

### Interesting old dagger



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### ABCs of history



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## Lowell PD officer Diaz charged with felonies

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced yesterday that Lowell police officer Jason Diaz would be charged Monday in Ionia County's 64-A District Court.

After a high-speed chase through Kent and Ionia counties on Aug. 29, 2020, Diaz allegedly fired his weapon at the fleeing vehicle and struck a passenger in the head, causing injury. Diaz's actions violated both the law and Lowell Police Department's use of force policy, the Attorney General's complaint alleges.

Diaz, 40, a resident of

Wyoming, was charged with one count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, a 10-year felony; one count of misconduct in office by a public official, a five-year felony; and one count of weapons, careless discharge causing injury, a two-year high court misdemeanor.

Diaz, who has reportedly resigned from the LPD, was arraigned on the charges Tuesday, March 9 before Magistrate David Wirth in Ionia County 64-A District Court. Bond was set at 10 percent of \$50,000. He is scheduled for a probable

cause conference at 1 pm on March 22 and a preliminary exam at 1 pm on March 29.

"When I took office, I announced that this department would focus special attention on officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths," Nessel said. "These are challenging cases that require a careful and thoughtful review to ensure the trust of the parties involved and the confidence of the larger public in the process that we use."

A criminal charge is merely an allegation and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



Jason Diaz

## Low interest rates, high demand make Lowell a seller's market

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

It is very difficult to buy a house in Lowell right now, but extremely easy and lucrative to sell one.

With interest rates at an all-time low, more people than ever are in the market for a home. Meanwhile, because demand is high, inventory is low and competition is fierce, sale prices are vastly inflated.

"This is the story throughout all of West Michigan," said Joshua McCracken, managing broker at Lowell Greenridge

Realty. "Moving anywhere in West Michigan is really hard, but particularly in Lowell. It's definitely a seller's market. As scary as that sounds, it really is a good time to sell because of the interest rates. You will have a more challenging time buying."

Despite the pandemic, last year Lowell Greenridge was involved in a record \$48,297,292 worth of local real estate transactions, over \$26 million of that in the Lowell school district.

Their previous record was about \$44 million in one year. Apparently folks don't seem to mind buying a home after only viewing an online slideshow or VR presentation.

"There is just a low, low inventory. There are so few homes for sale now," McCracken said. "Inventory has continually dropped, and there is not a lot to pick from in Lowell. Specifically, today [Thursday, March 4] in Lowell there are 23 homes for sale. That doesn't

really mean anything to someone who doesn't follow the market, but that is low inventory. When I got into real estate about six years ago, Lowell usually had 60 to 70 homes on the market."

Another prohibitive factor is the increasing cost of area housing. Just in the past year, the average price of a home in Lowell went up by

Housing, continued, page 4



## Lowell scores \$28,000 from pot store taxes

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell shall receive a \$28,001.32 share of the first \$10 million collected in state taxes from sales of recreational marijuana.

The Michigan Department of Treasury announced last week that each one of the 38 cities, seven villages, 21 townships and 38 counties that have pot stores will get that amount for each one that exists within their jurisdiction.

"The revenue generated from marijuana taxes and fees is important to our local governments," said state

treasurer Rachael Eubanks. "In this extraordinary time, our staff is working to get those payments to impacted municipalities and counties. Every dollar helps right now."

"The team at the Marijuana Regulatory Agency did a tremendous job getting the adult-use licensing program established and operating efficiently," said Marijuana Regulatory Agency executive director Andrew Brisbo. "Infusing over \$28,000 per retailer and microbusiness into local government budgets across the state is very impactful and shows how strong and successful the industry is becoming."

In 2020, more than \$341 million worth of recreational marijuana was sold in the state, who collected more than \$31 million in taxes

from these sales.

In addition to the \$10 million payout to municipalities, \$11.6 million will be sent to the School Aid Fund and \$11.6 million to the Michigan Transportation Fund. The remaining \$12.5 million will be spent on start-up and administrative costs.

When recreational marijuana was on the ballot in 2018, the majority of Lowell residents voted in favor of it, 984 to 689. There are currently two pot stores in town, but one of them did not open in time for the city to collect a second \$28,001.32. With even more slated to open, Lowell should get a much bigger check from the state next year.

Read the entire report for yourself at michigan.gov.



Last summer, Meds Café, the first recreational pot store in Kent County, made enough money to donate a brand new Zodiac Milpro speed boat with a 55 horsepower engine to the local fire department.

Pictured are former Lowell fire chief Ron van Overbeek, Kyle Miller, Jacob LaRoche and Casey Cole of Meds Café, a cardboard cutout of Meds Café owner Michael Atkins and LPD officer Scot VanSolkema posing with the boat on the day it arrived in town last July.



# Get Lucky In Lowell, win Lowell Bucks and have enchiladas for dinner

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

This merchants event will take place around downtown Lowell on Saturday, March 13 from 10 am until 5 pm.

You can enter to win prizes every hour on the event's Facebook page, where they plan to host "a live feed of giveaways."

There will also be a Lowell Bucks drawing and in-store drawings at some of the participating locations.

Miss P's Catering, inside Red Barn Consignments and Antiques, will have cookies and cupcakes for sale during the event. If you pre-ordered one of their take-and-bake chicken enchilada dinners, it will be available there for pickup between 10 am and 4:30 pm and will consist of three green chili chicken enchiladas with rice and beans. You must call or text the caterer at 616-437-2006 ahead of



time to order one, they cost \$13.

For more information, find the event's page on

social media, call 616-204-5117 or send a message to [getluckyinlowell@gmail.com](mailto:getluckyinlowell@gmail.com).

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- Fans in the Stands
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- Lavender & Lace Boutique
- LowellArts
- Main Street BBQ
- Miss P's Catering (inside Red Barn Consignments & Antiques)
- MI Hometown Furnishings
- New Union Brewery
- North Star Antiques
- Olivia Grace Salon
- Opulenza Designs (inside Red Barn Consignments & Antiques)
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- Rookies Sportscards Plus
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- Station Salon
- Sweet Seasons Bakery
- Tap House Boutique
- Waxy Dashshund Candle Co. (inside Bettie's Pages)
- WearForward
- WION-FM Radio

## Direct care worker infection control training now available

This week the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced two new free infection control training videos were available for direct care workers.

The videos were produced through a partnership with IMPART Alliance in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State

University. MDHHS granted IMPART Alliance \$50,000 in COVID Relief Funds to develop an infection control curriculum and to make it widely available to direct care workers, as well as any other professional, clinical or family caregivers.

"We are excited to offer these courses on infection control for direct care

workers to help protect both the clients and those who provide care to them," said Kate Massey, senior deputy director of MDHHS' Medical Services Administration. "Without proper training on infection control, direct care workers could unknowingly transfer COVID-19 or other infectious diseases from client to client, and put themselves, their families and the greater community at risk."

Certified Nursing Assistant courses are required for direct care workers employed in nursing facilities, but similar training is not universally required for home- and

community-based services and programs. MDHHS encourages all direct care workers who provide services to individuals in their homes or other non-office-based settings to take this training.

Two trainings are available. Infection Control for Direct Care Workers is approximately one hour and is an interactive class that provides a comprehensive overview on the topic of infection control, including sources of infection, the chain of infection, standard and universal precautions and personal protective equipment demonstrations.

The Infection Control Refresher for Direct

Care Workers course is approximately one hour and is a reference tool that provides a brief overview of standard infection control procedures and detailed demonstrations of the proper use of personal protective equipment. Continuing Education Units are available for social workers and nurses. Both infection control trainings have been reviewed and approved by the State Training Guidelines Workgroup.

The infection control classes can be accessed through the Improving MI Practices website. Individual and agency accounts are free. Log in or create a new account, follow the instructions, complete the online form and find and take the class. To find the class, simply type the class name into the search bar, click on the course name, then click on "TAKE THIS COURSE." Upon course completion, a printable certificate is available.

Agency accounts are free and available at [improvingmipractices.org/](http://improvingmipractices.org/)

agencies. An agency account allows an agency manager to oversee employees or contractors associated with the agency.

IMPART Alliance is a coalition of researchers, direct care workers, providers, clients, advocates and agencies working together to develop a competent home care workforce, and improve the lives of direct care workers and the individual they serve. IMPART Alliance strives to address multiple components of workforce development including building on the evidence-based training program "Building Training, Building Quality," establishing a DCW professional association and establishing a highly diverse statewide coalition who will determine feasible win-win strategies for ensuring a high-quality DCW workforce.

For more information, contact IMPART Alliance at [impartalliance.org](http://impartalliance.org) or [impart@msu.edu](mailto:impart@msu.edu).



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# Reports reveal KDL had intense but rewarding 2020

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

The Kent District Library released their most recent annual report last week. The report is a summary of the library in 2020, and it shows how the library system adapted to and thrived during the pandemic.

“Last year certainly brought its challenges, but we never allowed those challenges to stop us from serving our communities” said KDL executive director Lance Werner. “Our impact continued. Our branches were closed for a time, but the library never closed.”

The annual report did not contain any Lowell-specific information, but it contained plenty of interesting year-end figures related to the entire KDL system.

Because the KDL had to cancel all in-person events, 1,402 live-streamed events were created and these were viewed 471,809 times.

Branches were closed to in-person visits, so curbside service delivered 432,582 items for 125,024 pickups.

Although the circulation of physical items decreased, the circulation of digital materials increased by 31 percent to 1.7 million.

Meanwhile, 800 new mobile WiFi hotspots were added to the collection and checked out 2,888 times.

Finally, on January 24, 2020, the Men of Color Read initiative was launched in Kent County.

Over 25 men met at the Martin Luther King Leadership Academy and read to small groups of children. The pandemic put a pause on in-school visits, but the Men of Color Read initiative will continue with live-streamed programming.

Read the whole thing for yourself at [kdl.org/AnnualReport](http://kdl.org/AnnualReport).

## West Michigan residents can enroll in PFAS health study

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is urging residents in West Michigan communities to sign up for the Michigan PFAS Exposure and Health Study to help ensure robust data gathering and to make the study as successful as possible.

MDHHS launched MiPEHS in November 2020, with the goal of learning more about the relationship between PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and health among residents who have been exposed to various levels of PFAS in

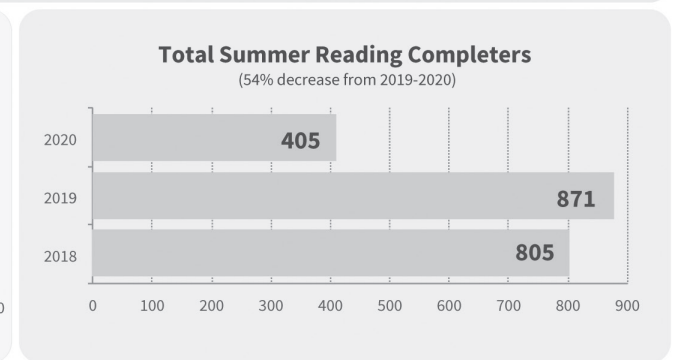
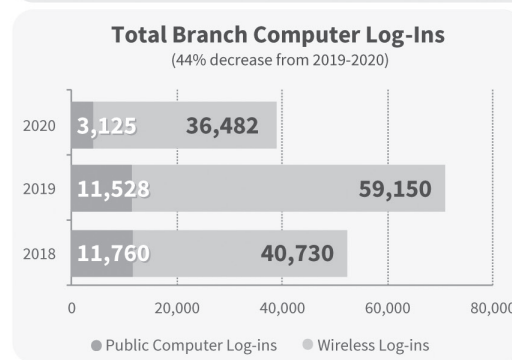
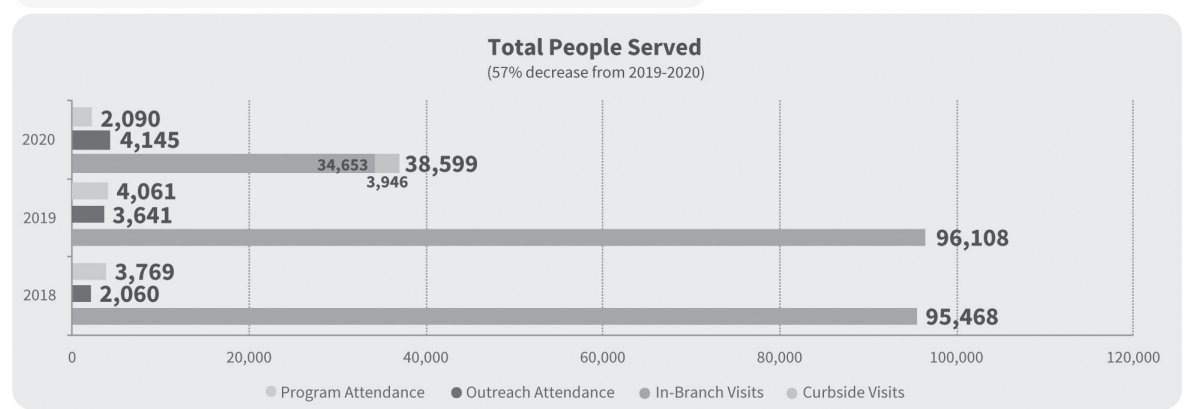
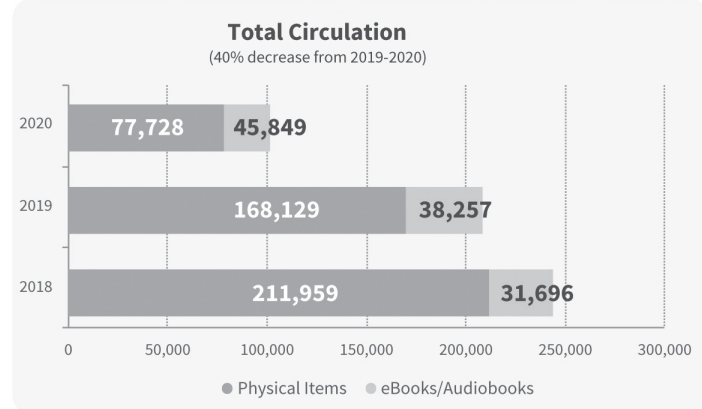
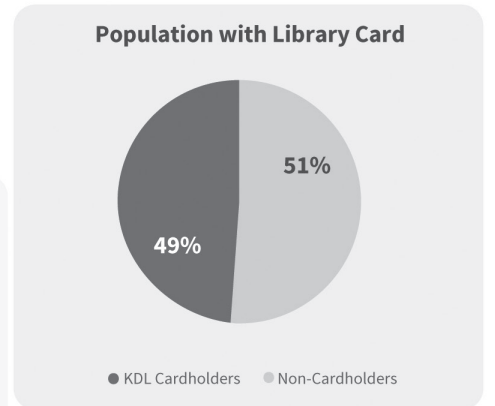
their drinking water.

People who enroll in the study complete a blood sample appointment at one of two local study offices: one near the City of Parchment and Cooper Township in Kalamazoo County and one in the Belmont and Rockford area of Kent County. Blood samples will be tested for PFAS levels and health markers, including cholesterol. Some participants will also have their blood tested for PCBs. A survey is used to collect additional information about health and exposure to PFAS.

## Englehardt Branch | 2020 Statistical Information

### Branch Facts

Regional Manager I:	Sandra Graham
Regional Manager II:	Barbara Jingles
Population of Service Area:	3,783 (City of Lowell)
Physical Collection Size:	31,205 (3.5% of Total Collection)
Building Size:	8,771 sq ft
Public Computers:	8
Staff:	6.5 FTEs
Open Hours:	46.5 hrs/wk



Page 31 of the KDL's 2021 Impact Report had information about the Lowell Englehardt Library.

“The more people that join, the better the study can show how PFAS exposure affects health,” said Kory Groetsch, MDHHS environmental public health director. “Our study offices

have implemented a number of COVID-19 precautions for the safety of staff and participants. Measuring the amount of PFAS in the blood of people living in these study areas is a time-sensitive task that cannot wait until the pandemic is

over.” Participants can receive their blood PFAS results for free and are offered up to \$55 on a gift card as a thank you for their time. To allow for the most comprehensive analysis and to track PFAS levels over time, participants

will be invited to return to the study offices twice more in the next five years. Additional gift cards will be offered at each visit.

For more information about MiPEHS please visit [Michigan.gov/DEHbio](http://Michigan.gov/DEHbio). Call 855-322-3037 today to check eligibility and enroll.

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## Housing, continued

approximately 10 percent. Furthermore, only one of the 23 homes currently for sale is listed at a price less than \$300,000. Five of them are over \$500,000. On the other hand, a house is one of the safest investments you can make.

"There is definitely a demand for affordable housing," McCracken said. "While inventories dropped, interest rates have also dropped. Today we've got low mortgage rates, historic low interest rates that have been hovering around three percent. They were under three for a period last year. They're still under four, which is historically low. When you've got low inventory and low interest rates, it keeps the prices high. I bought my first home in 2008, and everyone was like, 'The interest rates are so low!' I had like six and a half percent. But it's not a bubble, it's completely different than 2008. People have so much equity in their homes, they probably don't even realize how much equity they have.



Josh McCracken

at a three, three and a half percent interest rate, and if the market tanks in five years, you can say, 'You know what? I love being here, so I'm just gonna ride this out.'" If you have been daydreaming about a move to some quaint old farmhouse or a house with character in a neighborhood close to downtown, chances are you're out of luck.

of homes has been slowly shrinking, half to two-thirds of the homes have been new builds," McCracken said. "So it's hard to find that 'home you want to call home' in Lowell. There are existing homes that sell in Lowell, but they come and go so fast. They just don't stay on the market. They're on the market for four days, they have two, five, ten offers, they go over list price and then they're gone."



McCracken said the market is far too volatile to attempt making any predictions.

"No one knows where the market is going," McCracken said. "We look to CoreLogic and some of the bigger statistics-driven industry leaders, and they're all saying from a three percent increase to another nine percent increase. So the consensus is kind of like we'll see a five percent increase, which is a little better than what we would say was normal. You're increasing better than inflation, which is good."

For example, someone that bought a \$250,000 home last year, they just gained \$25,000 of equity in one year. Which in some ways beats Wall Street! So you'll have a more challenging time buying, but you could potentially get into your 'forever home.' Then, frankly, you don't care if the market tanks, because you don't mind being there for the next 25 years. You can get it locked in


McCracken said that about 70 percent of the homes for sale are brand new. If you find a place you like, you have to be vigilant and then move quickly. Many homes sell within a couple days after they hit the market, few are available any longer than a few weeks. There are usually multiple bids, so be prepared to make an offer substantially higher than the listed price. "While the total number

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# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger March 13, 1896

Charlie Quick returned Wednesday from the month's excursion of the Michigan press association to Mexico and other places in the south. Mr. Quick is very enthusiastic over the trip and says from the moment they left Chicago until their return that nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of the trip. He was favorably impressed with the Mexican people and the country.

Ten thousand dollars is the price which is to be paid by a New York florist for the sole right to the famous double carnation, known as the "Murella." The flower has been raised and owned entirely by a firm owning a large greenhouse near Reed's Lake. The senior member of the firm has been engaged in the cultivation of flowers since his boyhood and has "bred" many peculiar species.

The spring term of the schools will close with an exhibition of the term's work, in the various branches and departments. All patrons of the school should attend and learn what the children are doing in school, where we invest so much money for their benefit and improvement.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 17, 1921

A petition in bankruptcy in district court has been filed by William S. Canfield, individually and as a member of the William S. Canfield Flour company, of Grand Rapids. He places his liabilities at \$63,982 and assets at \$200 for himself and at \$60,400 and \$18,000 respectively for the partnership. It is claimed the other members of the firm refuse to ask bankruptcy proceedings.

April 16 has been set as the date for the ceremony in connection with the breaking of ground for the New Jersey entrance of the vehicular tunnel to New York under the Hudson river. The ground will be broken in Jersey City.

Frank P. Helmes, 60, is in the county jail awaiting the outcome of injuries received by his son, Frank Helmes, Jr., who was shot during an alleged quarrel between the two. It is alleged the father attacked his son with a pitchfork and later shot him.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger March 14, 1946

A possible tragedy was averted here Saturday night, when Deputy Frank Stephens, assisted by the local fire department, rescued Paul Foguth, 14, from a tree in the rampaging waters of Flat river, about 150 feet below the bridge.

Housewives may get a little more sugar for home canning this year than last. Spare stamp No. 9 became valid Monday for five pounds of sugar. It will be good through October 31. OPA said it expects to validate another home canning stamp in June or July. It added that the second stamp was not likely to be good for more than five pounds.

Dredging for mussels in stream beds in 35 southern Michigan counties again will be legal between July 1 and September 30. Reopening of the season virtually closed for the last eight years, has been ordered by the conservation commission.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger March 18, 1971

Richard Earl Bell, 38 years, was found guilty in a jury trial last week of charges placed against him in connection with a fire alleged to have been set by him at his business establishment on June 22, 1970. Bell (owner of the B&O store and co-owner of the building which housed the store) was charged on three counts: arson of a dwelling, arson to collect insurance, and preparation to burn. Following four days of testimony by 21 witnesses for the prosecution and five witnesses for the defense – Bell was found guilty on all three charges.

As of April 1, 1970, the State of Michigan contained a population of 8,875,083 persons. This figure represents an increase of 1,051,889 or 13.4% over the 1960 enumeration of 7,823,194. This change in population was the smallest, both in actual numbers and in percentage, registered by the state since the decade of the 1930's

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger March 13, 1996

When pulling into the drive at 3880 Segwun, it's easy to notice that construction work is still going on. After visiting with Michael and Vicki Schmidt and their daughter Shelley, it is apparent that the real construction going on has nothing to do with their new home. Instead it has everything to do with Shelley building on her recovery from a serious accident on Jan. 23.

Lowell Area Historical Association's move to the upstairs of the Graham Building will help preserve Lowell's history for present and future Lowell residents. LAHA moved from the second floor of City Hall because it did not provide a safe and secure place for preservation of artifacts, photographs and memorabilia.

Lowell School's administration came under attack for the selection process used in hiring a middle school academic remediation teacher. The school board approved the appointment of Judith Thomas to the three-month pilot project position as an academic remediation teacher at the middle school. The position was designed to provide additional academic support for selected middle school at-risk students.

## to the editor

Dear Editor,

Well, it finally happened. Standing impatiently in line at our local grocery store, I hear some sort of commotion going on with the folks ahead.

It looked to me as if some money was changing hands, so I jokingly asked it those ahead of me were intending to pay for the groceries I was piling onto the check out belt.

To my delight and surprise, they answered, "yes". It seems that the man in line before them, now gone, had not only paid for some of their groceries, but had kindly paid for the groceries of the people in front of him.

These folks left some of the cash they had received on the cash register for the next in line, me!!

The delight of the entire process was quickly becoming infectious, so I applied a part of the remaining cash to my groceries, put a \$20 into the hands of the young couple behind me, gave the cashier a tip, and sang a happy song as I departed the store.

Now, let's not get all caught rejoicing about the good deed done by that unknown fellow in line that day, but the thought of "pay it forward" and how it can affect so many people in such a short time still puts a smile on my face today.

Jim Speerstra  
Vergennes Township



## 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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Alexandria Clum, PA-C  
Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

### - social isolation

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many changes over the last year, leading to more physical distance between family members and friends than ever before. Although this social distancing and sheltering-at-home has helped to slow the spread of the virus, and has protected many, for some it has led to loneliness and social isolation, causing increased depression and anxiety.

While occasional loneliness is a natural part of life, sustained isolation and loneliness can have serious effects on one's health. These symptoms and effects are more common in the elderly population but can affect people of all ages.

Finding ways to connect while still physically distanced is important.

• **T e l e p h o n i c** reassurance and engagement can be helpful. A telephone call is not quite the same as a face-to-face visit, but the connection experienced when hearing a voice can

lift one's spirits and improve the day.

• Virtual visits using FaceTime, Skype, or group Zoom gatherings can also be enjoyable and are a good way to stay connected with friends and family. Those who are technically challenged may need some help to make these events occur, but the benefits of seeing and hearing our loved ones is worth the effort.

• Outdoor activities and fresh air also help to decrease feelings of social isolation. When weather allows, taking a short daily walk outdoors can boost one's mood and decrease feelings of isolation.

If at any time, anxiety and depression increase and become unmanageable, please contact your primary care provider for evaluation and assistance. If thoughts of self-harm are present, please go directly to an emergency department for evaluation.

# ABCs of Lowell History

The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced last 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.

### V is for Vaudette

Though Webster's dictionary does not offer a definition of the word 'Vaudette', in 1970 the West Central Michigan Historical Society (now the Fallasburg Historical Society) offered a great description of the Vaudette in Lowell.

"Probably a very few will remember the Vaudette or moving picture show which was located in the corner building of what is now Beachum's Furniture store (202 West Main St). The Newton Warner family owned it originally. A gramophone with a large bell-like horn poured forth music to the street so that people would know the show was about to begin. Steps had to be climbed to enter the building. A ticket booth protruded in the middle of the small lobby, with a door on each side. One was labeled 'In', the other 'Out.' Tickets were 5 and 10 cents and for that price you saw two silent, short slap-slick comedies and a silent feature. There was also piano music and sometimes a soloist. The piano was placed on the floor to the left of the high screen so the pianist could see what the characters were doing



Idle Hour Movie Theater in Lowell was owned by Newton Warner who is on the left. Son Claude Warner in the center was the projector operator. Son Robert Royden Warner, on the right, was the piano player during the silent films.

and play an appropriate accompaniment, either fast, slow or funeral. During winter a large coal stove up in front heated the building. On real cold nights the audience was requested to move up close to it, during which time the projectionist would obligingly stop the film. Halfway up the side walls, shaded lights the length of the room kept the interior from being pitch black. Between shows the pianist alone, or with a soloist, entertained. So many patrons spent the evening there, if a crowd came in for the second show and their seats were needed, they were kindly asked to leave. At the back of the long narrow room there was a small balcony on one side of the projectionist's booth. It was reached by a ladder on the side wall and there was room for a couple of straight back chairs up there. That

ABC's continued, page 12



The Warner girls on the steps of the theater.

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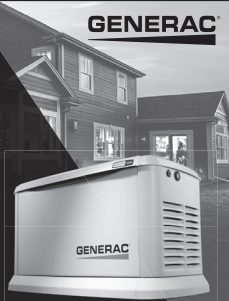
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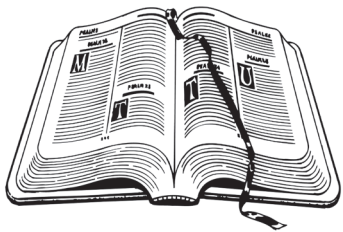
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LIFE GROUPS .....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)  
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

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897-7060

Pastor Ryan Landt  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
Sunday School.....11:20 AM  
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Nursery available at both services  
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### St. Mary Catholic Church

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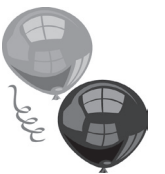
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### MARCH 10

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### MARCH 11

Pat Ball, Renee Nugent, Larry Martin, Kim Barnes.

### MARCH 12

David Baird, Lisa Homrich, Laura Horsley, Julie Idema, Kathy Fyan.

### MARCH 13

Dode Dey, Paul Seese, Tyler Schneider, Jack Robert Malone.

### MARCH 14

Mike Stevens, Dan Baird, Kari Merriman, Chase Peterson, Shannon Lambert, Sara Schoen, Layla Yeiter.

### MARCH 15

Daniel Vegter, Ward Boulard Jr., Brett Hobrla, Margot Miller.

### MARCH 16

Greg Briggs, Louise Weeks.



# Biden rescue plan puts \$3.9B more into MI schools; \$5.7B more for state gov't

Should the US Senate pass the President's American Rescue Plan, another \$3.9 billion in aid would be pumped into the state's K-12 education system, moving the total federal aid received by Michigan's schools to \$6.2 billion since the beginning of the pandemic.

To put that pile of cash into context, Craig Thiel of the Citizen's Research Council of Michigan noted during a Thursday afternoon webinar that during the Great Recession, total federal aid to Michigan schools reached \$1.5 billion.

Some 90 percent of that federal aid (\$5.4 billion should the Biden plan pass) flows through a federal formula (Title 1A). That means the cash coming into

districts varies widely.

Thiel said the median district would get an additional \$3,000 per pupil.

There are, however, 100 districts that will net out less than \$1,000 in per pupil federal funding.

Flint Public Schools, by comparison, would receive \$42,000 per pupil under the Title 1A formula.

The CRC noted that federal aid received by districts could vary widely between a district and its neighboring districts. He recommended the state use state and federal discretionary resources to ensure all students receive a base amount of funding (horizontal equity).

Should the Biden plan be enacted, the CRC noted that

according to Federal Funds Information for States, the state of Michigan would receive another \$5.7 billion as its share of the \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments promised in the package.

Michigan counties and municipalities would receive an additional \$4.4 billion.

Robert Schneider of the CRC said that when you look back to May of 2020, revenue forecasters were predicting a combined (General Fund and School Aid Fund) revenue shortfall of \$5.5 billion. Those forecasts were later revised upward by \$2.3 billion across major funds. With federal aid, the state will carry into FY 2021

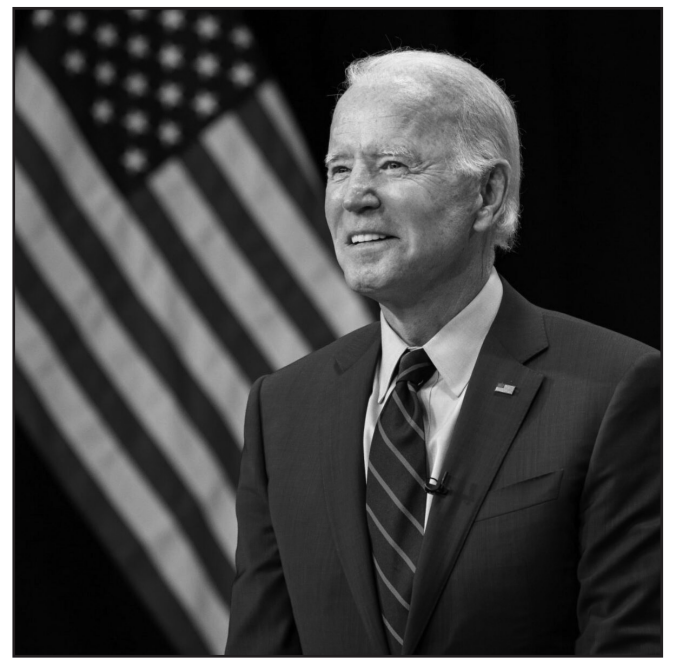
combined (General Fund and School Aid Fund) fund balances of \$3.5 billion.

On top of that, an announcement by the Biden administration that enhanced Medicaid match should continue throughout the rest of 2021 will result in a \$715.1 million balance.

According to Schneider, the impending influx of cash means state leaders need to make a plan.

"If we get \$5 billion or more of new federal revenue, you know there will need to be a careful process as to how you want to spend that," Schneider said. "The extent to which you want to hold some money back to deal with uncertainties."

Schneider noted there are a



**President Joe Biden**

lot of valuable infrastructure investments the state could make in the K-12 system, the behavioral health system and other areas.

# \$84 million clawed back from fraudulent UIA claims

The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency clawed back approximately \$84 million in benefit payments due to suspected fraud during the unprecedented demand for benefits this past 11 months, a Senate committee was told recently.

At the Senate Economic and Small Business Development Committee meeting, Acting UIA Director Liza Estlund Olson said the majority of likely fraudulent claims are filed under pandemic unemployment assistance.

When it comes to notable cases, Estlund Olson mentioned a woman named Misty, an imposter who submitted copies of a falsified Social Security card, a passport and a selfie of her holding the documents.

The victim that Misty was pretending to be lived "in a different state entirely," and Misty called the Michigan UIA's call center 39 times, asking why she had not been cleared.

"She consistently hangs up when our agents begin asking questions," said Estlund Olson, explaining

that she used a stock photo from the internet for the passport and a telephone number for the Social Security number.

Estlund Olson said the agency is subjected to "many, many versions of Social Security cards that have been tampered with."

"Some of them are very obvious, some of them very subtle and it takes a very good eye," Estlund Olson said. "We have to spend all of this time to make sure that we are either paying or not paying somebody appropriately."

When the UIA requires individuals to submit a photo of them to verify their identity, one can see that they have changed their hair or face to try to match who they are posing to be and have attempted to photoshop their selfies, Estlund Olson said.

Federal programs account for \$24 billion of the \$29 billion of the total benefits paid to workers since March, Estlund Olson said. "These programs do not impact the health of the Michigan Unemployment Trust Fund because a vast majority of potential fraud

involves federal programs with little to no impact on the trust fund."

According to Estlund Olson, Michigan continues to have one of the healthiest trust funds in the country at \$600 million available for unemployment benefits at the beginning of this month.

Additionally Thursday, the Michigan UIA announced it was "highly unlikely" that the agency would be needing to borrow federal funds to cover benefits in 2021.

Since March 15, 2020, \$5.1 billion has been paid in state unemployment benefits.

"We have far outpaced even combined totals of larger states like New York, Ohio and Texas. Congress is debating legislation that will extend benefits to our independent contractors and self-employed workers," Estlund Olson said.

The UIA attributed the announcement to current unemployment claims

activity and economic conditions. The agency said Michigan has "one of the healthiest trust funds in the nation" and has yet to borrow.

"A key reason for the continued health of the trust fund is our successful work share program," said Estlund Olson, in a statement. "Work share saved the UITF over \$80 million and helped inject over \$500 million into the economy when you include the federal benefits paid to these workers."

The federally funded work share program allows job providers to retain their skilled workforce, avoid layoffs, or bring back workers at reduced hours while employees collect partial unemployment benefits to make up for their lost wages, according to the UIA.

Also, Estlund Olson said now is the time for the state legislature "to do what's necessary to help workers

who need emergency financial assistance." The requests included restoring the maximum number of benefit weeks to 26, which was the statute from 1963 to 2012.

"Michigan is an outlier [as] one of only eight states that do not provide the federally recommended 26 weeks of benefits," Estlund Olson said. "In many instances, states without 26 weeks lose out on additional federally extended benefits, and without legislative action, workers won't be able to access six weeks of benefits that will help them pay for rent, medical bills and put food on the table."

COVID-19 related UIA eligibility provisions are

set to expire at the end of March. According to Estlund Olson, legislative action would be needed to maintain eligibility for individuals who are self-isolating and quarantining.

Chair Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) said he was a little bit taken aback by the "sales pitch for 26 weeks" given the \$220 million general fund boost to the UI fund was vetoed by the governor.

He suggested UIA get to the bottom of the hundreds of millions of dollars in potential fraud claims the agency suspects that's on top of the \$84 million clawed back before a discussion about a permanent extension to 26 weeks is had.

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**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Vergennes Township Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the proposed 2021/2022 budget during a regular meeting of the Board to be held March 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The Board meets at the Vergennes Township Hall located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at the township offices on Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Written comments will be accepted if received before 7 pm on March 15th by the Township Clerk. They can be sent to PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331, or by e-mail to [clerk@vergennestwp.org](mailto:clerk@vergennestwp.org).

Shantell Ford  
Vergennes Township Clerk

# Local man finds unique handmade dagger in woods

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

It's probably not the work of an ancient Odawa warrior after all, but the handmade knife local man Brandon Allen and his father nearly stepped on in the woods near Stoney Lakeside Park was still a pretty interesting find.

It is unknown today exactly where it was located, but early Lowell pioneer Madeline La Framboise operated a fur trading post in that general area in the early 1800s. Allen and his father were exploring the woods about 18 years ago when they first found the knife.

"It was a long time ago, I can't remember what year, but I was about nine years old," Allen said. He's 27 now. "When we found it, it

or four days later we went back to dig and see if there was a sheath, and that was when we found the sheath for the knife. Apparently when he pulled the knife out of the dirt, he actually pulled it out of the sheath too."

Allen and his father have kept the knife in storage all this time. They even brought it to a pow-wow at the Fairgrounds a few years ago, but nobody there was any help.

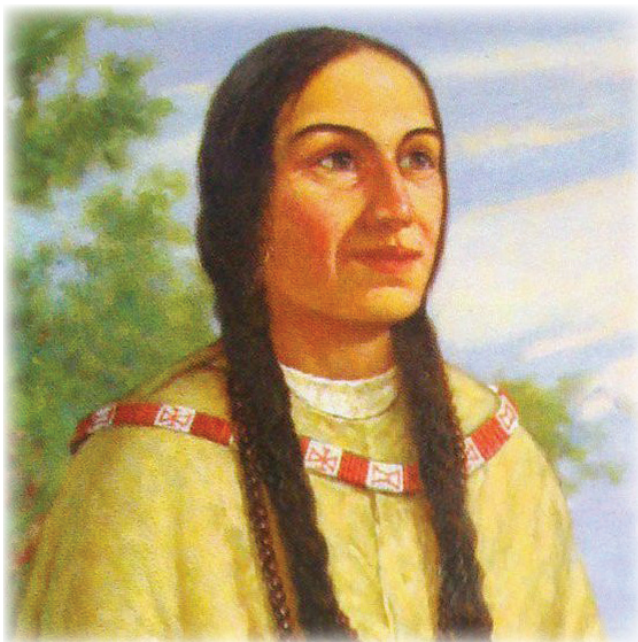
"We've kept it all this time, and we never really did much research about it, we just held onto it," Allen said. "He had it in his gun safe. Then about three years ago when I was bored at work I did some research, and that's when I found I



Front and back views, sheathed and unsheathed. Photos provided by Brandon Allen.



Closer detail of the designs on the blade.



Madeline La Framboise



Closer view of the handle.

was on the east side of the lake, right along the fence line where the water plant is. We were walking behind Pebble Beach where there used to be a path, and my dad just about stepped on the arrowhead handle of the knife. The arrowhead in the handle was sticking out of the ground. He noticed it, so he pulled it out and there was the knife. Like three

found all the information about Lady La Framboise who ran the fur trade post back in the early 1800s, right about where Stoney Lakeside Park is now. I emailed someone about it and I never heard back, and then I joined the Lowell chatter [Facebook] page and I thought that I'd share it on there."

The knife caught the

online community's attention, including the local museum, who showed the images to their expert. The verdict was that it's likely a reproduction, but the case is not completely closed yet.

"We heard back from an archaeologist who doesn't think that this is an old trader knife, likely newer," said Lisa Plank, executive

director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. "We are still waiting to hear back from another contact, and I referred Brandon to the Michigan Archaeological Society as well."

"It's still really cool," Allen said. "Even if it was only made for a reenactment or something, it was still made with purpose."



# Badly injured MI drivers may not stay in 'Good Hands of Allstate'

Allstate wants to spin off its old Michigan-only auto insurance claims into separate companies, a move that has one insurance expert concerned the insurer is trying to wall itself off from being ultimately responsible for the claims of those injured in catastrophic car crashes.

In what's believed to be the first instance of this, Allstate is proposing to move certain open Michigan auto claims under former policies with its Allstate, Encompass and Esurance brands into the new companies, according to internal corporate documents obtained by the Michigan Information & Research Service.

The claims affected would include certain Personal Injury Protection, Bodily Injury, Uninsured Bodily Injury and Underinsured Bodily Injury claims that terminated as of Dec. 31, 2019. The new companies would hold and service those open claims but not write any new business.

The new companies, while still part of Allstate holdings, would be stand-alone, self-sustaining companies and "have no right to access capital from Allstate," although the company said it "will ensure these companies have adequate capital to pay claims," according to the internal document. Allstate said new and existing customers would not be affected.

But one insurance expert critical of the move questioned why Allstate would separate itself from older auto claims, which he said are tied to those catastrophically injured in car crashes and receiving long-term medical care.

"Allstate is just doing its level best to ensure that its old consumers are no longer in the good hands of Allstate, but they're off in this, kind of, separate, less-protected corporate entity," said Douglas Heller of the Consumer Federation of America, who consults with the Coalition to Protect Auto No-Fault here in Michigan and other nonprofits across the country.

Heller said the move tells him that Allstate believes the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association is in trouble, which Heller found puzzling, as he said there's no risk to the insurer once a legacy claim hits \$580,000 in costs, which is the level of when insurers get reimbursed by the MCCA for PIP medical claims, provided the MCCA comes through on the reimbursements.

Yet Allstate, in a 2018

regulatory filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, said it has "exposure" tied to the MCCA, and that to the "extent the MCCA assessment to members results in a premium insufficient to reimburse its ultimate obligation on existing claims to member companies, our ability to obtain the 100 percent indemnification of ultimate loss could be impaired" which "could have a material effect on our results of operations and financial condition."

When Heller was read that statement, he said the fact that Allstate said "that out loud" is "all the more reason that we insist that Allstate remain responsible for" the policyholders with outstanding claims.

In a 2020 SEC filing provided to MIRS by Allstate itself, the insurer said when it comes to participating in states' indemnification programs, the company's "largest exposure" is to the MCCA.

Allstate said a "significant portion" of claim reserves and recoverables are tied "to a small number of catastrophic claims that occurred more than five years ago and continue to pay lifetime benefits," and acknowledged many MCCA claims deal with injuries that "are catastrophic in nature, resulting in serious permanent disabilities that require attendant and residential care for periods that may span decades."

If the MCCA somehow didn't come through on its obligations to the insurers, that could mean Allstate is on the hook for them, Heller said, except those old policies are being moved to the new proposed

companies, which he noted wouldn't take in new income because they won't be writing new policies.

On top of that, Heller raised concerns about the recent decline in the MCCA's revenue source - the yearly assessment to drivers who carry unlimited PIP coverage - which is used to reimburse insurers for the legacy claims beyond the \$580,000 threshold.

The MCCA assessment just dropped to \$86 for the year beginning July 2021, after the assessment hit \$222 in 2019. Not only that, but drivers who decline buying unlimited coverage don't have to pay the assessment.

In response to whether Allstate is pursuing this move to shield the insurer from being on the hook for old claims if the MCCA falters on reimbursing insurance carriers, company spokesperson Joyce Buford said no.

"The divided companies help address the natural split in Michigan personal injury protection policies that are expected to use lower levels of PIP coverage, allowing us to more effectively manage our Michigan auto business and protect customers," Buford said.

In its internal document, Allstate said the expected payouts for the company's PIP claims are "significant" and are listed as a reinsurance recoverable from the MCCA.

"Rating agencies have historically required substantial capital be held for this recoverable, making it difficult for Allstate to achieve a fair return on capital and limiting our ability to grow in the state," the document stated.

Allstate said in the document that the 2019

Michigan law that stopped the long-standing requirement to purchase unlimited lifetime medical benefits as part of auto insurance in Michigan did not "address the challenges due to thousands of existing PIP claims that occurred prior to reform."

The company, however, also said "there is no direct relationship" between the decision to spin off the new companies and the auto reform law in Michigan, because Allstate has "been proactively exploring solutions to strengthen our business model in Michigan for years as part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement," according to another internal document, in response to a question about whether Allstate was doing this because of the new auto reforms.

Allstate would be the first company to take advantage of a new law approved in 2019 in Illinois allowing for an insurance company to divide itself and allocate assets and liabilities between them.

A public hearing on Allstate's request took place this week before a retired Illinois justice who served as a hearing officer. He took

testimony from both the company and the Illinois Department of Insurance.

Both parties said in closing statements that they support the move, and the judge said she would take the request under advisement and didn't immediately issue a ruling.

The acting director of IDOI, Dana Popish-Sheveringhaus previously worked for Allstate as its legislative and regulatory counsel. Heller said this is likely happening in Illinois because Allstate may have "wanted it" and that Allstate "wields incredible political power" in Illinois.

Heller said he couldn't understand why an insurance regulator would say to Allstate that "the most vulnerable people that deal with your business, those who have severe injuries that count on you to pay claims all the time, we're going to let you" move them into a new company that "has no income, no long-term revenue."

Heller said he hasn't seen other companies attempt to do what Allstate is doing, but he said the concern to him is whether Allstate will be "a trend setter."

In response to a request for comment about this

matter, including whether other auto insurers in Michigan might start doing this, the Insurance Alliance of Michigan said it does not comment on business decisions made by its member companies.

Meanwhile, the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services confirmed recently it has received applications from new companies that would operate in Michigan if Allstate's request were approved in Illinois.

DIFS spokesperson Laura Hall said insurance business transfers or corporate divisions are a new thing in the US and this particular situation is the first for putting a Michigan insurance business in a separate company.

Hall said DIFS is "currently reviewing these applications to ensure the new companies meet our licensure and statutory requirements, and that the companies are safe, reliable, and entitled to public confidence."

To DIFS' role in the process, Heller said the Michigan question at hand is "what will DIFS do? Will DIFS step in and say, no, we don't want to see this in our state?"

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## The Lowell Rotary Club

is accepting grant applications from local non-profit organizations seeking financial assistance with projects. Grant eligibility requirements and the grant application can be found at our website [www.lowellrotary.org](http://www.lowellrotary.org) if you have any questions email us at [info@lowellrotary.org](mailto:info@lowellrotary.org). The deadline for applying is March 16.

# Happy St. Patrick's Day



Katie, Carrie, Paige, Nora, Dr Jim, Julie

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- BOWLING

# SPORTS

## Bowlers best Huskies

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

The Lowell Red Arrow bowling team has a new home lane after bowling at Ionia the last few seasons. LHS will now have their home matches at Hillcrest Lanes in Belding. While this is a new environment, the Red Arrows certainly felt at home in their wins over Forest Hills Northern.

On one side of the alley, Lowell hosted Forest Hills Northern, and on the other Belding was hosting Grandville Calvin Christian. COVID restrictions have impacted the sport of bowling this season, with

face coverings required for both student-athletes and spectators at all times. Outside of that, things felt fairly close to normal for the bowling matches at Hillcrest Lanes. Plenty of excitement as each team battled and the familiar sound of pins being knocked down.

Jakob Reynolds led the way for the Red Arrow boys against the Huskies with a team-high game of 220. Lucas Sloma followed with a 218. The Lady Arrows were paced by returning state-qualifier Courtney Witten, who bowling a game-high

223. Teammate Haylie Beers followed up with a 189.

For the Lady Arrows it was their second win of the season over the Huskies. Lowell is having a great year so far with a record of 7-3-1. After a 30-0 loss to FHN earlier in the year, the boys were able to bound back for a 17-13 win over the Huskies.

Lowell hosted Byron Center on Monday at Hillcrest, and is on the road Wednesday traveling to Forest Hills Central. This year's bowling teams are coached by Chris Witten.



Jakob Reynolds led the way for the LHS boys in a win over FHN.



Savannah Escobedo goes for a strike against FHN.

- GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Girls ride strong start to win over FHN

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

It was senior night for the Lady Arrows last Thursday as Lowell took on Forest Hills Northern. Prior to the game, teammates Addison Bruwer and Bailey Walters were honored as a part of the senior night festivities for the girls basketball team.

On the court, Lowell took it to Forest Hills Northern from the start. After losing to the Huskies 53-45 to start the season, Lowell looked every bit as ready for the Huskies this go-around. LHS jumped out to a 16-7 lead after the

first quarter, and posted a rare shutout in the second quarter, going on a 12-0 run that extended into the third.

Lowell was able to coast to a 49-23 victory from there. Lowell was led in scoring by Braxcynn Baker with 14 points and Piper Risdon with 11. In a win the previous Saturday over FHC, the duo of Baker and Risdon combined for 38 points, 26 of which came from Baker who also went 13 of 14 from the free-throw line.

The Lady Arrows are

4-7 on the season, but have won three of their last four including a 54-33 win over Northview on Friday. Their lone loss in the past couple weeks was a 77-38 loss to Rockford. The Rams are currently the top-ranked team in Lowell's district.

Lowell is home this week against Byron Center and Zeeland East. Former Lowell boys basketball assistant coach Connor Hoke will be making a return to LHS. He is the current varsity girls basketball coach at Zeeland East.



Senior Addison Bruwer chases down a loose ball against FHN.

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Red Arrow

- HOCKEY

# SPORTS

## Busy couple weeks for Lowell Caledonia hockey

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

It's been a busy two weeks for the Lowell-Caledonia ice hockey team that included five wins, two losses and a draw.

Lowell-Caledonia rebounded from their first tie of the season, against Grand Rapids Christian, in a rematch with the Eagles last Tuesday. The Eagles held LC to a 1-1 draw last Saturday. The Eagles also drew with FHNE for the conference's other tie.

LC struck first against Grand Rapids Christian with goals by Nick Lockhart and Owen Carpenter to take a 2-0 lead headed into the second period. Goals from Austin Douma and Ryan Kieliszewski, coupled with two GR Christian goals put the score at 4-2 as the second period came to a close. A major penalty on Lowell-Caledonia would be a potential gamechanger.

Grand Rapids Christian responded with a goal early in the powerplay, but a shorthanded goal from Austin Douma early in the third period would help deflate the Eagles' momentum and keep Lowell Caledonia comfortably ahead. They killed off the major, but GR Christian would pull one back later on in the period.

Down 5-4, GR Christian was forced to pull their goalie and Lowell-Caledonia finished off the win with a Lockhart empty-net goal, making it 6-4. Carpenter tallied three assists on the night.

LC sits at second in the conference behind an on-fire Mona Shores team, sitting at 12-1 on the season. Lowell-Caledonia gave the Sailors a tough test, with the game tied at 3-3 with just six minutes to play. However, the Sailors rattled off three straight goals to end the game.

Other games



Lowell-Caledonia and Grand Rapids Christian battle for the puck.

included an 8-0 win over Hudsonville, 5-2 loss to East Grand Rapids, 2-1 win over Forest Hills Central, a

6-0 win over Walled Lake Western, and a 4-1 win over Oxford/Avondale. Dylan Olsen would end up scoring

the game-winner with six minutes to play.

The team closes out the regular season this week

with games against Forest Hills Northern/Eastern, Mona Shores, and East Grand Rapids.

- BOYS BASKETBALL

## Second win of the season for Lowell boys basketball

by Justin Scott  
Contributing reporter

Friday night's matchup with Northview looked daunting for the Red Arrows. Lowell lost to Northview by 33 points the last time they played, and the Wildcats are one of the area's top-10 teams. Lowell however, seemed unfazed by that

challenge as they gave Northview a test last Friday night.

The Red Arrows kept pace with Northview's talented offense closing the gap on the scoreboard to just one late in the second quarter. Northview responded with a quick run

to pull ahead 37-27 entering the second half. LHS would not be able to make up for that run, eventually falling 68-55.

In a game just one day later, the squad bounced back with a non-conference victory over Hopkins by a score of 71-63. Three players

scored in double digits including Landon Grant with 23 points. Troy Taylor (22) and Kaleb Siebert (11) also paced the Red Arrows. The Red Arrows fell to Forest Hills Northern 75-30 earlier in the week. LHS has games against Byron Center and Hastings this week.

### JV Basketball Summary

**Girls, March 2 vs. FHN - loss 22-59**  
**March 5 vs. Northview - loss 28-36**  
**March 6 vs. Rockford - loss 20-80**

**Boys, March 5 vs. Northview - loss 48-55**  
**March 6 vs. Hopkins - win 56-24**



Brad VandenHout looks for a teammate in Lowell's game against Northview.

Remember to

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If you have a local story, a story idea or an upcoming event - "Let the Ledger Know!"

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When submitting copy, place it into the body of the email.

If you have pictures, attach them as jpegs. Make sure you identify everyone in the picture and explain the photo.

BY PHONE - 616-897-9261

All stories submitted will be reviewed and may be published in either The Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide or online at [thelowellledger.com](http://thelowellledger.com)!

## obituaries

### MATHEWS



John Oliver Mathews, "Jack", age 85, of Ada, went home to be with his Heavenly Father on Monday, March 8, 2021. He was born to Harry and Sarah Mathews, in the only house he lived in, on September 19, 1935. He graduated from Lowell High

School in 1953. On the fourth of July 1956, he met the love of his life, Lorraine "June" Benjamin, and they were married on April 12, 1957 at the old Alton Bible Church in Lowell.

Jack served in the National Guard from 1957 to 1962. In their early marriage, Jack and June operated a beef cattle and dairy farm and custom crops. In 1966, Jack and June started Tip Top Tank & Gravel Company at the farm on East Fulton Rd in Ada. The market for sand and gravel continued to grow, so they decided to expand to sand and gravel production and excavation. Tip Top Gravel Company continues to this day, fifty-five years later. All three of Jack's children, along with his granddaughter, carry on the legacy of working at Tip Top to this day. It is said that Jack built this company from dirt!

Jack's hobbies in his teen years included playing guitar and playing saxophone in the Lowell High School concert and jazz bands. He also enjoyed showing cattle in the Kent County 4H fair, singing in the Lowell Showboat Choir from 1949 to 1956; hunting, cutting wood and horseback riding.

Jack's main purpose throughout his life was to serve his Lord and Savior. He served in various areas at Alton Bible Church including being instrumental in founding the AWANA Clubs. He served as a leader and director in the boys' clubs of AWANA for 38+ years. Jack also served on the church board as a deacon and elder and was always willing to lend a hand or equipment to any project to further God's Kingdom. In the late seventies, Jack was part of the construction of the newest facility of Alton Bible Church on the corner of Lincoln Lake Rd. and 3 Mile Rd. in Lowell. The legacy of Jack Mathews is that he treated everyone as family and wanted everyone around him to know about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Romans 10:13 "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Jack is survived by his wife of 63 years, June; children, Alan (Jayne) Mathews, Susan (Kim) Chase, and Steven (Nancie) Mathews; grandchildren, Abbey (Chris) Sells, Jason (Julie) Mathews, and Jordan Beimers; great grandchildren, Declan Sells; Jonathan, Andrew and Jacob Mathews; Logan, Everett, Nora, Eloise and Kennedy Beimers; June's siblings, Chuck (Mary) Benjamin, Nora (Tom) Boguslaski and David (Nancy) Benjamin; and several cousins, nieces and nephews. Jack is preceded in death by his parents, sister-in-law, Nancy Mills Benjamin; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Kathryn and Pete Timinskis; and granddaughter, Meghan Beimers.

The family would be honored to hear stories about Jack at the visitation on Friday, March 12, 2021 from 4-7 pm and from 10:00 am to the time of the service on Saturday, March 13 at Alton Bible Church, 2780 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell, Michigan. A celebration of Jack's life will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2021, at 11:00am, at Alton Bible Church, with Pastor Ken Ford officiating. Burial at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell will take place at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be given in Jack's name to Tanalian Bible Camp, with a separate note stating, "McGee Family Support". Tanalian Bible Camp, PO Box 176, Port Alsworth, Alaska 99653 or Alton Bible Church parking lot fund.



## Social Security and Women's History Month

In March, we celebrate Women's History Month. Social Security has served a vital role in the lives of women for more than 80 years.

Women have longer life expectancies than men, which means they live more years in retirement and have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. It's important for women to plan early and wisely for retirement.

Our benefits portal at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement) provides detailed information about

how life events can affect your Social Security retirement benefits. These events may include marriage, widowhood, divorce, self-employment, government service, and other life or career changes.

Your earnings history will determine your benefits, so we encourage you to verify that this information is correct. You can create your personal *my Social Security* account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) and view your earnings history. If you find an error with your earnings, it is

important to get it corrected so you receive the benefits you earned. Our publication, *How to Correct Your Social Security Earnings Record* at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf), provides you with details on making a correction.

If you would like to learn more about how we can help women plan for retirement, check out our online booklet, *Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know*. You can find it at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10127.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10127.pdf).

Please consider sharing it with family and friends. It could change their lives for the better.

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

## ABC's continued

### LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 21-208795-DE

Estate of  
KENNETH M. LYON.  
Date of birth:  
09/24/1944

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS: The  
decendent, Kenneth M.  
Lyon, died 01/22/2021.

Creditors of the  
decendent are notified  
that all claims against

the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Pamela Phillips, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

March 3, 2021

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

Pamela Phillips  
2657 Newstead Ave.,  
S.W.  
Wyoming, MI 49509

was where the owner often sat and explained the plot as it unfolded - sometimes getting ahead of the action. The Vaudette was not open every night, but it did offer a Saturday matinee."

The known names of the Vaudette here were The Idle Hour Theater and The Ideal Vaudette. A trip to the Vaudette was described by a former employee as the "Mecca of village childhood."

The following newspaper snippets tell a story of what the Vaudette once meant to Lowell young people.

1907 - "A complete surprise was given Miss Viola Morse last evening when fourteen of her school friends walked in and reminded her of her fifteenth birthday. Games were played and dainty refreshments served after which Viola took all the girls to the Vaudette."

1909 - "The Ideal Vaudette was sold by Frank Hawk to Saunders & Edwards of St. Johns, who gave their opening show last Saturday to a good patronage."

1913 - "A benefit picture show was given at the Idle Hour Vaudette to Monday evening, proceeds to go to the relief fund, receipts amounting to \$46.30."

1914 - "The pictures of Homer's "Odessa" given at the Vaudette Thursday afternoon of last week, were educationally beneficial as well as being financially a success."

1916 - Moseley - "Misses Helen Andrews and Louganis Church and Peter Peterson attended the Vaudette in Lowell Sunday evening."

Though the Vaudette is long gone from Lowell, the memories remain, along with the longing for social affairs that are able to excite the young and old.

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misc.

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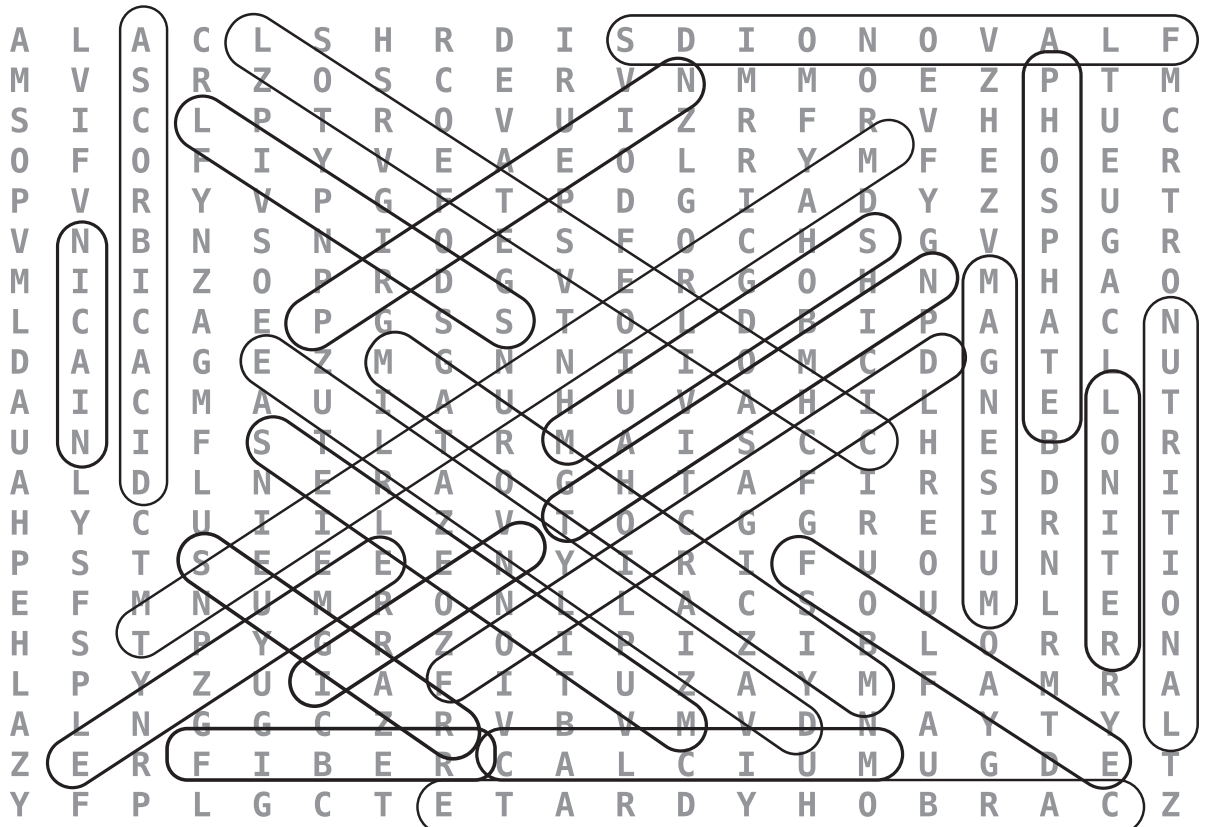
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like SCARAB, SCHEMATA, FIERILY, PSALTER, AMIDMENT, ICAL, RE, RICES, AAR, SAMAR, AAHS, EMMET, SATO, DNA, SAE, SIB, TIU, STAT, PARRROT, METER, AMINE, EPILOG, MESA, DIS, DAL, FAD, RAD, USES, BEERS, ACNE, SODAS, SWA, APHIS, AD, PASSES, ENGER, MK, SEVILLE, CURIOUS, SARTRE, STYLES

Grid of numbers for a puzzle solution, ranging from 1 to 9.



# Baseball

# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

## UNDEFEATED LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM WINS GRAND VALLEY CHAMPIONSHIP

1949

The baseball team in 1949 won the first undisputed conference title in a number of years. Mr. Burch's charges held true to the name of the league dark horse, tagged upon them at the beginning of the season. The team had an abundance of veteran material which came through with good hitting, fielding and pitching. In the past six years, the Red Arrows have won a total of 16 games, which losing only 2; showing that the Burchmen have fared well in conference.



## Lowell Enters State Class B Baseball Finals

1974

Win Regionals



ALIVE IN DISTRICT

## McMahon Leads Lowell's Hitters

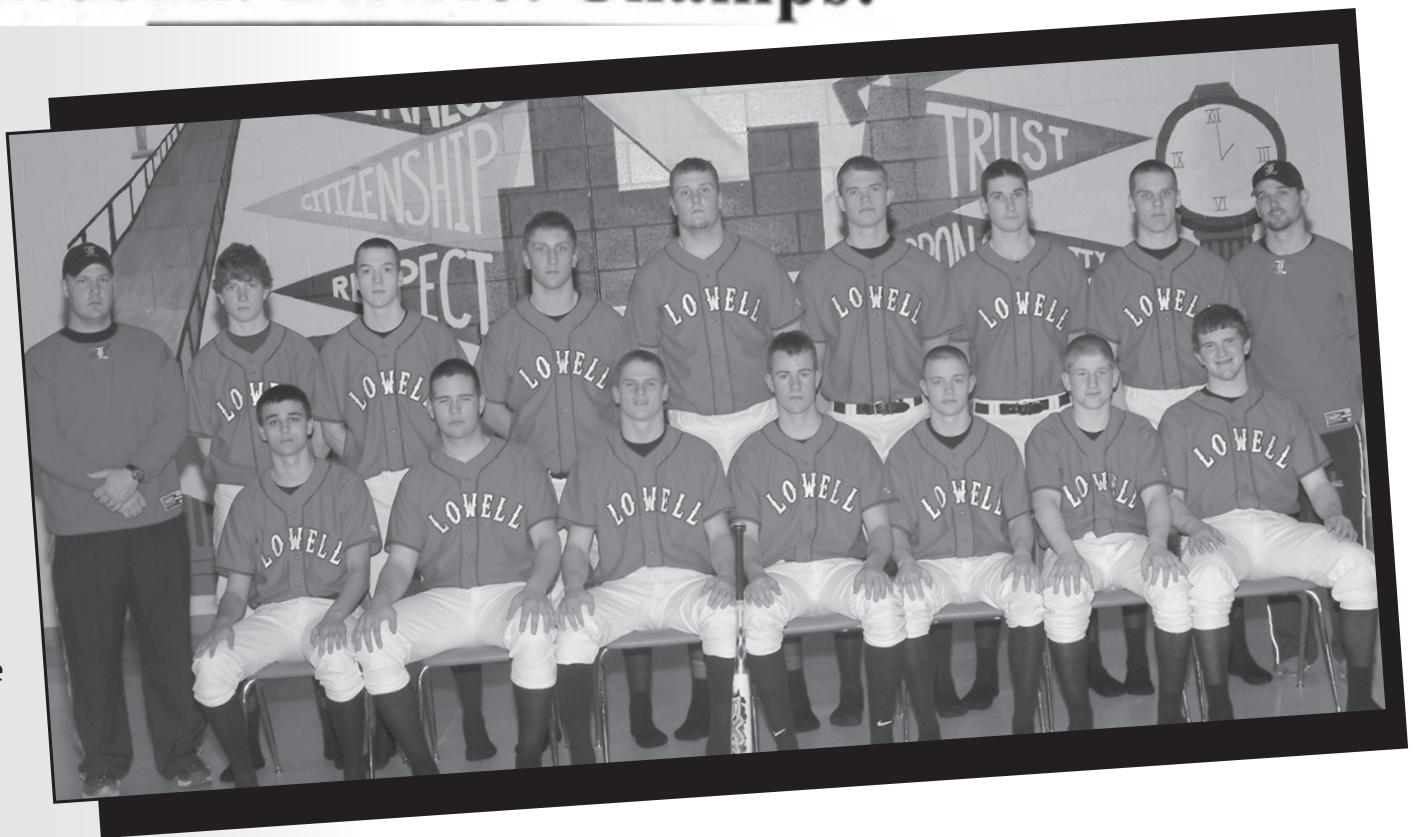
The 1974 varsity baseball team had a very rewarding season. With the team winning 16 games and only losing 6, they compiled an impressive record. The Tri-River Conference was Lowell's only downfall. The team dropped 5 conference games and won 7 for a third-place finish. The members that placed on the All-Conference team were Rusty Steffens, Ron Lyons, and Kevin McMahon. The team entered districts with an 11-5 record, but they improved it by winning 3 games for a district championship and 2 games for a regional championship. They went on to the state tournament and lost their only game which put them third in the state. Steffens was selected an All-State player, first team.

## Red Arrow baseball: District Champs!

2008

After the varsity baseball's annual trip to Gulf Shores, the team was energized and ready to start their season out right. The boys worked hard in order to keep the momentum going from 2007. They played to their strengths and achieved nearly every goal they set. The team ended their season with a 31-7 record, earned the titles of conference champs, district champs and regional champs and a number 10 ranking in the state.

All-Conference players were: Torsten Boss, Will Bryan, Zach Stephens and Josh Drake.



## Red Arrow baseball gets first league title in 35 years

# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

Level: Advanced

### 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!

# NUTRITION DATA WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

NUTRITION DATA WORD SEARCH

DAILY VALUE ENZYME

LIPIDS MACRONUTRIENT

PROTEIN RETINOL

ASCORBIC ACID  
CALCIUM  
CARBOHYDRATE  
CHOLESTEROL

FIBER  
FLAVONOIDS  
FOLATE  
FOLIC ACID  
IRON

MAGNESIUM  
MICROGRAM  
NIACIN  
NUTRITIONAL  
PHOSPHATE

SELENIUM  
SODIUM  
SUGAR  
THIAMIN

## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Oklahoma on March 10, 1983. When I was a child I sang with a church choir and also participated in talent shows. I gained fame while participating in a popular American singing competition, which I ultimately won.

Answer: Carrie Underwood

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to nutrition.

G K C O N I O

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

Answer: Cooking

	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		
	69								70					

### CLUES ACROSS

- Large dung beetle
- Representation of a plan
- In a fervid way
- The Book of Psalms
- Morning
- Exactly the same
- About
- Brown and basmati are two
- Swiss river
- Philippine island
- Expressions of surprise
- An ant
- Common Japanese surname
- Deoxyribonucleic acid
- Car mechanics group
- A person's brother or sister
- Ancient pharaoh
- Quantitative fact
- Vividly colored bird
- Your home has one
- Organic compound
- Section at the end of a book
- Flat tableland with steep edges
- Criticize
- Split pulses
- Brief trend

### CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Purposes
- Brews
- Skin condition
- Pops
- American air travel company
- Minute bug
- Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- One who rides in your car
- One of the Gospels
- City in southern Spain
- Inquisitive
- Jean Paul \_\_, author
- Pop singer Harry
- Mountain (abbr.)
- Landscaping practice
- Capacitance unit
- Redirect
- Hat for women
- In a way, dressed down
- Granny
- Feed
- Endpoint
- Indian instrument
- Bleated
- Cablegram (abbr.)
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Jellyfishes
- Individual TV installments
- Talk
- More (Spanish)
- Leaseholder
- Monetary units
- Hostility
- Work stations
- Linguistics giant
- Female sheep
- Calendar month
- Seasoning
- Lofty nest of a bird of prey
- Single Lens Reflex
- A way to remove
- Virginia
- Old English

# Today: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

**Wednesday, March 10 is the 69th day of the year. It's also Harriet Tubman Day and National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.**

**There are 296 days remaining until the end of 2021 and ten more days until spring.**

### Historic Events

**241 BC:** The Romans sink the Carthaginian fleet off the coast of Sicily during the Battle of the Aegates, bringing an end to the First Punic War.

**298:** Roman Emperor Maximian concludes his campaign against the Berbers in North Africa, making a triumphant entry into Carthage.

**1629:** King Charles I dissolves the English

Parliament, beginning the "Personal Rule" period, also known as the "Eleven Years Tyranny."

**1814:** Emperor Napoléon Bonaparte is defeated at the Battle of Laon, France.

**1830:** Creation of the Royal Netherlands East Indies Army.

**1848:** The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is ratified by the US Senate, officially ending the Mexican/American War.

**1876:** Alexander Graham Bell makes the first successful test of a telephone by saying, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you!"

**1891:** Almon Strowger patents the Strowger switch, also known as a step-by-step switch, the first commercially successful electromechanical stepping switch telephone exchange system.

**1906:** The worst mine disaster in the history of Europe kills 1,099 miners in Courrières, France.

**1922:** In India, Mahatma Gandhi is arrested, tried for sedition and sentenced to six years in prison. He will be released after two years to have an appendicitis operation.

**1933:** 108 people in the Los Angeles area are killed when an earthquake hits Long Beach.

**1945:** The US Army Air Force continues the 48-hour firebombing of Tokyo, eventually killing an estimated 100,000 civilians and leaving about a million people homeless.

**1949:** Mildred "Axis Sally" Gillars is the first woman in US history to be convicted of treason. She was an American radio broadcaster hired by the Nazis to disseminate propaganda aimed at US troops. The soldiers actually enjoyed the swing music records she played on her broadcasts but ridiculed her suggestions they surrender and her claims their girlfriends back home were cheating on them. Gillars was released from the Federal Reformatory for Women in Alderson, WV in 1961 and died of colon cancer in 1988.

**1952:** Fulgencio Batista leads a successful coup in Cuba.

**1959:** Fearing an

abduction attempt by China, thousands of Tibetans surround Norbulingka, the Dalai Lama's palace, to prevent his removal.

**1969:** James Earl Ray pleads guilty to the April 4, 1968 assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**1970:** Captain Ernest Medina is charged by the US military with My Lai war crimes. He is eventually acquitted.

**1977:** Astronomers James Elliot, Edward Dunham and Jessica Mink discover the rings of Uranus using NASA's Kuiper Airborne Observatory, a high altitude airplane outfitted with a high-powered telescope.

**1990:** Matthieu Prosper Avril is ousted 18 months after seizing power in a coup in Haiti. According to Amnesty International, Avril's presidency was "marred by serious human rights violations." He was arrested in 2001 but released

in 2004 after another coup.

**2006:** The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter arrives on Mars.

**2017:** South Korean president Park Geun-hye's impeachment is unanimously upheld by the Constitutional Court, thus ending her presidency.

**2020:** The World Health Organization officially declares the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

### Birthdays

**1452:** King Ferdinand II of Castile and León

**1503:** Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand I

**1772:** Karl Wilhelm Friedrich Schlegel, poet, critic

**1787:** Francisco de Paula Martínez de la Rosa y Berdejo, prime minister of Spain

**1845:** Emperor Alexander III of Russia

**1903:** Bix Beiderbecke, cornet player, pianist, composer

**1903:** Clare Boothe Luce, author, politician

**1920:** Alfred Peet, founder of Peet's Coffee & Tea

**1928:** James Earl Ray, assassin

**1938:** Norman Blake, singer/songwriter, guitarist

**1940:** Chuck Norris, actor, martial artist

**1947:** Kim Campbell, prime minister of Canada

**1947:** Tom Scholz, musician, Boston

**1952:** Morgan Tsvangirai, prime minister of Zimbabwe

**1957:** Osama Bin Laden, terrorist

**1958:** Sharon Stone, actor

**1962:** Jasmine Guy, actor

**1963:** Jeff Ament, bass player, Pearl Jam

**1963:** Rick Rubin, record producer

**1964:** Neneh Cherry, singer/songwriter

**1964:** Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex

**1966:** Edie Brickell, singer/songwriter

**1971:** Jon Hamm, actor



Edward Baker Lincoln, the second son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, was born March 10, 1846 in Springfield, IL. He died of "chronic consumption" (specific cause unknown, but probably either tuberculosis or cancer) on Feb. 1, 1850.



Award-winning record producer Rick Rubin (second from right), pictured here with the Beastie Boys, has worked on albums by artists from diverse genres, including Johnny Cash, Slayer, Run-DMC, Neil Diamond, Metallica and Tom Petty. Rubin was born in Long Beach, NY on March 10, 1963.

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