

Lowell Harvest Festival



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50¢



Middle School closes for two weeks after multiple COVID cases among staff & students

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Middle School was closed for two weeks on Wednesday, Oct. 7 after an outbreak of COVID-19.

“On Sept. 30, we reported that one staff member at the middle school tested positive for COVID-19,” interim Lowell Area Schools superintendent Nate Fowler said in a letter home to parents. “As a result of that positive case, two additional staff members were quarantined. On Oct. 6, two additional staff members also tested positive. While it is unclear that these positive cases are related, we currently have a total of 10 staff members in quarantine who were deemed in close contact through our contact tracing procedures. The contact tracing investigation also led us to have several students needing to be quarantined.

[...] We understand that questions may be raised as to why staff members had to quarantine. While it is not appropriate to share details, please know that our staff acted responsibly and in the best interest of our students.” All middle school students will utilize remote learning options for now, and in-person learning will resume on Wednesday, Oct. 21. Middle school sports will also be canceled during this time.

“Due to recent positive COVID-19 test results at the Middle School and the extent of possible student and staff contact, the Kent County Health Department has recommended that we close the Middle School building for in-person instruction and move to remote learning,” Fowler said. “Closing the Middle



School will give the Kent County Health Department the necessary time to contact any student that may have come in contact with those who have tested positive. This will also allow us to slow any additional spread.

We continue to partner with the Kent County Health Department and follow their guidelines and requirements.” The school will be cleaned and disinfected while staff and students are not present.

“After consultation with the health department, we decided to go to remote learning for two primary reasons,” Fowler said. “Due to multiple staff members

COVID, continued, page 3

Showboat painted, moving to river today

The newly-constructed Lowell Showboat has received a few coats of paint, both interior and exterior, and now the next step is to move it into the Flat River so work can be completed.

The boat is tentatively scheduled to be moved at some point on Wednesday, Oct. 14. According to the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, it will be “a slow, all-day process.”

Spectators should keep their distance for safety.



Men arrested in Gov. plot marched through Lowell

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

At least two, perhaps three, of the 13 men arrested last week for plotting to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer participated in a “support former Lowell police chief Steve Bukala and the Second Amendment” march through downtown Lowell on Saturday, June 20, 2020.

William Null and his twin brother Michael were photographed before the march began, posing with Phil Robinson and other members of the Michigan Liberty Militia. Another one of the men bears a very strong resemblance to conspirator, Eric J. Molitor, although the hair color is different.

The men arrested - Paul Bellar, 21, of Milford, Brandon Caserta, 32, Barry Croft of Delaware, Shawn

Fix, 38, of Belleville, Adam Dean Fox, 37 of Grand Rapids, Kaleb J. Franks, 26, Ty G. Garbin, 24, Daniel J. Harris, 23, Eric J. Molitor, 36, of Cadillac, Joseph Morrison, 26, Pete Musico, 42, Michael Null, 38, of Plainwell and William Null, 38, of Shelbyville - belong to the Wolverine Watchmen militia. The group planned to murder police officers, attack the Capitol building in Lansing and abduct the governor.

During the march through Lowell in June, William Null and at least one of the other Michigan Liberty Militia members were observed sporting “boogaloo” patches.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the term boogaloo “is

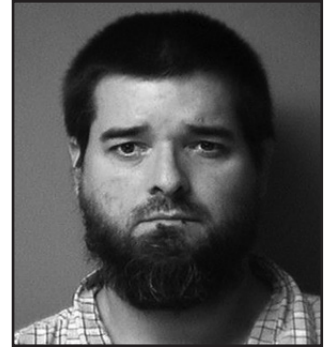


Michigan Liberty Militia members at the Steve Bukala/Second Amendment march in Lowell, June 20, 2020: Unidentified man with “boogaloo” patch, unidentified man, William Null with “boogaloo” patch, unidentified man, Phil Robinson, possibly Eric J. Molitor and Michael Null.



Alleged domestic terrorist William Null (far right) and other Michigan Liberty Militia members in conversation with a local man at the Steve Bukala/Second Amendment march on June 20, 2020.

regularly deployed by white nationalists and neo-Nazis who want to see society descend into chaos so that they can come to power and build a new fascist state. [...] In recent years, the boogaloo meme has become more firmly entrenched within the antigovernment Patriot movement, as well as in adjacent hate groups such as the Proud Boys.”



Mugshots of the three conspirators who marched through Lowell: William Null, Michael Null and Eric J. Molitor.

Benson says ballot counting won't finish for three days after election

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson predicted it won't be until the Friday after the November election, three days later, that every ballot will be tabulated in Michigan.

Even though Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Tuesday a bill allowing local clerks in certain jurisdictions to begin processing ballots

a day early, Benson said that doesn't change the estimation for when she believes the ballot-counting will be done.

SB 0757 passed the legislature and limited the pre-processing of absentee ballots, such as removing the outer envelope, to 10 hours the day before the election and for cities that

are bigger than 25,000 people.

Benson said throughout the legislative process that the bill was a small step but ultimately not enough. On Tuesday, Oct. 6, she said it wouldn't be enough to change her estimation of when election results will be complete.

“It may be sooner, but we want to manage those expectations,” Benson said about her Friday prediction. “And we want [...] all watching our elections to be patient.”

“These reforms cannot stop with the 2020 presidential election,” said Michigan Democratic Party chair Lavora Barnes. “This is just a start to making it easier for our local clerks and the hundreds of committed volunteers that give of their time and energy, to continue to deliver on the promise of having fair and safe elections in Michigan.”

Whitmer and Benson also slammed the legislature for not sending the Governor SB 0117, which allows active-duty military members and their spouses

to submit absentee voter ballots electronically.

The bill had stripped out a requirement that military use an electronic identification card known as a Common Access Card so their spouses can vote electronically as well, a change that didn't sit well with the sponsor, Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Holly).

The governor spoke at a press conference Tuesday as though she had also expected to sign SB 0117, but the bill has not yet been presented to her.

“Elections are no time to play partisan games,” Whitmer said. “Our brave service members and their families put their lives on the line for us. [...] It's time for the legislature to get these bills to my desk. They have a lot of work to do.”

Asked for an explanation, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) said the bill was held because it doesn't have an effect on this year's election, and that after further assessment they need to improve it further for security, integrity and ease of use.



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Confusion reigns in Michigan over masks after COVID ruling

Bridge Magazine

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration moved Monday to reimpose a statewide mask mandate and limits on businesses, setting up a clash with Republicans after the state Supreme Court limited her authority to act unilaterally amid the coronavirus pandemic.

While Whitmer and her allies say the state health department has the power to issue orders to protect the public, some conservatives disagreed.

The confusion followed a Michigan Supreme Court ruling Friday that deemed unconstitutional a 1945 law Whitmer has used to issue 123 orders after the legislature refused to extend a state of emergency in late April. Thirty of Whitmer's orders were in place when the ruling came out.

Days after the ruling, business owners said they want guidance on whether they still need to limit the number of customers in stores, — and doubts remain as to whether police can ticket those who refuse to wear masks.

"There's a lot up in the air," said Bob Stevenson, executive director of Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

School and business leaders said that policies in place before the court order likely will remain, with masks mandatory for students and customers.

But a host of other issues remain.

Here's a look at the debate: **What are the latest rules from the Whitmer administration?**

Robert Gordon, director of the state Department of Health and Human Services, issued a statewide emergency order Monday that mimics some of the governor's rescinded orders by placing limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings and events, requires masks be worn in businesses and schools, and requires athletes to wear masks while playing sports.

The order takes effect immediately and expires on Oct. 30. Gordon argues it carries the force of law and it's "critically important" that local law enforcement enforce it.

Why did they issue the rules?

A 4-3 state Supreme Court ruling issued on Friday afternoon determined that Whitmer lacked the authority to issue executive orders in response to the coronavirus pandemic without consent from the legislature.

That means that all of the executive orders currently in place — including those to require people wear masks in public spaces, keep social distance, require workplace safety and other protections — would become moot either immediately or at a later date.

A patchwork of local rules began to spring up in response to the ruling, and Gordon said a statewide

rule is necessary to maintain public safety.

"We are tired of the virus, but the virus is not tired of us," Gordon told reporters Monday. "Orders remain critical to make clear the shared norms each of us must follow so all of us can remain healthy."

Why does the administration say it's legal?

Gordon claimed legal authority under a state law that gives him the power to issue emergency orders to "prohibit the gathering of people for any purpose" and to "establish procedures to be followed during the epidemic to ensure continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws" in the case of an epidemic.

"Our legal authority here is clear," Gordon said. "It is different than the authority which the Michigan Supreme Court spoke to... the authority delegated by the legislature to the DHHS director is narrower, it has clearer contours, and it allows for less action. So I think it is a very different authority."

More than a dozen attorneys at the University of Michigan Law School signed a letter Monday agreeing with Gordon.

Why do some say the orders are illegal?

Some conservative leaders and attorneys questioned whether Gordon's rule would stand up to a legal challenge.

After all, Gordon is an appointee of Whitmer, and the Supreme Court ruled that she overreached in setting health restrictions without input of the legislature.

"The highest court in our state couldn't have been more clear in their ruling — they told [Whitmer] to stop breaking the law by going it alone and to work with the legislature to tackle the pandemic," Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, wrote on Twitter on Monday.

"Clearly she didn't get the message."

John Bursch, a Caledonia-based attorney and former state solicitor general, said he's skeptical that courts will allow Whitmer to "keep doing the same thing."

Katherine Henry, a Hudsonville-based attorney, said the Supreme Court determined Whitmer's handling of the coronavirus pandemic violated the separation of powers.

Gordon's rule is "equally unconstitutional because [he and Whitmer] are members of the executive branch trying to utilize powers that belong to the legislative

branch," she said.

What will the police enforce?

On Sunday, Attorney General Dana Nessel, a fellow Democrat and ally of Whitmer, announced she will no longer enforce the governor's orders. But her office said it would enforce health department epidemic orders.

Nessel's spokesperson said in a statement her decision to not enforce executive orders isn't binding on law enforcement agencies or state departments "with independent enforcement authority," adding that it is "her fervent hope" that people will continue to wear masks and socially distance.

Stevenson, the director of police chiefs, said that police likely will follow Nessel's lead and may not enforce Whitmer's executive orders but were looking into the health orders.

Even so, businesses still can require masks for entry, Stevenson said, adding that police will enforce business owners' rights to make decisions for mask wearing in their stores.

"The big thing is we don't want anybody getting hurt or injured fighting about wearing masks or not wearing masks," Stevenson said. "Just respect the business owners."

When does the Supreme Court ruling go into effect?

That's also a point of contention.

Whitmer argues the ruling doesn't go into effect for at least three more weeks, which is how long parties have to file a motion for reconsideration under Supreme Court rules.

Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield, R-Levering, told reporters her interpretation is "wrong" and the ruling went into effect immediately, invalidating all of her existing executive orders.

Some attorneys disagreed on whether that's the case.

Whitmer asked the Supreme Court to clarify this on Monday.

What's happening at the local level?

Local health departments, too, have claimed legal authority to issue orders to protect public health under a different section of Michigan law.

Since the Supreme Court ruling, officials in Oakland, Ingham, Washtenaw and Wayne counties have indicated they would continue local mask requirements and other safeguards. Other counties, such as Macomb, have indicated they won't.

Some lawyers, perhaps unsurprisingly, are also

questioning whether county health orders are now legal.

What does this mean for individuals?

While confusion remains over statewide rules, experts say that if businesses require masks, social distancing and lowered capacity in their stores, police can cite those who violate their rules with trespassing.

But customers who ditch masks at other venues probably won't face civil fines or misdemeanors like they would a week ago, in part because some police are as confused as everyone else.

That said, health experts and state leaders (including Republicans) say wearing masks is still important and can decrease the chance of spreading coronavirus, which has sickened nearly 143,000 people and killed more than 7,100 in Michigan since mid-March.

What does this mean for schools?

Under Gordon's order, masks are required to be worn in schools in most of the state. In Region 6, the northern Michigan region that encompasses Traverse City, masks are recommended. Gordon said these rules are the same as those that Whitmer implemented under her executive orders.

Even before the new orders, many school officials said they plan on continuing as if nothing has changed.

That said, a little guidance would help, school officials say.

"There's still much ambiguity about how school districts should continue to function," said Don Wotruba, executive director of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

"Our members and the

districts they serve need clear guidelines regarding functions that are integral to the operation of our school communities."

What does this mean for businesses?

Dozens of businesses have been fined up to \$7,000 each in recent months by the state's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) for violating workplace safety rules related to COVID-19.

Those fines remain, even with the Supreme Court order, Sean Egan, Michigan's COVID-19 workplace safety director, said.

The agency derives its authority from a state law that requires employers to provide a hazard-free workplace, not from executive orders, Egan said.

"The recent Supreme Court decision does not change that."

Still, business owners are preparing to deal with confused customers.

Many businesses struggled to make customers who resented the mask requirement understand the law, and now they're working to teach customers that stores have a right to determine whether to keep those requirements despite the Supreme Court order, Michigan Retailers Association spokesperson Meegan Holland said.

Any other fallout?

You bet. One of Whitmer's executive orders that's now in question allowed governments to bypass Open Meetings Act laws and meet virtually over Zoom or other platforms.

Lansing this week canceled its city meetings because of the Supreme Court ruling, and other local agencies could follow suit.

COVID, cont.

under quarantine, we were concerned about the ability to operate our school programs. While incidents of transmission of the virus in local schools have been low, we were concerned about additional potential exposures and concerns about a ripple effect. By transitioning to remote instruction, we dramatically reduce the potential for continued spread. Other schools who have taken a two week pause have been able to extinguish potential outbreaks."

Students without access to wifi could take advantage of five remote access points in parking lots around the area: at the Middle School, the High School, Alto Elementary, Englehardt Library and the Alto Library.

"Some have wondered if our transition to the 100 percent in-person schedule

contributed to the middle school shifting to remote learning," Fowler said. "While the number of potential close contacts does increase with more people, in this situation our contact tracing investigation determined that the number of staff and students quarantined would not have changed had we stayed in the hybrid schedule. As we continue to navigate through the realities of the coronavirus, we learn from each decision that we make. In all instances our priority is student safety. The move to go to remote learning was certainly a setback, but staff are working hard to provide learning opportunities along with some socialization as students work from home. We took these steps because we are hoping they allow us to continue with our in-person programming."


NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ACCURACY TEST OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

A public accuracy test of the voting equipment to be used in the November 3, 2020 General Election will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 9:30 am. at the Vergennes Township Polling location at 69 Lincoln Lake AVE NE, Lowell, MI 49331. Testing will be conducted by Election Source.

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Live the Life You Want Mental health is affected by all Eight-Dimensions of Wellness

Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS
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When we think about our health we often focus on eating better, exercising, weight management, and mental health. Just as your mental health can positively or negatively affect your physical health and vice versa the same can be said for each area of wellness. Not giving one area of wellness enough attention can negatively affect the others. So, for overall wellbeing focus on and work to strengthen all eight dimensions of wellness.

What are the Eight Dimensions of Wellness?

Emotional wellness
Coping effectively with life events, controlling feelings and behaviors, and building satisfying relationships. It's strengthened by free time activities involving our senses such as gardening, listening to music, hiking, boating, fishing, or watching a sunset.

Spiritual wellness
Having clear values/beliefs, self-worth/confidence, hope, and inner peace. It's where we find meaning and purpose. It's strengthened by activities like volunteering, mindfulness practice, meditation, prayer, or spending time in nature.

Intellectual wellness
Recognizing your unique talents and using them help improve concentration, memory, and critical thinking skills. Strengthen mental growth by reading, doing challenging puzzles, taking

a class, teaching, or learning a new hobby, musical instrument, or language.

Physical wellness
Affected by physical activity, diet, and restorative sleep. Physical activity may range from light to vigorous. Maintain it through activities like yoga, walking, hiking, bike riding, sports, kayaking, and gardening along with eating healthy and getting enough



Melissa Spino MA, LLPC, NCC, CDMS

sleep.

Environmental wellness

Your surroundings. It connects your overall well-being to the health of your environment. Your environment impacts how you feel. Studies show that a cluttered or disorganized home has negative effects on your mental and physical health and may lead to anxious, stressed, or even depressed feelings along with increased levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Manage this by keeping your home organized and decluttered, recycling, or planting a garden.

Financial wellness

Satisfaction about your financial situation. Finances are a common stressor. To manage it, keep to a household budget, create an emergency account, cut back or limit unnecessary expenses, avoid credit card debt, shop at thrift stores, use the library for free to low cost books and movies, and cook your own meals.

Occupational wellness

Career satisfaction. It involves balancing work and leisure time, building relationships with coworkers, and managing workplace stress. Find work that fits with your values, interests, skills and that is financially rewarding.

Social wellness

A feeling of connectedness and belonging. It includes creating and maintaining a healthy support system. This may involve asking a colleague or acquaintance out for lunch, joining a club or organization, setting healthy boundaries, using assertive communication skills, being genuine and authentic with others, and treating others respectfully.

Check with your doctor to be sure you are healthy enough to take on any new or increased physical activity. This article is not intended to diagnose or treat.

Reference: SAMHSA. (2016, April 28). The Eight Dimensions of Wellness. Obtained at <http://www.samhsa.gov/wellness-initiative/eight-dimensions-wellness>

NEWSPAPERS the lowell ledger
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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger October 18, 1895

Dr. C. F. Muskgrove, the alleged specialist, who disappeared suddenly, leaving numerous unpaid bills was arrested at Adrian and returned to this city this morning and lodged in jail in default of bail. The doctor maintains this is the first time he ever got into trouble, but inquiries from Grand Rapids, Hastings, and other towns where he has done business would indicate that there are several of his victims in those towns.

The Iowa state board of health has received an appeal from Sabula, where a large portion of the population is suffering from a wholesale poisoning which occurred at a recent wedding. Four have died and D. C. Gage, the groom, will die, and others are in danger. More than 100 are now confined to their beds and their sufferings are frightful. The local doctors believe it to be trichinosis, but the symptoms reported to the state board of health are those of cholera.

Would-be train robbers filled the engine of a northbound passenger train on the G. R. & I. full of bullets in a dense woods near Kalamazoo. Four masked men were seen on the track by the engineer and a volley of bullets was fired immediately after. One shot smashed the headlight and the other made splinters of the wood work of the cab. Instead of obeying an order to stop, the engineer pulled the throttle wide open. The passengers knew nothing of the affair until some time after, when the train reached Copper station.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 21, 1920

Twelve thousand people are killed annually by automobiles in this country, more than two per hour for sixteen hours per day. Time for some safety first, last, and all the time, regulations.

The Pere Marquette Railway company is building a new bridge on the Thornapple river, east of Grand Rapids at an expense of \$135,000, and a modern passenger station to cost \$25,000, is nearing completion at Belding. Other reconstruction work on its lines and equipment totaling over \$5,000,000 is under way.

Former President Taft predicts a huge land-slide for Harding. We'll hazard the guess that he will be nearer right than when he prophesied his own re-election not many years ago.

75 years The Lowell Ledger October 18, 1945

Nearly three times as many cases of undulant fever have been reported this year as last, according to the Michigan Department of Health. Between January 1 and September 30 there were 195 cases reported in 1945, as compared with 69 or the same period in 1944.

Wartime restrictions which required manufacturers to limit the length of shirttails, eliminate pleats and take other fabric saving measures in styling shirts and pajamas have been lifted. Manufacturers prices on these "simplified" garments will be the same as they were in March 1942. Retail prices also will be kept at or close to 1942 prices.

Lt. Michael C. Hoover is now at home in Keene, having received his discharge after 2½ years with the U.S. army. Mike spent several months in the European theater and previous to his discharge was in service on the Pacific.

50 years The Lowell Ledger October 22, 1970

In addition to voting for national, state and local officials...plus three state proposals...Lowell Township electors also will be asked on November 3 to determine the fate of a special local proposal. The ballot will include a proposal calling for a "yes" or "no" vote on the matter of permitting the sale of liquor by the glass in the township.

Dirty air, like war, is not healthy for children and other living things. Researchers have clearly established the relationship between air pollution and increased death rates, particularly among men aged 50 to 59 who have a lung disease. But new evidence shows that pollution also has damaging effects on the very young.

There are 5.5-million licensed drivers in Michigan, a 5.3 percent increase over a two-year period. Statistics released by Secretary of State James M. Hare of a study of drivers indicate that as of May 1, 1970, there were 5.5-million valid licenses in the automated files of the Michigan Department of State.

25 years The Lowell Ledger October 18, 1995

When summer time rolls around, many residents open their windows to let the fresh air in, but for a portion of residents on 36th Street, summer is time to shut things up. "We can't open our windows because the dust from the road is so bad," said Gerald Dykstra, 13845 36th St.

The 1995 GFWC Lowell Women's Club, woman of the year, was given to Liz Weber for an outstanding job, volunteering of her time and talents for the club and community.

If the state is going to evaluate schools through their MEAP results, then the test will be taken seriously. So says Lowell school district leader, Bert Bleke. "I think the MEAP test is a good test. I think it is a difficult test and deserves to be used as a bench mark in which to measure schools," said the Lowell superintendent.

outdoors

let's be responsible

Dave Stegehuis

We live in an ever-changing world. This is a platitude that would apply to generations of humans. Actually, the world stays the same, and we make all the changes.

History was my favorite subject, along with shop class, in high school. History is about looking back to see what happened in the past. As I get older my perspective on history is different because I have not just studied it but have been blessed with lots of time to live some of it.

What brought this to my attention was a classic Christmas card scene of a landscape where yellow lighted windows reflect off new fallen snow. A draft horse hitched to a wagon with a bundled-up family pauses to observe a group of youngsters with hockey sticks warming by a campfire next to a frozen pond. I can recall playing hockey on frozen ponds and warming up by a campfire after it got dark. I also remember my elementary school classmates and I riding on a wagon pulled by a team of draft horses which was regularly used for work on the farm next to the schoolhouse. For youth to experience these activities today would be rare or commercialized.

Our appetite for things, comfort and convenience has led us to make detrimental changes to our

planet. But all is not lost because we can save and restore what we still have by acting responsibly through common effort. What will happen is up to us and the choices we make about our priorities.

We have brought back plant and animal life from the brink of extinction. We have cleaned up lakes and rivers, and the air we breathe. Fortunately, conservation organizations and governments around the world work to protect the environment and wildlife. There is much more we can do if we choose to do so.

Gwen and I originally purchased up-north property for a place to hunt. While sitting quietly and watching wildlife activity in the heavily wooded landscape I realized that my actions could significantly affect the future of that ecosystem. That sense of responsibility has led to a lot of work, research and professional guidance in managing the property for the benefit of wildlife and the forest.

This is a small-scale example of the responsibility all humans have for nature and the environment in general. No matter how far back we go in history, people have always needed nature for quality of life and survival. We still do today, so let's all shoulder our responsibility as world citizens and be active in preserving our natural heritage.

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.

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- canker sores

Canker sores are small painful lesions that occur on the soft tissue of your mouth and the base of your gums. Unlike cold sores, they are not contagious.

These lesions are oral shaped shallow ulcerations with a white center and a red border. They will heal in one to two weeks.

The cause of canker sores is unclear.

Possible causes include:

- injury to the mouth from an accidental cheek bite
- food sensitivities or food allergies

- emotional stress
 - hormonal changes
- They can also occur because of other underlying health conditions. These include celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis or crohn's), Behcet's disease, or a suppressed immune system.

Treatment is typically with topical preparations that numb the pain, such as orajel or anbesol. Sometimes cautery is used to burn or destroy the tissue. Rarely, oral medications like steroids or colchicine are used. These would be tried for severe cases.



WHY NOT SHOP HERE!

ABCs of Lowell History

The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced this year as a way to share some of the many fascinating stories from Lowell's past. It was initiated in part by the pandemic shutdown which led the Museum to seek alternative ways to share local history with the community. The series will continue with a second round of the alphabet.

B is for Blue Ribbon

Blue ribbon has always been a phrase that is known as number one, or the best. So how fitting that right at the main intersection in town, enduring for decades, was a business named "Blue Ribbon Feed Store."

In 1904 Christopher Bergin and Lyndsey P. Thomas built a produce elevator on the southwest corner property of Hudson Street and Main Street. It passed down to Earl Thomas, the second Thomas generation, in 1921 and was referred to as the Thomas Elevator. It was rented to and eventually sold to C.H. Runciman who used it as a colored bean elevator. When the Runciman building on South Broadway was severely damaged in 1963 from a fire, the 'Thomas Elevator' location operated around the clock.

In January of 1978 "The Feed Place" advertised opening at the 420 West Main building, on the corner of Hudson and West Main. Bob Pearson managed the store which was owned by Clarksville Elevator. The Feed Store sold packaged



New Union Brewery used to be the site for Blue Ribbon Feed.

animal feed including: food for dogs, rabbits, pigs horses, cats, wild birds, and calves, along with milk replacer, chick starter, and layer mash.

The other animal feed production mill in Lowell was operated by King Milling out of the old Cutter Factory on the east side of the Flat River. King Milling purchased that building in 1927 for its feed plant. It sold feed until May 1978. The old Cutter Factory-King Milling animal feed building was torn down in 1980.

The Feed Place operated until 1983, when it was purchased by Scott and Barbara Carpenter. In an interview, Scott Carpenter pointed out that Blue Ribbon Feed used all natural ingredients in the feeds they manufactured. They would buy locally

grown corn, oats, and mix the feed themselves. The feed store closed in 2012.

In 2016, what was the front retail building of Blue Ribbon Feed became the New Union Brewery. Soon the over 100-year-old feed elevator behind the retail

building will be completely torn down, and the ever-changing Lowell downtown will take on a new look. Today's children will tell their children, "I remember when there used to be a large feed mill right at the main intersection of town!"

happy birthday



OCTOBER 14

Ericka Onan, Barb Erickson, Debra Duiven, Court Duiven, Kyle Hildenbrand, Stacey Kinyon, Kelsey Callihan, Caleb Baker, Jim Watrous.

OCTOBER 17

Collin Kaeb, Kurt Telman, Jason Nearing.

OCTOBER 18

Mary Ellen Rivers Barber, Brian Willmarth, Brian Scott Kunard, Hayden Andrews Snyder.

OCTOBER 19

Lydia Brenk, Nancy Brenk, Zachary Lee, Ty Stanford.

OCTOBER 20

Bob Hildenbrand, Michael V. Johnson.

OCTOBER 15

Jamie Roth, Jason Roth, Elizabeth Raab, Mark Russell, Jan Lippert, Annie Oesch, Kevin Clouser, Frank Grudzinskas, Doug Felling.

OCTOBER 16

Paula Blough.

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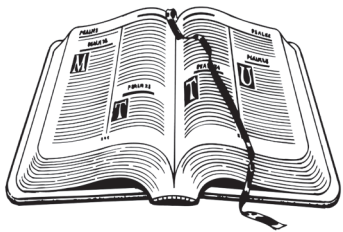
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Consultant says presidential race is over in Michigan

Democrat Joe Biden will win Michigan by at least 8 percentage points, but possibly much more if the President's health declines as Election Day nears, according to Mark Grebner, who has been crunching Michigan election numbers for more than 40 years.

The data guru from Practical Political Consultants said he doesn't have the data from other states to prognosticate on Biden's success in gathering the 270 electoral votes needed to become the country's 46th president. But as far as Michigan is concerned, Grebner is projecting the former Vice President will win by between 400,000-500,000 votes.

"It's over," Grebner said. "The margin could grow for Biden, but Trump can't narrow the gap. The numbers just don't work."

The problem for Trump is he won't be able to win with large enough margins in rural areas of the state to balance out the heavy losses he's going to suffer in the state's urban areas and suburbs.

In rough terms, Biden is likely to win Wayne County by about 300,000 votes, Oakland County by 200,000 and Washtenaw by 100,000 votes. Biden is probably going to win Kent County, a traditionally reliable vote for Republicans.

It's possible Trump could squeeze out a victory in Michigan's historical bellwether, Macomb County, but the growingly diverse

and Democratic-heavy southern part of the county doesn't make that a sure thing, Grebner said.

Trump will win rural counties, but not by the margins he stomped Hillary Clinton by in 2016, based on the numbers he's seeing. Alcona County, for example, went more than 2:1 for Trump four years ago. The numbers he's seeing in these parts of the state today has Trump with 57 percent or 55 percent support.

"Trump may win by 2,000 votes in these counties, but there's precincts in East Lansing where Biden will win by 2,000 votes," Grebner said.

Other counties where Republicans have done well in the past, like Van

Buren, may go for Biden, too. Trump may win nearby Berrien, but not with the 54 percent support he received in '16.

"If you're worried about Van Buren, you've lost if you're a Republican," he said.

The Trump campaign and Republicans are spending some money on Michigan TV, but their numbers "pale in comparison" to what Biden and the Democrats are putting up, said Simon Schuster of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

"Democrats are outspending Trump nearly 4-to-1 on Michigan airwaves since the presidential primary," Schuster said. "The Democratic total of more than \$80 million supporting nominee Joe

Biden is an extraordinary sum even for the general election season, the majority of which has come from dark money groups."

Meanwhile, Grebner said the Trump campaign's strategy to discourage early voting as an apparent affront to the coronavirus pandemic could blow up in the incumbent's face. Trump's bout with COVID-19 is planting seeds of doubt about the President's health.

If he's able to return to the campaign trail and look healthy on Nov. 3 that's one thing. If he digresses, it could raise enough uncertainty to deflate Trump supporters on Election Day, which is when Trump has urged voters to participate.

Based on the Secretary of State numbers Grebner is

seeing, about 700,000 have voted already and 63 percent of them have a history of voting in Democratic primaries.

In terms of first-time absentee voters, traditionally Democratic primary voters are leading traditionally Republican primary voters 10-to-1, Grebner said.

The risk for Republicans at this point is a complete collapse in marginally Republican counties and the impact that could have in state House, county-wide, county commission and other local races.

Grebner isn't predicting an implosion at this point, but it's much more likely things will get worse for Trump and Republicans before they get better.

MDHHS receives \$600,000 grant to prevent SNAP fraud

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General has received a \$600,000 boost to its ongoing efforts to prevent food assistance fraud.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the award of \$601,350 to enhance the program integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that in Michigan provides food assistance benefits to approximately 1.2 million people.

"MDHHS is focused on SNAP program integrity

so that the limited federal dollars that are available can benefit families that need assistance," said MDHHS Inspector General Alan Kimichik. "This funding allows the Office of Inspector General to continue using the groundbreaking technology that's already been successfully implemented while making enhancements that increase efficiencies and execute concepts identified in the SNAP Fraud Framework. We will be implementing enhancements and additional automation not

previously envisioned or available, increasing our efforts to ensure taxpayer funding is benefiting those truly in need."

The Office of Inspector General's grant award is focused on using data analytics and enhanced case management systems to detect and prevent fraud.

It will pay to modernize the Office of Inspector General's investigative case management system known as the Michigan Inspector General System. Upgrades will improve access to reports and dashboards for investigators and the office's management team. It also will provide for increased security of data with lower operating costs using a US government cloud-based system.

This two-year grant will fund projects that support implementing the SNAP Fraud Framework, a collection of procedures, innovative ideas and best

practices provided to state agencies in May 2018.

USDA's Food and

Nutrition Service created the SNAP Fraud Framework to improve

state efforts to detect, investigate and prevent SNAP recipient fraud.

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Lowell Charter Township Public Notice

Hydrant Flushing and Waterline Maintenance

October 12th – October 23rd

You may notice the Lowell Township Water Department working at fire hydrants and see water running down the street. Normally in the fall, we flush water lines by fire hydrants, which is an important preventive maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, the process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and allowing us to ensure the hydrants are in proper working order. Hydrants that are found to not be in working order are tagged and submitted for repair. As a result of the line flushing process, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and air and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your home by running all water faucets for a few minutes. The same philosophy of water line and hydrant preventive maintenance is one that you should use in your own home to ensure the quality of water inside your home.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why does the water system need to be routinely flushed?

The city's water distribution system is a complex network of pipes and storage reservoirs where sediment or deposits may naturally accumulate over time. If not removed, these materials may cause water quality deterioration, taste and odor problems, or discoloration of the water. Water may also stagnate in lesser used parts of the distribution system. This can result in degraded water quality.

Q. What should I do if my water pressure or volume seems low after flushing?

Check your faucet and washer screens for trapped debris.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call Lowell Charter Township Water Dept. at (616)-897-7600 during normal business hours. Mon., Tues. 9am -5pm and Thurs. 9am-1pm

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Big crowds at Harvest Festival last weekend



Downtown Lowell was swarming with people last weekend for the annual Harvest Festival, which was a tremendous success.

“It’s going great, we’re very busy, it’s a great turnout, I love it” said volunteer Evert Bek, who was providing cups of chili outside of Larkin’s Restaurant for the chili cook-off. “I like that it’s spread out like this, so maybe they’re onto something.”

Backwater Cafe won first place in the chili cook-off, second place went to Sneaker’s Bar & Grill and third place was Main Street BBQ.



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Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS

Byron Center wins battle of unbeaten in OK White

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

It was a lovely fall Friday evening at Bob Perry Field. The familiar cadence of the Lowell Marching Band was echoing through the campus of LHS, the Lowell student section had dressed up for their “Neon-Out”, and the stands at Bob Perry Field were beginning to fill up pre-game.

For a moment, it felt normal. There was a bit of positivity in the air as Lowell took on Byron Center in a battle of undefeated teams. Not because either team was expecting a win, but the atmosphere gave you the feeling that a football season once declared dead had been revived, and

pass before offsetting penalties killed the play, and the ensuing two plays they could not convert.

The Bulldogs would again have another chance at a lead before half, but Brett Spanbauer came down with an interception to close the half.

It was those two big stands for the Red Arrows who took the 8-6 halftime lead into the locker room, and gave them momentum at the break. The Red Arrow defense which has been one of the team’s biggest strengths this year was led by Carter Blough with seven tackles on the evening. Dillon Hieshetter,



The Lowell High School band made a triumphant return with their traditional tunes and halftime performance from Grammy-winning soundtrack of “The Greatest Showman”.



Justin Wade kicks off for Lowell.

that alone was reason to celebrate.

Lowell’s football team had a gameplan and held to it with a first-half defensive grind. It was Marc Cisco’s Bulldogs, coming off a 10-1 season last year, who struck first though, on a four-yard quarterback run. The Arrows did block the extra point attempt. The Red Arrows quickly responded with a short touchdown run by quarterback Doak Dean. After a roughing the kicker penalty, LHS opted to go for two and got it for an 8-6 lead.

Byron Center, looking to pull the lead back to their side late in the first half, would find themselves in a first and goal situation before giving up back-to-back holding penalties to force them into a difficult scoring position. On third and 23 it seemed they had beaten the odds to get to the endzone on a touchdown

Sam Lixie, and Josh Rau each had six tackles. Byron Center’s Jared Ensing led all defensive players with 12 tackles.

The larger contingency of fans proved to be louder than it had seemed ever before. The difference between 200 fans and 1000 is surprisingly more significant than one would realize. The fans amplified the multiple momentum swings that took place throughout the contest.

Byron Center was able to strike first in the second half and then, following a Lowell fumble, scored yet again busting the deadlock and turning the game and momentum all in their favor in three difficult drives for the home side. Even with some key injuries, Byron Center had shown why they were the defending OK Green champions last year and the team to beat in the OK White this year.

Despite the swing in momentum, Lowell never seemed quite out of it. Trailing 22-8 with 4:28 left in the third quarter, Lowell executed a 4:10 drive that

paid off with a five yard touchdown run from Dean, who recorded a game high 178 rushing yards. The drive was aided by a Nate Clark first down on fourth and one in Byron Center territory.

After a Red Arrow stop on the ensuing Bulldog possession, Lowell had swung the momentum back to their side and with 10:17 left in the game would have a chance to tie the game. Down seven, Lowell fumbled the ball away to the Bulldogs for a second time, and Byron Center made them pay with a 41 yard jet sweep for a touchdown putting the game at 29-15 with 5:36 to play. A deficit Lowell could not recover from.

Lowell still would stay within reach getting back

to within seven points on a 17 yard touchdown pass from Dean to Spanbauer. With 3:37 left, the game was still up for grabs. The Red Arrows would either need the onside kick recovery or to stop the Bulldogs on their next possession. They were unable to do either as Byron Center finished off the scoring with 1:12 remaining and a 36-22 victory. Justin Wade made both of his extra point attempts.

The game was evenly matched in so many ways. A competitive conference game with two teams who love to run the football. Both teams combined for 88 run plays to just 24 passing attempts. Lowell’s 368 offensive yards beat Byron Center by just six,

with 362. Both teams had 10 possessions each with the Bulldogs having a narrow edge in time of possession. Byron Center ran for 300 rushing yards to Lowell’s 273. It was Lowell’s two fumbles leading to 15 Byron Center points that would be the big swing in the game, however. Both teams each had one interception.

Following the game’s conclusion Lowell High School hosted their homecoming court where Justin Wade and Emma Hollern were voted king and queen respectively.



Fans in the stands at last Friday’s football game.

LHS Cross Country

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Red Arrows place fifth at state

1955

The only Grand Valley team to qualify for the State cross-country championship, Lowell competed with 12 other very fast squads. River Rouge, who took the first place with 96 points, also has the State trophy for their track and basketball teams of last season. Lowell, in fifth place with 191, was topped by Farmington with only



one point. In individual scores, Bob Carigon placed third, running his finest race according to Coach Norman Gotschall. The coach also illustrated the fast competition by explaining that George DeVries in 17th place, ran a much faster race than last year, when he placed 9th. Leonard Fase made 50th, Loren Barton 60th and Toby Watters 62nd.

Cross Country Demands Endurance

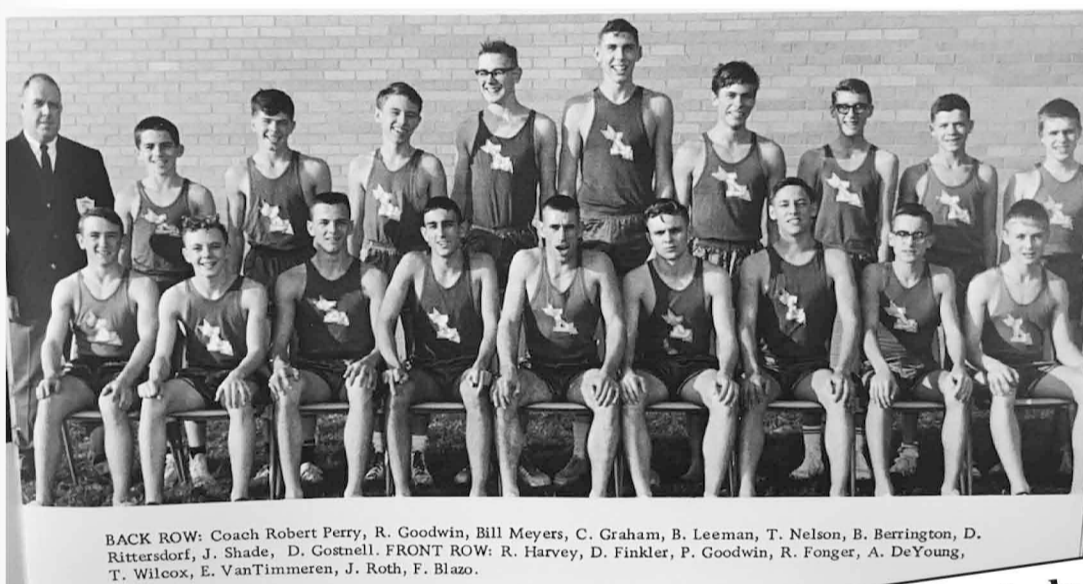
1965

The local harriers placed third in the conference, finishing an average season for '64, as the team suffered the loss of six lettermen due to injury, illness, and



Ed Van Timmeren

jobs, which greatly hampered the team's efforts. Top scorers for the squad were Abe DeYoung and Tom Wilcox, with Richard Harvey, Rick Fonger, Jeff Roth, Dale Finler, and Paul Goodwin placing often. Abe DeYoung, defending conference champion, finishing third in the league, and at the State Meet, he finished 22nd in a field of 70. in the Albion College Invitational, DeYoung placed 12th, and the team placed 8th



BACK ROW: Coach Robert Perry, R. Goodwin, Bill Meyers, C. Graham, B. Leeman, T. Nelson, B. Berrington, D. Rittersdorf, J. Shade, D. Gostnell. FRONT ROW: R. Harvey, D. Finkler, P. Goodwin, R. Fonger, A. DeYoung, T. Wilcox, E. VanTimmeren, J. Roth, F. Blazo.

out of a field of 24. At the Regionals, Lowell again placed 8th, and

concluded the season with a 2-3 conference record, 3-3 overall.

Coach Perry feels the team did well.

Lowell harriers compete at state meet

1990

The state's 24 best Class B teams competed in the final high school cross-country meet of 1990 at the State Cross Country Championship in Linden on Saturday. The boys placed all five of its runners in the top 100 earning the team a seventh place finish. The Red Arrows were led by its senior sensation, Clay VanderWarf who placed 20th in a time of 16:51.78. Jason Vanderwarf placed 34th and Jesse Davidson was 66th and Tom Mull finished 83rd overall.



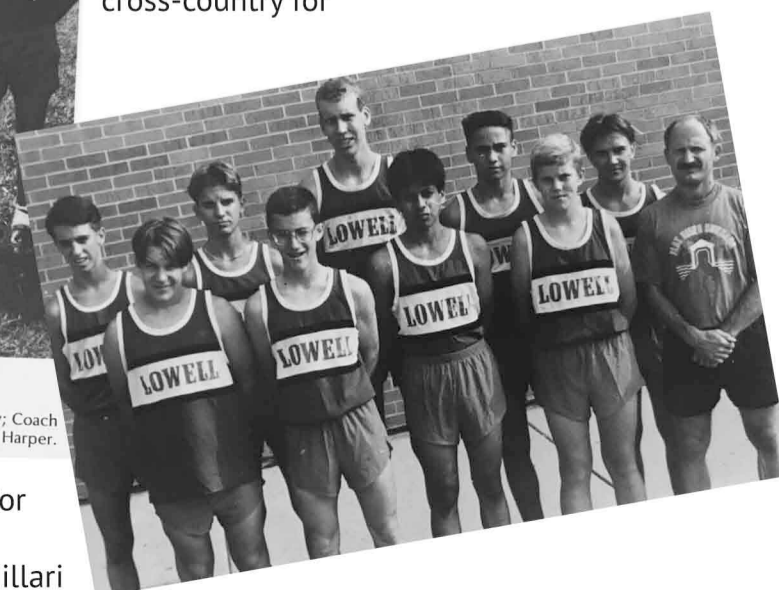
L to R: 1st Row; Betsy Dommer, Rhea Bundy, Sara Lesky, Hillari Kirsch, Karen Bussler. 2nd Row; Coach Dey, Jessi Stone, Stacy Beute, Kris Kniola, Chris Decke, Cristi Ponchaud, Kristen Schuster, Coach Harper.

The ladies placed 11th with 341 points. Saturday marked the

passing of the torch for the Red Arrow cross-country program as Hillari

Kirsch completed her superb high school cross country career. Freshman Michelle Oliver showed Saturday that she will be the new crown princess of Lowell cross-country for

the next three years. Oliver finished 10th in a time of 19:44.33; Kirsch placed 20th in a time of 20:06.55. Rhea Bundy was the third Red Arrow home, placing 55th in a time of 21:12.31.



Red Arrow

- VOLLEYBALL

SPORTS

Volleyball blasts past Pioneers on senior night

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

East Grand Rapids kept pace with the Red Arrows for a little bit last Thursday night. Once Lowell got rolling, there was no stopping them as the Red Arrows picked up a 3-0 victory over the Pioneers. It was only three years ago that the Pioneers sat as the top-ranked teams in the state, a spot Lowell has also held this year, so it was a matchup of two strong programs now reunited in the OK White.

It was senior night as Lowell honored senior setter Sophie Powell, outside hitter Jenna Reitsma, and libero Emma Hall. Teammates took turns sharing their favorite memories of each player during the ceremony. The senior class from

East Grand Rapids was recognized as well prior to the start of the game. The action was very back-and-forth early on as the teams traded points before Lowell began to pull away, winning set one 25-17. LHS took early leads in both sets two and three, winning 25-17 again in set two, and 25-15 to close out the victory.

Earlier in the week against Forest Hills Northern, Lowell won 3-1 (25-16, 25-17, 22-25, 25-17). LHS improved to 19-3 on the season with both victories. The Red Arrows will head on the road to Northview for conference action and the Lakewood Quad to compete against Cadillac, Lakewood, and Notre Dame Prep.



Sydney Zandstra (No. 5) and Emily Struckmeyer (No. 6) got for a block at the net.

From rider to coach in just one year, Emma Hancock guides Lowell Equestrian back to state

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

The Lowell Equestrian program is certainly no stranger to success. Looking at the signs headed into town, there's no doubt of their pedigree with five state championships to their name since the turn of the century, including last year.

The defending state champions will have an opportunity to repeat this year after winning the District 5 Division C 2020 Regional E Championship

earlier this month. One of the state's equestrian powers, Lowell has a not-so-new face who has taken over as head coach. LHS Class of 2020 graduate and former Lowell Equestrian rider Emma Hancock has made the transition from rider to coach this season, and is looking forward to participating in the state competition from a new perspective.

"After putting in many

years with the Lowell Equestrian Team, the previous coaches retired. A couple of the parents joked that I should be a coach. I thought it would be a fun thing to do, so with the help of some great Lowell parents and a former teacher, I got in touch with the school and became the coach just in time for the season," Emma told the Ledger. Coaching her former teammates has

been a benefit to the first-time coach. "It was very nice already knowing their personalities, strengths, and weaknesses so we could jump right into practicing as we got ready for districts."

The season has been a major success so far, having captured the regional and district championships. At regionals, Coach Hancock noted there were several great performances. "Riley Taylor came out winning some saddle seat classes. This is big for her as this is not her usual discipline that she rides, yet she didn't let that stop her as she practiced hard and it paid off. Emily German competes in the speed events and one of them, in particular, is the flag race where you run your horse at full speed to a barrel where you grab a flag and then on the opposite side you stick the flag back in the bucket. Very few make it and she made it both times coming out with the fastest time. Delaney Huizinga is new to the team this year and has been a fantastic addition. Something that she was not used to competing in was the bareback classes which

is riding your horse without a saddle. She didn't let the fear of not having a saddle stop her and got many top placings for the team at regionals. Alyssa Woern was made for the show ring as she has that aura around her that screams confidence. Something that you need when you show showmanship and man did it pay off. Winning all three of her showmanship classes that girl was made to show!"

The pandemic has thrown all sports into challenging circumstances this year. Equestrian is no different, having to keep crowd sizes to a minimum. This serves as a point of frustration for a sport many are curious about in Lowell. "We have always tried our hardest to get the support from people to come out to our events and now after we won state last year. Now with more people wanting to come and watch we have to tell them no to keep the numbers down."

This year's riders are senior Riley Taylor, junior Emily German, sophomore Alyssa Woern, and sophomore Delaney Huizinga. The

team will compete this week in Midland at the Michigan Interscholastic Sportsmanship Association State Meet. The MIHA provides video streaming of the event and live-scoring through its website MIHA.org. Teams in this year's Class A state finals include Lowell, last year's reserve champion Caledonia, Hudsonville, Lakeland, Milford, Bullock Creek, Midland, Chippewa Hills, Alpena and Rockford.

Emma says she hopes to see some fresh faces join the equestrian team next season. "This is a no-cut sport so as long as you have some horse experience you can join. Even if you don't own a horse I can help you get a horse for the season. You can also have fun with us next season by being a groom and helping out and by doing that you are still a part of the team."



Coach Emma Hancock and the Lowell Equestrian Team.



obituaries

WEBER

Verna Mae Weber, age 94, of Grand Rapids, was called home to the arms of her heavenly father on Thursday, October 8, 2020. Verna was a loving nurturer for her husband, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Gilbert Weber, and 3-month-old baby boy Gilbert Weber II.

She is survived by her children, Sandra (Loren) Harper, Steven Weber, and Gilbert Weber, Jr.; grandchildren, Christopher (Sarah) Harper, Allison (Shaun) Courtney, Cherelle (Eric) Dorn, Melanie (Cleo, Jr.) Newton, Casey (Kevin) Craig, Amy (Mark) Jacobs, and McKenna Jones-Weber; great grandchildren



Brooke and Blake Harper, Hailey and Taylor Craig, Emery Dorn, and Trent, Violet, and Blake Jacobs; and her beloved 17-year-old dog Sammy. Verna was a very sassy lady, and quite involved with many activities including bowling, golfing, playing in her bridge club, and volunteering at Butterworth Hospital. She also enjoyed playing the piano and dancing. Verna loved hosting parties with a Manhattan in her hand, and Big Gil at her side. She will be remembered at a graveside vigil on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell, MI with Reverend Glenn Schaeffer of St. James Lutheran Church, officiating. Memorials may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, West Michigan Region 2944 Fuller Ave., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505, in Verna's memory.



Daffodils planted at Grand River Riverfront Park

On Saturday, October 10, the Lowell Showboat Garden Club (LSGC) teamed up with 16 girl scouts to plant daffodil bulbs at the Grand River Riverfront Park. In the last two years, the LSGC and the scouts have planted 550 daffodil bulbs along the nature trail to the west of the pickleball courts. On Saturday, these plantings continued along the nature trail to the east of the courts in order to further enhance the beauty of the trails in time for spring.

Club members, scouts and parents were greeted with cider and donuts. Following a brief welcome, Carol McGregor, club member and District IV Director, gave a short presentation on native plants in Michigan. Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC) promotes planting native plants for many reasons, namely, they tend to be more disease and drought tolerant. Though daffodils are not native to Michigan, they are deer resistant. After a few planting instructions, those participating were divided into groups and assigned segments along the trail to place bulbs. The entire process took less than an hour to complete with nearly 300 daffodil bulbs planted.

At the end, each scout received a goodie bag containing four daffodil bulbs to plant at home, bone meal to use as fertilizer,



Pictured, left to right: Diane Black, Doris Drain and Cathy Cochell.

a MGC native patch, and several brochures. The Lowell Showboat Garden Club identifies the daffodil planting as both a beautification project and youth activity. In addition, the club's members receive so much satisfaction working with the scouts who will someday be gardeners themselves.

The participating scout troops were 4129, 4356, 4694, 4886, 8206 and 8119. As a result of their involvement in this project, some scouts will receive scout patches or hours credited toward their service hours to the community.



Pictured, left to right: Liz Ripley and Jan Boerema.

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Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov

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Washington, DC 20510
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US Rep. Justin Amash
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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

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of DAVID RYNER Guardianship File No. 08-185,941-DD

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his mom: Thelma Hunt-Dexter, and brothers: Robert Elsbrie and Carl Marxlow and any other unknown father or siblings, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on November 20, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. at Kent Co. Probate Court,

180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Modification of Appointment of a Guardian for a Person with a Developmental Disability.

Dated: October 12, 2020,

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 690-7176

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 109 E. Main St. Suite 11 Zeeland, MI 49464 Phone (616) 633-0196



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PUBLIC SALE to satisfy a lien pursuant to MCL 554.658.

A public sale of Philip Lutgheid's personal property of including but not limited to a camper trailer, serial number 322640152S0TB9WI, including its contents, and a golf cart, serial number 1258179, will be conducted October 21, 2020 at 9:00 AM at Tyler

Creek Campground at 13495 92nd Street SE Alto, MI 49302. This sale is conducted pursuant to the Campgrounds Act. All items will be sold free and clear of liens. All items will be sold on as "as is, where is" basis. No warranties of any kind express or implied, regarding condition or fitness for purpose. Terms are cash.

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TO CLAIM BOWLING BALLS & BAGS - left in lockers at Rollaway Lanes, call Paul at 897-8736.

PUBLIC SIGHT IN - QuaKe-Zik Sportsman's Club will host a supervised fall sight-in for deer rifles/shotguns at their range facility at 8731 West Riverside Dr., Saranac. This service is free to the public and will be held on Oct. 31 and Nov 1 from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information you can go to QuaKeZik.com

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Red Arrow

- CROSS COUNTRY

SPORTS

Lowell harriers in competition last week

The Lowell boys cross-country team traveled to Byron Center for the third OK White Jamboree and placed third with 78 points.

East Grand Rapids won the event with 53 points followed by Forest Hills Central with 71 points. Scoring for the Red Arrows were Sawyer Fowler, eighth with a time of 17.00; Cole Weston, 13th in 17.21; Jackson Fowler, 15th in 17.27; John Lothian, 16th in 17.29, and Keegan Cater, 26th with a time of 17.58. Finishing in the varsity

lineup were Ben Bromley, 28th in 18.03; Levi Mills, 29th in 18.07, and Blake Bennett, 34th in 18.15.

The Red Arrows ran an aggressive race on Saturday to win the Autumn Sunrise Invite at Heritage Christian School. Lowell won their division with 42 points, followed by Cedar Springs, 77 points, and Sparta taking third with 88 points. Medaling for the Red Arrows were Weston, placing fourth with a time of 16.34; Sawyer Fowler, fifth in 16.35; Keegan Cater, 11th

in 17.00; Jackson Fowler, 12th in 17.31; Lothian, 15th in 17.20, and Bromley, 17th with a time of 17.24. Mills came in 24th with a 17.52 to complete the lineup. The varsity team will compete next Wednesday in the OK White Conference finals at Byron Center.

Lowell boys JV took on a competitive Cedar Springs team (19 points) to place second in their race. Lowell was runner up with 40 points followed by GR Covenant Christian, 69 points. Placing for the

Red Arrows were Caeden Kaufman, fourth in 18.53; Evan Klein, fifth in 19.07; Dannion Simmett, 8th in 19.22; Antonio Casarez, 9th in 19.24, and Zach Boehr, 15th in 19.53. The JV teams' next competition will be a tri meet with Forest Hills Central and Forest Hills Northern at Lowell on Thursday.

The Lady Red Arrows continued to battle at the OK White Jamboree No. 3 and the gap to the sixth place team continues to shrink. Annika Sandman's 13th place finish led the team as she completed the course in 20:04. Sister Katrina placed 34th in 21:17; Lauren Swain placed 41st in 21:58 (fastest time of year), Keira Sandman placed 42nd in 22:08, and Theresa Judd closed the scoring in 49th with a time of 23:11. Rounding out the Lowell finishers were Grace Richmond and Kaylee

Byrne finished in 58th and 59th respectively.

Near-perfect conditions greeted the Arrows on Saturday as they competed in the Sunrise Autumn Invitational. When the day was completed the Lady Arrows established three new personal records, one season best, earned individual honors, nabbed four medals, and finished in fourth place just eight points out of second. The best part of the day is that the team's 1-5 average time dropped as the entire team continues to get faster. Leading the Arrows and earning top honors on the day was Sandman who broke away at the mile mark to finish in 19:09, which is the number two time on the Lowell record board.

Other medalists for the Arrows were Katrina Sandman finishing in eighth place with a personal record time of 20:34 and

Keira Sandman finishing in 17th with a personal record time of 21:21. Other varsity runners were Swain finishing in 33rd in 22:28; Judd finishing in 37th in 22:39 (season best); Byrne finishing in 42nd in 22:55, and Canaan McKinney finishing in 47th in 23:24.

On the JV side the Arrows grabbed one medal as Jes Spaulding took 11th place in 24:21 just ahead of team mate Grace Richmond who finished 12th in 24:29. Rounding out the JV runners was Ariadna Sernandez just missing her personal record in a time of 29:40.

The Lowell varsity will be at the OK White Conference meet at Byron Center West MS on Wednesday, Oct 14 and the JV runners will be at home on Thursday for the final OK White JV meet with Forest Hills Northern and Forest Hills Central.



Lady Arrows competing in the third OK White Jamboree last week. (Photo courtesy of Lowell Track & XC facebook page.)

Two golfers advance to state

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

Lowell High School senior golfers Lexy Kaptcia and Addison Bruwer are heading to the state tournament. The duo shot 94 and 90 respectively at the Division 2 Region 8 Tournament hosted by Muskegon Country Club to advance. Both of their scores were in the top 10 overall as individuals, but only three individual golfers in each region advance to states. Those three are chosen based on being the three with the best rounds out of individuals whose teams did not advance as a team.

LHS filled two of those three slots with Greenville's Rylie Gorby filling the third.

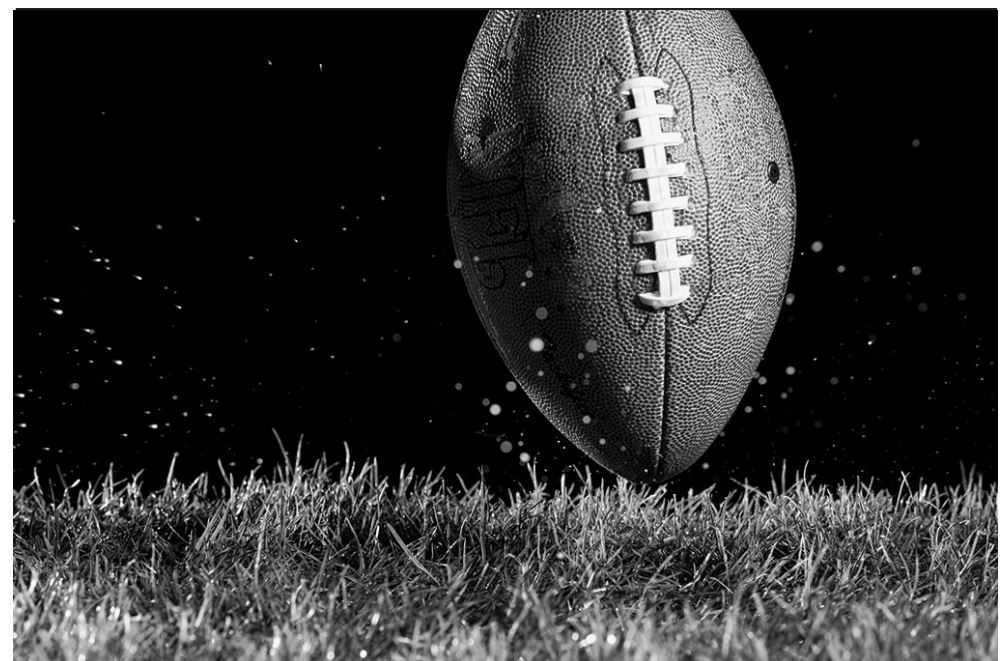
Lowell placed sixth as a team with a score of 418, 10 off the pace of the final team state placer Mona Shores who shot a 408. Forest Hills

Northern and East Grand Rapids joined the Sailors in advancing to Team State tournament.

Both Kaptcia and Bruwer will compete at Forest Akers West in East Lansing on Friday. We wish them the best of luck.



Lexy Kaptcia and Addison Bruwer. (Courtesy of the Lowell golf program)



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Lowell clerk says no chance of manipulating ballots



Lowell city clerk Sue Ullery

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Slightly more than 40 percent of the absentee ballots cast in the city of Lowell for the Nov. 3 election have already arrived at city hall and are awaiting processing.

“They are in a locked filing cabinet,” said Lowell city clerk Susan Ullery. “Every time we get ballots, we check them in, we compare signatures from their application to make sure it matches, then they’re filed right here in a secure cabinet.”

Absentee voters have until 8 pm on Election Day to turn in their ballots, but Ullery recommended sending them in as early as possible.

City of Lowell voters requested 807 absentee ballots for the Nov. 3, 2020 election, 415 in precinct one and 392 in precinct two. So far, 337 of these have been returned. This is more than twice as many as normal. For example, in the 2016 presidential election, 350 city of Lowell voters requested absentee ballots, 161 in precinct one, 189 in precinct two.

A possible reason for the dramatic increase in absentee ballots is that people are trying to avoid congregating with strangers during a pandemic.

“Because of COVID, some of our election

workers will be designated to cleaning voting stations, cleaning pens, just making sure our polls are sanitary,” Ullery said. “There is social distancing, and we are asking everybody to wear masks. Hopefully everybody feels comfortable coming into the precinct and voting.”

Including Ullery, there will be 19 people involved in running the election in Lowell, mostly volunteers.

“Our election workers are absolutely fantastic, they are essential for keeping everything running smoothly on Election Day,” Ullery said.

“We always have extra for presidential elections.

We will have 13 people in the polls upstairs, plus the deputy city clerk. The absentee ballot counting board will arrive here at six o’clock on [Election Day]. That is a team of four election workers. First they will get prepared and organized, then all of the absentee ballots will be delivered to them. They are sequestered in a conference room the entire day. They will go through and start processing those absentee ballots. They are taken out of the outer envelopes and set aside, still remaining in



the security envelope. That protects the voters’ privacy, so those on the absentee counting board do not see

who voted which way.”

Despite what some popular media figures say, anybody successfully manipulating ballots is extremely unlikely.

“In the State of Michigan, elections are run by the local government, rather than countywide or statewide, and I think that really helps,” Ullery said. “We have a lot of checks and balances, starting with double-checking the signatures. And having the citizens come into our precincts, I think, works out great.”

Ullery has experienced plenty of elections. She has been Lowell’s clerk since 2015 and was

originally hired in 1998 as the assistant of retired clerk Betty Morlock. Her biggest piece of advice for voters was to make sure to fill in all those little dots completely and clearly.

“The one thing that people want to make sure they do is darken in those ovals 100 percent,” Ullery said. “You don’t want to put a check mark next to it, or an X. Color it in.”

Absentee or in person, all of Lowell’s votes are expected to be counted by the time they lock up city hall on Election Day.

“We will have all of ours processed and tabulated on Election Day, that night” Ullery said.

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