



Lowell Area Historical Museum opening



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LHS eSports fundraiser



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King Milling history



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50¢



Two peaceful protests downtown Sunday



The first march at noon (pictured at left) was a show of support for recently-resigned Lowell Police chief Steven Bukala as well a demonstration of Second Amendment rights by area firearm owners. That story is on pages 8 and 9. The second rally (pictured right) was the “Peaceful Demonstration for Racial Equity” at 4 pm to show our town’s support for the Black Lives Matter movement. That event started at First Congregational Church of Lowell with nine minutes of silence in recognition of the police killing of George Floyd and concluded with a march up and down Main Street. That story is on pages 14 and 16.

Lowell police chief Steven Bukala resigns

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

After more than 20 years of service to the community, Lowell police chief Steven Bukala resigned from his position on Thursday, June 4.

According to a city interoffice memo written by Mike Burns and dated June 4, Bukala has been counseled or disciplined three times in the past three weeks for conduct unbecoming a police officer and allowing personal feelings to influence professional conduct.

“As the city’s chief of police, your actions and statements reflect directly on the city, both on duty and off duty,” Burns wrote. “You are held to a higher standard than the citizens of this city. You serve all citizens regardless of viewpoint and your credibility as an impartial law enforcement officer is critical to your role as chief. [...] It is our role to protect

and serve, not to opine on the issues of the day. We do not insert ourselves into political issues, whether directly or indirectly.”

The memo ended with an ultimatum, either Bukala resigned by 5 pm or he would be terminated at 5:01 pm. Bukala didn’t bother waiting, he emailed his resignation to Burns and mayor Michael DeVore at 1:14 pm that day.

“I have enjoyed my 27 year career as a police officer,” Bukala wrote, “However, I have decided it is time for me to start my life outside of the Lowell Police Department and my future looks very bright. I will always remember my 24.5 years as an officer for the city of Lowell. I am thankful that I was able to serve my last [seven] years as the chief of police.”

It started on Tuesday, June

2, when four young white men were observed walking up and down Main Street with guns. After worried citizens began to call the police, city manager Michael Burns instructed Bukala to create a Facebook post, which he did.

Bukala posted, “Just to inform the public we will have four open carry 2nd amendment citizens walking Main Street. They took the time to inform LPD that they’re coming out. They are well within their second ammendment [sic] rights to do this. We are aware and no need to call us. We at the Lowell Police Department support the legally armed citizen and the second ammendment [sic].”

First the post was edited to remove the last sentence, then it was deleted altogether.

“When I observed the last

Bukala, continued, page 2



Steven Bukala

Bukala, continued



The four young men posted to social media and informed the LPD before they began their armed march through town on Tuesday, June 2.

sentence of the statement, it appeared to me this was taking a political position and possibly escalating rhetoric," Burns wrote in a document summarizing his investigation of the situation. Mayor DeVore received four complaints in 10 minutes and contacted Burns to have

the post changed. "Social media chatter on this was very hostile. People were in support of the statement and there were people against this response."

Apparently, Bukala had spoken with the four men before their march and, in a post on his personal Facebook page, he referred to them as "fine young men" and continued, "They saw what happened in Grand Rapids. They said it's not going to happen here. We

have your backs." Some citizens were offended when it came to light that these "fine young men" had Confederate flags and other violent posts on their social media accounts. Others wondered if the chief's reaction would have been the same if four young, armed people of color started marching up and down Main Street.

Quickly, other social media posts by Bukala on his personal account were also called into question, including some that were construed as disrespectful to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. For example, Bukala posted a picture of himself shopping without a facemask and referred to keeping "the Gretchen Posse off my back and the city's back" in reference to a proposed but abandoned "Senior Caravan" event that would have violated the governor's various pandemic-related executive orders if allowed to go ahead.

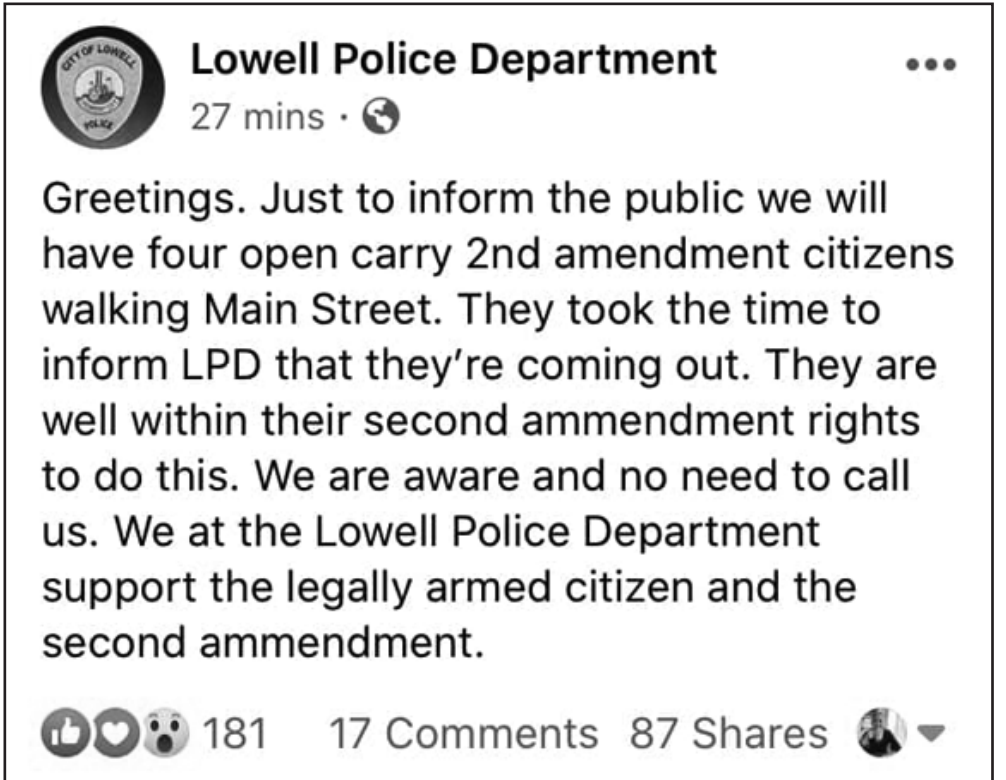
"Probably didn't need to use the term 'Gretchen Posse,'" Burns admonished Bukala in a May 27 email.

Bukala was hired as chief on Nov. 4, 2013 to replace retiring chief Barry Getzen. His career in Lowell had ups and downs. He was instrumental in getting body cameras for the department, LPD officers were among the first in the area to use the devices. Bukala was also involved in the Rob Bliss "Secret Santa" viral video where the LPD passed out \$7,800 worth of free merchandise to pulled-over motorists.

In June 2017, Bukala was charged with five counts of "Willful Neglect of Duty by a Public Officer" [MCL 750.478], a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of one year in jail. He was accused of using the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network, a police database, for personal



Violent posts and displays of the Confederate flag, like this example, on the marcher's social media accounts caused local residents to be concerned that, by endorsing their activities, Chief Bukala was also endorsing white supremacy.



Many local residents were offended by the flippant "don't call us, we don't want to hear about it" attitude of the LPD's post about the march and the statement of support for a controversial issue. Concerns were raised about whether or not the chief was enforcing the law in the same way for everybody, regardless of their demographics or political beliefs.

reasons unrelated to his job. In Sept. 2017 Bukala pled guilty to one charge and the other four were dropped. After 90 days unpaid leave from the LPD, he paid a \$1,000 fine plus \$425 in fees and had to take a LEIN re-training course. Sgt. Chris Hurst acted as interim chief those 90 days.

"I wanted to ensure that Chief Bukala takes responsibility for what he did without losing his ability to work as a police officer," Barry County prosecutor Julie Nakfoor Pratt said at the time. "From this point on, whether Chief Bukala succeeds in maintaining his career and improving his integrity is up to him."

The matter last week was brief and to the point.

"On Thursday, Steve Bukala resigned as chief of police after more than 24 years of service to our community," Burns wrote. "We wish him well in his next chapter and appreciate all he has done for Lowell. Sgt. Chris Hurst will serve as interim chief while we undertake a search."




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Bukala, continued

CITY OF LOWELL CITY MANAGER INVESTIGATION OF CHIEF STEVEN BUKALA

ORIGIN

On Tuesday June 2, 2020 at approximately 1300 hours, Chief Bukala notified me of an incident where four armed men were going to walk in the Downtown District in support of the Second Amendment. As this is protected speech and open carry in Michigan is legal, this was going to be allowed and I directed Chief Bukala to post this on the City Facebook Page alerting people of this activity.

INFORMATION

At approximately 1330 hours, Chief Bukala posted the following on the Lowell Police Department Facebook Page, "Greetings. Just to inform the public we will have four open carry 2nd Amendment citizens walking Main Street. They took the time to inform LPD that they're coming out. They are well within their second amendment (sp) rights to do this. We at the Lowell Police Department support the legally armed citizen and the second amendment."

When I observed the last sentence of the statement it appeared to me this was taking a political position and possibly escalating rhetoric. Immediately after I observed this, I went to Chief Bukala's office and I informed him that I am most likely going to receive complaints regarding this. His response is "this is a true statement." I didn't bring this up further at that time and I left the office.

Approximately 10 minutes later, I was called by Mayor DeVore who informed me he received four complaints from people regarding his last post and wanted the last sentence removed. I immediately contacted Chief Bukala and ordered him per the Mayor to remove the last sentence in this post.

Social media chatter on this was very hostile. People were in support of the statement and there were people against this response. I also received additional anonymous complaints from residents regarding the statement. I do note that people were making comments on Social Media pertaining to his previous criminal matter.

In the past three weeks this is the third episode whereby I had to gently remind him of his communication on Facebook and in sending emails. On May 11, 2020 I received an anonymous verbal complaint from an individual stating that Chief Bukala posted a photo on his personal Facebook page of him and his wife in front of a Home Depot. The photo had his wife wearing a mask and him wearing a mask on his elbow. He also made other personal posts not in support of Governor Whitmer. Immediately after the complaint, I went to Chief Bukala and informed him of the complaint and to be mindful of what he posts on Social Media. On May 12, I received a second complaint which was written regarding the matter. I redacted the name of the complainant for anonymity. I informed both individuals I received the complaints from I addressed the matter with the Chief and hopefully this would rectify the matter.

On May 27, 2020, I was informed of an email Chief Bukala received regarding a caravan of vehicles honoring 2020 Lowell High School Graduates. They were hoping for police assistance with the caravan. However, due to the Stay at Home Orders in place at that time, the City may be in violation of the Executive Order if we participated in the caravan. Chief Bukala responded in an email in which I was copied on. The email is attached however, in the email he stated "this was a violation of the Executive Order and the Police Department cannot be a party to this." He also gave a suggestion to handle the event in a reasonable manner however he stated this option would keep the "Gretchen Posse off my back and the city's back."

I immediately responded to him stating he probably didn't need to use the term Gretchen Posse. I later reminded him to be professional and that he could have easily responded to her as Governor Whitmer.

DISPOSITION

I believe these actions are a pattern of inappropriate behavior of our Chief of Police. While not related to this issue, there was a 2017 incident of a criminal matter adjudicated in Barry County which resulted in a 90 day suspension. I will be issuing a Disciplinary Action report where termination is being considered for multiple violations of the Police Department Policy Handbook and City of Lowell Employee Handbook.

Above, a more detailed report outlining the results of Burns' investigation into Bukala's social media behavior.

Mike Burns

From: Steve Bukala
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Mike Burns
Cc: Mike DeVore
Subject: Resignation

Dear City Manager, Mike Burns,

Please accept this email as my resignation as the chief of police. I have enjoyed my 27 year career as a Police Officer however, I have decided it is time for me to start my life outside of the Lowell Police Department and my future looks very bright. I will always remember my 24.5 years as an officer for the City of Lowell. I am thankful that I was able to serve my last 7 years as an office as the Chief of Police.

Respectfully,
Steve Bukala

Above, Bukala's emailed letter of resignation.

LOWELL CITY ADMINISTRATION INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM



DATE: June 4, 2020
TO: Steven J. Bukala, Chief of Police
FROM: Michael T. Burns, City Manager
RE: Disciplinary Action Report

In the past three weeks, I have had three times where I have had to counsel or discipline you regarding your actions as Chief. Two of those occasions resulted in verbal counseling. There is a continuing pattern of behavior where I find your actions violate the policies of the City and the Department:

- **Police Department Policy #1, Chapter #4 Conduct Unbecoming of a Police Officer –** Your actions have brought disrepute to the Police Department and impaired the efficient operation of the Department.
- **Police Department Policy #1, Chapter #4 Personnel shall not allow personal feelings to influence their professional conduct –** Documented evidence indicates a pattern where your personal feelings through your written communication, including on Departmental and personal social media, are affecting your professional conduct. Your statements and actions affect the Department's perception within the community.
- **Employee Handbook Section 2.8 –** The information you posted on the Department's social media page pertaining to the events on June 2, 2020 included unneeded personal commentary and inserted political and debatable issues into a Departmental notice which caused unneeded concern by some city residents. Your actions created an unnecessary negative portrayal of the City in some citizen's view.

As the City's Chief of Police, your actions and statements reflect directly on the City, both on-duty and off-duty. You are held to a higher standard than the citizens of this city. You serve all citizens regardless of viewpoint and your credibility as an impartial law enforcement officer is critical to your role as Chief. I can no longer condone remarks made publicly which discredit your role and the Lowell Police Department and conflict with these expectations. It is our role to protect and serve, not to opine on the issues of the day. We do not insert ourselves into political issues, whether directly or indirectly. Your rhetoric and actions on these three issues are unprofessional and reflect poorly on the City and the Department. This pattern of behavior is not acceptable.

In 2017, I suspended you for 90 days due to your criminal issue adjudicated in Barry County. These issues are obviously not related. However, I do not have confidence in your ability to serve as the Chief of Police any longer.

I will give you until 5:00 PM on Thursday June 4, 2020 to voluntarily resign your position as Chief of Police. If you choose not to do so you will be terminated at 5:01 PM on Thursday June 4, 2020.

Above, the "Disciplinary Action Report" memo from city manager Burns to Bukala details the specific reasoning behind Bukala's resignation.

A few days after the Governor issued her executive order requiring the wearing of masks when out shopping, Police Chief Bukala posted a picture on social media of he and his wife shopping at a big box store. In the picture, he is proudly wearing his mask on his arm, in defiance of the Governor's order. He has since taken the picture down, but not before it was seen by at least one of his officers. He has also stated on social media that he does not agree with the Governor's orders and that he has no intention of enforcing them.

It is troubling to me that our Chief of Police seems to be displaying a pattern of picking and choosing what rules he follows. Not that long ago he was disciplined for not following the rules related to doing background checks for personal reasons. I can't help but wonder what message this behavior sends to his officers. If an officer doesn't think the speed laws are right is it okay for them to ignore speeders? If they think drunk driving is not a big deal can they look the other way when they see someone driving erratically? The bigger question is this; is this the type of behavior we want from the leader of our police department?

What you do with this is up to you. I do not expect a response from you. My goal here was for me to unburden myself and give you some information about one of your top employees so you can get a better understanding about what type of person they are.

Above, an excerpt from a May 12 complaint from a citizen concerned about Bukala's selective, ideology-based policing.

•••
Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away from them and you have their shoes.

~ Jack Handey

Yep

we cover Life



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Lowell Area Historical Museum opens to community this Thursday

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

After months of being shut down due to the COVID-19 crisis, downtown Lowell has begun opening back up and the Lowell Area Historical Museum is no different.

The Lowell Historical Museum announced that they would be opening up with limited hours starting this week. The current plan, for the time being, is that the museum will be open to limited capacity on Thursdays from 1 pm to 4 pm starting on Thursday, June 11.

While it will be only open one day a week for the time being, as the summer progresses more days and more hours may be added to the schedule, with a weekend day being the next focus for the museum.

The museum has spent much of this week preparing for the reopening by cleaning and sanitizing the building and taking out the hands-on activities. Executive director Lisa

Plank detailed the steps the museum is doing to encourage social distancing while viewing the exhibits.

“We’ll have increased social distancing where we’ll keep people separated in different rooms, kinda increased from the six feet rule but it will allow us to have a person in each room to immediately clean and sanitize the area before the next group comes in,” Plank said.

Masks will be required for entry into the museum, much akin to a no shoes, no shirt, no service model. This is in place to protect the volunteers, the staff and the patrons of the museum.

There is one exhibit that is relatively new to the museum. The Robert and Earnest Graham exhibit was completed just before the shutdown and has not officially had its unveiling.

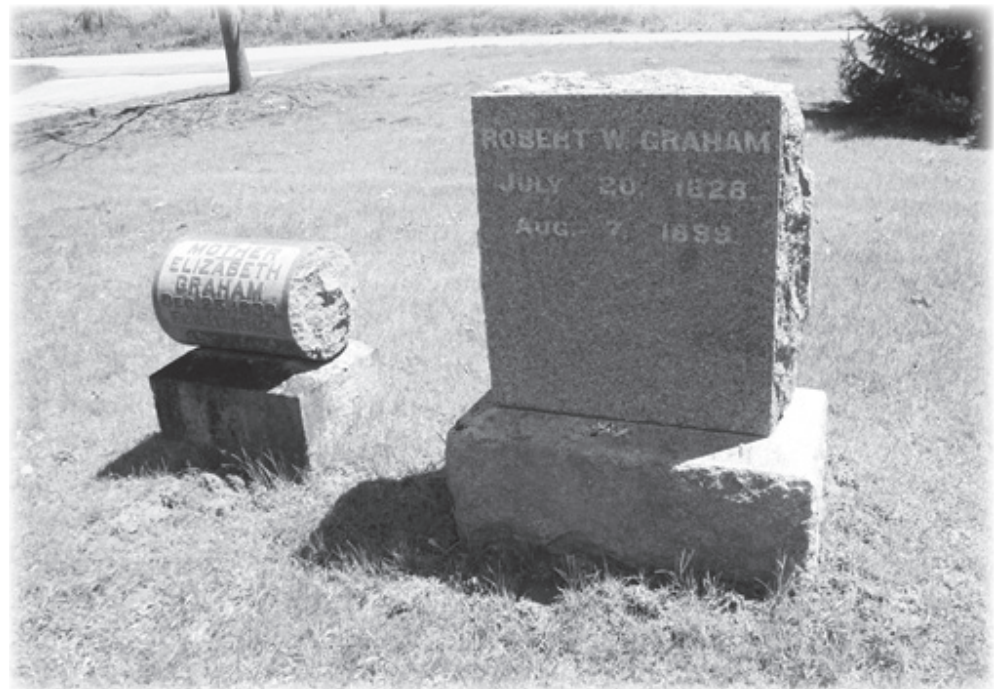
“Robert Graham was the person who built the building the museum is built in; he built a number

of other buildings around town,” Plank said. “His son Earnest went on to become a famous architect in Chicago. We also reworked some of the Showboat exhibits along with some of the other exhibits.”

The fur trading cabin will also begin opening consistently at the Grand River Riverfront Park. That will be open from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm on Thursdays as well. Hours will also be subject to change over the summer with more possibly being added.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum also has other activities planned for those around town, including the release of a Lowell history scavenger hunt. Details will be released in the coming weeks.

For more information and stay updated on the upcoming schedule changes and summer activities, be sure to go visit lowellmuseum.org.



Robert W. Graham's tombstone in Oakwood Cemetery.

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viewpoint

to the editor

To the Editor of the Lowell Ledger,

I fear for my loved ones who do not share my white privilege. I have a 12-year-old black grandson. In the past people around here often commented about how cute he is, but as he becomes a big, black teenager I fear that people will fear, harass, or discriminate against him. At school he has already been taunted and threatened by racist bullies who must have been raised in racist families.

I am also fearful of those who are openly carrying firearms in town. Just because you have the right to do it doesn't make it right and doesn't mean you should. We also have the right to make derogatory comments about people with

dark skin or blue uniforms, but that doesn't mean we should. We have rights, but we also have responsibilities as evidenced during the pandemic.

I hope that my grandson can jog through Lowell, go bird watching, or even inexplicably use a phony \$20 bill without the fear of being shot, threatened, or choked. Let's not tolerate racism in Lowell. Know justice; know peace; love your neighbor.

Ray Wolfe
Lowell

Dear Editor,

Support your local sheriff (police force)

Please give your local police force and sheriff some support. Black Lives Matter, White Lives Matter, all lives matter, police lives

matter. Will our cities and towns suffer from lack of police enforcement because of renegades who have abused the system. They will be retrained, procedures will be changed. However, do you remember when you were a child? We were read primers of police and firemen being our friends. Why has that changed or has it? Every time a policeman pulls over a car or walks up to a crowd his life is on the line and tensions high. I would not want their job and apparently a lot no longer want it too. Do you blame them? They have dealt with Corona people spitting on them, insurrection. How must they feel when they return to their families at the end of the day? When was the last time they gave you a warning and not a ticket? Do you remember when they stopped cars and filled a gas tank or gave a gift.

Respect your law enforcement. Their job is the hardest in the land. Have

you waved to them when you passed their police car? Have you said hi or thank you? Let's stop being negative. Let's turn the corner. The unrest will end. Lessons will be learned, things will change. Let's start being kind and tolerant. You bet you will get back what you give.

Janet Twisten
Lowell

Dear Lowell Police Department,

The roots of concern and outrage over your open encouragement of the behaviors conducted by the four young men on Main Street on June 3, 2020 run deep. Hundreds and hundreds of years deep, in fact. They span across continents and oceans and revolutions.

And you, LPD, are amidst one of these revolutions.

You have a choice, Officer

Letters, continued, page 11

outdoors

get out and about

Dave Stegehuis

Back in the day before the proliferation of housing development projects and shopping malls, families lived in rural and suburban areas where open spaces were bordered by less traveled roads. Owners of private land including farmers were less concerned about others on their property. There was a sense of sharing with neighbors, or they just didn't care. As a boy, I wandered unfettered far and wide.

Safe and legal places to explore and walk are now limited in most areas by our culture, diminishing undeveloped land, and a litigious society. The good news is that the need for public recreation is recognized and addressed by cities, townships, and counties, as well as state and federal agencies which make a deliberate effort to provide public spaces for recreational activities. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, private donations of money and property, as well as conservation organizations have made possible the acquisition of natural areas and trails for public use.

Open spaces, trails, and pathways can be located by online research or contacting the local chamber of commerce. One can locate outdoor opportunities by just looking around.

A few trails or pathways are busy, but most are under used. Trails are a narrow walkway through mostly natural surroundings. Pathways are found in urban areas and may be wider hard surface walkways which may allow for non-motorized vehicles. The terms are often used interchangeably.

The great thing about these systems is that they are designed for a specific purpose so are well marked and relatively safe to use. There are rules which intend to keep users safe and considerate of others and the environment.

Outdoor exercise is beneficial for physical and mental health which includes a more positive attitude towards life in general. Someone went through a lot of effort to provide these recreational resources so take advantage of the opportunity to get out and about.



100 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 17, 1920

The public is now being warned that prices of factory canned goods will be high next winter. Housewives can do much to provide against a fruit and vegetable famine by canning their own supplies throughout the season, taking each variety at the time of its greatest abundance. The lessons of thrift learned at war time must not be forgotten. Those who grow and can their own fruits and vegetables not only provide for themselves but they help keep prices down for those unable to do their own canning. "Forewarned is forearmed."

In the nomination of Senator Harding for president, the Republicans have honored the journalistic profession, which has now received its most distinguished recognition, probably, since Horace Greeley was nominated by the Democrats 48 years ago. Mr. Harding may not be as able a man as the leading candidates who went down to defeat in the Republican convention, but he is probably capable of seeking and using good advisers, which is a better qualification than knowing too much.

Hog cholera is quite prevalent in Bowne township, yet dogs are allowed to run at large. Is the liberty of your dog worth more than the life of your neighbor's hogs? Perhaps this will be a case for the law enforcement league to take care of.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 14, 1945

Master Richard Rutherford, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rutherford, was taken to Blodgett hospital, Grand Rapids, Sunday afternoon following an unusual accident. The youngster swallowed a small pocket knife with which he had been playing while lying on his back on a bed. X-rays were taken daily and

Looking back, continued, page 11

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 12, 1895

The news that Judge Judson Harmon had been appointed attorney general by President Cleveland did not become known on the streets till after 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, but it spread so rapidly that before 6 o'clock his office in the St. Paul building was besieged with callers. A more popular man does not live in Ohio.

The drought of the past two months has resulted in the entire failure of the hay crop throughout this vicinity. The oldest inhabitants do not remember when there was no hay.

An Indian woman, whose horses had been impounded by George Love, went to get them. Love threatened to kill her, but, not understanding English, she took one, when Love shot her in the back, lacerating her fearfully. The surgeon says she can live but a few hours. Love is in jail.

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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- know your family medical history

Medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, cancers and clotting disorders develop as the result of many factors. Some are caused by environmental factors such as poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking, drinking, and chemical exposures. Some are caused by genetic factors that are passed from one generation to another. While some are the result of both environmental and genetic factors.

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 (adult onset diabetes) has a strong genetic component. This means that relatives of Type 2 diabetics have a high likelihood of becoming diabetic in their lifetime. This can often be prevented with proper diet, exercise, and weight control.

Heart disease often has a strong genetic component and tends to run in families. People with a family history of heart disease should be sure to monitor and control their blood pressure, control their cholesterol, not use tobacco, and control their weight with diet and exercise.

Hypertension (high blood pressure) often develops as a result of many factors, but the biggest factor is family history. If you have family members with hypertension, it is important that you have your blood pressure monitored regularly. You should also control your cholesterol, not use tobacco,

and control your weight with diet and exercise.

Many cancers tend to run in families. The most common ones are breast, colon, and prostate. If you have a family member with one of these cancers, it is important that you begin a cancer screening program sooner, and more regularly than the average person.

Clotting disorders are often hereditary. Clotting disorders can place a person at increased risk of a blood clot which can travel to the lung and cause a pulmonary embolism, or to the brain and cause a stroke. People with clotting disorders often develop blood clots easier than the average person as the result of trauma, surgeries, or prolonged immobilization.

Many people fail to realize the importance of knowing their own family medical history. They often do not realize that they may be at risk of developing the same conditions that their siblings, parents or grandparents have been diagnosed with. It is very important that everyone learn not only their immediate family medical history, but also their distant family history and share that information with their health care provider. Having regular physical exams and sharing your family's medical history with your health care provider is the best way to prevent your family's medical problems from becoming your own.

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.

A second mill was built on the west side of the Flat River in 1867 and named Superior Mill. The Superior Mill sold to local lumbermen Francis King, his son Frank T. King, Charles McCarty and

of business increased substantially. William directed the construction of new water turbines under both mills. He also supervised the construction of a new concrete dam across the Flat River to

was home the war ended. Under King and Mike Doyle King Milling increased the production and storage capacity of the mill. They also implemented new transportation systems and were among the first to



K is for King Milling

Flour mills have a long history in Lowell. The first mill was built by Cyprian S. Hooker in the 1840s on the east side of the Flat River. It was run by water power furnished from a dam on the Flat River and conducted to the mill by a race. This early mill was constructed of wood using logs floated down the river with the help of local Odawa. The mill became known as the Forrest Mill and transferred through several owners before the Wisner Bros. Mill sold it to King Milling Company in 1896. Forrest Mill was taken down in 1965.

Reuben Quick in 1890. They organized as King Milling Company and moved their former lumber office across town to become the flour mill office. The mill office can still be seen on Main Street. The purchase of the Forest Mill gave King Milling two flour mills, one on each side of the river.

In 1900, Thomas F. Doyle, also a lumberman, purchased part-ownership of King Milling and his three sons, Charles, Renis and William, went to work for the company. In 1936, William Doyle assumed management of the company. He oversaw operational improvements and King Milling's volume

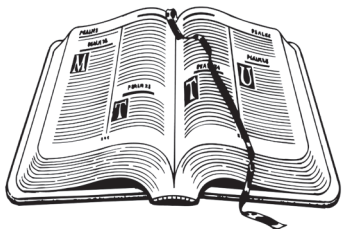
power the mills.

In 1943 the Superior mill suffered a devastating fire. Facing building supply shortages due to WWII, the mill was rebuilt. The wooden mill was replaced with a new concrete mill with the most up-to-date milling equipment available. Only 10 days after completing the new mill in 1945, William Doyle died. He left the mill to his wife, and two sons King, age 23 and Mike, age 15. King Doyle, who was serving in WWII in the Pacific, was granted a 90 day leave from the navy to return home and put his father's affairs in order. While he

switch to pneumatic systems for conveying flour. The next generation represented by King's son Brian and Mike's sons Jim and Stephen have continued to modernize the mill making King Milling one of the first to fully automate operations.

Today King Milling remains family owned and continues to grow. The fourth and fifth generations of the Doyle Family now continue to run the longest running industry in Lowell. It has shaped the community from its earliest days continuing to the present and is one of only six flour mills remaining in Michigan.

area churches



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Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
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- JUNE 11**
Jeanne Boss, Terri S. Fonger, Dick Sturgis.
- JUNE 12**
Benjamin Zoodsma, Jenny Engle, Noah Green.
- JUNE 13**
Holly Fetterhoff, Vivian Hoskins.
- JUNE 14**
Kyle Manszewski.
- JUNE 15**
Joey Hunt Jr., Courtney Krebil, Caran Schalow, Rachel Heinicki, Katlin Manszewski, Alice Monks, Sam Richmond.
- JUNE 16**
Michael Pretzel, Orin Comdure, Jean Bishop, Mike Kenney.

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Lowell High School eSports player raises money for Wounded Warrior Project

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

It has been long debated about if any positives come from the use of eSports or videogames. Peter Kooi looks to show the positives of gaming with his fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Kooi, a senior at Lowell High School and an active member of the Lowell eSports club, runs a growing channel called "ProfPalmPlayz" on the live streaming platform Twitch. On this channel, he plays videogames such as Fortnite, Valorant and various other games, with all donations going to the Wounded Warrior Project.

"I've been streaming on Twitch since December 2018," Kooi said. "I just recently hit the 'affiliate' status on the platform, so I was able to accept donations. After some thought, I came up with the

Wounded Warrior Project. It's an organization that helps US military veterans that have been injured in the line of duty."

The Wounded Warrior Project was founded in 2003 to provide a multitude of services, programs and events for wounded veterans after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. They have helped thousands of veterans that have been wounded, both physically and mentally, over the last 20 years.

Kooi originally set a goal to raise \$250 by the end of June, with a start date around Memorial Day. As of June 7, Kooi has raised over \$300, passing his goal within the first two weeks of the fundraiser's beginning.

Kooi streams on his "ProfPalmPlayz" account a little later at night, with his original streams starting at

10 pm and going into the night. He has now been including an early morning stream to get viewers that would normally be asleep during his regular stream schedule.

Kooi is just one of many Lowell Area Schools students who are looking to make an impact through the gaming industry. The Lowell eSports club has been one of the fastest growing clubs at the high school, with 25-30 students joining since its inception in March 2019. The club is run by Al Eckman, who was happy to help Kooi set up this fundraiser.

"Peter gave me a call three weeks ago, asking if I minded if he did a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project. He wanted to do the fundraiser with eSports," Eckman said. "I thought it was pretty good for a



Peter Kooi

young man to do something like this. I researched this and felt like the Wounded Warrior Project interested us."

eSports is a platform that allows players to compete virtually through videogames. Lowell High School participates in competitions against the likes of East Grand Rapids, West Catholic and East Kentwood. They play games that are rated for teens and below, such as Fortnite and Super Smash Brothers. The Lowell club was one of the only ones that continued to successfully compete during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"COVID-19 hasn't stopped schools from competing, our regular season ended a few weeks ago," Kooi said. "We've had

10 or more competitions since schools were let out. We've been competing from home, since everyone has their consoles."

While competing with the Lowell eSports club, Kooi has also been building up his brand of gaming on his Twitch channel. As the month continues, Kooi will continue to collect for the Wounded Warrior Project before switching gears to a new charity.

"What I plan on doing is when this donation period ends, I'll already have another charity picked out to start donating to," Kooi said. "St. Judes Children's Hospital is the main one I'm looking at. I'm still looking for other charities that I would be interested in raising money for."

When it comes to this charity, Kooi is happy to pass his goal of \$250 and has no plans to increase the current target.

"In my mind, we're gonna stick with the \$250 goal so that when we pass it shows the community that we can make big responses to small goals," Kooi said.

You can donate to Kooi by going to Twitch.tv and searching for "ProfPalmPlayz" in the search bar. When you find his home page, there will be a donation link at the bottom of the page. Click that link and follow the directions. You can also donate to the Wounded Warrior Project directly anytime by going to their homepage, woundedwarriorproject.org.



A screenshot of Kooi playing Fortnite on his ProfPalmPlayz account on May 31, having already raised \$100 for the Wounded Warrior Project.

CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ENFORCEMENT OF A PORTION OF SECTION 20.06.A.14. OF THE CITY OF LOWELL ZONING ORDINANCE, APPENDIX A, CHAPTER 20 "SIGNS" DUE TO THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 20-02 amending a portion of Section 20.06.A.14, Appendix A, Chapter 20 "Signs" of the City of Lowell Zoning Ordinance on June 1, 2020. Ordinance No. 20-02 places a moratorium on the regulation of sandwich board signs to the extent that the current section limits the number of sandwich board signs to one (1) per business or establishment in the C-2 Central Business District such that two (2) sandwich board signs are allowed per business or establishment in the C-2 Central Business District for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days or until such time as the Governor of Michigan declares that the State of Emergency and any stay-at-home Executive Orders are no longer in effect, whichever shall occur first. The ordinance also provides for extension of the moratorium by resolution if the City Council so chooses. A copy of Ordinance No. 20-02 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street in the City during business hours of the City (which may vary during this time due to COVID-19) or electronically upon request.

Ordinance No. 20-02 is effective 10 days after this publication.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk



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Chief Bukala/Second Amendment rally downtown



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Area firearms advocates and supporters of former Lowell police chief Steve Bukala had a rally in downtown Lowell at noon on Sunday, June 7.

Prior to the event, a large crowd gathered in the parking lots at the corner of Avery and Monroe. Eventually just over 100 area residents, many armed with loaded weapons - one man sporting a Confederate flag jacket - marched up and down through the Main Street business district.

The march had two purposes, as a protest against

Bukala's resignation and to show support for Second Amendment rights.

"I came out here to support the Second Amendment," said Jason, 32, from Belding.

"I am just here to support Second Amendment rights," said David, age 31, from Ionia. Like many in the march, David was heavily armed, carrying a loaded, scoped AR-15 assault rifle ("but there is not one in the chamber") with several more ammunition magazines ready to go in a chest rig.

"I seen the injustice of the police chief from this

area," said Robert, 49, a resident of Gobles in Van Buren County. He was also carrying a loaded AR-15. "We need police that follow the Constitution and I'm here to support them. Attendance is good, quite a few people for a small town."

"We have the right to bear arms," said Pamela, a resident of Muskegon. "The [four men's] guns were unloaded. I support the police. If you don't support the police officers, you're going to have anarchy. People have the right to protect their businesses, period. And if the police can't do it because they're being asked to stand down, why can't the citizens protect their own businesses, their own cities from rioters? Not protesters, rioters."

Two representatives from the organization "Cowboys for Michigan" joined the rally on horseback. The horses didn't seem to mind the noise and traffic and only pooped in the street once.

"We came down here to support our friend Jamie [Lett] who put this on, the chief of Lowell and the Second Amendment to the Constitution," said one of the women from atop her horse. "The horses are a healthy attraction. They just keep everyone smiling and it keeps things positive."

Jamie Lett, a Lowell resident, was the main organizer of the rally. She said that Bukala's social media posts were used as an excuse to get rid of him in order to save the city money. "I feel strongly that chief

Bukala was forced to retire," Lett said. "I would love to see him reinstated. I feel that it was unjust and the way that it was done was not fair whatsoever. I feel that a lot of it has to do with politics. Basically, to impede his retirement pension that he would be receiving at 55 instead of 65 now. My husband is a retired police officer from Muskegon and I've seen, over the years, many, many things with politics having to do with police pensions, and that's what we feel most strongly about."

According to the proposed city budget, in the next fiscal year the city intends to spend \$888,863 maintaining a full time police force. This is 27.6% of the total city budget. [<http://www.lowellmi.gov/Fiscal%20Year%202020-21%20proposed%20budget.pdf>]

Many of those attending the march were under the impression that Bukala was fired for supporting the Second Amendment. However, Bukala was actually asked to resign because members of the



Garrett Hardman

Among the marchers was Garrett Hardman, one of the four young men whose armed stroll through town last week was the instigator for this situation. He said

their march had nothing to do with the current political and cultural climate, claiming it was about "the Second Amendment, that's it." "The timing doesn't



public lost confidence in his ability to apply the law impartially. Read the front page story in this edition for more about that.

"Steve Bukala's wife is one of my friends. I don't think he deserves what they did to him," said Pamela, a resident of Muskegon. "Who cares about Facebook? Who cares about it? Facebook shouldn't be policing us. It's freedom of speech. This is America. If they want to police us, maybe they should go to China."

"I saw chief Bukala's original Facebook post regarding the four young men that were assembling peacefully, expressing their Second Amendment rights" Lett said. "I didn't see anything wrong with it. I did see, however, that there was a Confederate flag in a picture, which I don't think should have been posted. But, again, it wasn't my children."



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Chief Bukala/Second Amendment rally downtown

matter, we're allowed to do it anytime we please," Hardman said. "I do it all the time in Lowell. As to why it's a big deal now, I don't understand it. I don't believe that the left should fear anything. It's nothing harmful. There's no intent. A guy walking with a gun shows intent with responsibility. A man walking around with a baseball bat or a tire iron, that shows intent to harm. There is nothing scary about a gentleman who is acting on his rights. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

said. "That's on a buddy's Facebook and that's, in his belief, heritage, not racist. Flags have different meanings to everyone. A lot of people like to walk on the American flag and [other] people like to fly it proudly. There is no definitive meaning to anything, flag-wise. It's how it's portrayed, that's the message for it." Hardman disagreed with Bukala's ouster but refused to take any responsibility for his part in the situation. "I believe [chief Bukala's resignation] was wrong,

emergency declared by the governor, our constitutional rights are not usurped," said Shannon Vandenbosch, one of the volunteers collecting signatures. "We have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, okay? It clarifies the separation of powers. States of emergency do not create, diminish, increase or remove powers in our government. The Constitution cannot be changed by events, emergencies or judges' interpretations. Laws relating to the same subject



My actions are legal, that's all I have to say. What I'm doing is legal and I believe it's right." There was one marcher with a Confederate flag jacket, but he declined to be interviewed. Hardman acknowledged there were social media posts with that symbol, but denied that displaying the flag is a racist act. "The Confederate flag was seen on a Facebook post, there was none carried on the [original] walk" Hardman

highly wrong," Hardman said. "He supported the Constitution, he backed it up and defended it, and for city hall to do what they did, I don't believe that was right. I don't feel responsible. I feel it's city hall's responsibility." There was also a petition available before and after the rally, which many local registered voters were observed signing, including interim Lowell police chief Christopher Hurst. "The petition basically says that during a state of

matter, when they don't conflict, must be read together, [like] the 1945 law and the 1976 law." Despite, or maybe because of, all the firepower on display, it was a peaceful demonstration. Interim chief Hurst said the Lowell police only brought on one extra officer for the event, and the downtown area was vacated quickly. At least until the next march a couple hours later. Turn to page 14 for that story. "I didn't think this many people would be here," Lett said. "There are a quite a few out-of-towners that I don't know, but that's great too, as long as it remains peaceful."

CSPOA (above) stands for "Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association," an organization that believes the authority of local police officers supersedes that of state or federal officials.



The man carrying the Confederate flag jacket declined to be interviewed.

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KDL still working to bring services to our community

Due to concerns related to COVID-19 and related executive orders from the governor, most companies have had to make changes the way they do business. The Englehardt branch of KDL's doors may be closed to the public currently, but library staff are still working hard to bring services to our community. While these services may look a little different, KDL has remained focused on continuing to promote resources during the closure.

As soon as Michigan schools were closed, Sandy Graham, manager of the Englehardt and Alto branches, worked with Lowell Area Schools to identify students in need of internet access and provide them with Wi-Fi hotspots.

"I was thinking iPads, ChromeBooks. Turns out the biggest need was hotspots. This ended up being a rapidly moving target. There was a large need, but by the time we were able to work the budget and purchase many, so had the schools.

We first started by reaching out to the schools on the edge of our district (in many urban areas there is free Wi-Fi provided by Xfinity), but we ended up getting so many we asked managers/youth staff to reach out to all the schools," said Graham.

Several libraries in KDL's system, including Kentwood and Grandville have since partnered with schools in order to provide hotspots to students for online classes. KDL has also created a page on their website filled with educational resources for at-home learners and parents.

There are a number of options for downloading materials available for KDL card holders. KDL has the largest digital collection in the state and has been working to continue adding titles during the pandemic. Services such as OverDrive and Libby, Hoopla, Freegal, RB Digital, and Tumble books make it easy to access e-books, e-audiobooks, graphic novels, music, movies, magazines, and

children's picture books from the comfort of your home.

For those who may need a little help with downloading ebooks, the patron services department of KDL has remained open during the pandemic. Patron services personnel are local librarians who specialize in troubleshooting technology and assisting with other library requests by phone, email, or live chat.

For those with books at home right now, due dates for all materials have been extended until July 6, so no items are currently overdue. Book drops are open as of June 8, so you can finally return any items you've been holding on to for the past few weeks. All returned materials will be quarantined for three days before being returned to circulation.

Staff have returned to the building this week and will be gearing up for curbside service, which is slated to begin on June 15. Patrons are able to place

requests will be honored as soon as curbside service begins.

As far as the buildings being open to the public again, the library is working toward this, but does not have a definite date for reopening as of yet.

KDL will not be hosting any in-person classes or events over the summer, but will have options for virtual programs available for all ages. Several storytimes will be available, as well as book clubs for all ages, STEAM activities and more. A listing of virtual events can be found on the KDL website.

KDL's Summer Wonder is an annual 30-day reading challenge for the entire family. All activities and tracking of participation will be done online this year. Adults who complete the summer reading challenge will receive a stainless steel water bottle, youth participants will get a wooden robot and babies will receive a board book.

Informational booklets have been mailed out to several residents of Kent County already and additional information about Summer Wonder can be located on KDL's website.

The Englehardt branch will be providing a number of unique programs, including the Summer Coding Club. The Englehardt Library has a history of delivering tech-forward programming for youth and this summer is no exception. Coding Club is a fully online class for students ages nine to 13. This weekly program will use Vidcode, a creative coding class, to walk students through computer coding basics with projects such as creating a photo filter, stop-motion animated video clips, mini games and more.

Teens have always been an integral part of summer at the library, but KDL's Teen Crew volunteer program has unfortunately been suspended for this year. However, there are still

a couple of options for teens who want to stay involved with the library and earn volunteer hours. Anyone in grades six through 12 can submit a book review to earn two hours of volunteer time. To earn even more hours, teens can participate in a service-focused book club, Biblio Conscious. This group will read and discuss books that tackle tough topics including: immigration, physical disability, and poverty. Participants will also be able to engage in virtual volunteer and education experiences that they can share with the group.

This is a dynamic situation and KDL is making every effort to inform patrons as changes are happening. To stay current on updates regarding curbside service, reopening, and programming follow the Englehardt Branch of KDL on Facebook. Additional information about library services can be found by visiting www.kdl.org or by calling 616-784-2007.

Live the Life You Want What is your body language saying?

by Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

I previously wrote about verbal types of communication but there is another way we communicate that can help you better understand what a person is feeling. Body language is a type of nonverbal communication we naturally use to relay feelings and thoughts. It includes body movement, posture, gestures, eye movement, facial expressions, space, voice, and touch. There is so much information on body language that this article will just touch on some basics.

Body language relays to others if you are listening, understanding, being honest, and even that you care. When your body language matches your words you project honesty, trustworthiness, even a sense of connection. When your signals don't match you may project

dishonesty, discomfort, or tension.

It's more difficult to control the natural signals of the body so these cues can help you better understand what's really being communicated. While people have learned to control some of these non-verbal cues, many are below our conscious awareness so trying to control them is difficult and can come across as unnatural. Facial and eye cues are the easiest to control but microexpressions are difficult to mask and spot unless you know to look for them.

While looking for body language cues take into consideration culture and mental health. In Western cultures, eye contact while talking can indicate interest and respect. However, people in some cultures avoid prolonged eye contact as it's considered disrespectful so they look down or to

the side to show respect. Those with social anxiety also often avoid prolonged eye contact. So, be careful with assumptions and use body language to help with effective communication and not as stand-alone facts.

Facial Cues

Facial expressions can relay much about how a person is feeling. If someone is feeling nervous or tense, they may have narrowing, pursing, or quivering lips, a furrowed forehead, squinted eyes, or the corners of their mouth may twitch. Eyebrow movement (raising, lowering, furrowing) can relay fear, anger, worry, tension, frustration, or even questioning.

A feeling of dislike or disagreement may be indicated by a crinkled nose, pursed lips, the oh so obvious eye roll, eyelid flutter, prolonged eye closure, or squinting eyes.

However, someone skilled at controlling their emotions may try to conceal these emotions by simply smiling. When someone smiles, pay attention to the entire face to see if it is genuine. When someone is genuinely smiling, the cheeks are raised and there are crow's feet around the eyes.

Body Cues

One common body cue is blocking. When we block, we cover or block a part of our body as a barrier between us and another person. It's a protective measure which can indicate feelings of anxiety, vulnerability, or a closed mind. For instance, if someone suddenly crosses their arms or legs or holds something in front of them like a magazine or notepad, they may be blocking.

It may sound odd but our feet provide one of the most honest body language cues. Feet flat on the floor with

locked ankles can indicate stress. When standing or sitting, a person usually points their feet in the direction they want to go. If you are talking with someone and their feet are pointing toward someone else or away from you it could indicate that person would rather be talking to the other person or is not interested in the conversation, even if their other body cues suggest differently.

The Eyes

Despite the common belief that someone looking up and to the right indicates deception, studies have found no association between the direction of eye movement and deception. There is also the myth that little to no eye contact is a sign of deception. This is not supported by research or cultural norms. In fact, the opposite is often true as those being deceptive tend

to make more eye contact to try and mask it.

Eye blocking or shielding is a common behavior hard wired from youth. When worried, frustrated, troubled, struggling, offended, or embarrassed we often shield or cover the eyes. Look for obvious eye closing, rapidly fluttering eyelids, a delay in opening the eyes, covering the eyes, or lowering the eyelids for a lengthy period. When troubled, nervous, stressed, or even being deceptive a person's blink rate also increases. Squinting or the narrowing of the eyes can relay stress, anger, discomfort, suspicion, disbelief, or dislike. Darting eyes shows a person is feeling insecure and uncomfortable and is looking for an escape.

Be sure to consider a person's non-verbal norms along with all body language cues or you may not get the correct message. Learning to effectively read body language can be an invaluable tool to help you better understand others and yourself when communicating.

This article is only for information purposes and not intended to provide any type of treatment or diagnosis. If you experience a mental health crisis be sure to call 911.



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Letters, continued

Bukala. You can make the decision to encourage four young men who openly brag about literally killing people with many, many Confederate flags proudly displayed on their public profiles... Encourage them brazenly and publicly to brandish weapons with intent to intimidate...

Because you know that's what they were doing. And if you are truly ignorant, I am offering my help. We all have a responsibility while we are on this planet, and I am a professional educator. You have a responsibility to listen and learn.

If you attended Lowell High School, I know our curriculum wasn't comprehensive about the true history of the United States and the origins of police. And for that, I am so deeply disappointed, and will be calling upon the Lowell School District next to take a stand to educate their citizens more responsibly and globally. If your education on this topic is faulty, and you truly do not know the roots of why these boys were behaving this way, I am saddened for you. As a part of my service to the betterment of this country, I have compiled a list of resources that you may find helpful.

But I do think you actually know what they were doing. And you stood behind them, telling terrified and angry citizens not to call you due to concern. You fought with Lowell citizens on Facebook when they expressed concern. This wasn't a second Amendment display. Do not degrade the rest of your citizens and pretend that this is what you truly believe it was. Be transparent with yourselves and with

the people you supposedly serve and protect. Are you not enlisted to be a peace officer?

This is a call to action in this revolution. Your other choice is simple: lay down your ego. Lay down your guns, put away your riot gear, and cross your blue line. Listen to those who beg police to stop killing them in the streets. Condemn the Confederate flags that fly in your streets. Take a stand to listen and make choices that protect the most vulnerable and oppressed of our society. Openly and publicly denounce the obviously threatening actions of the boys you defended -- I promise it is okay to change your mind. Take a stand against systemic racism and your active role in it. Make commitments to challenge your biases and create safe communities for all. Commit to learning de-escalation strategies, and implementing trauma-informed community practices. This is the right choice.

You can make the right choice today, or you can make it further down the road, after fighting an exhaustive battle against your own citizens who are defending some of the most vulnerable populations on this planet. I am here to tell you, if you make the first choice, it will not sustain the test of time.

This is an immediate call to action, LPD. How will you choose to use your privilege and power?

*Solemnly,
Hannah Vanderhorst
Denver, CO*

Looking Back, continued

the knife put in an appearance on Tuesday morning without an operation being necessary Master Dick is back home again and the family has an interesting souvenir.

Officer Frank Stephens was seen passing through Main-st Tuesday with a big 150-lb. buck in his possession, but that doesn't mean that Officer Stephens was violating the hunting law. The animal died after being caught in a fence which it had tried to leap, on US-16, near the Reuben Lee farm. The venison goes to a charitable institution.

The Order of the Purple Heart "for wounds received in action against the enemy," was recently awarded to Pfc. Melvin E. Liebke, 27, of Lowell. In addition to the Purple Heart, he also wears the combat Infantryman's Badge, the Good Conduct Medal and two Bronze Battle Participation Stars. Pfc. Liebke entered the service in April, 1943 and has served overseas for twenty months. His wife, Mrs. Hilda Marjorie Liebke, lives at 218 1/2 E. Main St., Lowell.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 18, 1970

Improved benefits for city employees were approved by the Lowell City Council Monday night, Under an amendment to a section of the City Charter, employees will earn up to three weeks' vacation a those with more than six months service will be eligible for sick leave.

The Amway Corp. has scheduled a meeting with Ada residents on June 30 to discuss present and future plans to alleviate odors from three of the firm's waste water treatment ponds. Alleged air and water pollution from the ponds and noise caused by the machinery used to aerate them was the subject of a complaint to the Ada Township Board last Wednesday.

...
Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it most never use it.
- Anonymous

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, Patricia L. O'Connor, DOB: 8/4/1928, who lived at 11530 Fulton St SE, Lowell, MI 49331, died on May 3, 2020. There is no representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Patricia L. O'Connor or the Patricia L. O'Connor Trust dated May 16, 2000, and any amendments, will be forever banned unless presented to Jenna L.

O'Brien, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled in it.

Date: June 2, 2020

Mary L. Benedict PC
Attorney for Successor Trustee
4519 Cascade Rd SE,
Ste 14
Grand Rapids, MI
49546
616-949-0020

Jenna L. O'Brien
12558 7 Mile Rd
Belding, MI 48809

A \$12,000 facelift for Christiansen's Drug Store in Lowell is the first in a series of new store fronts for business in Lowell. Chuck Lippert, the store's owner, said that wrought iron grill work will arrive shortly and the project should be completed in time for Showboat festivities next month. Several other Main Street firms are planning similar facelifts next month. The improvement is designed to give Lowell's shopping district a New Orleans flavor.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 14, 1995

Amberlei Harrall is resting comfortably, but in fair condition at Butterworth Hospital following a late Saturday evening, early Sunday morning crash in Grand Rapids. "She knows everybody, but she sleeps a lot," her brother Brad Harrall confers. "Her body has been traumatized and she is recovering from a bad concussion. Doctors say it is normal for patients like this to sleep a lot. It takes a while for the body to heal."

In anticipation of the city of Lowell becoming a historic district, Flat River Antique Mall owners Ron and Laura McCollum got a jump as it had its storefront stripped down to its original façade. Windows and their panes were replaced and the building was painted. The painting was done by Custom Touch Painting out of Comstock Park. Within the month, Michigan Awning, Grand Rapids, will put an entrance awning above the entrance doors to the antique mall and an awning will be put in above the café doors. "We are planning a grand opening once all the work is completed," Laura McCollum said.



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obituaries

BLOCHER

Donna Jean Blocher, age 91 of Lowell, Michigan, is now home in the presence of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Born December 20, 1928, Donna is preceded in death by her husband,



Paul R. Blocher; mother, Doris Linton; stepfather, George Linton; sister, Majorie Post; brother, John Linton; father and mother-in-law, Clinton and Mabel Blocher. She will be missed by her brother, Richard Doezema; her children, Michael, Mark (Julie), Douglas (Amy), and Timothy (Cindi); sister-in-law, Betty Craig; nine grandchildren;

eight great-grandchildren, and many extended family members and friends. Donna was a graduate of Lowell High School and a member of Lowell United Methodist Church. A private family funeral, due to covid-19 restrictions, took place at Roth-Gerst Chapel. The family met visitors at a public graveside memorial service at Merriman Cemetery, 12030 52nd St. SE, Alto, MI on Friday, June 5, 2020 at 1pm. Donna's desire is that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331.



FINKLER
Dawn Marie Finkler, age 48 of Lowell, passed away peacefully on May 29, 2020. She is preceded in death



by her parents; Dale L. Finkler and Lois (Myers) Finkler. She is survived by her grandma, Doris (Myers) Canfield; several aunts and uncles; and many other relatives and friends. Special thanks to Spectrum Health Neuro Services for the many years of excellent care. A celebration of Dawn's life will be announced at a later date.



WRIGHT
John (Jack) Edwin Wright of Lowell, passed away on April 14th, 2020 at the age of 78. Jack is preceded in death



by his parents; John and Beatrice Wright; brothers, William and Garold; and a lifelong friend, Sharon. He is survived by his sister, Kathy (Bob) McComb. Jack worked at Amway for many years and enjoyed visiting friends, laughing, joking around, riding his motorcycle and most of all living life to the fullest. Jack was an amazing friend and will be greatly missed.

A celebration of Jack's life will be announced at a later date.



VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a special meeting of the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, June 29, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider agenda business as summarized below:

A public hearing is for proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendments to Section 201.415 (B) Temporary Dwelling, to remove the process as a special exception use to a Zoning Administrator review process with standards and requirements. Section 201.306 (C) (11) to the R-2 District is to add "bed and breakfast" use and standards and the same to the R-3 District section 201.306A (C) (11). Also in the R-3 District section 201.306A (C) (4) the use line is clarified to read: "4. Hotels and motels" and remove other ambiguous language.

A public hearing will also be held on a PUD site plan for a home development (Ridge View Estates) on Alden Nash Ave north of Three Mile Rd on the east side across from Lally St and Carlson Farms. The development is proposing 23 lots with permanent preserved open space.

The complete proposed text amendments and PUD plans can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 or on the website: www.vergennestwp.org.** Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be mailed, dropped off, or placed in the drop box at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

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

US Sen. Gary C. Peters
Senate Office Building
724 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6221
peters.senate.gov

US Rep. Justin Amash
House Office Building
114 Cannon
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3831
amash.house.gov

Mich. Sen. Winnie Brinks
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1801
senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov
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
gophouse.org/representatives/westmi/albert

Social Security and protecting elders from scams

June is World Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Throughout the month, government agencies, businesses, and organizations sponsor events to unite communities, seniors, caregivers, governments, and the private sector to prevent the mistreatment of and violence against older people.

Scammers often target older people. They use fear to pressure people into providing personal information or money. In times like the current pandemic when people are particularly vulnerable, scammers will pretend to be government employees, often from Social Security, to gain people's trust and steal their money and personal information. The most effective way to defeat scammers is by knowing how to identify scams then hanging up or ignoring the calls.

What you can do

If you get a Social Security scam phone call, hang up, report it to our law enforcement office at oig.ssa.gov, and tell your family and friends about it! We're telling as many people as we can that government agencies will never:

- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended.
- Tell you about crimes committed in your name, or offer to resolve identity theft or a benefit problem in exchange for payment.
- Request a specific means of debt repayment, like a retail gift card, prepaid debit card, wire transfer,

internet currency, or cash.

- Insist on secrecy about a legal problem, or tell you to make up stories to tell family, friends, or store employees.

Scammers continue to develop new ways to mislead you. They might use the names of Social Security officials and tell you to look them up on our public websites (where they learned the names themselves). Or, they might email you official-looking documents with a letterhead that looks like it's from Social Security or Social Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Don't believe them! Social Security will NEVER email you attachments that have your personal information in them.

If you ever owe money to Social Security, the agency will mail you a letter, explaining your payment options and your appeal rights. If you get a call about a Social Security problem, be very cautious. If you do not have ongoing business with the agency, or if the caller mentions suspending your Social Security number or makes other threats, the call is likely a scam. Ignore it, hang up, and report it to us at oig.ssa.gov. We are working to stop the scams and educate people to avoid becoming victims.

Vonda VanTil 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 vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

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classifieds

for sale

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.

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

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!

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

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LOWELL - 4 bedroom rental in the country. Call for details, 616-293-0980.

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

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.

misc.

THE LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB'S MEETING - will be held Monday, June 15, at 6:30 pm. The location will be outdoors at the Senior Neighbors Center, 314 S. Hudson Street, Lowell. The speaker is Nicole Mathiasz who is a certified mushroom expert, and the public is welcomed.

Miscellaneous 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

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wanted

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

sales

GARAGE SALE - Estate items, antiques, tools, fishing poles, toys, clothing, kitchen and more. Friday & Sat., June 12 & 13, 9-6, 870 Soren Ct. SE, Lowell.

services

TRACTOR MAN - aggregate driveway up-keep, lawn prep, bucket/fork work, food plots, gardens, brush/field mowing. 616-272-8097, kaamcosps@gmail.com

HAVE A TILING JOB? - Backsplashes, floors and showers. Good tiler seeking work. Call 616-987-9341.

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.

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

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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 YOUR LAWN MOWED? - Respectful teenager looking for work. Price is reasonable. Call 616-987-9341.

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.

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.

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.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with letters in black and white cells.

Grid of numbers from 1 to 9 in a 9x9 layout.

Word search puzzle grid with words circled and labeled with letters.

“Peaceful Demonstration for Racial Equity” event brings *Black Lives Matter* movement to Lowell



Above: Pastor Alyssa Anten during her speech, which was broadcast over "Facebook Live."



The crowd observing nine minutes of silence in honor of George Floyd.



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE, organized an event called “Peaceful Demonstration for Racial Equity” at 4 pm on Sunday, June 7 that concluded with a march up and down Main Street.

It was described in a press release as “a peaceful demonstration for racial equity and recognition of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Aubre and countless more.” Because of social distancing, most attendees remained in or near their vehicles during the event, which was limited to 30 minutes. The parking lot at the church was full of vehicles and many had to park on the grass.

“Our Christian education director Shannon Hanley came up with the idea,” said First Congregational United Church of Christ pastor Alyssa Anten. “She brought to our attention that it was time that our church, being one of the more progressive



churches in this community, took a stand and stated very clearly what we do not stand for and what we do stand for, and to invite the community to participate. To have an entirely full parking lot is incredible.”

“To me, Black Lives Matter means trying your best to acknowledge that there are crimes committed against the black community every year in Lowell and around the world,” said one demonstration attendee. “We’re doing what we can with our position and our privilege to speak out against it.”

“There is still a fundamental disparity between the rights of whites and blacks in this country, even today,” said another attendee of the demonstration.

“I think that in order for people to say ‘all lives matter,’ black lives have to matter first,” said Keagan, a Lowell resident.

“This was a good opportunity to see our community pulling together for something like this,” said Michelle from Lowell.

“I’m here to support the Black Lives Matter movement,” said Delaney from Lowell. “We thought this was a good option.”

“We’re just here to show our support,” said Becca, a Lowell resident. “We feel that black people shouldn’t have to go through stuff like this at all.”

At 4:10, they observed nine minutes of silence, the approximate amount of time George Floyd was pinned down by Minneapolis police

officer Derek Chauvin. After that, Anten delivered a brief speech that was broadcast over Facebook live.

“Some of our human family has intentionally been put down for centuries and are, rightfully so, standing up and saying no more,” Anten said. “They are asking for us to do better. They are asking to be treated the same way any of us want to be treated. They are asking that we right all of the wrongs that we have allowed to happen for far too long.”

The action then moved downtown for a peaceful march of just over 100 people through the Main Street business district. The headcount at this march was slightly higher, but the difference in number was trivial.

“This is absolutely overwhelming,” Anten said. “I think these people will change Lowell.”

Black Lives Matter, continued, page 16



FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

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!

SURFER SLANG WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

SURFER SLANG WORD SEARCH

BAIL
 BARREL
 BLOWN OUT
 BOOGIE BOARD
 BOOST
 CHANNEL
 CHOPPY
 CLEAN

CUTBACK
 DECK
 DING
 DUDE
 EPIC
 FLOATER
 GLASSY
 HUMPBACK

PADDLE
 TUBE
 WAVE

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Florida on June 26, 1993. I started my music career as a soloist in symphonies and later branched into acting. I was on two popular Nickelodeon series before launching a very successful solo pop career.

Answer: Ariana Grande

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to gardens.

T E W R A

□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Water

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

CLUES ACROSS

- American composer
- Very fast aircraft
- Workplaces
- A mount on a surface
- Small freshwater fish
- Double-reed instrument
- Canadian flyers
- Famed astronomer
- Smooth, shiny fabric
- Profited
- Conspiracy
- Infections
- Chum
- Secondary school (abbr.)
- Resistance unit
- Sound unit
- Ancient city of Egypt
- Crease
- Polished
- For goodness __!
- College basketball tournament
- Scorches
- Describe precisely
- Thick piece of something
- Frocks
- Indicates near
- Senior enlisted US Army member
- A note added to a letter

- A nose or snout
- Clumsy
- Satisfied to the fullest
- Display of strong feeling
- Popular awards show
- Cuisine style
- Expresses pleasure
- Monetary unit of the Maldives
- Utah city
- Fight
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Body part
- Suspiciously reluctant

- Male parents
- Tab on a key ring
- The Great Dog constellation: __ Major
- Frying necessity
- Former CIA
- The leader
- Produces
- London soccer club
- Closes
- Region in the western Pacific Ocean
- Not present
- Small drink of whiskey
- Begat
- Helps little firms
- Pointed end of a pen
- Fencing swords
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Hymn
- Philippine island
- Flemish names of Ypres
- A way to inform
- Small lake
- Linear unit
- Central Japanese city
- Partially burn
- Sports award
- Part of your foot
- Atomic #21

CLUES DOWN

- Fruit of the service tree
- At some prior time
- Mongolian city __ Bator
- Strongboxes
- Russian river
- Gurus
- Horse mackerel
- Pearl Jam's debut album
- Confines
- First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year
- Famed Idaho politician
- Prevents from seeing
- Indicate time

Black Lives Matter, continued



Above: many were content to watch the rally pass by while they munched their ice cream.



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