING
WEIGHT
WORKOUT |
| AEROBIC
BALANCE
BODY
CARDIOVASCULAR
CHECK-UP | | | |

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to health.

C D R O O T

□	□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---	---

Answer: *Doctor*

			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							

CLUES ACROSS

- Stain one's hands
- Subdivision
- A passage to be performed slow
- Invests in little enterprises
- Medians
- Member of the giraffe family
- Makes official
- Choose in an election
- Hill or rocky peak
- Member of an ancient Iranian people
- Crest of a hill
- Small, faint constellation
- Cultivated from crops that yield oil
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Hollywood tough guy
- Chinese drums
- Merits
- Indicates center
- Increases motor speed
- Mentally fit
- BBQ favorite
- Wings
- Female parents

CLUES DOWN

- Mental object
- Blackbird
- Undergarments
- Old cloth
- One from Utah
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Become less intense
- Developed to readiness
- Defunct phone company
- About Freemason
- Taking everything into account
- Famed Czech engineer
- Impress into silence
- Boxing term
- Marketplaces

- Pounds per square inch
- Locomotives
- Short musical composition
- Football position (abbr.)
- Heavyhearted
- Denotes particular region
- Famed NHLer
- Ingested too much
- Formulates
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Broad, shallow craters
- Thick cuts
- Breezed through
- Breakfast is one
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Periodicals (slang)
- Indian title of respect
- More (Spanish)
- Creation
- A loud utterance

March 16 city council meeting report

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, March 16. The council discussed the wastewater treatment plant and the trail connection project at the 49 minute meeting. The meeting went ahead despite all the coronavirus-related closures of organizations, businesses, restaurants and merchants.

“Under the Open Meetings Act, we had to have this meeting tonight,” said Lowell city manager Michael Burns at the beginning of the meeting. “While we encouraged the public not to come, we legally could not

tell them that they couldn’t.”

The council unanimously approved a resolution renewing for five years an agreement with Suez, the company that manages Lowell’s wastewater treatment plant. The old agreement will expire on June 30. Currently, Suez is paid \$38,490 a month by the city. That amount will not change in 2021, but subsequent years will add “cost of living” increases.

The council voted unanimously to approve applying for \$300,000 in grants from the MDNR Trust Fund program. If the

grants are approved and the money received, it would be spent by the Lowell Area Recreation Authority to help complete the River Valley Rail Trail connection project.

“Trails are huge for communities,” said councilor Greg Canfield. “We’re in the middle of an economic downturn, it appears, currently. Trail towns average a 30 percent increase in revenue. It’s good for the gas stations and the restaurants and the mom and pop stores. To help keep our vibrant community going, this is going to be amazing for us.”

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will take place at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, April 6. 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, April 4.

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.

Lowell Twp to meet despite virus concerns

by Cindy M. Cranmer
contributing reporter

The Lowell Charter Township board continued to move forward in doing township business at a recent meeting amid the coronavirus concerns impacting local communities, Michigan, the United States, and the world.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused cancellations around the state, country, and world out of safety concerns. Michigan now has 334 confirmed cases of coronavirus, which is officially known as COVID-19, as of Friday afternoon, March 20. This is a number that is rising and causes things to change from day-to-day. There is evidence the highly contagious virus is spreading among people in the state, officials stated in a press conference.

Lowell Township Clerk Monica Burt said staff are still working, but the office is closed to walk-in transactions. Some staff are working remotely when they can to help with safety and to protect those who are immunocompromised. Appointments are still available if issues cannot be resolved through phone or email. There is also a dropbox available to the public.

“We are trying to accommodate requests,” Burt said.

Burt said they have looked into options and legalities of meetings utilizing technology. However, the township currently does not have the capability to hold meetings online. Teleconference meetings and other options are acceptable through the Open Meetings Act during this time, but the technology issues have not been resolved to do it. “We don’t have a way to do it,” Burt said.

The Lowell Township Planning Commission will meet on March 23 to discuss fair details such as regulations and lighting. A public hearing needs to take place after that in a meeting.

“We have to have a public hearing reviewing items,” Burt said.

by the actions and words of an abuser or otherwise hurtful person, those things were never based in truth; they were designed from the beginning to break you down.

Create a new, empowering belief. You don’t even have to believe it yet. Once you are open to the possibility that the old belief is not the truth, it’s time to craft a new belief to replace it. Although you may not initially believe it (and it may even sound ridiculous at this point), this is your chance to actively define what you would like to believe about yourself. In our example, it might be something like “I am capable and personable. I have many strengths and people like me.”

Repeat your new belief

regularly to yourself like a daily affirmation. You can do this however you like, whether that’s aloud in front of the mirror or in your head during your drive to work. You may feel silly at first, especially if you still aren’t fully on board with your new belief, but regular practice is key to instilling the new belief. Neuroscience research shows that practicing self-affirmation can change brain pathways for positive results, but you’ve got to stick with it!

Stan Popovich is the author of “A Layman’s Guide to Managing Fear Using Psychology, Christianity and Non Resistant Methods.” For more information, go to Stan’s website, managingfear.com.



by Stan Popovich

The way we think has an enormous impact on the way we feel and behave, and we often have a set of limiting beliefs that play a role in our struggles. If you struggle with anxiety, you may be able to use techniques to limit beliefs and replace those ideas with healthy ones.

Limiting beliefs can be roughly defined as any thoughts or ideas you have that may be getting in the way of healthy function, success, and/or goals. Most limiting beliefs boil down to negative self-talk that we’ve picked up along the way.

Consider the following examples of things you might say and the limiting beliefs that may lie at the root of them:

What you say: “I’m just naturally shy.”

What you tell yourself: “I’m not worth socializing with.”

What you say: “I don’t have time for that.”

What you tell yourself: “I’m a failure, so I’ll just fail at that, too.”

What you say: “I’m terrible at sports.”

What you tell yourself: “Everyone’s going to judge my ability. If I can’t play well right away, I probably won’t get any better.”

What you say: “I’m too old to go back to school/start a new hobby/make new friends.”

What you tell yourself: “People will judge me because I don’t have it together at my age.”

Acknowledge the negativity of the belief and recognize that you can’t possibly see the big picture

from your perspective. What you perceive as the truth may be completely different from what others see in you.

Even if you’re already seeing a professional to learn how to get over fear, you may be underestimating how much beliefs like these are fueling your anxiety and holding you back from enjoying life. If you believe that you are not attractive enough for potential mates, for example, you might turn down opportunities for romance, unintentionally reinforcing the false belief, and exacerbating the fear of being alone.

What might you achieve if you allowed yourself to believe that you can do something and that you already are good enough? How might new hobbies and experiences help you express yourself, vent stress, and work through your anxieties? When you push out limiting beliefs and replace them with self-affirming ones, you bring yourself closer to answering those questions.

One of the most valuable techniques to overcome fear is the active re-writing of the script you’ve got in your head. Of course, replacing limiting beliefs with empowering ones is more than just “being positive.” Like any change you seek to make to your physical body, it takes hard work and practice to break mental habits and create new ones.

Here’s how you can make it happen.

Identify the core limiting belief. Go beyond what you say to others and identify what you’re really telling yourself. If you say, “I’m just

Limiting beliefs and how they could be holding you back

a loner,” for example, you might have the root negative belief, “I’m awkward and people don’t like me.” Even if you want to connect with others more, your limiting belief that you are better off alone prevents you from putting yourself out there.

List the reasons you’ve come to that conclusion. Even if you know these reasons are illogical, write them all down and look at them. The reasons may be built up from things you’ve been told, experiences you’ve had, or your own evaluation of yourself and your success.

Turning to the example of believing you are awkward and unlikeable, your list of reasons might include things like:

“My brother always calls me ‘the weird one.’”

“I don’t have many friends.”

“I got laughed at when I was on stage in the school play.”

Consider the possibility that the belief is not based in truth. No matter what the reasons are for your limiting belief or the supposed evidence you use to support it, chances are that much of it is driven by baseless negative self-talk. As you examine the reasons you’ve listed, you’ll likely find that you cannot confirm the validity of many of them. The belief might instead be based on poor self-esteem, a traumatic experience, or even a simple misunderstanding.

Start putting the “evidence” for your belief to the test. What if your brother thinks of “weird” as a term of endearment and doesn’t realize you find it hurtful?

Have you asked him about it?

What if you’ve simply been defining friendship in a limited way? What if more people consider you a friend than you realize? Alternatively, what if it’s perfectly okay to have a small group of friends?

What if the audience at the school play was chuckling because you were an adorable child and not because you were a bad actor?

If the reasons you’ve listed doesn’t hold up to scrutiny, isn’t it possible that the resulting belief might not be true after all?

Even if you somehow still feel the reasons are good, it doesn’t confirm that the belief is true. It’s easy to fall into the trap of generalization and conclude that a few poor choices or behaviors mean you are inherently bad or broken, but your past does not control your future. Additionally, if your limiting beliefs have been shaped

Today in History: March 25, 1957



March 25, 1957: US Customs seizes 520 copies of the poem “Howl” by Allen Ginsberg (pictured) on obscenity grounds. A few weeks later, a bookstore clerk is arrested for selling a copy of the poem to an undercover cop. In October, a judge will rule the poem has “redeeming social importance.”

[photo by Joe Rosenthal, *San Francisco Chronicle*]