

## BLACK LIVES MATTER



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LHS sports  
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## Sewage in the Grand River



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# This year's Sizzlin' Summer Concerts and Riverwalk Festival canceled due to pandemic

It was announced early this week that Lowell's two biggest summer events - the Sizzlin' Summer Concerts and the Riverwalk Festival - will be cancelled this year to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

In mid-May, LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce sent out a survey to gauge responses from the community on whether to move forward with these events. There were over 350 replies with comments. Those involved said their decision was "a way of honoring health providers, vulnerable community members and visitors."

"We know that these

concerts provide summer fun and times to gather with friends, celebrate our fantastic regional musicians and provide an opportunity to dance and engage with the performers," said LowellArts executive director Lorain Smalligan.

"We are saddened because this decision has not come easily," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker. "We have weighed both sides of the scenario through a thoughtful and heartfelt process. Our organizations have a responsibility to follow executive orders set forth and we owe it to everyone to keep our community whole."

Last year's Riverwalk Festival was that event's 25th anniversary and, if it goes ahead as scheduled, the 2021 Sizzlin' Summer Concerts will be the 20th anniversary of that event. Organizers said that the musicians scheduled for 2020 have been placed at the top of the list for consideration for the 2021 lineup.

"We were SO looking forward to bringing joy to the Lowell crowd this summer, but fully realize that it is far better to err on the side of safety during this pandemic," said Lowell musician Roger MacNaughton. "Hopefully, we will be back making music for our Lowell friends sooner rather than later."



# LHS graduation pushed back again, now July 23



by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Uncertainty about next year's budget is just one of many complex problems facing Lowell Area Schools as the coronavirus pandemic rages on.

Lowell High School's 2020 graduation ceremony will now take place on Thursday, July 23 instead of Thursday, June 11.

"We did a survey and asked parents if they wanted to have a virtual ceremony instead," said Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt. "It wasn't unanimous, but a significant number wanted to hold a traditional graduation ceremony. And, to be very honest, I prefer that myself. I think it's something that families look forward to. Moms, dads and grandparents want to get together and celebrate their students' success, and we

will try to do that in July."

After last week's Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference in Lansing, (a budget meeting between the state treasurer, budget director and some legislative financial analysts), the officials involved announced that state tax revenue is down by about \$3.2 billion this fiscal year as a direct result of the pandemic, and the budget will probably suffer another \$3 billion hit next year for the same reason.

To help ease the burden a little, Michigan school districts will receive \$350 million in federal CARES Act funds, plus \$40 million more to be distributed as grants. Lowell Area Schools will receive \$210,815 of this money. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who has stated that K-12 funding is one of her

top priorities, called on the federal government for more financial help last week.

"Michigan and states all over our country need our federal government to step up and to help our efforts," Whitmer said in a news conference on Thursday, May 28. "We need flexibility and financial support from the federal government to support essential services like health care, education, public safety and transportation during this crisis. [...] The ball is in the court of the United States Senate. Until they act, it's still going to be dicey."

Whitmer's legislative opponents did not accept this line of reasoning, however.

"Waiting on a 'Hail Mary' from Congress is not a plan," said Sen. Tony Stamas, (R-Midland), in a press release. "We now

know the full scope of the budget problem and we need the governor to start working with the legislature to solve it."

There is also the possibility that, to keep the state solvent, local school districts could be forced to pay back already-distributed funds, a prospect that superintendent Pratt described as "very concerning." Estimates range from \$650 to \$700 per student going back to the state, and if not this school year, maybe next year. The district currently gets \$8,111 per pupil, and at the beginning of the school year they had a \$6,023,913 balance in the general fund.

"We're fortunate because we have a strong fund balance," Pratt said. "Any proration the state asked for this year would come out of that fund balance. The concern is more for next year, when they're talking about a proration as high as \$700 per student, and by some estimates maybe even higher. And if there's a proration this year, another proration next year would be devastating."

Regardless of social upheaval, the district is still working on completing their budget for the 2020-2021 school year. Their goal is to finish this sometime in June.

"There are a lot of unknowns moving into the summer," Pratt said. "We'll start putting an estimated

budget together, but the reality is we'll have to adjust it accordingly as the state gives us more information."

Construction projects were on hold due to the pandemic and are now behind schedule, but the money for that comes from a bond so those projects will not be impacted by any budget deficit. Pratt said that he and the school board are devising ways to save money, potentially including an increase in online learning, not going out of their way to replace future retirees, not buying any more new buses or reducing the sizes of some of their educational programs. Pratt said the board is hoping for the public's input as these plans are developed.

"A lot of those decisions have yet to be made because we don't have enough details," Pratt said. "We sent out a parent survey to collect information about what parents' thoughts were on the roll-out of our online piece during the stay-at-home order. We asked them their concerns for the fall and their preferences to gather their feedback as we do that planning. Parents are under a lot of stress right now. They're working from home a lot, the economy is struggling and they're helping their children with online learning, so we wanted to start with the parents, but we are at a very early stage in that process."

50¢



# City forced to pump 15 million gallons of sewage mix into Grand River

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Last week one of the local TV stations broadcast a story about the city's need to pump over 15 million gallons of sewage and stormwater into the Grand River during the recent flooding to keep it from surging into the basements of local homes and businesses. The TV story was followed by an outcry on the station's social media page from people who were angry that a city would ever contemplate such a heinous act. However, the city manager says this action was necessary, legal and transparent and will actually have very little environmental impact.

"When you are in a flood situation, you are having water literally come into the wastewater treatment plant from everywhere to the point where if you don't do something to control it, you will compromise your wastewater treatment plant," said Lowell city manager

Michael Burns. "You will back up every sewer in the city, hypothetically. So in these extreme flooding situations we have to bypass pump into the river."

Repairing Lowell's wastewater treatment plant after an incapacitating event or installing the expensive equipment to handle freak flood events are both cost prohibitive compared to the simple 'pump it downstream' method. The city did this same exact thing during the 2013 and 2018 floods, and municipalities with similar geography use the method as well.

"There is no real getting around it, because sanitary and storm sewer systems are not designed to handle what are basically 100-year flood events," Burns said. "They're just not capable of handling it. This is not the only place in the state this happens. The State of Michigan has procedures that we follow, including public

notifications. We had to contact EGLE [Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy] to do this and we had to get confirmation from the Health Department. We had to make sure we complied with everything we were required to, which we did. I don't know for certain, but I'm pretty sure that other wastewater treatment plants upstream of us were doing the same thing. You have to. I guarantee you in Midland they were doing this. There is no other option. Otherwise, we could choose to not address the problem, but then you'd have a bigger problem. It was a temporary situation and we had to do it."

The city began pumping a mixture of sewage and stormwater (ratio unknown, Burns said) into the Grand River around noon on Wednesday, May 20 and ceased doing so at 7:40 am on Sunday, May 24, eventually releasing approximately



The Grand River on May 27, during the recent flood event.

15.164 million gallons of "infiltrated floodwater and sanitary sewer." Burns said there would not be a significant environmental impact.

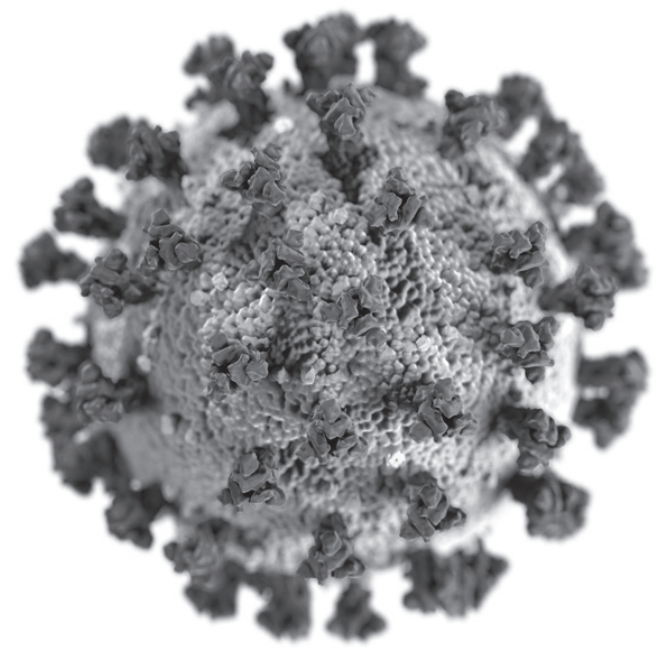
"While there were millions of gallons that went into the river, it probably was, when you really look at it, a very minimal impact

to the environment, to the river, because of the fact that it was diluting into water," Burns said. "And it was for a very short period. If we were doing this every day for a year, yeah, you definitely would have issues. I'm not saying there isn't an impact, but for the four days that we did this, in the whole scheme

of things the environmental impact is very minimal. As a matter of fact, the state didn't require us to do E. coli testing."

The 17.23 foot flood crest on Thursday, May 21 was the eighth highest level in recorded history. The record was 19.02 feet on April 21, 2013.

## These counties have highest COVID-19 per capita rates



The larger a county, the higher percentage of residents who come down with COVID-19, right? Not necessarily.

Some rural counties with smaller populations have seen higher rates than the larger counties like Kalamazoo, Muskegon,

Livingston or Ottawa, which have been hit as hard, comparatively.

Thursday's Department of Health and Human Services numbers cross-checked with 2020 estimated county data estimates show that outside of Metro Detroit, Genesee County and Saginaw County, the per-capita infection rate ranked by county isn't what you might assume.

In Detroit, 1.63 percent of the population has reported coming down with the virus, while .2 percent of the population has died from COVID-19.

In suburban Wayne County, .837 percent of the population has contracted the virus, while .0968 percent of the population has died from it. In Macomb County, .758 percent of the residents reported contracting the virus and .0906 percent have died. In

Oakland, it's .662 percent who reported getting it and .0776 percent who died. In Saginaw, .525 percent reported contracting it and .0560 percent died of it. In Genesee, .484 percent reported contracting COVID-19, and .0608 percent died of it.

From there, Kent County had a .55 percent rate for contracting the disease, but the death rate is in the middle of the pack among counties, with .0123 percent of the population dying of it.

The eighth-highest infection rate is Crawford County (.419 percent), the state's 70th-largest county by population. It's followed by Otsego County (.41 percent), the state's 58th-largest county by population. Berrien County, the state's 15th-largest county is at a .391 percent infection rate while Hillsdale

County, Michigan's 37th-largest county is at .369 percent. Washtenaw is at .359 percent, Iosco (.358 percent), Tuscola (.350 percent), Shiawassee (.349 percent) and Alpena (.328 percent).

Crawford and Otsego border each other in Northern Michigan but aren't anywhere near Berrien, which is closer to Chicago, or Hillsdale, which is north of Ohio. Iosco is on the Lake Huron shoreline.

After Detroit, suburban Wayne County, Macomb, Oakland, Genesee and Saginaw, the highest COVID-19 death rate per capita was in Hillsdale (.0523 percent), Tuscola (.0432 percent), Otsego (.0410 percent), Shiawassee (.0380 percent), Crawford (.0361 percent), Iosco (.0356 percent), Lapeer (.0340 percent), Berrien (.0316 percent), Alpena (.0314 percent) and Washtenaw (.0273 percent) counties.

Again, there is no geographical cluster here as only Crawford and Otsego

touch each other.

Thursday's numbers showed 406 additional people have tested positive for COVID-19. In the last seven days, the average daily number of new cases is 357. In the last 14 days, the average daily number of new cases is 459.

Another 38 new COVID-19 deaths were reported and 17 of these deaths were older deaths reclassified as being connected to COVID-19. In the last seven days, the average daily number of new cases is 35. In the last 14 days, the average daily number of new deaths is 41.

The highest number of new cases came from Kent County (86), the state and prison system (60), Detroit (31), Ottawa County (29), Wayne County (29) and Macomb County (28).

The highest number of new deaths came from Oakland County (10), followed by Detroit (4), Kent (3), Macomb (3), Muskegon County (3), Washtenaw County (3) and Kalamazoo County (3).

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# Former leaders once called for tax hike to fix roads...

Former Senate majority leaders Ken Sikkema and Bob Emerson had been among the few in Michigan calling for a gas-tax increase as a way to fix Michigan's roads.

Not now. "In the grand scheme of things, we ought to be looking at federal assistance, use of the rainy day fund," Sikkema said on the MIRS [Michigan Information and Research Service] Monday Podcast. "There's going to have to be some budget cuts. I think the

state should consider some borrowing tools that are now newly available. Generally speaking, I don't think it is time to look at tax increases."

Despite the fact gas prices are low because fewer people are driving due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it still would not be a good time to raise gas taxes, they said.

"You have so many people who are out of work, so many businesses that are struggling to try and figure out how to make it under new circumstances," said

Sikkema. "I saw a statistic that restaurants need 75 percent capacity to break even. I think when they open up, they are talking about trying to limit them to 50 percent capacity. You are going to have businesses all over the state struggling. You are going to have individuals struggling, I think it is not the right time to look at tax increases."

Federal assistance will be necessary, considering the size of the hole in the budget caused by the coronavirus

pandemic, estimated to be \$3.2 billion, and the fact it occurred late in the fiscal year.

Michigan has \$1.2 billion in its rainy day fund, but they agreed that it will be gone very quickly. Every state in the nation is in the same position, they contended, so federal assistance is going to be necessary for state and local governments.

Meanwhile, the former lawmakers said they would have filed suit against Gov. Gretchen Whitmer over her

rolling executive orders, just as Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) and House Speaker Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) have. But that is a separate question from whether she has responded to the pandemic appropriately.

"That doesn't mean her decisions, her responses to this pandemic have been perfect by any means," Sikkema said. "But, generally speaking, she has done a decent job of responding how she has

responded. That is a different question than whether, generally, she has done a good job. I would have done the same thing they did because it is the only avenue they have of getting court clarification that the legislature has a role after the first emergency declaration. That is a different question of whether she has done a fair good job or not. It is a constitutional issue about the role of the legislature and the role of the executive branch."

# Use of telemedicine service jumps 72% in 4 weeks

The number of physicians using telehealth increased 72 percentage points in four weeks among primary care and behavioral health providers using Blue Cross Blue Shield, the state's largest health insurance provider announced this week.

The change comes as the governor expanded telemedicine availability through March 12 action amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It's also the result of a \$5 million incentive offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Additionally, in March, Blue Cross expanded the scope of services that would be covered in telehealth visits and waived cost sharing through June 30 for members who used it.

Blue Cross has covered telehealth services since 2002, which has enabled

patients to connect virtually with their doctors. Company officials say they recognized the need to assist the provider community to rapidly transition to this method of care to support member access as in-person visits declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before the outbreak, the number of primary care and behavioral health providers participating in telehealth was below 10 percent. Now it is over 82 percent.

Blue Cross expects use of telehealth services will continue to grow even after the COVID pandemic is over and says it will be especially useful providing services to rural communities.

Sen. John Bizon (R-Battle Creek) is urging his colleagues to delete language that would require compliance with HIPAA, the

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, from the House-passed telemedicine package.

Bizon raised questions at Wednesday's Health Policy Committee to Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Fowlerville), sponsor of HB 5412, one of the bills in the package.

"I would argue that this is a much better bill allowing patients to talk to their doctors by whatever means rather than putting in something that restricts it only to a HIPAA-compliant environment," Bizon said.

"We could certainly look at that," Vaupel responded. "Obviously, when you're dealing with medical records [...] I believe you have to be HIPAA compliant. I would have to look at whether we do. I thought it had something to do with reimbursement, that Medicaid would require HIPAA compliance."

The five-bill telemedicine package (HB 5412, HB 5413, HB 5414, HB 5415 and HB 5416) passed the House unanimously and is viewed by many as legislation that - with the advent of COVID-19 - is overdue.

"I have to say that all too often I've seen HIPAA come in the way of good medicine," Bizon said. "To use that as an excuse [that HIPAA compliance would be necessary] is understandable, but I will be looking forward to working with you on this."

Sen. Lana Theis (R-Brighton) suggested the issue of requiring compliance with HIPAA could be something lawmakers might find a way of bypassing.

"There might be a solution here as regards HIPAA," Theis said. "I think doctors and the medical

professionals are required to follow the HIPAA rules, but I think if I [as a patient] am calling from my own phone and I'm the one choosing to break the HIPAA law, I have the right to give away that protection as long as it helps me and my health care."

Bizon also wanted to know why the House Fiscal Agency projected that the legislation would increase health care costs.

"This is supposed to be a system that's much more efficient?" the Battle Creek Republican pointed out.

The answer from Courtney Stevens, director of Virtual Care at Henry Ford Health Systems, was basically that many of the savings associated with the telemedicine would be difficult to tabulate.

"If you have a patient having sinus issues or

difficulty breathing and has trouble getting in [to see the physician], and who is used to going to emergency for help where it's going to be a higher copay, they're going to use the higher-costing care that ultimately goes toward higher costs to Medicaid," Stevens said. "Or they'll hold off on getting any care, which could make things worse. By having more convenient options available they're going to get care sooner and that's going to be at a lower cost."

A key to the package is the allowance of "asynchronous telehealth." Synchronous telehealth refers to real-time video conferencing between doctor and patient. Asynchronous would involve sending biometric data or even emails to the doctor for review when they get time, and allows data to be shared with specialists.

# Little League season canceled for now, but might return in the fall

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell Little League has officially canceled their 2020 spring season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The league sent a survey to parents asking if they would be comfortable enrolling their young athlete this year, when the results came back 68 percent said that they would not.

"Based on that, as a board we made the decision to cancel," said Tim VanLaan, vice president of Lowell Little League. "We're probably going to reconvene and see if we can do the fall league. If everything pans out, maybe we can get something going in the fall again. The fall season generally starts at the end of August and runs through the first part of October. Right now we're still planning on doing that, but we haven't decided how we're going to do it. We might do another survey or just see who signs up."

Sponsors were given a choice of a refund or to apply the balance to next summer. Also, local baseball fields will still be maintained as if they were in constant use in case anybody wanted to go practice on their own.

"We've reached out to our advertisers and said they can either get a refund or we can apply it to next year, at this point," said VanLaan. "For our participants, we're refunding 100 percent of their fee. Luckily, we hadn't purchased any uniforms or anything like that. We had purchased hats, but they can be used next year. We're going to rake the fields throughout the summer to keep them up-to-date. That is all volunteer work done by the board, so we don't have any out-of-pocket costs for that."

When the Little League does come back, VanLaan said they will be sanitizing equipment and mandating social distancing.

"We got a lot of information from Little League International about social distancing and how to clean the equipment to make sure everyone is going to be safe," said VanLaan.

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## Wittenbach Wege Center's 20 year anniversary

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

The Wittenbach/Wege Center for Agriscience and Environmental Education, 11715 Vergennes will celebrate its 20th anniversary this June, but they will not actually mark the occasion publicly until June of 2021 because of the pandemic.

The WWC is one of the largest environmental education facilities in the county, and has become an essential part of the community. For the past 20 years, Lowell Area Schools students at all grade levels have become intimately familiar with the WWC. Many beloved community events are held there, including pancake breakfasts, lectures, gardening demonstrations and more. Their annual nighttime luminary hikes through the snowy nature trails are probably their most popular activity, drawing over a thousand attendees to the Lowell woods.

The groundbreaking at the site took place on Saturday, May 6, 2000. The individuals with shovels in their hands that day were Harold "Mike" Wittenbach, Stephen Wittenbach, Nick Dewey, Stephen Wittenbach II, Mary Dewey and Charlsie Dewey. The land for the site was originally owned by the Cridler family and Everett "Steve" Wittenbach, construction was paid for by community fundraising and various grants, particularly from the Lowell Area Community Fund, created in 1997 when Harold Enghardt left the community more than \$12 million for that purpose. Former Steelcase chairman and philanthropist Peter Wege also donated \$360,000 to help create the facility. Construction took place over the summer of 2000, and the grand opening was



The ribbon cutting ceremony at the WWC took place on Friday, Sept. 6, 2000. In front, Stephen Wittenbach II, Allie Wittenbach and June Wittenbach (seated). In back, James Bosserd, Stephen Wittenbach and Mary Dewey.

on Friday, Sept. 8, 2000. Right now, the WWC is promoting their Victory Gardens, a chance to either adopt a vegetable plot cared for by a local fourth grade student, or rent one to tend yourself. The plots are 10 feet by 25 feet wide and cost \$40 for the season. Tools are available during business hours, but you're also welcome to bring your own. Produce grown by the fourth graders in their Victory Gardens will be donated to the food pantry at Flat River Outreach Ministries. For more information about the many science and outdoor programs at the Wittenbach/Wege Center check out their Facebook page, call 616-987-2565 or send a message to ccheers@lowellschools.com.

...  
**I cannot predict how the Third World War shall be fought, or with what. I can, however, predict that the Fourth World War shall be waged with sticks and stones.**

~ Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

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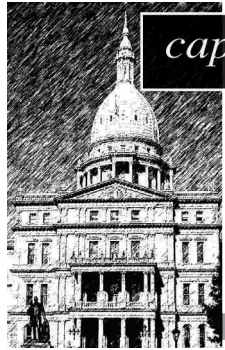
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# viewpoint



## capitol matters

State Representative  
Thomas Albert



### May Update: Defending your voice in state government

A lawsuit was recently filed by the Michigan Legislature challenging Governor Whitmer's unilateral extension of her emergency powers. To be clear, this lawsuit has absolutely nothing to do with the governor's controversial emergency orders. This lawsuit has everything to do with protecting the voice of

the people and protecting their seat at the table in the legislative branch of government.

There is a good reason the legislative branch has the sole and exclusive job of making laws in our constitution. I fully agree that the executive needs flexibility in an emergency to make reasonable and narrowly tailored

regulations to deal with an imminent crisis. Many, if not most, of the governor's emergency orders made sense when they were made. Some of them were wildly wrongheaded and served no public health benefit, but that is not the issue at hand.

We are now months into this crisis, and we are beyond the point where a governor needs the flexibility to react on her own. Wide ranging decisions, such as keeping businesses or schools closed, must be carefully deliberated within the legislative branch of government. To argue otherwise not only flies in the face of our state Constitution, but also ignores the founding principles of our republic.

Our state government is specifically designed to

have 110 members of the House of Representatives and 38 members of the Senate set the policies that are in the best interest of their own districts. It is a deliberative process that ensures everyone has the opportunity to vote through their duly elected representatives.

Everyone in Lansing wants to support policies that keep people safe. Nobody is arguing that there should be no response. Alternatively, nobody is arguing the other extreme that every single Michigander should be locked in their house and never leave. What we are all arguing for is to strike

Capitol matters,  
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## sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

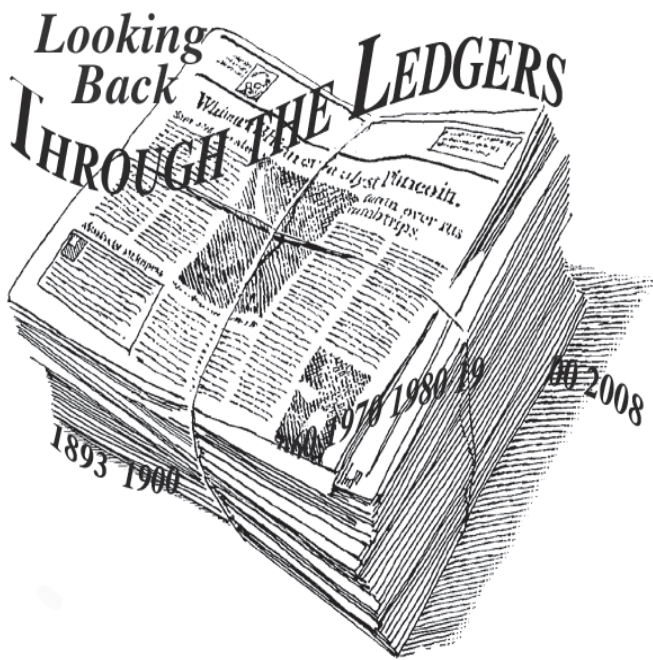
My hope is summer will bring a return to the normalcy we may have taken for granted. The onset of COVID-19 has brought on unwanted and unexpected change to all of our daily lives. My thoughts and best wishes go out to everyone struggling with the impact of this pandemic, especially to those in our community that lost someone to this disease.

Moving from an in-person learning environment to a distance-learning environment was an overwhelming task for everyone. The feedback regarding the transition has been overwhelmingly positive, but we know it was not perfect and there is still more we must do. This summer, administrators and teachers will be reflecting on our victories and lessons learned during this unprecedented time.

We are constantly planning for the wide variety of possible return scenarios.

These include plans for our summer and for next year. We are in uncertain times and, as answers become apparent, we will share that information. I assure you that any and all plans will keep safety at the forefront and will be done in conjunction with the health department.

We hope you are doing well and adjusting to the unique times we are all experiencing. We want to thank you for your patience and perseverance as we work to ensure students remain engaged in learning while finding balance for families during these difficult times. We recognize the challenges that come with such a disruption to normal family routines. Please know that as a school district, we are still working hard to ensure students and staff are supported and we're planning as much as possible considering the uncertain conditions.



### 125 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 7, 1895

John Gore, of Grand Rapids, went into a saloon Saturday, and lay down, saying he was ill. Shortly afterward he died. It is thought that he died from sunstroke.

After sending the Hayden-Porter horse case to the jury Wednesday morning Judge Grove, with a jury, began the second trial of Josiah Brown of Freeport, Barry county, against Bowne township. The suit is for damages to plaintiff resulting from his horse going through an alleged defective bridge in defendant township in the fall of 1892. On the previous trial the jury gave plaintiff a verdict for \$1,500 damages; but a new trial was granted. The attorneys are Smith & Colgrove of Hastings, for plaintiff; for defendant, Taggart, Knappen and Denis. While opening a lot of bananas at McCarty's the other day, the boys captured a tarantula with its sac of eggs, and placed it in a glass can after making air holes in the tin top.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 10, 1920

This, Thursday evening, June 10, 1920, is the long

anticipated commencement date of the Seniors of the Lowell High school; and at 8:30 will begin the closing exercises of the Lowell schools for the 1919-1920 year and the beginning of the real life work of twenty-five Lowell students, sixteen girls and nine boys, the girls, as usual, having the best of it in numbers.

Ezra Cole, father of Earl Cole, and Mrs. Will Markle, fell in the sidewalk, Tuesday. He has to be helped to the home of his daughter and has been quite helpless since.

First test of working models of rocket apparatus by which Prof. Robert H. Goddard hopes to reach altitudes above the earth's air envelope, and even the moon, will be made at Worcester, Mass. Late in July or in August, it is announced in a bulletin from the National Geographic society's Washington headquarters. "Should Professor Goddard's theory prove workable by his demonstrations at that time," the bulletin states, "the event may rank in the history of a new superaviation science, as yet unnamed, along with the trial flights of the late Prof. Samuel P. Langley's flying machines."

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 7, 1945

The Michigan Bell Telephone Company has announced plans for a \$7,500,000 rural program within three or four years after manpower and materials are available. Theodore H. Dawson, director of the company's rural operations, said the program will include improvements in the quality of the farmer's service as well as extension of its scope. He pointed out the program will help provide jobs not only for the company's 3,000 employees in the armed forces but for many others as well.

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Lee of Lowell, R. 3, received a telegram from the war department Monday night informing them that their son, Cpl. Harlan Richard Lee, had been killed in action in Germany, April 3, while serving in the Second Armored Division. Dick had been overseas over two years, and had previously been reported missing on April 18th.

That windshield tax is due again. The new \$5 automobile tax stamps will go on sale next Saturday, June 9, it was announced Saturday by the collector of internal revenue. Beginning July 1, the stamps must be exhibited on all motor vehicles which are used on the highways. You can buy the stamp at all post offices.

Looking back, continued, page 12

## Eat. Shop. Explore. LOCAL

### We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

# HEALTH

## M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

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

# 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 still want to be able to share our area's history with you.

Hotel, which later became the Waverly Hotel. He is perhaps most well-known for his three story opera house, which is still standing today.

He was known for his

“conscientiously and well.” Train’s time in Lowell left a mark and example for us today. He was a man who knew how to overcome adversity. When Lowell Canning Company went

forget to mention the energy with which Landlord Train and his worthy helpmate met their difficulties. in spite of the ruin in their culinary department, breakfast was served at the usual hour

### - tick bites

Many people are concerned about possible Lyme disease after a tick bite. However, the risk of developing Lyme disease after a tick bite is actually quite low. A tick may transmit an infection only after it has attached, taken a blood meal and is actively carrying the infection. A tick that has not attached cannot pass an infection. The deer tick that causes Lyme disease must be attached and feed for 36 hours before transmission of the infection can occur. The risk of acquiring Lyme disease after a tick bite is estimated at only one to 1.5 percent in areas where the infection is common.

If you find a tick that has attached, be sure and remove it properly. Do not use a smoldering match, nail polish, Vaseline, liquid soap or kerosene. Use fine tweezers and gently grab the tick as close to the skin as possible, pull backwards gently using even pressure. Do not twist, jerk, squeeze, crush or puncture the tick. After tick is removed, wash the area with soap and water.

You should let your health care provider know the size and color of the tick, whether it was actually

attached to the skin and approximately how long it was attached. At least 36-48 hours of feeding is required for a deer tick to transmit the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Your doctor will determine if treatment to prevent Lyme disease is indicated. There is no benefit to test for Lyme disease shortly after the tick bite because it takes two to six weeks after being infected for the blood test to become positive.

The Infectious Disease Society of America recommends preventive treatment with antibiotic if the following criteria are met:

1. Tick is attached for greater than 24 hours and presumed to be a deer tick.
  2. The local rate of infection is greater than 20 percent (New England, Mid-Atlantic states, parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin).
  3. The antibiotic can be given with 72 hours of tick removal.
  4. The person is able to take doxycycline.
- If the person meets all the criteria above, a single dose of doxycycline is prescribed to prevent possible infection.

### J is for Jarvis Train

Jarvis Clement Train served Lowell in every capacity a citizen could. He was a businessman, farmer, builder, public benefactor and a politician. He was born in Vermont in 1834, and moved with his family to Boston Township in Ionia County in 1840. In 1856 he married Elizabeth Warren and then moved to Illinois. It was there that he registered for the Civil War draft. In 1867 he returned to Michigan, settling in Lowell. He lived here until his death in 1906 and now rests in Oakwood Cemetery.

During his career Train traded in pelts, hides and woolens. He built a grain elevator across from the river in Segwun, operated the mill for a short time and bought and shipped grain. For many years he dealt extensively in beans and he owned land outside the city that he farmed. He rented out space in his buildings to local businesses and operated his own hotel.

As a builder he built buildings for his own businesses such as his grist mill, canning company, woolen mill and Train’s



Train’s Hotel built in 1884. It later became Hotel Waverly in 1895. The hotel was located on the southwest corner of Main and Broadway. It operated as a hotel until the 1930s. It is now a parking lot next to the Shell Station.

public works and good deeds. One of his greatest gifts for the betterment of the city was to develop Island Park, and then he gave the island and the other islands in the Flat River that he owned to the city.

Jarvis Train served his community as a public servant. He held elected offices as a Village Trustee, Township Supervisor, and was even elected to the Michigan State House of Representatives, serving from 1883 - 1884. He was known for serving

out of business it was noted that Train lost his \$1000 investment. On June 9, 1884 Lowell experienced its largest fire to date. It started in Strong’s jewelry store and spread through the block. Many businesses were lost and thousands of dollars, too. Jarvis Train lost three buildings. He lost \$3000 but was only insured for \$1,100. Another fire, in September of 1894, occurred in the basement of the kitchen of Train’s Hotel. Train suffered a financial loss of \$600. The newspaper noted, “let us not

to their numerous guests, as though nothing had happened.” Through all of life’s troubles, Train continued serving, continued taking risks, and continued supporting Lowell. The American Biographical History of Eminent and Self Made Men stated that Jarvis Train was known for “his honesty, being a warm and generous friend and a supporter of all public improvements.”

# area churches



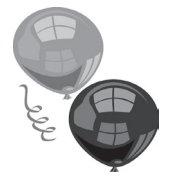
**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
 897-7060  
 Pastor Ryan Landt  
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
 Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
 Sunday School..... 11:20 AM  
 Evening Worship.....6:00 PM  
 Nursery available at both services  
 Barrier-Free

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
**Access Services at**  
**www.goodshepherdlowell.org**  
 Left hand side, click on Sermons, etc.  
 Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**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  
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

...  
**Clothes make the man.  
 Naked people have little  
 or no influence in society.**  
 - Mark Twain

# happy birthday



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

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 WORSHIP  
 9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary  
 Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>June 3</b><br>Ron Nead, Norma Jerls, Brandon Addison Karp, Macy Potter | <b>June 6</b><br>Daniel Thaler, Mark Newhouse, Greg Sherman                  |
| <b>June 4</b><br>Becki Brown, Karen Swigert, Dwight Nash                  | <b>June 7</b><br>Amber Pollema, April Wardwell, Zachary Beachum, Ray Kennedy |
| <b>June 5</b><br>Amanda Pfaller, Judy Rosenberger                         | <b>June 8</b><br>Mark Essich, Hank Hoekstra, Olivia Richmond                 |

# Lowell's Balabuch to oversee MI Air National Guard

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell resident Jenny Balabuch was recently promoted to Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 110th Wing, a unit of the Michigan Air National Guard. Her first day in the new job was Monday, June 1. She is now responsible for overseeing and supervising the hundreds of Michigan Air National Guard members headquartered at W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek.

"I will be the senior enlisted leader, and it is very exciting," Balabuch said. "It's kind of a special duty, there is one per base - there are two in Michigan. I will basically take care of the enlisted on base, which there are about 675 of right now. It's going to be a nice break from the DLA [Defense Logistics Agency], a good change of pace. And, obviously, I think it will be challenging. I'm not exactly sure what I'm getting into, but I'm looking forward to it!"

According to the Air Force Handbook, the

Command Chief Master Sergeant "provides general supervision to the command's enlisted force and is responsible for advising commanders and staff on mission effectiveness, professional development, recognition, key enlisted airmen nominations and hires, accelerated promotions, performance evaluations, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale and welfare of the organization's enlisted, and takes action to address shortfalls or challenges. They also regularly visit airmen, to include traveling to geographically separated units/elements; interact with sister service counterparts; serve as a liaison to and work closely with the local community; actively lead in the organization's fitness program and ensure the enlisted force is ready to meet deployment requirements. Regular Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeants and/or senior enlisted

leaders serve on the enlisted force distribution panel by advising the senior rater and panel on enlisted airmen's potential to serve in the next higher grade. They assist and advise in the selection and nomination of enlisted airmen for positions of greater responsibility, to include developmental special duties [and they are] the functional manager for group superintendents and first sergeants in their organization."


During her National Guard career, Balabuch has been stationed in places like Texas, Mississippi, New Jersey, Florida and North Carolina, but most of her work has been in Battle Creek. She was deployed overseas during Operation Enduring Freedom, when she spent five months during 2007 and 2008 in Bagram, Afghanistan, an ancient Persian city that is now the site of Bagram Airfield, the largest US military base in that country.



Command Chief Master Sergeant Jenny Balabuch

Balabuch, continued, page 16

**90<sup>th</sup>** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** **90<sup>th</sup>**




**HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY**

**June 11, 2020**  
to  
**William Sterzick**

Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather  
Dedicated church pianist for the Alto United Methodist Church

*Loyal Tigers Baseball fan*



# Peaceful *Black Lives Matter* march followed by rioting, looting, vandalism and violence in G.R.



The silent march began at Rosa Parks Circle and is pictured here after turning onto Fulton.



In this photo, the demonstrators are on Fulton Street near the Van Andel Arena.



The march stalled in front of Grand Rapids Police headquarters, where bystanders shouted slogans at the building for over an hour.



By 8:50 pm, this crowd had dwindled to about 50-75 people who crowded around the doors of the police station. This photo was taken about 90 minutes earlier.



The Ledger reporter realized that it was time to leave the rally when, at approximately 8:55 pm, somebody spraypainted obscene graffiti on the police station and a bunch of young white men with wooden bats and bulging backpacks began to appear.



Volunteers and business owners spent most of the weekend washing off the graffiti and boarding up all of the broken windows downtown. This photo was taken on Saturday afternoon.

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# Peaceful *Black Lives Matter* march followed by rioting, looting, vandalism and violence in G.R.



This side entrance of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel was vandalized, but the main entrance around the corner was untouched.



Very few downtown businesses or historic buildings were spared by the vandals.



The Grand Rapids Public Library only had one window smashed and did not appear to have been looted.



The remains of a burned-out dumpster next to the spot where a car went up in flames on Friday night.



Government buildings downtown were smashed, including the Department of Correnctions, the Secretary of State, the Kent County building and the Kent County courthouse.



# Lowell Showboat Garden Club plants flowers

submitted by David Drain

On Saturday, May 30, the Lowell Showboat Garden Club (LSGC) performed its annual community project by planting eight flower pots, and the city's two flower boxes on the Riverwalk Plaza. This year's planting ensemble includes all herbs consisting of yellow marigolds, salvia and creeping jenny which not only provides color all season but attracts pollinators. LSGC

will maintain the pots throughout the summer by watering and fertilizing as needed. This year's project required observance of the CDC guidelines of social distancing, and that the gathering was under the Governor's no more than 10-person limit.

Members pictured, left to right: Janet Twesten and Carol McGregor. Also present: Cathy Cochell, Jim Foerch, Jan Boerema, Gwen Hughes, Mona Banta and David Drain.



# Advanced Eyecare Professionals offering free eye exams and discounts to 2020 graduates

Advanced Eyecare Professionals (AEP), a full service, multi-location eye care practice announces that they would like to give local 2020 graduates a special gift. AEP wishes to give local graduates a free eye exam and discounts on glasses and sunglasses to help them celebrate their accomplishment.

Currently the AEP office is open in two of their locations with limited hours due to the pandemic, however, they look to be

fully open in all of their locations in July. The special gift of the free eye exam and optical discounts of 20% off glasses and 20% off sunglasses will be for local 2020 graduates living in either Lowell, Ionia, or Hastings and they will need to make their appointment between July 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. The optical discounts can also be applied to AEP's value packages, allowing for even more savings.

During these very unusual times the staff and doctors at AEP wanted a way to help the graduates celebrate, and ensure they're seeing the best they can for their bright futures.

To make an appointment please visit [www.AEPeyecare.com](http://www.AEPeyecare.com) or call Advanced Eyecare Professionals 616-897-7000 and mention "2020 Grad" when making your appointment.



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CRAFTED WITH CARE 100% employee owned

**The Ledger office will begin shipping UPS again on Monday, June 22 Daily pickup at 3 pm**

Red Arrow

- SENIORS

# SPORTS

## Honoring Senior athletes

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

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 seniors. This week we'll be featuring the remaining spring sports seniors.

### Connor Kleinedler

Kleinedler participated in tennis and track & field during high school. He was one of many scholar-athletes from the class of 2020.



### Melany Oiso

Oiso came to Lowell High School as one of the school's exchange students this year. She is from Tallinn, Estonia and was looking forward to participating in track & field during the spring. She also participated in sideline cheer this fall. Her time in the United States as a Red Arrow was unfortunately cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Taeghan Ronchetti

Ronchetti participated in lacrosse and gymnastics during high school for LHS. The lacrosse season was canceled due to the pandemic, but also she was one of Lowell Gymnastics' individual state qualifiers who had their seasons unfortunately cut short as well. Her junior year she placed eighth in the state on the beam with a 9.05. She will go to Davenport this fall to study Nursing.

### Lucas Kramer

Kramer, a four-year tennis player and Summa Cum Laude graduate, was getting set for his second season on the varsity golf team this spring. He will attend Grand Rapids Community College in the fall and eventually transfer to Michigan State to study law.



### Ember Fox

Fox is graduating with Cum Laude honors. A scholar-athlete and four-year varsity tennis player, she will be heading to GRCC and eventually GVSU to become a police officer.



### Adrienne Johnson

Johnson will graduate with Cum Laude honors. She was looking forward to being a part of the Lowell Crew team again this spring. She will attend Cornerstone University to pursue a degree in graphic design.



### Sean Van Heulen

Van Heulen is a member of the LHS Class of 2020 and was set to play lacrosse this spring.



### John Sherman

Sherman will graduate from LHS with Magna Cum Laude honors and was looking forward to lacrosse this spring. He is a four-year member of the lacrosse program. He will attend Michigan State University.



### Breyden Race

Race ended up with Cum Laude honors as a member of the class of 2020. He participated in lacrosse throughout high school where he competed as a goaltender.



### Cade Rogers

Rogers is a scholar-athlete who participated in football and lacrosse during high school. He wore the #25 jersey for the lacrosse program.



### Kambry Kloosterman

Graduating Magna Cum Laude from LHS, Kloosterman was a part of the state runner-up volleyball team this year and participated in tennis during high school. She will attend Central Michigan to study fashion merchandising.



### Conner Balabuch

During high school Balabuch played lacrosse and football, as well as being a member of the Lowell Red Arrows wrestling team. He will be attending GRCC and eventually go into criminal psychology.



### Gabrielle Brace

Brace was slated to be a member of the Lowell girls lacrosse team this spring, and participated in powderpuff this past fall. She will be attending Oakland University to study Pre-Med.



### Andy Anschutz

Anschutz was an all-conference football player this past fall, and participated in football, track & field, and basketball during high school. He will be attending Alma College this fall where he will study pre-law and play football.



### Neely Bardwell

Bardwell participated in track, competitive cheer, and sideline cheer throughout high school. This would have been her third year on the track team, and she was a captain for the cheer team this past fall. She plans to study public policy in college.



## obituaries

### CAPEN

John B. Capen Jr., age 64, of Kentwood (formerly of Alto), passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of his family on Thursday, May 28, 2020. He was born May 21, 1956, in Grand Rapids, to the late John and N. Irene (Meyers) Capen Sr. John proudly served



his country in the United States Army. On November 1, 1974, he married the love of his life, Lorrie Benedict in Alto. Together they celebrated 45 years of marriage and had three beautiful girls. John retired after 15 years with NAPA in Lowell. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, fishing, golfing,

hunting, and most recently, making custom knives, which he gifted to many family members and friends. He is survived by his wife, Lorrie; three daughters, Jamie (Scott) Grinage, Kelly (Dave) Vincent, and Lacey Capen (AJ Jackson); six grandchildren, Alec, Joshua, Jacob, Claire, Jalyn and Bowie; mother-in-law, Gladys Benedict; brothers/sisters-in-law, Russ (Debby) Benedict, Jenny Teachout (Kelly Bishop), Mary (Rick) Terrill, and Ray (Ronda) Benedict; nieces, Sherry Rider and Jacquelyn Tatge; and many other nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by his parents; siblings; father-in-law, Art Benedict; and nephew, Andrew Benedict. Per John's wishes cremation has taken place. At this time public services will not be held, but a memorial service will be announced at a later date. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of Mercy Health St. Mary's Hospital and Spectrum Health Hospice for the care and compassion they showed John and the family through this difficult time. In memory of John memorial contributions can be made to Bowne Center United Methodist Church, Alto. To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign John's online guest book, or to share a favorite memory, please visit: [www.MichiganCremation.com](http://www.MichiganCremation.com)

## Capitol Matters, continued

a reasonable balance. Our lawsuit is focused around ensuring the proper balance is found through our legislative process.

Centralized government planning will always fail, because one person at the top cannot make decisions work for every individual. We now have more than 90 executive orders specifically related to the COVID-19 emergency. Many of these orders have been revised or rescinded. Additionally, there have been over 200 frequently asked questions released to clarify ambiguities to the orders.

Clearly these orders are causing confusion and the people of Michigan would be better served by having the laws written through the properly established legislative process.

The governor has recently stated that Michiganders should not expect full stadiums this fall. Such a declaration is neither based in data nor does our democracy allow for a single person to make such a decree. This type of authoritarian governance should be a wake-up call to everyone.

**Support the Local Businesses  
Who Help Support  
Our Community!**



## NOTICE OF ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Board held on May 18, 2020, Ordinance No. 2020-01 was adopted to amend the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance and Map which is summarized as follows: The new Ordinance amends the Cumberland Ridge Open Space Planned Unit Development (OS-PUD) Zoning District adopted by the Lowell Charter Township Board on February 22, 2005 to allow for the Highlands at Cumberland Ridge Condominium Association to construct 54 condominium dwelling units on slabs instead of on full basements on the undeveloped portion of the OS-PUD zoning district. The Ordinance also approved the site plan for the Highlands Association and prescribed development standards for streets, signs, drainage, sidewalks, outdoor lighting and open space among other standards. The location is 1416 Cumberland Avenue SE.

This Ordinance/ordinance amendment shall become effective seven days after its publication or seven days after the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation.

A complete copy of the Ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during regular office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or viewed on our website [www.lowelltwp.org](http://www.lowelltwp.org)

Monica Burt, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

## Looking Back, continued

**50 years ago  
The Lowell Ledger  
June 11, 1970**

Last week's train wreck is still vividly remembered by the Gordon Johnsons. They have only to look at their lawn to see the result of several heavy freight cars having been dragged over to clear the main line for service, leaving ruts up to six feet in depth.

The glint of sun touching a glass fragment in an Indiana field plus the inquisitive and persistent personality of Dr. Ruth Herrick of Lowell culminated in her becoming an internationally-known authority on pattern glass. Her book, "Greentown Glass," in the short time since publication has become a handbook for antique dealers and glass collectors throughout the United States and Canada.

Lance Corporal Frederick A Blaser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Blaser, Lowell, has been awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Cpl. Blaser is stationed in Da Nang, South Vietnam.

**25 years ago  
The Lowell Ledger  
June 7, 1995**

Working 28 years for one employer may lead one to believe Tone Siciliano was a company man. Family, friends and fellow employees know that wasn't true with Siciliano – he was a true city (Lowell) man. Siciliano, 67, died unexpectedly Saturday while vacationing in Ocala, FL.

It's money the city council wished it didn't have to spend, but the work of vandals doesn't seem to want to end at Creekside park. The council agreed to spend approximately \$2,000 to have security and surveillance cameras installed by the Creekside Park bathrooms. Two four-year term seats on the Lowell School Board will be a stake on Monday June 12. The two seats up for election are those of incumbents Ann Mulder and Jack Lane.

...

**Breaking up is like knocking  
over a Coke machine. You  
can't do it in one push; you  
got to rock it back and forth  
a few times, and then it  
goes over.**

- Jerry Seinfeld

### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

US Sen. Debbie Stabenow  
Senate Office Building  
731 Hart  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4822  
[stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:stabenow.senate.gov)

US Sen. Gary C. Peters  
Senate Office Building  
724 Hart  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-6221  
[peters.senate.gov](mailto:peters.senate.gov)

US Rep. Justin Amash  
House Office Building  
114 Cannon  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-3831  
[amash.house.gov](mailto:amash.house.gov)

Mich. Sen. Winnie Brinks  
PO Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-373-1801  
[senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov)  
[senatedems.com/brinks](http://senatedems.com/brinks)

Mich. Rep. Thomas A. Albert  
N-1190 House Office Building  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-373-0846  
[thomas@votealbert.com](mailto:thomas@votealbert.com)  
[gophouse.org/representatives/westmi/albert](http://gophouse.org/representatives/westmi/albert)

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**Fri. 8 a.m. - noon**  
**closed Sat. & Sun.**

# classifieds

## for sale

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

**YARD SIGNS** - 18"x24" 1 sided \$10, 2-sided \$15 + tax. Includes stakes. For honoring seniors and pandemic messages only. Call Lowell Litho, M-Th 8-3 or email: litho@lowellbuyersguide.com

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

**ALL STEEL TABLE** - 72" L x 30" W x 40" H, 1 1/2" square tube frame. Wood shelf, 10" from floor, \$225. Call Jean at 616-897-7633.

**FREEAD!** - 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.

## 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.

**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.

## for rent

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

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

**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

## misc.

**BUSINESS OWNERS- GET CASH NOW!! GET YOUR PAYMENT CARD CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT MONEY IMMEDIATELY.** CLAIMS ACQUISITIONS GROUP WILL PURCHASE YOUR RIGHTS FOR IMMEDIATE CASH. CONTACT CLAIMS ACQUISITIONS GROUP TODAY. 800-327-7821 www.claimsacquisitions-group.com

Turning 65? Need the right facts about Medicare? Questions? Confused? Call us, we can help. 1-866-453-6898 pkgfinancialservices.com

**Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts.** Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-353-4896

**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

## wanted

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

## sales

**MURRAY LAKE SALES** - June 4 & 5, starting 8 am. More than 12 garage and moving sales. Baby, kids, ladies clothes; Ethan Allen, Live Edge furniture by Jerry Kropf, Broyhill couch, LaZBoy recliner, love seat sofa bed, dressers, lamps, antique organ, console radios, porch gliders, tools, fishing rods, reels, lures, toys, sand box, baby swing, kitchen items, pictures, books, puzzles, baskets, CDs & DVDs.

## services

**ZOOLAND DAYCARE** - has 3 full-time openings for ages 1-12. Call 616-308-0195 for more information.

**MOWING, CLEANUPS** - mulching, driveway grading, food plots, pressure washing, decks & more. Call SSP Lawn Care & Snowplowing, 616-897-6400.

**TERRY RISNER ROOFING** - Re-roofs & new construction. Free estimates. Licensed & insured. Call 616-291-9250.

## services

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

**FREEAD!** - 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 classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

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

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

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

## services

**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

**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.

**SEAMLESS GUTTER** - Bleam Eavestrouthing. Free estimates, 50 colors, leaf guards. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

**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

## services

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

**STICKNEY ROOFING** - A local, licensed & insured company. Tearoffs & new construction. Free estimates. Call 616-293-9772.

## card of thanks

The family of John DeJong would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers, food, prayers, thoughts, donations and Masses. A special thank you to the Fire Chief Ron Van Overbeek, Rockford Ambulance Service, Father Ferris at St Mary's for coming to our house for giving last rights and for services. We also appreciate Roth Gerst Funeral Home for their ongoing assistance.

Yours in Christ,  
 Kathy DeJong & family

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | T | A |   |   | S | I | D |   | E | B | B |   |   |   |
| C | L | E | G | G |   | A | M | U |   | M | A | L | I |   |   |
| E | A | G | A | N |   | I | P | O |   | O | S | A | R |   |   |
|   | S | U | S | U | S |   | L | A | D |   | A | E | R | O |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | A | T | O | N | E | A | B | L | E |   |   |
| T | R | A | N | S | P | A | R | E | N | T |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | B | S | C | I | S | E |   | L | A | O |   |   |   |   |   |
| O | C | H | R | E |   |   |   |   | N | A | J | A | S |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | R | M | A |   | T | R | A | D | E | R | S |
|   |   |   |   |   | R | E | U | P | H | O | L | S | T | E | R |
|   | D | I | S | A | R | R | A | Y | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | A | C | H |   | C | O | L |   | S | A | B | E | R |   |   |
| A | C | H | E |   | I | R | A |   |   | A | I | L | E | D |   |
| S | C | O | W |   | E | A | T |   |   | R | A | B | B | I |   |
| E | A | R |   |   | S | S | E |   |   | S | A | S | S |   |   |

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

Word search grid with words circled:

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



## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

### Sticking to Budget Can Boost Your Emergency Fund

During the coronavirus pandemic, our health concerns – for ourselves and our loved ones – have been at the top of our minds. But financial worries have been there, too, both for people whose employment has been affected and for investors anxious about the volatile financial markets. And one aspect of every individual's total financial picture has become quite

clear – the importance of an emergency fund.

In normal times, it's a good idea for you to keep three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account. Having an emergency fund available can help you cope with those large, unexpected costs, such as a major car repair or a costly medical bill.

Furthermore, if

you have an adequate emergency fund, you won't have to dip into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs. These investment vehicles, such as your IRA and 401(k), are designed for your retirement, so the more you can leave them intact, the more assets you're likely to have when you retire. And because they are intended for your retirement, they typically come with disincentives, including taxes and penalties, if you do tap into them early. (However, as part of the economic stimulus legislation known as the CARES Act, individuals can now take up to \$100,000 from their 401(k) plans and IRAs without paying the 10% penalty that typically

applies to investors younger than 59½. If you take this type of withdrawal, you have up to three years to pay the taxes and, if you want, replace the funds, beyond the usual caps on annual contributions.

Of course, life is expensive, so it's not always easy to put away money in a fund that you aren't going to use for your normal cash flow. That's why it's so important to establish a budget and stick to it. When developing such a budget, you may find ways to cut down on your spending, freeing up money that could be used to build your emergency fund.

There are different ways to establish a budget, but they all typically involve identifying your

income and expenses and separating your needs and wants. You can find various online budgeting tools to help you get started, but, ultimately, it's up to you to make your budget work. Nonetheless, you may be pleasantly surprised at how painless it is to follow a budget. For example, if you've budgeted a certain amount for food each month, you'll need to avoid going to the grocery store several times a week, just to pick up "a few things" – because it doesn't really take that many visits for those few things to add up to hundreds of dollars. You'll be much better off limiting your trips to the grocery, making a list of the items you'll need and adhering to these lists. After doing this

for a few months, see how much you've saved – it may be much more than you'd expect. Besides using these savings to strengthen your emergency fund, you could also deploy them toward longer-term investments designed to help you reach other objectives, such as retirement.

Saving money is always a good idea, and when you use your savings to build an emergency fund, you can help yourself prepare for the unexpected and make progress toward your long-term goals.

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

## college news

Alma College has released the Dean's List for those students who achieved outstanding academic performance during the 2020 Winter Term. Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List.

Those earning honors

include:

Ava Frederickson and Luke Jones from Alto; Marcus Malling, Zackery Post, Jacob Reagan and Ryan Stevens from Lowell.

Alma College, founded in 1886, is a four-year residential liberal arts college located in the heart of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. A deep regard for students as individuals is fundamental

to an Alma education, with small classes and many opportunities for one-on-one collaboration with dedicated faculty.

Alma's academic programs encourage students to put the ideas and theories they discuss in the classroom to work in real world settings through internships, research, campus leadership, study abroad and service to others.

## Social Security's online services are ready for business

By Vonda Van Til,  
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

During this time when our physical offices are closed to the public, you may wonder, "How can I get help from Social Security without visiting an office?" You can find the answer at [www.ssa.gov/onlineservices](http://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices), which links you to some of our most

popular online services. You can apply for retirement and disability benefits, appeal a decision, and do much more.

Our newest my Social Security feature, Advance Designation, enables you to identify up to three people, in priority order, who you would like to serve as your potential representative payee in the event you ever

Online Services webpage into four popular categories for easy navigation:

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Apply for Benefits. You

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need help managing your benefits. We have updated our Frequently Asked Questions at [faq.ssa.gov/en-us/Topic/article/KA-10039](http://faq.ssa.gov/en-us/Topic/article/KA-10039) to answer questions you may have about Advance Designation.

You can also apply for Medicare online in less than 10 minutes with no forms to sign and often no required documentation. We'll process your application and contact you if we need more information.

Visit [www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare) to apply for Medicare and find other important information. If you're eligible for Medicare at age 65, your initial enrollment period begins three months before your 65th birthday and ends three months after that birthday.

We've organized our

can apply for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits without having to visit a field office.

Manage Your Account. You can change your direct deposit information and your address online.

Find Help and Answers. We've answered your most frequently asked questions, and provided links to publications and other informational websites.

Let your family and friends know they can do much of their business with us online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

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

# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

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!

# FIREWORKS FUN WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

FIREWORKS FUN WORD SEARCH

DAHLIA  
FALLING LEAVES  
FARFALLE

PATTERN  
PEONY  
PISTIL

TAILS  
TOURBILLON  
WATERFALL

BROCADE  
CAKE  
CHRYSANTHEMUM  
CRACKLING RAIN  
CROSSETTE

FIREWORKS  
FISH  
FLARES  
GLITTERING  
MINE

ROMAN CANDLE  
SALUTE  
SHELL  
SPIDER  
STROBE

## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in England on June 1, 1996. I attended the BRIT School for performing arts and technology. Early in my career I was on stage as Billy Elliot. However, my acting web has now grown to include a popular superhero and many other notable roles.

Answer: Tom Holland

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fireworks.

C R T O E K

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Answer: Rocket

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

### CLUES ACROSS

- Swiss shoe company
- \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian
- \_\_\_ and flow
- Horsefly
- Egyptian pharaoh
- African nation
- Tony-winning actress Daisy
- Initial public offering
- Long-winding ridge
- Guinea peoples
- Fellow
- About aviation
- Able to make amends
- Easy to perceive
- Cut off
- Northeast Thai language
- Earthy pigment
- Water nymphs
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Those who deal
- Apply a new fabric
- Confusions
- "To \_\_\_ his own"
- Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- Heavy cavalry sword
- Partner to pain

- A type of savings account
- In a way, felt pain
- Wide-beamed sailing dinghy
- Consume
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Body part
- Midway between south and southeast
- Cheek

- Not written in any key or mode
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Powdery, post-burning residue
- Company that rings receipts
- Rugged mountain range
- Commercials
- NY football player
- A form of be
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Kindnesses
- Natural electrical phenomena
- Your
- Diana \_\_\_, singer
- Upper surface of the mouth
- National capital
- Fluid in Greek mythology
- Renowned jazz trumpeter
- Freedom from difficulty
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Revolutionaries
- Criticize

### CLUES DOWN

- Indicates a certain time (abbr.)
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Central American lizard
- Muslim military commanders
- One who takes to the seas
- Select jury
- Parts of the small intestine
- Painter's accessory
- Honk
- Ballpoint pen
- Large, dark antelope
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Exhausts
- \_\_\_-bo: exercise system

# Balabuch, continued



“I went with the A-10s, when they were deployed over there, and I worked in the operations group,” Balabuch said. “It was scary, but for me, what I did, I never left the base. I was never outside the wire, I was inside at my desk. Anytime you’d hop on the bus to go to work, it was scary. There were people with guns everywhere and you had to have a gun on you at all times. Yeah, it was scary. But I’ve also been sent to Germany, Italy, Arizona and Nevada. No, I have not been to Area 51!”

Balabuch enlisted in the Michigan Air National Guard in 1994 and has been a part time guardsmen ever since. She has not had a typical Air Force career and said she rarely sees the inside of an airplane. Her full time job is with

the Defense Logistics Agency, a division of the US Department of Defense, but she will have to take some leave from that to pursue this new assignment.

“I have been a part time guardsman for pretty much my entire career,” Balabuch said. “Education and personal development are super important in the Air Force, so I have an associate’s, a bachelor’s and a master’s degree, and I also have an associate’s from the Community College of the Air Force. It’s funny, anytime you say you’re in the Air Force, people say, ‘Oh, you fly planes?’ No, I’ve never flown a plane, and I don’t want to fly a plane!”

Balabuch does innovative work in artificial intelligence at the Defense Logistics Agency.

She described her work there as “basically the IT department of DLA.”

“I was full time at the Department of Defense DLA,” Balabuch said. “I am taking an active duty tour to do this position for one to two years, then I will go back to the DLA. I will decide after one year if I want to go back for two. DLA has about 25,000 people and, basically, we work in strategic communications. Lots of AI, lots of cyber stuff. In the IT world, things can be very complicated

technical stuff and making it not so technical, to make it more understandable to the average DLA user.”

Despite her excessively long commute, a little over one hour each way, Balabuch says she and her family will remain Lowellians. She moved here with her husband Adam when they were married in 1998. They now have two sons, Conner, a 2020 LHS graduate, and Bryce, soon to begin his junior year at LHS. The family is very active in youth sports, especially

in other ways.

“We love the Lowell community,” Balabuch said. “As a family, we help my parents with the Red Cross and we volunteer at God’s Kitchen. My parents are retired, and they are involved in the Red Cross full time. Right now they’re in Midland running shelters for the people who were displaced there. That kind of rubbed off on my family because we always get involved. I’ve been very involved in the football program since my oldest was in

grew up in the Detroit area and I grew up in the Lansing area, and we just like the west side of the state better than the east side.”

As the new Command Chief, Balabuch said she doesn’t plan to make any major changes right away, preferring instead the “baby steps” approach.

“I’m excited for this opportunity, I think it’s going to be awesome,” Balabuch said. “This is something I was meant to do, as cheesy as that sounds! Some people are



Jenny Balubach (circled) in front of an A-10 aircraft on the day in 2007 when she was deployed to Afghanistan.

and confusing to the common user. What I did was give information to the workforce by taking

football. Balabuch is a fixture at all of her sons’ practices, games and events, and they volunteer

youth football, probably 10 years. We went through varsity, JV, freshman and all of that, and we really love the school district and the community in general. It’s great. My husband

really passionate about stuff. Well, I’m passionate about helping people develop and taking care of people, and this is a great opportunity for me to do that.”

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2008: Jenny Balubach hugs her two sons upon arriving home from a five month deployment in Afghanistan.