

## COVID-19, sewer repairs on agenda at latest city meeting



**LHS sports featuring senior athletes**  
pages 10 - 11

**Ice cream**



page 9

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting over the Internet via “Zoom” on Monday, May 4. The meeting was approximately an hour long, and the council discussed topics such as its response to COVID-19, a sanitary sewer project, outdoor seating at restaurants and more.

First, the council discussed how the city should be handling the coronavirus pandemic, first in relation to public gatherings. For example, the annual Memorial Day parade is most likely canceled, but city manager Michael Burns said “there might be something at the cemetery.”

“While the executive orders will most likely dictate when large gatherings can begin, concern will be with ensuring events are complying with Center of Disease Control standards,” Burns wrote in an April 30 city memorandum. “While it may be difficult to prove on the end of liability, the concern is for mass exposures at events. Rather than having the city dictating what must be done at events, I would like to have events develop plans in writing to submit to the city that they will ensure sanitary conditions, proper



City councilor Jim Salzwedel



City councilor Greg Canfield



Lowell police chief Steve Bukala



City councilor Cliff Yankovich

social distancing and proper CDC guidelines they will be following to manage their events in order to have the event on [city] property. I anticipate the event planners for these events will need to be responsible for these safety practices as we move forward.”

“I don’t think it’s a burden, I think it’s just one more step, one more thing that a lot of people are learning they have to do,” said city

councilor Marty Chambers. “I don’t think it’s a burden on anybody to make sure that the event and the people they’re bringing [to it] stay safe.”

The council discussed outdoor seating for city restaurants. All of the establishments in question have liquor licenses. To serve alcohol outdoors, they would have to get a special outdoor permit.

“There are currently five

restaurants in the downtown district this could possibly impact,” Burns wrote in an April 30 city memo. “In addition, two of the businesses have open space that doesn’t encumber municipal property, the remaining three would.”

Burns’ memo announced what steps have been taken to reopen the city’s public works department.

“DPW returned to full staffing last week and are

working but following social distancing,” Burns wrote on April 30. “We are making sure equipment is sanitized and are assigning only one employee in a vehicle at a time. We have also provided masks and hand sanitizer. Employees are also going to be required to take their temperature at the beginning and end of their shifts.”

Starting next week, Lowell

Council, continued, page 4

## Cookie Adventure parade/benefit Saturday

Photos on page 8

**"Funky Town" by the Ryne Experience**



page 16

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

There was a small parade downtown and then a drive-through cookie sale to benefit Alpha Family Center on Saturday, May 9. The cookie sale, scheduled for noon until four pm, sold out almost immediately and raised \$1,894.22 for the center’s activities.

“It was very fun and brought much joy to those driving by, as well as the Cookie Adventure participants,” said Christa Wetzel, executive director of the Alpha Family Center. “Thank you Deirdre’s Cakes and Bakes for making the amazing cookie treats. We had 100 bags to sell. Some vehicles purchased more than one bag [and] we sold out within 15 minutes of the start time.”

“For a minimum donation of \$8 (cash only), you will receive a Cookie Adventure bag packed with 10 yummy cookies from Deirdre’s Cakes & Bakes,” explained Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. “Just pull through Alpha Family Center of Lowell this Saturday between 12 and 4 pm, put your donation in the large baby bottle, and we will hand you a bag of cookies. No need to get out of your car! First come, first served as we only have 100 bags available.”

There was no advance publicity for the parade to avoid creating a situation where people would gather, potentially passing the coronavirus to each other.

“A small group will be

meeting in the parking lot at North Star Antiques and walking to Alpha Family Center,” Baker said. “It was a cute idea from Ashley Dunn at Creative Party Bug. We really did not want the media to know too much ahead of time so that we could avoid people congregating on the street. This will just be a visual for those driving by.”

Alpha Family Center provides various forms of counseling, training and assistance for women who are pregnant or have children under age five. AFC is a “crisis pregnancy center,” so it does not provide clients with access to services such as birth control or abortion.

“We are faced with an increased need of services during this time,” Wetzel said. “In one week’s time

we can give out over 500 diapers. When you think of how much each package of diapers costs, those expenses add up. Thankfully, we do have a giving community, even during a time of hardship like we are faced with. We haven’t been meeting face-to-face during the pandemic so far, other than needed medical services. We have been able to do pick-up times for clients to receive necessary items such as diapers, wipes, formula, cribs, etc. We will be resuming soon to meet with clients face-to-face.”

Sponsors of and/or participants in the event were North Star Antiques, Station Salon, Tap House Boutique, All Weather Seal, Rookies Sportscards Plus, Red Barn Consignments and Antiques,

LowellArts, Lavender and Lace Boutique, Fans in the Stands and the Englehardt Library.

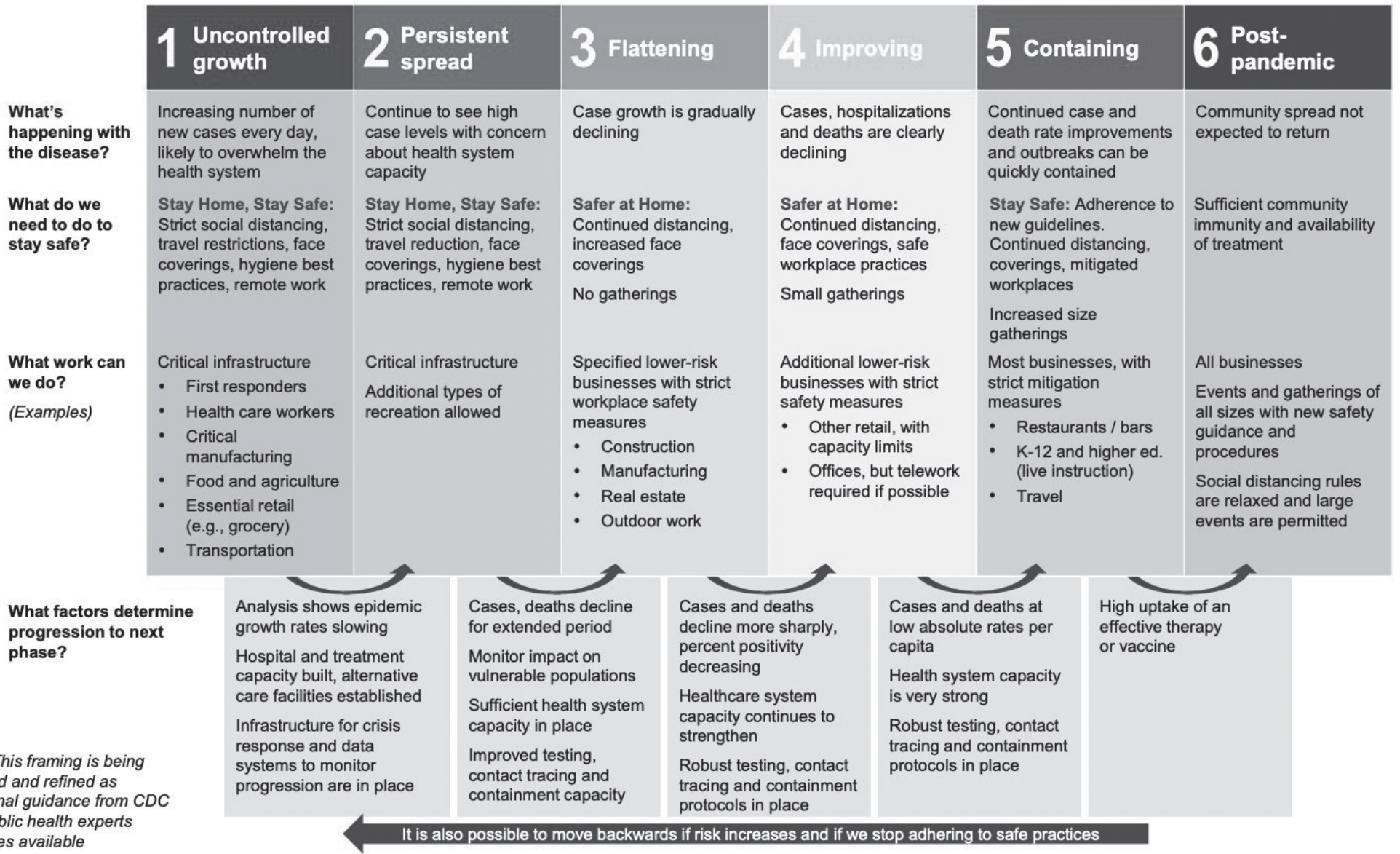
“Thank you so much, Lowell,” Wetzel said. “What an amazing community! One thing that was said by those helping run the event was, ‘We needed this!’ In a time like this, the community needs ways to feel together and to help those in need, and this event accomplished both. One important thing to remember is life continues to move forward and we will all need to do what we can to help one another as a community.”

For more information, go to 519 E. Main after everything reopens, visit aflowell.org or call 616-987-9533.

50¢



# Michigan's six phase reopening plan



Note: This framing is being updated and refined as additional guidance from CDC and public health experts becomes available

# COVID-19-related lawsuits growing across country

The number of lawsuits related to COVID-19 situations - ranging from Governor's orders to wrongful terminations - is rising and could cost upwards of billions of dollars, a civil litigator said.

Attorney Michael Pitt, founding partner of Pitt, McGehee, Palmer & Rivers, which specializes in class-action cases, suggests the federal government could decide to establish a compensation fund for frontline workers or essential workers, like paramedics, police/fire and medical personnel, but for the non-essential employees faced with adverse action, a civil lawsuit may be their only recourse for compensation.

To date, there are about 300 actions around the

country related to COVID-19 related decisions made by employers, and Pitt expects "within a short period of time there will be thousands."

"It's an explosion of class-actions that have been filed," he said. "The extent of the economic injury is remarkable and extraordinary. There has never been in my lifetime [...] a more dramatic disruption in economic activity in this country."

Nationwide, governors have put in place restrictions that have closed businesses and kept citizens at home, including in Michigan where Gov. Gretchen Whitmer Thursday extended her stay-at-home executive order to May 28.

As a result, citizens who feel they've been cheated

out of services paid - such as college students who paid for tuition or room and board that was canceled - are seeking reimbursement or damages for their injury.

In Michigan, at least five university students have filed separate suits seeking such reimbursement from the University of Michigan as well as Michigan State, Wayne State, Central Michigan and Lake Superior State universities.

Likewise, United, American Airlines, Southwest and Delta face potential class-action suits for canceling flights, but not providing refunds, according to Law 360.

Republican leaders in Michigan's Legislature filed suit Wednesday challenging Whitmer's use of executive powers and Rep. Paul Mitchell (R-Dryden Twp.) filed a suit two days earlier saying the orders violate his constitutional rights and the separation of powers.

Whitmer appeared on the Today Show earlier this week and responded to a

question about Mitchell's lawsuit saying the state has had a "uniquely tough reaction to COVID-19," including "uniquely tough restricts to combat it."

"What we know is that COVID-19 does not respect party line or state line, that it is incumbent on all of us to do everything we can to save lives in this moment and to eschew all the partisan rhetoric that is out there. Listen not to pollsters, but to epidemiologists and health care professions so we are making the best informed decisions based on data so we can keep people safe as we think about reengaging sectors of our economy," she said.

One judge has already ruled that Whitmer's stay-at-home order is lawful.

Pitt said employees are also filing lawsuits, claiming retaliation or wrongful termination because they refused to work in unsafe conditions created by COVID-19 - despite governors' orders prohibiting such action.

A number of lawsuits filed in other states hit travel industry giants Norwegian Cruise Lines and Carnival-owned Costa Cruises, among others, alleging misleading information about the coronavirus was shared. One suit, Douglas v. Norwegian Cruise Lines et al., filed in US District Court Southern District of Florida alleges the cruise line asked "sales staff to lie to customers about COVID-19 to protect the company's bookings."

Pitt said the class-action lawsuit field has grown "exponentially" in the last 10 years and a number of law firms are devoting energy toward such lawsuits.

"If [COVID-19] had happened 10 years ago, you wouldn't see the plethora of class-action suits filed," Pitt said. "There has been a tremendous uptick in class action in the last 10 years [...] Now, these [law] firms are poised to take advantage of the economic destruction that is occurring here."

Pitt said Whitmer's executive orders could

expand the litigation because each order creates Michigan policy. He said many of the lawsuits filed to date trend toward contract issues and employees' rights.

An upcoming trend, Pitt noted, will be the wrongful death lawsuits filed by nursing home residents' family members.

"In the nursing homes alone, there's going to be hundreds of cases and many of them will be wrongful death cases because people have died unnecessarily," he said. "Many of the deaths taking place in the nursing homes were preventable, if they used proper precautions."

Pitt said it could take upwards of 10 years to resolve the COVID-19-related lawsuits because they are "massive and [...] pervasive," as it has for other crises, including suits resulting from Hurricane Katrina and the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon.

"There is going to be a reckoning," he noted.

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# MI reports 21.7% unemployment rate for week of April 18

Michigan and a handful of other states are sending out checks in excess of \$800 million a week, larger than the national payrolls of many of the country's largest corporations, according to an Anderson Economic Group analysis released Thursday.

Michigan's unemployment rate for the week April 18 was 21.7 percent, the country's third-highest rate. Vermont had the highest rate for that period of time with 25.2 percent, followed by West Virginia at 21.9 percent.

Initial claims in Michigan for the week ending May 2 was 68,952, 13,052 less than

the prior week, according to US Department of Labor numbers. Slightly over 1 million Michiganders received some form of unemployment check for the week ending April 25.

AEG experts estimate that the average weekly unemployment insurance check is nearly \$1,000 per claimant, \$370 in state payments and then the additional \$600 from the federal government.

"We estimate that the effective 'payroll' of state unemployment offices is now in excess of \$16 billion per week," said AEG Principal and CEO Patrick Anderson.

"States are quickly becoming one of the largest sources of income in the country. The scale and magnitude of these benefits is changing the way Americans view work during this coronavirus depression."

Thursday's numbers spurred the Michigan League of Public Policy to point out that the state's maximum weekly Unemployment Insurance benefit has not been increased since 2002. The current state UI benefit provides unemployed workers with, at most, 35 percent of the average weekly wage in Michigan.

It falls short of the \$405 per week the United Way's

ALICE household survival budget says is needed for an average single adult in Michigan to make ends meet, according to MLPP. The average single parent with an infant needs to make \$715 per week to meet the ALICE threshold.

MLPP recommends permanently restoring benefits from 20 to 26 weeks, setting the maximum weekly UI benefit to 58 percent of the average weekly wage, increase dependent allowance from \$6 to \$20 and making unemployment protections for self-employed, contract and gig workers permanent.



"Unemployment benefits should cover the basics - rent, utilities, groceries - so that folks can stay afloat. But the numbers don't add up. The current system will continue to fail hardworking

Michiganders if we don't act, and there is no better time to act than now, as hundreds of thousands of workers are uncertain about the future," said MLPP Executive Director Gilda Jacobs.

# Voters break turnout record for May elections; 0.1% voted in-person

Roughly 0.1 percent of the voters who could've shown up to the polls Tuesday did, or 829 people from the more than 740,000 voters who had elections Tuesday, as of 4 pm.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said the vast majority of people opted to vote by mail for Tuesday's election after Benson encouraged people to do so in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,

although there were still limited opportunities to vote in-person.

As of Tuesday afternoon, turnout had already broken May election records, both for local elections as well as the last statewide May election in 2015, Benson's office said.

Turnout registered at least 24 percent, breaking the record of 14 percent for local May elections and more than

the 23 percent who came out in 2015 for the statewide road funding proposal on the May ballot that year.

With COVID-19 concerns hanging over the May election, Benson's office mailed the more than 740,000 voters who had elections in their jurisdictions an absentee ballot application. Roughly 200 municipalities in 33 counties had an election

going on Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, 232,885 absentee ballots had been sent out, with 180,318 returned. The Secretary of State's office didn't have updated in-person voter numbers Thursday night from the amount given at 4 p.m.

"This demonstrates to us that [...] even during

this coronavirus pandemic, people want to vote and weigh in on critical issues," Benson said.

Benson said Tuesday she spent the day observing elections in a few West Michigan counties that had a lot of elections going on compared to other places in the state.

She described the polling places as "calm, clean, safe"

and that election workers were practicing social distancing and keeping everything hygienic.

Benson said she did not anticipate results coming in very late Tuesday night, as she predicted with the March presidential primary and the first statewide election after that brought no-reason absentee voting into play.



MI Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

# Wayne County inmates sue jail

Seven Wayne County Jail inmates filed a proposed class-action lawsuit seeking mass release due to the coronavirus outbreak.

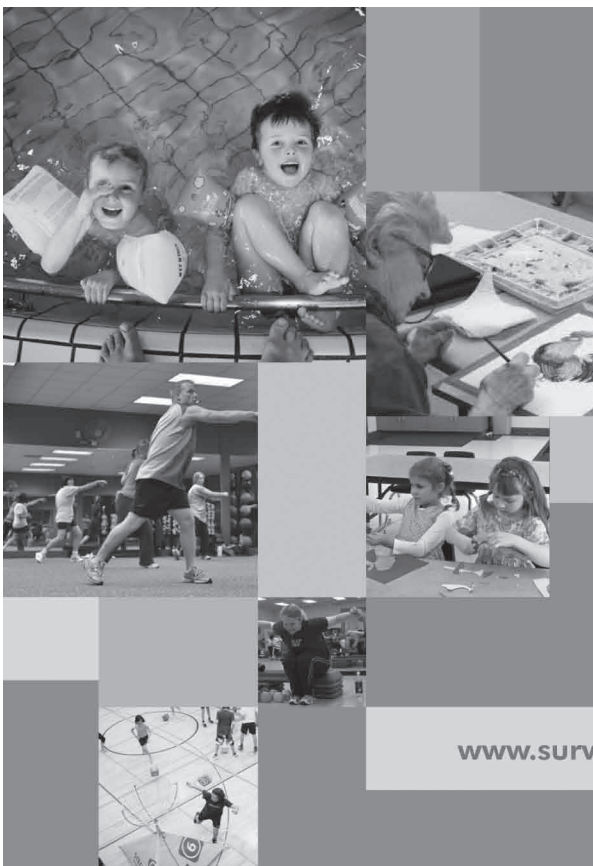
The suit, filed Monday in US District Court Eastern Division, says inmates are "overwhelmingly black, poor, and medication

vulnerable," and they are "prohibited from meaningfully protecting themselves against this global pandemic."

The suit seeks a judgment that protects inmates by releasing "all medically vulnerable" and "subclass members" or transfer them to home confinement. It

also seeks adequate spacing to allow appropriate social distancing and that each inmate receives free of charge liquid hand soap and paper towels for hand washing, and hand sanitizer as well as daily cleaning supplies, such as sponges, brushes, and disinfectant hand wipes.

In addition to the county, named defendants include Sheriff Benny Napoleon, Undersheriff Daniel Pfannes, Chief of Jails and Courts Robert Dunlap and Deputy Chief of Jail Operations James E. Davis.



# WE NEED YOUR HELP

Your Lowell Community Center Committee is seeking feedback about the community's interest in a Community Center.

To participate, please visit our short and confidential online survey and submit your answers by Monday, May 25, 2020 at 11:59 PM.

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowellCommunityCenter](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LowellCommunityCenter)

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## Council, continued

city hall will return to full staffing, but with a few safety precautions. At this time, the building is scheduled to open to the public on June 1.

“City hall staff is currently working remotely, but we have had one employee in city hall daily to answer phone calls coming in,” Burns wrote in his April 30 memo. “I am planning on having all city hall employees come back to city hall on May 18, 2020, which is three days after the current stay-at-home orders will be lifted. When city hall staff returns, I will have policies in place requiring they wear masks in dealing with the public. We have also placed Plexiglas protections at the police department and city hall desks to provide protection for the public and our staff.”

The council discussed and then tabled, for the second consecutive meeting, a bequeathment of \$78,749 that was generated by the sale of the home of the late Cheryl Ann Staal, who willed the proceeds to the city. It was suggested by the Staal family that the majority of the money go toward retiree health insurance, but there were no legal restrictions placed on the gift so the city can do whatever it wants with the money.

“A gift like this to go toward healthcare for retirees, it doesn’t sit well with me,” said Mark Mundt, a retired city employee. “I suggest that a substantial portion of it go toward the Showboat. This would be an opportunity for the city to give some money to the Showboat, without it being tax dollars. And it would be an excellent way to honor the family and that estate.”

The council discussed a sewer repair project that came up suddenly during some routine maintenance.

“Recently we had Plummer Environmental in town to clean a sanitary sewer line near city hall,” DPW director Dan Czarnecki wrote in a



city memo dated April 29. “This line goes behind the stores on the north side of the street in the 200 block of E. Main. An upstream manhole was found to be full of water, which caused the DPW to have the line investigated. [...] After cleaning the pipe, they ran a camera down it and found a broken pipe with a separation, which is most likely the culprit for causing backups.”

Czarnecki said the initial repairs will probably cost around \$21,000, but completion of the project might end up revealing more expensive work that will be necessary in the future.

“Being behind the businesses in an older part of the city, there is no telling what they will find in the ground,” Czarnecki wrote. “And there is another problem that could rear its ugly head. According to Bob Robinson there is an old galvanized water line that services these stores and it also runs behind the buildings in the same alleyway as the sewer main. Extra caution and care will be necessary for any excavation work. Unfortunately, old galvanized pipe can break from the vibrations of equipment. [...] Now might be a good time to get this fixed before Sneaker’s, Flat River Grill, Fans in the Stands, etc. are opened

back up full time and more people are congregating in the area.”

The council approved spending \$21,000 to have Lee’s Trenching Service of Byron Center repair the sanitary sewer.

In other business, the council set a public hearing to discuss the 2020/2021 fiscal year budget, that will take place during the next city council meeting on Monday, May 18. They also approved \$15,770 to have Wolverine Sealcoating of Jackson fill cracks on Bowes Rd., Gee Dr., Foreman St. and city-owned parking lots.

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting is scheduled to take place at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, May 18. The council is also supposed to 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, June 6. Of course, because of the pandemic, these dates, times and locations are subject to change.

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

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

Dear Editor:

When I contemplate the noble work of the Fathers of the Republic, it is often upon their mistakes. Taking the southern states in to the Union was a horror. But the provision for a census was befitting 18th century men of the world aiming for a rational society. Although

the word was not invented for a long time, the U.S. Census is state sponsored sociology. There had been such efforts going back to antiquity, see Luke 2: 1-3, but as shake down operations.

The pandemic has damaged this project. it

is supposed to be finished by year's end, but I have doubts. A move by the Trump administration to add an infamous "citizenship" question lead to much court action. To be fair, the leaders of the early years would have found the question reasonable - especially for a new nation expecting a flood of immigrants and already underway. But prudence dictates differently given the job of the Census Bureau in a large populous country.

Creating good citizens

is one of the unspoken missions of the Bureau. A "ho-hum" attitude can skew or even spike an accurate work product. Last week I saw a map by county of the rate of response, and sure enough it is northern Michigan dragging its collective tail, although easter Wayne County is notoriously no prize. Just do it. Save the cheap flag waving for the tavern.

G.M. Ross  
Lowell

## outdoors

a new season

Dave Stegehuis

Now might be a good opportunity to assume the best and make plans for late spring and summer recreational activities in Michigan. Anticipation of new adventures is almost as fun as the event itself. Think of what all revolves around a twenty-minute wedding ceremony. Some may not equate catching a walleye with a wedding, but then to each their own. Planning for future recreational activities can be a pleasant distraction from everyday concerns.

Returning to the same place every year is like going home. Even though so much happens in our lives over a years' time, after settling in at a summer retreat with old friends it seems like we never left. Planning for a trip to familiar places is easy because one knows what to expect on arrival and what needs to be included in preparing for the trip. There will be few surprises. Some my feel this is boring while others find comfort in familiarity.

Choosing an entirely new adventure may cause some apprehension, but there is excitement in facing the unknown. Spending time in new places produces unique experiences as well as the opportunity to meet new people. Memories made will last a lifetime.

Whether you drop into the comfortable groove of the familiar or seek out different more exciting experiences, a change up from the daily routine can be effective therapy for establishing a positive attitude and sense of calm.

A change of pace doesn't have to involve traveling long distances for a long time to readjust our perspective on life. What we are doing and who we are with are the most important factors in improving our outlook.

Look around and plan a trip or outing to take advantage of the spring and summer seasons. Whatever our current situation, our attitude has a major influence on how we deal with life. Find a way to get out and enjoy this summer.

...

**Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow Internet to see who they really are.**

- Will Ferrell



**125 years ago  
The Lowell Ledger  
May 17, 1895**

The weather has been so very bad for several days past that fears were entertained for the safety of the peach crop, and as that has come to be regarded as the main dependence in the community, the Ledger has taken some pains to find out how the young fruit has fared. The opinion seems to be unanimous that the peaches are all right.

We respectfully call the attention of our common council to the measure adopted in numerous Michigan villages for keeping the children off the public streets at night. Due notice being given, a bell is rung at a given hour—generally 8pm—after which all children are expected to be at home, and officers are required to see that the rule is enforced. Many times during the past two years have we seen little children from three years of age upwards, playing about the streets at ten o'clock at night. Surely this ought not to continue, and we suggest that the matter might well receive attention from our worthy village council.

Dogs attacked a couple of hogs in Murphy's slaughter yard, Tuesday night and wounded them badly.

**100 years ago  
The Lowell Ledger  
May 20, 1920**

The residence property of E. D. McQueen, corner of Main and Hudson streets, recently sold by him, and afterwards purchased by the Standard Oil company,

is a busy place just now. The large house has been purchased by Edwin Fallas, who has workmen getting it ready to be moved upon the vacant lot opposite the Fallas Canning factory, where it will be used as a boarding house for girls expected to come here in the busy season, for which that enterprising company is preparing.

"Distillers of moonshine must go," declared Police Judge Frank A Hess Monday. "From now on every man who comes into this court on a charge of intoxication will be subject to a heavy fine." Seventeen men were arraigned on charges of intoxication yesterday. They drew fines ranging from \$10 to \$40 and one drew 30 days in jail.

Members of the Michigan Wholesale Grocers' association have unanimously adopted resolutions originating at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club, which pledge the organization to assist in relieving the food shortage "Which may bring famine unless prompt action intervenes."

**75 years ago  
The Lowell Ledger  
May 17, 1945**

To aid Kent county women in preparing for the most important canning season in many years, a pressure cooker checking service is being offered by Ruth Edison, War Food Assistant.

The war has made milkweed a popular weed. Last year school youngsters in Michigan, and other states collected thousands of bags from which floss is extracted at Petoskey and used in war work. But the funny thing is that they have tried to cultivate milkweed by sowing the seeds and have it grow. But apparently it just doesn't like being cultivated because the seed doesn't germinate and it's classed as failure.

Ensign King Doyle is home from the Western Pacific for a thirty-day emergency leave with his mother, Mrs. Wm. C. Doyle, and brother, Roland. He arrived last Saturday.

**50 years ago  
The Lowell Ledger  
May 21, 1970**

Lowell's budget for fiscal 1970-71 was approved Monday night by the city council, but there's a strong possibility that some projects included for consideration may have to be shelved. Council okayed City Manager Blaine Bacon's proposal to spend \$445,746...an increase of \$50,723 over 1969-70... following discussion relating to police pay.

## 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

# ABCs of Lowell History

The Lowell Area Historical Museum introduces a new weekly feature to explore local history. During this time of closed museums, we want to still be able to share our area's history with you.

of Lowell from its source near Jackson to Grand Haven where it empties into Lake Michigan.

The river has witnessed Odawa traveling by canoe and settling on its shores, fur traders arriving in bateaux

forded at the mouth of the Flat River, and in the winter we crossed the ice east of the village. When the water was high, John Monks or his daughter would run a ferry. Then (in 1848) they built a bridge where the present

In 1830 the river was described as "beautiful, clear, clean, deep with many fish." Later, industries along the river polluted the waters with debris from sawmills, municipal sewage and other industries. In 1905,

### - poison ivy

Many people have started working in their yard and clearing brush with our current stay at home orders. We are already seeing several patients with poison ivy rashes.

The cause of poison ivy is an oily resin called urushiol. In Michigan, this is found in poison ivy and poison sumac. It is present in the leaves, stems, and roots of the plant. It is very sticky and can attach to skin, clothes, tools, and even pet's fur. Inhaling smoke from burning plants can also cause a reaction.

The rash is extremely itchy. It appears as a linear, red, tiny blistering rash. Occasionally people will develop blisters and oozing from the lesions. The rash usually appears 24-48 hours

after exposure. It can last up to 3-4 weeks. The rash itself is not contagious.

Wash skin right away after exposure. Mild cases can be treated at home with antihistamines, topical hydrocortisone creams, and soothing lotions. More severe cases will require prescription strength topical steroid creams and oral steroid pills.

Prevention focuses on being able to identify and avoid poison ivy and poison sumac. Wear protective clothing and gloves. Wash skin and clean contaminated objects immediately with soap and water. Interestingly, the urushiol oil can be present and still potent on objects for years.



The Kerekes family fishing from a houseboat on the Grand River. They lived just east of Lowell. Photo courtesy of The Lowell Area Historical Museum.

## business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Hesche received Sales Person of the Month in April.

This award recognizes Hesche for his outstanding success and achievements.



### G is for Grand River

The Grand River has remained a constant over the years in Lowell. Known as O-wash-ta-nong by the Odawa, La Grande Riviere by French fur traders and the Grand River by English and Americans, the river is the longest in Michigan. It flows past the southern edge

with trade goods, settlers coming on steamboats to start a new life, merchants using it to transport goods and residents canoeing and kayaking for pleasure.

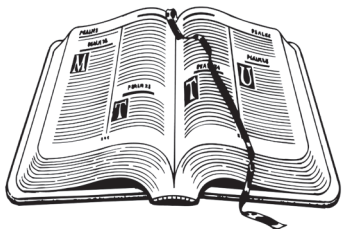
An early settler described it as follows: "at Lowell, there was no bridge over the Grand River, so we

upper (east) bridge is now." - Pioneer Harriet Hatch Sherman.

Canoeing has long been a popular activity on the river. At the start of the 20th century many postcards were made showing canoes lined up along the banks and happy canoers paddling by islands.

the Grand Rapids Evening Press predicted "By the year 2005 the Grand River will be more of a sewer than a river." Thankfully, communities began cleaning the river. Lowell built its first Waste Water Treatment Plant in 1965 and the second in 1987-1989.

# area churches



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
865 Lincoln Lake SE • [lowellucc.org](http://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

Access Services at  
[www.goodshepherdlowell.org](http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org)  
Left hand side, click on Sermons, etc.

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

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES  
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897-7168 • [www.fbclowell.org](http://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

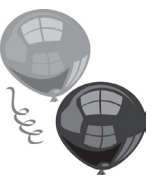
**St. Mary Catholic Church**

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820  
Website: [www.stmarylowell.com](http://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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9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary  
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

## happy birthday



**May 13**

Melanie Ligman, Jean Daverman, Ed Roth III

**May 14**

Kathy Thomas

**May 15**

Maxine Gasper, Kass Milanowski

**May 16**

Richie Ford, Kristi Ford, Angela Dixon, Ryan Phillips, Janet Boerema, Lila Crandall

**May 17**

Andy Dibble, Shawn Witherell, Blake Yeiter

**May 18**

Ashlee Patnode, Robin Hewitt, Karen Patnode, Cody Sokolowski, Karen Kennedy, Kristin Husfstader, Phil Dibble, Melissa Borton, Mike Ordway

**May 19**

Helen Tetzlaff, Kathy (Tetzlaff) Williams, James Young, Debbie DeHaan, David Main, Andrew Kiczenski, Ken Stager



# Today in history: May 13

**Wednesday, May 13 is the 134th day of 2020. There are still 232 days remaining until the end of this year.**

## Historical Events

1515: Marriage at Greenwich of French queen Mary Tudor and Charles Brandon, the First Duke of Suffolk.

1568: Battle of Langside: The forces of Mary, Queen of Scots, are defeated by a confederacy of Scottish Protestants led by her half-brother James Stewart, Earl of Moray.

1780: The "Cumberland Compact" is signed by settlers in the Cumberland River area of Tennessee, providing for a democratic government and a formal system of justice.

1787: Captain Arthur Phillip leaves Portsmouth with 11 ships full of convicts to establish a penal colony in Australia.

1830: Ecuador gains its independence from Colombia.

1846: The US declares war on Mexico following a dispute over the American annexation of Texas and a Mexican military incursion.

1861: Queen Victoria of the UK issues a "proclamation of neutrality" recognizing the US Confederacy as having "belligerent rights."

1861: The Great Comet of 1861 is first observed by John Tebbutt in Windsor, New South Wales, Australia.

1861: Pakistan's first railway line opens, a trip from Karachi to Kotri.

1862: Southern slave Robert Smalls steals a Confederate gunship, pilots it through Confederate-controlled waters and deposits it with the Union. Smalls is later officially appointed a US Navy captain, becoming the first black man to command a US ship.

1864: The Battle of Resaca begins as Union General Sherman fights his way toward Atlanta.

1865: The Battle of Palmito Ranch in south Texas, the last land battle of the Civil War, ends in a Confederate victory.

1880: In Menlo Park, NJ, Thomas Edison performs the first test of his electric railway.

1888: Brazil abolishes slavery.

1912: Establishment of the Royal Flying Corps in the UK, the forerunner of the Royal Air Force.

1917: First reported appearance of "Our Lady of Fátima" in Portugal.

1940: The German army crosses the Meuse River in France; Winston Churchill makes his "blood, toil, tears, and sweat" speech to the House of Commons.

1940: Queen Wilhelmina

of the Netherlands flees to Great Britain and Princess Juliana takes her children to Canada after the German invasion of Holland.

1943: Operation Vulcan and Operation Strike force the surrender of the last Axis troops in Tunisia.

1950: The first round of the Formula One World Championship is held at Silverstone, UK.

1952: The Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India, holds its first sitting.

1958: Vice President Richard Nixon's car is attacked by anti-American demonstrators during a visit to Caracas, Venezuela.

1958: A group of French military officers lead a coup in Algiers demanding that a government of national unity be formed in order to defend French control of Algeria.

1960: Hundreds of University of California, Berkeley students congregate for day one of their protest against a visit by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

1972: A car bombing outside a crowded pub in Belfast sparks a two-day gun battle involving the Provisional IRA, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the British Army. Seven people are killed and over 66 injured.

1980: Pres. Jimmy Carter declares Kalamazoo County a federal disaster area after an F3 tornado hits.

1981: Mehmet Ali Ağca attempts to assassinate Pope John Paul II at St. Peter's Square in Rome. After undergoing emergency surgery, the Pope survives.

1985: Police bomb the Philadelphia headquarters of MOVE, a black liberation group, to end a stand-off, killing six adults and five children, and destroying the homes of 250 city residents.

1989: Large groups of students occupy Tiananmen Square and begin a hunger strike.

1998: India carries out two nuclear tests at Pokhran, following the three conducted on May 11. The US and Japan impose economic sanctions on India.

2011: Two bombs explode in the Charsadda District of Pakistan killing 98 people and wounding 140 others.

2012: Forty-nine dismembered bodies are discovered by authorities on a federal highway in Mexico.

2014: An explosion at an underground coal mine in southwest Turkey kills 301 miners.

## Birthdays

1254: Marie of Brabant,

Queen of France

1453: Mary Stewart, Countess of Arran

1588: Ole Worm, physician, historian

1597: Cornelis Schut, painter, draughtsman, engraver

1699: Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo, prime minister of Portugal

1730: Charles Watson-Wentworth, prime minister of the UK

1792: Giovanni "Pope Pius IX" Ferretti

1830: Zebulon Baird Vance, governor of North Carolina

1883: Georgios Papanikolaou, inventor of the pap smear

1894: Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, president of Iceland

1905: Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, president of India

1907: Daphne du Maurier, novelist, playwright

1912: Gil Evans, pianist, composer, bandleader

1913: William R. Tolbert Jr., president of Liberia

1914: Joe Louis, boxer

1914: Johnnie Wright, singer/songwriter, guitarist

1922: Bea Arthur, actor, singer

1924: Theodore Mann, director, producer

1927: Fred Hellerman, folk singer/songwriter, guitarist

1927: Herbert Ross, actor, director

1928: Enrique Bolaños, president of Nicaragua

1931: Rev. Jim Jones, founder of the Peoples Temple

1938: Giuliano Amato, prime minister of Italy

1938: Francine Pascal, author, playwright

1939: Harvey Keitel, actor

1941: Ritchie Valens, singer/songwriter, guitarist

1943: Mary Wells, singer/songwriter

1944: Carolyn Franklin, singer/songwriter

1944: Armistead Maupin, author, screenwriter, actor

1945: "Magic" Dick Salwitz, harmonica, J. Geils Band

1945: "Blue" Lou Marini, saxophonist, the Blues Brothers

1949: Zoë Wanamaker, actor

1950: Danny Kirwan, singer/songwriter, guitarist, Fleetwood Mac

1950: Bobby Valentine, baseball player, manager

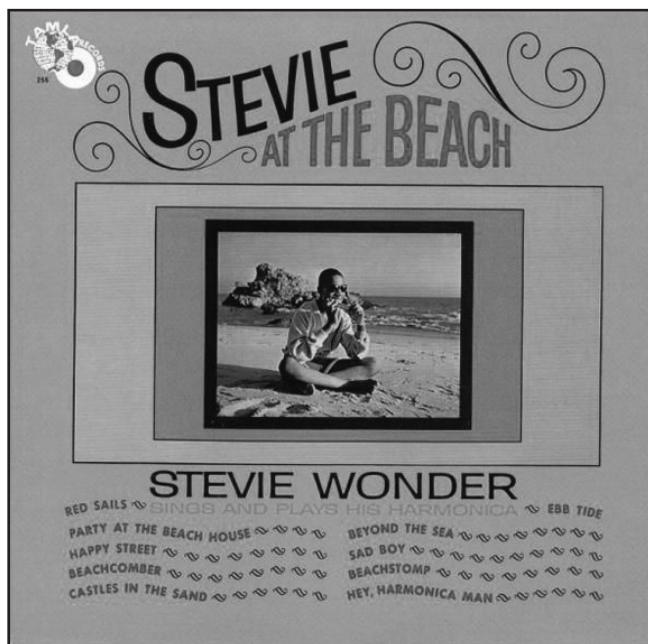
1950: Stevie Wonder, singer/songwriter, pianist

1951: Paul Thompson, drummer, Roxy Music

1952: John Kasich, governor of Ohio

1954: Johnny Logan, singer/songwriter

1956: Fred Melamed, actor



**R&B singer Stevie Wonder turns 70 today.**

1961: Siobhan Fallon Hogan, "Saturday Night Live" cast member

1961: Dennis Rodman, basketball player

1964: Stephen Colbert,

talk show host

1965: Lari White, singer/songwriter

1966: Alison Goldfrapp, singer/songwriter

1966: Darius Rucker, singer/songwriter, guitarist, Hootie & the Blowfish

1967: Chuck Schuldiner, singer/songwriter, guitarist, Death

1968: Scott Morrison, prime minister of Australia

1968: Parrish "PMD" Smith, rapper, EPMD

1969: Brian "Buckethead" Carroll, guitarist, songwriter

1976: Ana Popović, singer/songwriter, guitarist

1977: Samantha Morton, actor

1977: Terrence "Pusha T" Thornton, rapper

1986: Lena Dunham, actor, screenwriter

## What Is Going On?

Businesses are closed. Churches sit empty. The streets are silent as people sit closeted in their homes. Statistics show us that in the last three months from January 1 to March 25, 21,000 died from Coronavirus. 113,034 died from seasonal flu. 228,095 died from Malaria. 249,904 died by suicide. 313,903 died by traffic accident. 390,908 died from HIV/Aids. 581,599 died from alcohol related illnesses. 1,162,481 died from smoking related illnesses. 1,909,804 died from cancer. 2,382,324 died from famine - hunger they starved to death. And there were 9,913,702 babies who died from abortion. Just in the last three months over 17 million people died from diseases - natural and self inflicted - and from famine. We have seen SARS, Ebola, Mad Cow, Bird Flu, and Zika. The Swine flu in 2009 killed up to 203,000 people worldwide. 647,000 Americans die from heart disease each year. 1.6 million died from diabetes in 2016.

And what about wars and skirmishes? 24 million people died in World War I. 60 million died in World War 2. And then we had the Korean War (33,686 Americans died) and Vietnam. (58,220 Americans died with several times more Vietnamese deaths) In 2018 41,000 people died in Somalia/Kenya skirmishes. 4,000 died in Mali, Niger, Tunisia skirmishes. As of 2018, 345,049 people have died in the Syrian conflict. Turkey and Iraq have lost 45,000 people in that conflict. Mexico has had 25,738 die in battles with drug cartels, and there were 115,000 homicides in Mexico in 2018.

That's a lot of people dying from a lot of different things. But what is different about Covid-19? Percentage wise, it's not a big killer compared to other causes. Numbers wise, it doesn't compare with other diseases. But the reaction to it - to something unknown - is different. And that reaction is fear.

There are theories about Covid-19. One, some scientist in China was experimenting using bats and the virus was released accidentally or on purpose. Another idea is that mother nature is always adapting and this new strain is nature's way of population control and survival of the fittest. But another way of looking at this is asking the question, what if the Bible is true?

Jesus stated in Matthew 24:7,8 - "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in different places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Luke 21 :25 states, "Upon the earth, distress of nations, with perplexity; the seas and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Political leaders posture and make treaties and give solutions, but there are no solutions and there is no peace. Tsunamis, tidal waves, flooding, fires, and earthquakes every day everywhere fill the news.

If a person doesn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ, there is a reason to be fearful. Romans 6:23 states, "The wages of sin is death." Isaiah 18:4 - "The soul that sins shall die." Revelation 21 :8 states, "'The fearful and unbelieving ... shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the SECOND death." Everybody dies, that's a fact of life. But the second death is the punishment for sin, eternal death and separation from God. There is no resurrection from this one.

God gave us all a life to live. How we live it is our choice. He also gave us an instruction manual - the Bible - to show us how to live and how to receive eternal life and escape the second death. Whenever Jesus showed up, he said, "Don't be afraid." Revelation 21 : 7 says, "He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Matthew 24: 13 gives us hope, "But he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness to all nations, and then shall the end come." That gospel is also called the everlasting gospel in Revelation 14:6-14. There are very few churches or preachers that dare try to explain these verses - and yet it is the everlasting gospel.

Jesus told the Israelites, concerning two people who had died from murder by Pilate and eighteen who had a wall fall on them, "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered these things? I tell you, Nay; but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish." What do we repent of? Sin- breaking God's law. I John 1 :9 gives us great hope, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God bless you and keep you safe.

If you would like to know more, we have three different books available to you: Daniel Verse by Verse, Revelation Verse by Verse, and War in Revelation. You can call 616-307-1461 to arrange to receive a copy.

*Paid for by Michael Fracker, 307-755-5022*

# Cookie Adventure

Adventure



**Saturday, May 9**





# You can't do this, you can't do that, but at least now you can get some fresh ice cream!



**Lowell's three main ice cream parlors are open for business. Ball's Softee Creme (top), the Ice Cream Caboose (above right) and the new one behind the Walgreen's in Lowell Township (above left) all began serving customers last week, and the Kona Shaved Ice truck was also spotted around town. These are welcome signs of spring and a reminder that someday everything will be normal again.**

On a sweltering day, few things bring relief as immediately as a favorite frozen treat. The United States leads the world in ice cream consumption, with an average of 26 liters per person consumed per year.

Ice cream has been around for quite some time, and it is believed

ancient Greeks ate a crude form of the dessert as early as the 5th century B.C. While ice cream parlors, dessert shops and supermarket freezers are popular places to sample favorite flavors, ice cream also can be purchased from ice cream trucks.

The tinkling of the ice cream truck music

box and the sight of that dessert haven on wheels is enough to send any child (and many adults) into sensory overload. Some of the early precursors to the modern day ice cream truck were ice and ice cream sandwich carts that gained popularity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Confectioner and visionary Harry Burt was instrumental in developing the ice cream truck. Burt invented ice cream novelties that could be enjoyed on a stick, including the Good Humor bar. Burt wanted an easy way to deliver the treat into the hands of hungry kids, so he commissioned

refrigerator trucks and hired drivers who looked pristine and safe to deliver the treats to neighborhood children. To entice the youngsters outside, the drivers rang a bell so kids would investigate the noise. Eventually the bell and standard routes helped families know when to expect the ice cream man.

Many ice cream truck businesses are independently-owned seasonal businesses. The trucks are usually initially seen when the first warm days arrive, and many can still be seen patrolling neighborhood streets into late fall.

Red Arrow

- SENIORS

# SPORTS

## Honoring Senior athletes

Sixty-seven Lowell High School seniors, unfortunately, saw their last year of spring sports come to an abrupt end. We'll certainly miss being able to cover these seniors play the sports they love. All of us at the Ledger in partnership with the LHS athletic department and spring sports coaches look forward to highlighting all 67 over the next few weeks. This week we'll be featuring the 12 seniors.

### Mya Kaywood - Track

Kaywood participated in track and field all four years of high school and served as a two-year captain. She also



played volleyball during her freshman and sophomore year and golfed her junior and senior year. She is in the LHS record books as part of the fourth-fastest 800m relay team and the sixth-fastest 400m relay team. She will be attending St. Mary's Notre Dame next year.

### Austin Smith - Track

Smith is serving as a captain this year in his fourth year on the track and field team. He also ran cross-country this past fall. His personal record in the 100m is 12.37 seconds and 25.18 seconds in the 200m. "Austin makes practices better by just being there," Coach Paul Judd said of Smith. He will be continuing his education at Grand Valley State University studying cyber security.



### Kyleigh Rau - Track

A standout student-athlete, Rau participated in both track and field and basketball throughout high school. In addition she played volleyball her freshman and sophomore year. In track and field she competed in



shot-put and discus, becoming a conference champion in the latter last season. She will head to Grand Rapids Community College to continue her academic endeavors and play basketball.

### Caleb Swart - Track

Distance runner Swart will go down as one of the best, if not the best, to ever do it at LHS. A two-time cross-country state qualifier, Swart also broke the LHS cross country record once held by Clay VanderWarf with a time



of 16:01. He also owns a track and field school record in the 3200m with a time of 9:32.36. He will be continuing his running and academic career at Grand Valley State this fall where he will be studying exercise science. Swart with Coach VanderWarf. Photo courtesy of coach Judd.

### Devin Dietz - Track

Devin Dietz is a two-year captain and four-year varsity letter winner for track and field. A member of the spring crew, Dietz holds the number eight spot all-time in the LHS record books in the 200m with a time of 23.32 seconds. In addition, he holds the number six spot all-time with a time of 51.48 seconds in the 400m, number five spot all-time in the 1600m relay, and number six spot all-time in the 800m relay. He was named the team's MVP in 2019.



### Lucas Cossar - Track

Cossar participated in track and field as well as cross-country all four years of high school. He earned all-conference honors this past fall for the cross-country team and holds the number seven spot on the LHS record boards



with a time of 16:43.5. He will be attending Michigan State University this fall and eventually hopes for a career in social work. He will run with the MSU club team as well.



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Red Arrow

- SENIORS

# SPORTS

## Honoring Senior athletes

### Brett Evink - Track

Evink is a scholar-athlete and academic all-stater who participated in both track and field and soccer all four years of high school. His personal record in the 800m is



2:15.21, which is also his favorite track and field event. He also holds a 5:05.2 personal record in the 1600m. Evink will be majoring in political science at either Grand Valley State or Michigan State this fall.



### Khloe Hayes - Soccer

Hayes is an well-decorated soccer player, earning all-district honors her first three years of high school and is a two-time all-conference member. A captain, Hayes



was an important part of the LHS soccer program from her freshman year. She has a GPA of 4.098 and will be attending Michigan State University this fall to study computer science engineering. "Khloe's maturity and leadership will be sorely missed," soccer coach Dan Lipon said.

### Maddie Halfmann - Soccer

This spring is Halfmann's third on the varsity soccer team where she is serving as a captain. "A consistent fixture on our back-line, Maddie is a dynamic attacking threat with ability to create space, play dangerous balls into the box, and is highly effective from set pieces.



We'll sorely miss her kindhearted spirit, and fun loving personality," Coach Lipon said of Halfmann. She has a GPA of 4.103 and will attend Michigan State University next year for nursing.

### Natasha Marsh - Soccer

Marsh is a two-year varsity soccer player with a GPA of 4.248. She will graduate top ten in her class and either attend Hope College or Brown University. She captained



the JV team her sophomore year. "One of the hardest working student-athletes in the program. On the field Natasha is an athletic front-runner, who plays with great determination and heart," Coach Dan Lipon said of Marsh.

### Jennifer Cooper - Lacrosse

Cooper played attack and midfield during her four years as a varsity lacrosse player for LHS. "A two-year captain, Jen is someone that has always led by example, she makes the coach's job very easy. Jen is a very gifted lacrosse player. She is full of heart and determination,"



LHS girls lacrosse head coach Jesse Vasquez said of Cooper. She will be continuing her lacrosse and academic career at Bethel University where she will be studying nursing.

### Logan Riffle - Crew

Riffle is a four-year member of the Lowell crew team.



During his time with the team, he has excelled including a third-place finish at the Culver Regatta last year, and a second-place finish in 2017. He plans to attend Grand Rapids Community College, then transfer to Ferris State University where he will major in graphic design.



## obituaries

### BATCHELOR

Shawn Marie Batchelor, age 54 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, May 9, 2020. She is preceded in death by her mother, Joanne Hillard. She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Mark; children Britney (Matt) Altoft, Matthew Batchelor; father, Lynn Hillard; fathers and mothers-in-law, Jerry and Joy



Batchelor & William and Donna Harrall; brothers, Lynn Hillard Jr.; sisters, Tami (Mike) Watts, Jennifer (James) Gauw; grandchildren, McKenna and Marlee Altoft; sisters-in-law, Laurie Vogt and Jodi Harrall; 22 nieces and nephews. She enjoyed gardening and loved spending time with her family and friends. Visitation will be held Sunday, May 17, 2020 from 2pm to 4pm and 6pm to 8pm at Roth-Gerst

Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI. Private funeral services will be held Monday, May 18th at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell. Rev. Aaron Ferris officiating. Interment Chapel Hills Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell, MI 49331 or Kent County Animal Shelter, 711 Ball Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



### PERSCHBACHER

June Lorraine Perschbacher, age 90, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Edward; her children, Sandra (David) Stein, Douglas (Felecia Niebojeski), David

(Danuta), Scott (Joanne) and Jeffrey (Marley) Perschbacher; her brother Eugene (Patricia) Sanford, brother-in-law, Robert (Donna) Perschbacher; sisters-in-law, Elizabeth, Mary, & Dolores Sanford and Myrtice Perschbacher; also 8 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents, William & Louisa Sanford; her brothers, Robert, Wayne, & Ronald Sanford, her brothers and sister-in-law, William & Wesley (Selma) Perschbacher. June graduated from Lee High School in 1947, was employed by Globe Knitting Co. as an IBM Key Punch operator, stayed at home for approximately 20 years caring for her children, and later returned to work in customer service at Jacobsons. Private immediate family services have taken place. Interment at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lowell YMCA, 1335 W Main St, Lowell, MI 49331.



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Who Help Support  
Our Community!

### SCHAEFER



Ernst "Bill" Schaefer, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord & Savior on Saturday, May 9, 2020. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Brenda in 2001; and brother, Rudolph in 2008. He leaves behind his loving

wife of 56 years, Helen "Helcia" Schaefer; children, Lynn (Bob) Knittel, Bill (Jodi) Schaefer, Ursula Shufelt, Billy Schaefer & Patrick (Toni) Schaefer; grandchildren, Clifford (Marcela) Knittel, Michael (Ashley) Shufelt, Brandi (Rick) Berta, Dan Shufelt, Jordan (Ashley) Schaefer, Jami (Tyler) Berger, Ryan (Julia) Schaefer, Brady, Joey, Jasen & Amiya Schaefer, Hannah Shufelt; great-grandchildren, Jackson, Carson, Ellison Berta, Nixon Schaefer, Kit Schaefer; as well as, multiple extended family members; and his beloved church family at Grace Emmanuel Reformed Baptist Church of Grand Rapids. Bill was born in Rochester, NY on January 18, 1930 to Gustav & Dora Schaefer. Bill had a colorful upbringing and if you knew him, you knew he had a thick German accent. As a child, he moved



from NY to his parent's homeland of Germany, where he was required to join Hitler's Youth. He began his career in the meat industry and became a boxer - which ultimately brought him back to the USA where he boxed professionally for some time. After that, he joined the United States Marine Corp., proudly served in the Korean War. Bill's 50-year career in the meat industry allowed him to touch lives in NY,

Virginia, Illinois, Kansas, and Michigan, where he was known for his kindness and loyalty to his employers and employees. While working at Hygrade Meat Company, he created the formula for the beloved Ball Park Frank and even had a Thornapple Valley/Herrud smoked sausage commercial based on him! His love of black labs led him to train them for field trials throughout New York and Michigan. And, sports, boy did Bill love his sports! You could often find him listening or watching his beloved Red Wings, Tigers, and Bears, and you would often see him on the sidelines of his son's and grandchildren's sporting events. The two true loves of Bill's life were his Helcia and his music, in that order. If you knew him, you knew that every song he sang was for her, every twinkle of his eye was for her, and every day that he got out of bed, was for her. His sun rose, and his moon sank to the love song that was Bill and Helen. If you were lucky enough to have Bill sing and play for you, you knew that it was something special and that you were something special because you were a part of his world - that was just the kind of man that Bill was. Though he will be deeply missed, we take comfort in knowing that he is peacefully waiting for his Helcia in God's joyous kingdom. There will be a private family graveside service on Thursday, May 14th at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. Helen and our family would also like to thank the true love and kindness of the staff of Porter Hills and the excellent care received from Hospice. Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Hospice, 401 Hall Street, Ste 263, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959.



•••

Never follow anyone  
else's path. Unless you're  
in the woods and you're  
lost and you see a path.  
Then by all means follow  
that path.

- Ellen DeGeneres

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

The Elaine Joyce  
Friedman and Elaine  
J. Friedman Trust  
5/20/1980 restated  
11/8/2000

Trustee/Personal  
Representative or  
to both the probate  
court at 180 Ottawa  
Avenue NW, Suite  
2500, Grand Rapids, MI  
49503 and the personal  
representative within 4  
months after the date  
of publication of this  
notice.

May 5, 2020

TO ALL CREDITORS:

Thomas E. Lane  
(P36477)

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS: The  
decedent, Elaine Joyce  
Friedman died 4/1/2020.

688 Cascade West  
Pkwy SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-285-6050

Creditors of the  
decedent are notified  
that all claims  
against the estate  
will be forever barred  
unless presented  
to Marc Daneman,

Marc Daneman,  
Trustee/Personal  
Representative  
2557 Forest Bluff Ct. SE  
Kentwood, MI 49546  
616-450-0110

## Looking Back, continued

Though not all plans have yet been formulated, several major projects designed to improve Lowell's water and sewage treatment...plus possible renovation of the numerous streets to include curb and gutter...are moving at an accelerated pace.

Individuals and groups wishing to compete in the 1970 Lowell Showboat Talent Search have until June 6 to submit entries, it was announced by Dr. Clark Vredenburg of the Lowell Lions Club, who serves as chairman for the annual event.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 17, 1995

The Riverwalk Festival was organized to lend financial support to the new Lowell Chamber of Commerce office. Timing of the event has turned it into much, much more. The date of the festival is Sept. 2nd and 3rd which will be about a month short of when the Lafayette Street Plaza and riverfront walk from Main Street to Avery is expected to be completed.

A petition circulated by residents against the repaving of Kissing Rock Avenue has temporarily halted engineering surveys by the Kent County Road Commission. According to Lowell Charter Township Supervisor John Timpson, the road commission doesn't want to proceed on a project that isn't wanted by the residents.

Bushnell friends and family were invited into the gym to congratulate the students whose art work has been displayed on the ceiling tiles this year. A student's illustration of their favorite book was chosen from each classroom to be transferred to a ceiling tile.





## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

### Why Should You See a Financial Advisor?

The social distancing and stay-at-home orders necessitated by the coronavirus have led many of us to feel isolated. Still, we've fought back through social media, "virtual" gatherings and walks in the neighborhood, where we could greet friends and neighbors (from 6 feet away). But when you're dealing with the financial effects of the virus and you're investing alone,

you could encounter some problems that may prove costly.

Of course, with so much investment-related information available online, on television and in any number of periodicals, it's not surprising that some people feel they can invest without any assistance. But the volatility of the financial markets over the past few months has also pointed to the dangers of going solo

in the investment world. And you might find that a professional financial advisor can help you in several ways, including the following:

Taking emotions out of investing. During this period of market turbulence, many self-guided investors are letting their emotions drive their investment decisions. As a result, they sell investments when their price is down, "locking in" their losses. Furthermore, if they then stay out of the financial markets, they will miss out on the eventual recovery – and some of the biggest gains in market rallies usually occur right at the beginning. But if you work with a financial advisor who has helped you develop a personalized

investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, you will be far less likely to react to extreme market conditions by making ill-advised decisions.

Maintaining perspective. When you're putting away money for the future and you suddenly have a lot less of it, you might start to wonder if that future is somehow in jeopardy. But if you've been working with a financial advisor and following your investment strategy, you'll know that you don't have to immediately cash out those investments that have lost value, and you may not need to liquidate them for decades if they were designed for a long-term goal, such as retirement.

By the time you do need to sell them, their value may well have appreciated significantly. And if you've got a well-constructed portfolio, you'll also own shorter-term, less volatile investments to help meet your current cash flow needs.

Understanding the history of investing. The recent market instability is unique in the sense that its cause – a worldwide pandemic – is so highly unusual, and it hopefully will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Typically, prolonged market downturns are triggered by explainable financial or economic factors, such as the bursting of the "dot-com" bubble in 2000. However, market drops

of 20 percent or more – generally referred to as bear markets – are not at all unusual and have happened every few years over the past several decades. Financial advisors are well aware of this history and share it with their clients. And for many people, the knowledge that "we've been here before" is reassuring and makes it easier for them to continue following their investment strategies.

The road to your financial goals is a long one, with many twists and turns. So you might like to have some experienced company along the way.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

# AG Nessel warns of websites selling Coronavirus-related products that never arrive

Attorney General Dana Nessel issued an urgent consumer alert to notify Michiganders of another online retailer that is taking

advantage of consumers looking to buy products like hand sanitizer and face masks during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis.

Nessel's office recently received a complaint from a concerned Michigan consumer about a website called OkHomeOnline selling face masks, alcohol-based cleaning wipes, hand sanitizer, toilet paper and other products in high demand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The consumer reported being charged for a purchase, but never received the order. Later attempts to check the order status were unsuccessful when the website could no longer be accessed.

The Attorney General's office found that multiple complaints were available online with consumers going through the exact same situation as the Michigan resident. They placed the order only to find that the website disappeared. Furthermore, the phone numbers and addresses

listed for the "company" appear to be stolen from other businesses that do not make or sell coronavirus-related products.

"Consumers should always be careful when shopping online, but being cautious is especially important in a time like this when public anxiety is high and scammers are looking to profit off fear," Nessel said. "Researching the product and the seller before you make a purchase is never a bad idea, and it can help shoppers from falling victim to these predatory practices."

This website is not the first online COVID-19 scam the Attorney General's office has encountered. In mid-April the office announced it was issuing court-authorized subpoenas in its investigation into a Muskegon County business, EM General, for similar

business practices of failing to provide consumers with their purchased products. That investigation is still underway.

As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, it's likely consumers will continue to seek products through digital retailers, which highlights the importance of shoppers being aware of potential scams.

Before ordering from a new or unfamiliar online store, consumers should consider doing the following:

See if the company has reviews online. Search for the company in a search engine with terms like "review," "complaints" or "scam."

Pay by credit card. If there are any issues with the purchase, consumers may be able to dispute the purchase with the credit card company and may

have protections available under federal law.

Review AG Nessel's Online Shopping Tips consumer alert and more alerts under the Shopping for Products and Services category.

Additional warnings on how to avoid purchasing non-existent personal protective equipment (PPE) and other COVID-19-related products are available from the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Federal Trade Commission.

Consumers can file a complaint online or by calling the Attorney General's Consumer Protection tip line, 877-765-8388. Hours of operation are between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**It's our differences that make us great.**



No matter what you value, I'm here to help protect it with respect and professionalism. **Here to help life go right.**  
CALL ME TODAY.

Deborah Wilks, Agent  
11827 Fulton St E  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Bus: 616-897-9237  
dwilks@deborahwilks.com



Are you in need of....

**ENVELOPES** **BANNERS**  
**CALENDARS** **BROCHURES**  
**BUSINESS FORMS** **FLYERS**  
**BUSINESS CARDS** **LITHO**

105 N. BROADWAY, LOWELL  
897-9261

# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

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

# 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.

Puzzle solutions on page 13

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

## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Utah on April 12, 1987. In school I was bullied for being hyperactive, but don't panic. Later that trait would suit my career as a lead singer of a pop rock band that is highly successful today.

Answer: Brandon Urie

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to humor.

C H E E L K

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Heckle

			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

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Germanic mythological god
  - Cash machine
  - Improvement
  - What voters want
  - Sheepish
  - Placed at powerful level
  - Measure of illumination
  - Trent Reznor's band
  - Commercial
  - Amounts of time
  - English broadcaster
  - Rolls of tobacco
  - Position
  - Expresses pleasure
  - Corporate exec (abbr.)
  - Body part
  - Bleated
  - Businessman
  - Beats per minute
  - Defunct Italian monetary unit
  - Broken branch
  - Put in advance
  - Arrest
  - Prefix indicating adjacent to
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Disfigure
  - The Fighting Irish (abbr.)
  - Not in any place
  - Predict
  - A system of getting stuff from one place to another
  - Philosophy of the principles of things
  - US gov't office (abbr.)
  - Seaborgium's former name (abbr.)
  - Housing material
  - Flows through
  - Founder of Babism
  - Honorific title
  - A type of letter
  - Seize and hold firmly
  - Artery
  - Body fluids
  - Press against lightly
  - An island in the Pacific
  - A reminder of past events
  - Austrian spa town
  - Peter's last name
  - Something a mob might do
  - Of the bones of the feet
  - "Amazing Stories" writer
  - Nazi-resistant youth group (abbr.)
  - Used to have (Scottish) (abbr.)
  - A way to cook
  - Japanese port city
  - Type of precipitation
  - Engrave
  - Female sibling
  - Expresses emotion
  - Network connector
  - Primordial matter
  - Get up
  - Uncoordinated
  - Ill-fated cruise ship
  - Work hard
  - Drivers' speed
  - Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
  - Healthcare pro
  - Egyptian Sun god
  - Expresses the negative
  - Some are three-legged
  - Clothing manufacturer
  - Close by
  - Tooth caregiver

# New LP “Funky Town” by the Ryne Experience

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

“Funky Town,” the third album by Lowell rock group The Ryne Experience, was released on April 20.

Described by bandleader Ryne Clarke as “a psychedelic alt-country loose concept album about identity theft, amnesia, love, loss, murder and redemption,” this will mark the band’s first release on vinyl. “Funky Town” is also available on cassette, CD and various streaming services.

Following the idiosyncratic methods established with previous Ryne Experience releases, Clarke played well over a dozen different instruments himself and enlisted the

help of 13 individual collaborators. Instruments listed in the album’s credits include vocals, bass, drums and guitar as you’d expect, but also electric kazoo, melodica, vibraslap, spoons, organ drums, yeti mug, fireworks, chooch rip, cries, sprinkles and simply “screeching.” That probably looks chaotic in print, but Clarke pulls it off - nothing on “Funky Town” seems crazy or out of place.

Clarke wears his classic rock influences on



his sleeve, so you may notice noises characteristic of Wilco, the Velvet Underground and psych-era Beatles. Basically, “Funky Town” ends up sounding like if George Harrison made a record with Pavement.

Much of “Funky Town” was recorded at Upstairs, Man Studios in downtown Lowell (a.k.a. Clarke’s bedroom), but this time Clarke branched out a little and did some of it at Warren Wilson Sound Lab in Swannanoa, NC and at John Wenger’s Clear Sky Tech right

here in Lowell. The final product was mixed by guitarist Jerry Wenger and mastered by Don Carlisle of Knavish Audio in Grand Rapids, and the cover art was executed by Maddie Burt, Olivia St. Arnold, Jeff Armstrong and Jeremy Kargl. It was released by Under the Counter Tapes, a label based in Spring, TX.

to thinking, what would happen to the character in this song if he showed up in the next song? Then it took off from there, but it’s a very vague, very loose concept.”

Clarke is continuing his regularly frantic creative pace. Stuck in quarantine like everybody else, he said there is “lots and lots and lots” of songwriting happening on Monroe St. The next batch of Ryne Experience songs is nearing completion, and it’s probably going to be another epic production.

“The next album is already written and half done,” Clarke said. “[It’s] shaping out to be a double album with 20 tracks!”

There are various methods and platforms to obtain a copy of “Funky Town.” To purchase the vinyl LP (in an elaborate gatefold cover), the compact disc or the cassette directly from the record label, visit [underthecountertapes.bandcamp.com](http://underthecountertapes.bandcamp.com). To buy the CD with a free autographed poster of their canceled album release

## Public Notice: Your right to know!

**PUBLIC NOTICES** are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters\* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

\* EPIC-MRA 2011



The Ryne Experience [photo by Jeff Armstrong]

“The first song, ‘There is a Reason,’ was recorded right after ‘Hokey’ was put out, in December 2018,” Clarke said. “Then, moving into the new year, I got the first five or six songs down by April. At first I thought I might put those out as an EP, but when I put them together in a sequence, it just didn’t sound like a complete release. I sat on it for a bit, then I went to North Carolina and came back with a couple more songs. I was working on it down at the sound lab at Warren Wilson College where Corrina Wenger goes to school, and I recorded two tracks with Patrick Kargl before he went back to college. So I got the ten songs down, and laying out the track listing was where I had the idea to set it up like a story. The opening track, ‘Paul Mashake,’ is kind of like a story in itself, but in sort of a Shel Silverstein style. Then I got

show (it would have taken place April 3 at the Pyramid Scheme club in Grand Rapids), head to [ryneshyne.club](http://ryneshyne.club). If you would prefer to stream the album or purchase digital files like MP3 or FLAC, visit [theyryneexperience.bandcamp.com](http://theyryneexperience.bandcamp.com).

The whole album will eventually show up on YouTube accompanied by a different video for each song. The first of these, “Paul Mashake,” is viewable right now at [youtube.com/watch?v=HjVhNzS9oYM](http://youtube.com/watch?v=HjVhNzS9oYM).

“Once I had the idea to have the songs tell a story, I figured it would be fun to shoot some short films,” Clarke said. “I am the bad guy, ‘Nameless Sam,’ and we’re just acting out the different parts of the songs, the different plot points. It’s very fuzzy, though, and not meant to undergo too much scrutiny!”



This newspaper supports your right to know.