

Tuckertown Forge



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LowellArts "Trial of Goldilocks"



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Gov. Whitmer visits Cherry Creek Elementary



On Monday, March 22, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was here in Lowell, where she visited with students and faculty at Cherry Creek Elementary, 12675 Foreman.

"Our friends at Cherry Creek Elementary had the opportunity to meet Governor Whitmer today as she toured to see the effects of the pandemic on our students," said a Lowell Area Schools post on Facebook. "Not only were they able to meet our governor, Superintendent Fowler and Principal Veldman also had an opportunity to advocate on their behalf."

Spring Fling and Cookie Adventure downtown on Saturday, April 17

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

ABCs of history



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Two simultaneous special shopping themed events will take over downtown Lowell from noon until 5 pm on Saturday April 17.

"It's time to think spring, put on your sunglasses and flip flops [and] pull out the snacks and refreshments as you shop," said Liz Baker, executive director of the

org. Additionally, if you get your Spring Fling postcard stamped, you can enter to win one of four shopping bags of Lowell-related prizes.

Retailers will include Ability Weavers, Adventures by Lori, All Weather Seal, All-Natural Promises, Avon by Sherry,



WearForward and YMCA Lowell.

Meanwhile, "passports" for the Cookie Adventure are on sale now for \$10 at the Chamber of Commerce office on the Riverwalk during their regular business hours, Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. They are limiting the

Dierdre's Cakes and Bakes.

The 10 stops on the Cookie Adventure will be All Weather Seal, Fans in the Stands, Kent District Library, Lavender and Lace Boutique, North Star Antiques, Red Barn Consignments and Antiques, Rookies Sportcards Plus, Station Salon and Tap House

Street Inn, McDonald's, MI Hometown Furnishings, New Union Brewery, North Star Antiques, Olivia Grace Salon and Facial Bar, Red Barn Consignments and Antiques, Rogers Neighborhood Realty, Rookies Sportcards Plus, Sneaker's, Station Salon, Tap House Bo, Versiti,



LHS sports

pages 10-11



Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "Our merchants are posting several specials and ideas on their Facebook and websites."

During the event, all participating retailers will have freebies, discounts and other special offers for Spring Flingers. Specific details are available at discoverlowell.

Bella Grace Boutique, Big Boiler Brewing, Creative Party Bug, FanDangled Custom Apparel, Fans in the Stands, Flat River Cottage, Flat River Gallery and Framing, Flat River Grill, Kent District Library, Kona Ice, Lavender and Lace Boutique, M21 Nutrition, Main Street BBQ, Main



passports to 100, so it might be a good idea to act fast on this one.

Proceeds from this Cookie Adventure will go toward the new Lowell Showboat.

During the event, you can get the passport stamped at all 10 stops, you will receive a specialty cookie made by

Bo. "Thank you for supporting small businesses," Baker said. "When you support a small business you're supporting a dream."

For more information, call 616-897-9161 or send a message to membersupport@lowellchamber.org.

50¢



LowellArts to present COVID casualty play “The Trial of Goldilocks”



Feb. 2020 rehearsal photos with the original cast supplied by Teresa Goldner. Some of these actors are returning for the current production.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

LowellArts has announced that their Youth Theater group will go ahead with performances of “The Trial of Goldilocks” by Joseph Robinette next month.

It was originally scheduled for March 2020, but canceled for the pandemic.

According to the LowellArts website, “this exciting comedy examines the familiar fairy tale from

three points of view: the traditional, the bears, then Goldilocks.”

“The Trial of Goldilocks” tells the story of Goldilocks and three bears from three different sides,” said Teresa Goldner, the production’s director in a March 2020 interview with the Ledger. “As we know, there is always more than one side to every story. The jury is made up of fellow nursery rhyme characters. We have

Little Bo Peep, Little Red Riding Hood, one of the Three Blind Mice and Old Mother Hubbard, just to name a few.”

“Goldilocks is facing charges of breaking and entering and is pleading her case to a jury of her peers,” Goldner said in a press release. “The defense and prosecuting attorneys have selected a jury and the trial was about to begin. We are committed to holding all parties responsible for their role in these events, and will continue fighting for a ‘happily-ever-after’ conclusion for all

involved.”

The cast includes Lowell area youth and teen actors ages eight and up, including Ellory Duimstra, Wyatt Duimstra, Amelia Herrera, Adria Herring, Neil LaPonsie, Olivia Meekhof, Eleanor Pastor, Adelaide Plank, Victor Preiss, Jozelyn Stroud,

working with the kids. Some of the cast has been in previous shows and some are new to the stage. It is fun watching all the kids develop their characters and bring the story to life. We started rehearsals in the middle of January, meeting just a couple nights a week. The kids memorize their

“Trial of Goldilocks” will take place at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes, on Friday, April 16 at 7 pm and Saturday, April 17 at 11 am and 2:30 pm.

Tickets to the performances are \$5 for either in person or



Calla Swayze, Brody Swift, Stella Tessmer and Olivia VanGroningen.

“The cast is made up of all kids ranging in ages from fourth grade to eighth grade,” Goldner said. “It has been very enjoyable

lines very quickly, which helps, so we can spend more time developing their characters and acting skill.”

Performances of “The

livestream access, and they are available at showtix4u.com or by calling 616-897-8545. For more information, visit lowellartsmi.org.

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER Job Posting

Journeyman Line Worker

Currently LL&P is seeking a full-time Journeyman Line Worker to be responsible for the operation, maintenance and construction of electric distribution, transmission, and associated equipment of the LL&P electric system. A detailed job description, minimum qualifications, and a job application can be found at <http://www.lowell-light.org>. Competitive benefits package includes: health, dental, life, STD and LTD insurance, a defined contribution retirement plan, a 457 deferred compensation plan, and six weeks of vacation earned within the first years of service. Starting wage is \$44.89 per hour. Within six (6) months of hire, there is a residency requirement within 30 minutes of the City limits and obtainment of a CDL Class B.

Apprentice Line Worker

Currently LL&P is seeking a full-time Apprentice Line Worker with a minimum of 3000 hours credit to be responsible for the operation, maintenance and construction of electric distribution, transmission, and associated equipment of the LL&P electric system. A job application can be found at <http://www.lowell-light.org>. Competitive benefits package includes: health, dental, life, STD and LTD insurance, a defined contribution retirement plan, a 457 deferred compensation plan, and six weeks of vacation earned within the first years of service. Starting wage depends on time credit. Must possess a CDL Class B.

Please submit resume, cover letter, and employment application no later than April 3, 2021 to: Lowell Light & Power; Human Resources; PO Box 229; Lowell, MI 49331 or via email to customerservice@lowell-light.org.



VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a special meeting of the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider agenda business as summarized below:

A public hearing will be held on a final PUD site plan for a home development (Flat River Vista) that is located at the end of Triple Oak Dr. off Lincoln Lake Ave. The development is proposing 14 lots with permanently preserved open space along the Flat River.

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

Vergennes Township Planning Commission



the lowell ledger

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PFCU will match next \$7,500 in Showboat donations

There is still time to buy a commemorative Lowell Showboat brick, and several naming opportunities are still up for grabs.

Furthermore, Portland Federal Credit Union announced last week that they will match dollar-for-dollar the next \$7,500 in donations, potentially raising a further \$15,000 for the project.

These opportunities will go away forever on Tuesday, April 20. Contact the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce for more details.



MI Senate denounces Nessel for not investigating nursing homes

Senate Republicans passed a resolution Thursday morning denouncing Attorney General Dana Nessel for not investigating whether the Whitmer administration's decision to allow COVID-19 positive patients back into nursing homes caused more deaths.

Sen. Jim Runestad's (R-White Lake) SR 31 said Nessel should also look into the problems with the administration not clearly releasing numbers on whether nursing home residents died due to COVID-19 at their home or at the hospital.

The Oakland County senator said Nessel is turning a "blind eye" to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "foolhardy nursing home policies and the predictably terrible outcomes."

"Instead of making the right choice, she chose to protect political allies and put the powerful over the victims and their families here in Michigan," Runestad

said. The reason Nessel isn't investigating the Whitmer administration is because there is no "there" there, said Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint).

"I shouldn't have to remind you that policy disagreements are not a crime, and looking for a crime, where there is none, because it serves your agenda, is as low as it gets," Ananich said.

Whitmer was asked whether the administration made a mistake last spring in allowing nursing home residents to return home before they were completely clear of COVID by WDET radio host Stephen Henderson Thursday morning.

"If you went back in a time machine and knew everything you knew about the virus today, would you do some things differently? Yes, of course, but considering the little information we had about this novel virus, the

work we did saved lives," Whitmer said.

Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) attempted to strike a line in the resolution stating that Whitmer's administration required nursing homes to accept their COVID-infected residents back before they had recovered.

This line is not true, he said, no matter how many times Republicans continue to repeat it. Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D-Beverly Hills) said she lived through this situation with her elderly mother and can personally attest that her mother was not forced to go back to her nursing home before she recovered from COVID.

"We're using patient deaths here for a political game," Hertel said.

Runestad said Executive Order 2020-50 did force nursing homes to accept COVID-19 patients and "anyone saying otherwise is not being truthful or is playing clever word games."

The order reads, "a long-term care facility must not prohibit admission or readmission of a resident based on COVID-19 testing requirement or results in a manner that is inconsistent with relevant guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. [...] The long-term care facility of origin must accept the return of the resident, provided it can meet the medical needs of the resident and there are no statutory grounds to refuse the return, as soon as capacity allows."

Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) attempted to add a provision calling on an investigation into former President Trump's delayed reaction last year to the coronavirus and whether that cost the lives of thousands of Michigan residents.

"If we're interested in finding out what happened and how we got to this place where one year later we're still dealing with this, there's one place we need to be



MI Attorney General Dana Nessel

looking and this resolution needs to be amended to find that spot," Irwin said.

After defeating Hertel and Irwin's amendments and passing SR 31 on a party-line

vote, the Senate passed SR 32, which gives the Senate Health and Human Services Committee the power to subpoena state departments for records and files.

Republicans consider special prosecutor to explore COVID deaths

In the wake of Attorney General Dana Nessel denying a Republican request to investigate the governor's nursing home policies, some Republicans are now considering appointing a special prosecutor.

Sen. Jim Runestad (R-White Lake) confirmed he's discussing the issue with the Senate and House right now as Macomb County Prosecutor Pete Lucido explores the issue in

his home county.

"The most important decision of this governor's tenure" during the early days of the pandemic was the decision to allow COVID-19-positive seniors to return to nursing homes, Runestad argued.

The governor argues her administration followed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations at the time and safety protocols were put

in place. Runestad said the executive order that allowed for the practice was a lethal mistake that cost hundreds their lives.

Senate Republicans also started an online petition drive to urge Nessel to begin investigating the governor's nursing home policies.

In addition, Runestad wants to quiz former DHHS Director Dr. Robert Gordon now that he is not bound by his original confidentially

agreement with the governor and he concludes the one-page letter Gordon shared with the House Oversight Committee will not cut it.

"People want to know, 'Why did my loved one die,'" Runestad said. "We're getting stonewalled everywhere and a one-pager is not going to do it."

Runestad said if the alleged stonewalling

continues, he would pull the special prosecutor trigger.

"It's that or subpoenas that we will issue to get people to testify," Runestad said.

Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) argues the legislature does not have the authority to do that.

"At this point, there is no evidence that what he's alleging occurred and there is no special prosecutor

to the legislature with any law that I know of," Hertel said. "We've already had oversight committees. We've had subpoenas. We've had all that stuff and none of that has amounted to a hill of beans. [...] He wants to appoint something that doesn't exist in order to figure out a situation that did not happen. [...] I think this is absolutely about politics."

Yep we cover Retirement



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Kent County Health Department warns of increase in COVID-19 positivity rate

Number of cases, positivity rate and hospitalizations all increasing

The Kent County Health Department is alerting the community to the reality that COVID-19 cases, positivity rate and hospitalizations are all increasing.

Over the past week, the average number of new Kent County cases per day has increased from approximately 75 to over 100, including the 178 which were reported on March 17. The county's positivity rate has increased to 5.4 percent after two months of a four percent rate. Local hospitals are also reporting an increase in COVID-19 inpatient admissions. These increases reflect trends being observed in many other parts of Michigan and around the world.

"It is critically important for everyone to remember that the arrival of coronavirus variants and prematurely relaxed attitudes about COVID-19, put our community in grave danger of a resurgence in cases and deaths," said Dr. Adam London, Kent County Health Department's administrative health officer. "Our county has already lost at least 656 residents to this pandemic. We do not want to see anyone else lose their life, especially when we are so near to the end of this pandemic."

Public health and healthcare officials urge people to continue adhering to the prevention strategies which have been proven to reduce transmission. Wear facial coverings in public

places, stay home if you are not feeling well, avoid large social gatherings and practice good hand washing.

The KCHD is also encouraging residents to be prepared to get vaccinated as soon as an opportunity is available. To date, 28.1 percent of Kent County's population has received at least one dose of vaccine. Approximately 70 percent of our residents aged 65 or older have received at least one dose and the number of cases in that age group has been cut in half. The approved vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have shown themselves to be safe and effective. The KCHD, Spectrum Health, Mercy Health Saint Mary's, and many other partners anticipate the volume of vaccine allocated to our area to increase dramatically between now and the end of May.

We continue to vaccinate healthcare workers, first responders, K-12 educators, childcare providers, congregate care workers, all people aged 65 and older, people aged 50 and older with underlying health conditions, caregivers and guardians of children with special healthcare needs, and uniquely vulnerable/underserved populations of people. All people aged 50 and older will become officially eligible on March 22, but we encourage them to pre-register now.

At this time, we are also strongly encouraging other



people in category 1B to pre-register. This group includes people who, by the nature of their business, work in close proximity to other people in the workplaces of food and agriculture, critical manufacturing, public transit, grocery stores, postal service, civil service, utilities, and other critical infrastructure. Appointments will generally be made according to vulnerability and phase status. Pre-registered persons in upcoming Michigan Department of Health and Human Services phases may be scheduled early depending on vaccine availability.

Links for pre-registration at various clinics can be found at <https://vaccinatewestmi.com/register/>. People are encouraged to select the single most convenient vaccine provider and follow the appropriate link for pre-registration. For those without a clinic preference, please select the West Michigan Vaccine Clinic at DeVos Place. That clinic receives the region's largest weekly allocation of vaccine and is capable of serving the most people.

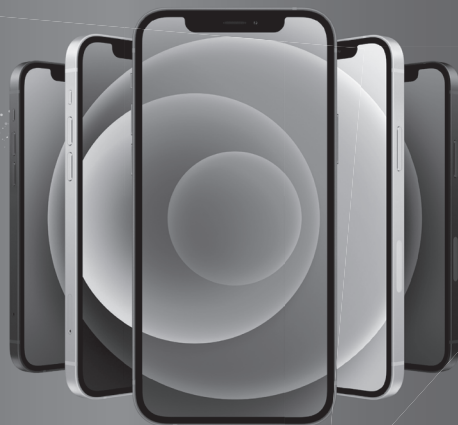
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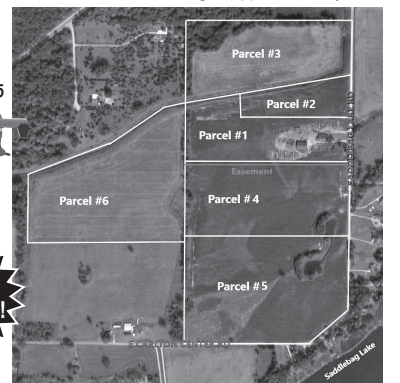
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6 PARCELS!

viewpoint



**125 years ago
Lowell Ledger
March 27, 1896**

One of the strongest arguments against the death penalty as a punishment for murder, is found in the case of John McDonald, who has just been unconditionally pardoned by Governor Rich after serving six years of a life sentence in Marquette prison for murder.

Buck, the pretending "healer" at Grand Rapids has been set at work pounding stone for unseemly liberties taken with lady patients. His exposure no more proves all "healers" frauds than a counterfeit dollar discredits our whole currency. There is abundant evidence to prove that some persons are gifted with a touch, magnetic of otherwise, that has a curative effect upon the afflicted.

A man by the name of King of Eureka township lost his life in rather peculiar circumstances last week. S. H. Dewey, the filer in J. S. Weekes' tie mill, had a very large mild mannered Newfoundland dog, the pelt of which he desired to have made into a rug, and he engaged Mr. King to do the job for him, which was successfully accomplished, but in just a week Mr. King was stricken with every appearance of hydrophobia, and after several days of terrible suffering died. Mr. King leaves a large family in destitute circumstances.

**100 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
March 31, 1921**

The American Legion protests in no uncertain terms against the imprisonment in Germany of American detectives who attempted to capture Bergdoll, Philadelphia draft deserter; and demands Germany's surrender of Bergdoll to this country to complete his jail sentence. The Legion is also incensed over the special liberties granted to Eugene Debs, socialist leader who is serving a sentence in the federal prison at Atlanta for violation of the espionage act.

The idea of a state income tax law is gaining favor as it is better understood that millions of dollars of incomes are escaping just taxation, thereby increasing the burden of the farm and home owner, whose property can be seen by all men. Let the non-property holder who enjoys a good salary or income from investments bear his share of the public burden.

Judge Sessions passed sentence last Thursday on twenty-two violators of the federal prohibition act; and among the penalties were thirteen terms in the Detroit house of correction. If the judge could hold a few more sessions like that, breaking the liquor laws wouldn't be so excruciatingly funny As some would like to have it.

**75 years
The Lowell Ledger
March 28, 1946**

Quarantine regulations were removed from five communicable diseases by unanimous vote of the Michigan State Council of Health on March 18. If the patient is isolated no quarantine will be enforced on members of the household for scarlet fever, polio, measles and chicken pox. This change in Michigan's regulations for the control of communicable diseases goes into immediate effect. Quarantine will be required only for smallpox and diphtheria.

During January, 27 more persons were killed in Michigan traffic accidents than during the same month last year, 98 compared with 71, an increase of 38 percent.

Lew Ayres, of the C. H. Runciman Co., who has been confined to his home by illness for the past three weeks, is making progress towards recovery and it is expected that he will soon be able to resume his usual business activities.

**50 years
The Lowell Ledger
April 1, 1971**

The alarming and continuing increase in school population, due to the rapid growth of East Gate and Valley Vista, has created an emergency situation as far as Lowell school buildings are concerned. With increasing enrollments adding to already crowded conditions, the board of Education announced today that it is being forced to seek approval for the construction of a new Junior High Building, a new Elementary Building and an addition to the present Senior High School.

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced that he is inaugurating "hot line" telephone service. His constituents in Kent and Ionia Counties may talk with his Washington office without charge on urgent business matters simply by calling his district office in Grand Rapids.

Cub Scout Pack 3188 of Lowell, comprised of 33 boys, 13 adults and two Den Chiefs have added three new leadership positions to their organization. Appointed to the new leadership positions were Arthur M. Bieri, Mrs. James and VanderLaan and Craig A. Mulder.

**25 years
The Lowell Ledger
March 27, 1996**

Bringing about standards that will help make buildings appropriate relative to the time period is the charge of the Lowell Historical district. These standards are defined in the U. S. Department of Interior for historical rehabilitation.

Cherry Creek Elementary fifth-grade students participated in the school's first ever Invention Convention. There were 125 inventions on display for friends and family to study. The Invention Convention project is part of the fifth grades' new science curriculum outcomes which were started this year.

The building boom in Vergennes Township has hit where it counts – the pocket book. The township board adopted its 1996-97 annual budget and revealed a 24 percent increase in tax revenue and a 51 percent increase in licenses and permit funds.

to the editor

Dear Editor,

Allowing for the fantastic job the Kent County Health Department is doing, one can not listen to radio news/comment without hearing of "vaccine hesitancy". This is a gentleman's term for ignorant, paranoid, lazy, cowardly, and anti-social.

The great campaign against poliomyelitis is *segue* to my family's unvaccine hesitancy. In the middle 1950's the Oak Park School District was one of the co-operating institutions across the county under the March of Dimes. At issue was the field trial of the Salk Vaccine. Our excellent parents saw duty to mankind, so the family volunteered for the Front. My maternal grandmother served for a while in a juvenile polio ward as a young nurse in New York.

No child wants the "jab", but they explained how it would keep children from being crippled - with the added benefit of possibly getting the real stuff, instead of mere "water". Three inoculations seemed an eternity.

The day when the letter came, Mom waited until Dad got home. All four of us assembled in the kitchen. I had received the trial vaccine! On the day of formal announcement in Ann Arbor, 12th of April 1955, church bells pealed from coast to coast.

I urge the vaccine hesitant to move to Brazil or Tanzania, and listen to "talk radio" to hearts' content. Pull down civilization there.

Sincerely,
G. M. Ross



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.

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.

X marks the spot... the center of town!

Where is the exact center of Lowell? Main Street divides the city north from south, and the bridge over the Flat River divides the city east and west. While there is no literal 'X' marking the spot, there is a building. 101 East Main sits empty today, but it was built to be the Post Office. The house numbers of the buildings on Main Street are numbered East and West from that location. This settled the argument of the East Siders versus the West Siders who each wanted the Post Office on their side of town.

In 1848, Philander Tracy became the first Postmaster in Lowell. Rodney Robinson and his daughter Clarinda served

next in 1849. Settlers came to get their mail once a week, traveling as far as 10 to 15 miles.

The first postmaster officially appointed by the United States government was George K. White in 1851. He had no trouble serving his customers; he kept the mail in a drawer under the shoe bench in his cobbler shop, the White Shoe Shop. It was located on the southeast corner of East Main and Washington Streets. The family lived in a house just east of the shop. All letters were sealed with red wax at that time.

The first designated Post Office building was a wooden building in the center of town over the Flat River, but the huge fire of 1884 destroyed that building and 19 others down the street to the west and even across Bridge Street. Postmaster Milton R. Perry and the postal workers saved the mail, the stamps and the furniture. It was said the mail was so badly mixed up that it was a big job to get it straightened out. A new brick Post Office was built in the same location in the center of town later that year by Billings G. Wilson. It was used until the current Post Office was built in 1939.



Rural mail carriers in front of the post office building.

Billings G. Wilson was the great-great grandfather of Robert Hahn, Anita Hahn Roth and Gretchen Hahn Jones (who are members of the Lowell Area Historical Museum). The Wilson family lived on North Hudson where the funeral home is today. One of his sons, Milan D. Wilson, was the photographer who produced the book entitled "Lowell, Michigan 1893" which became Lowell's first pictorial history. Milan's studio was on the second floor of the Post Office his father had built.

Most recently the building hosted the Serenity Club. Today this building marking the center of town is empty, awaiting a new chapter in its history. The stained glass windows upstairs go mostly unnoticed. On a cloudy day, from across the street, you can see images of those buildings in the glass. This is a remnant of days gone by --X marks the spot!

college news

Katelynn Phillips of Alto, has been named to the Provost's List at Troy University for Term 3 of the 2020/2021 academic year.

The Provost's List honors full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who have a grade point average of at least 3.65. Term 3 includes students at Troy's

campuses in Dothan, Phenix City and Montgomery, Ala., along with students outside of Alabama and online.

The Indiana School of Dentistry has recognized Parker Groom of Lowell for academic achievement and named him to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Nominations sought for Hometown Health Hero awards

The Michigan Public Health Week Partnership is seeking nominations of individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to preserve and improve their community's health for its annual Hometown Health Hero awards.

Hometown Health Hero awards are presented every spring as part of Michigan Public Health Week. By building connections, our communities become healthier, safer, and better for all.

"Everyone deserves to live a long and healthy life in a safe environment," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health for MDHHS. "Hometown Health Hero awards are an opportunity to honor those tackling important public health threats and promoting the health of their communities."

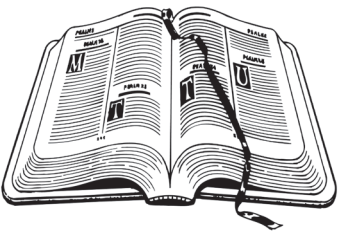
Nomination forms can be downloaded from Michigan.gov/mphw. Completed nominations should be sent to Jim Koval via email at kovalj@michigan.gov or faxed to 517-335-8392 by April 26, 2021.

Awards will be shipped directly to winners in May.

The Michigan Public Health Week Partnership consists of the following organizations: Grand Valley State University, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association for Local Public Health, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Health Improvement Alliance, Inc., Michigan Public Health Association, Michigan Public Health Institute, Michigan State University, University of Michigan School of Public Health and Wayne State University.

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MARCH 24
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MARCH 25
Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan.

MARCH 26
Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.

MARCH 27
Joel Roudabush, Kelly Geldersma.

MARCH 28
Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek, Beck Butler.

MARCH 29
John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Judith Schafer Eiseman, Laura Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing.

MARCH 30
Deb Maxim, Erin Wade, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake.

Someone has died from COVID in MI every single day since last St. Patrick's Day

At least one person has died from COVID every single day for almost an entire year to the date, according to a review of state data by the Michigan Information & Research Service.

The state Wednesday reported zero additional deaths in its COVID numbers update, but that data represents when the state learns of a death and not necessarily the date of the death itself, so the numbers could change.

When it comes to deaths by the date they happened, there has been a death recorded every day since March 17, 2020, according to data from the MI Safe Start map.

The data on the front page of the state's COVID site reflect the change in the number of reports received

from the previous day, said Lynn Sutfin, spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

In the case of last Wednesday's zero, Sutfin said it's a "zero net death count" because three local health departments between last Tuesday's data pull and today's data pull corrected cases in the state system that were mistakenly recorded as being deceased, and then three new cases were marked as deceased by the local health departments, so they canceled each other out.

The zero on the state's site is the first time since Aug. 7 that a daily report didn't have at least one death added to the toll.

Wednesday's report of zero new deaths joins five other days when zero deaths have

been reported, excluding nine days in March last year when the pandemic was just beginning.

Since then, there have been zero deaths reported on July 5, July 26, Aug. 1, Aug. 2 and Aug. 7, according to MIRS tracking of state data. Total deaths at this point are at 15,810.

And while the death rate has been declining in recent weeks, that was about the only good news to come out of Wednesday's COVID-19 data briefing provided by the DHHS.

The death rate is a lagging indicator, meaning if cases are going up now, deaths will likely follow later, said Dr. Sarah Lyon-Callo, director of the Bureau of Epidemiology and Population Health at the DHHS.

Otherwise, COVID case

rates, percent positivity rates and hospital bed occupancy rates are all up, while testing levels have plateaued, according to the presentation given by Lyon-Callo Wednesday.

Michigan's case rate is now 50 percent higher than a mid-February low, and now sits at 143.6 cases per million people. Wednesday's new cases reported by the state numbered 3,164, bringing the total to 615,792.

The state's positivity rate is up to 5.1 percent and is increasing or plateauing across various regions of the state. As for hospitalizations, those are up 14 percent since last week, the third consecutive week of increases.

When comparing the Great Lakes states, only Michigan and Minnesota appear to be

going in the wrong direction when it comes to daily case rates per 100,000 people.

DHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel said the state is continuing to monitor the trends and that "our hope is that [...] this is not the beginning of a severe increase in cases across the state."

On the issue of rising outbreaks and cases tied to schools, Lyon-Callo said "we are paying a great deal of attention to sports" and have identified outbreaks tied to school sports.

She also said the school classroom environment "has not been a strong signal" for COVID outbreaks, it tends to be more associated with activities associated with schools, like sports.

The DHHS also said Wednesday that mobility data indicates that the percentage of people staying at home is declining to 2019-2020 levels, and at the same

time, the number of trips taken per day has recently increased to 2019-2020 levels.

There has also been a return to baseline habits for people moving around, particularly for non-essential visits, according to the Unacast data presented by the state.

On the vaccine front, DHHS had these stats to share.

Michigan is ninth in the nation for people fully vaccinated.

The state is 36th in percentage of people with first doses, but 14th among the most populated states.

Sixty percent of people 65 or older have had one dose while 33 percent have completed their series.

Finally, as of last Wednesday, the state was reporting at least 25 percent of the eligible population is at least partly vaccinated, or 2 million people.

MDHHS issues RFP for opioid recovery support services

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has issued a Request for Proposals for registered Recovery Community Organizations to provide recovery support services.

The purpose of the Recovery Support Services Competitive 2021 program is to expand recovery support center services or recovery community center services at RCOs for individuals seeking long-term recovery from substance-use disorders. RCOs are independent, non-profit organizations led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. To be eligible to apply for this funding, applicant agencies must be registered with the Association of Recovery Community Organizations at Faces and Voices of

Recovery.

The RFP seeks competitive plans for local projects that will expand services as described above, prioritizing recovery support navigation, recovery outreach education, and recovery activities and events.

Funded applicants will receive ongoing technical assistance from the MDHHS project coordinator which include help with program start-up, reporting requirements and barriers to program implementation.

The four-month award period begins June 1, 2021 and ends Sept. 30, 2021. MDHHS expects to award approximately \$600,000, with a maximum of \$150,000 per applicant.

Grant applications must be submitted electronically through the EGrAMS program by 3 pm on April



9, 2021.

For more information or to apply, visit the EGrAMS website and select "About EGrAMS" link in the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training

manual. The complete RFP can be accessed under the 'Current Grants' section under the "Behavioral Hlth and Dev Dis Adm Standard" link and selecting the "RSSC-2021" grant program.



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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 7:00 PM. The subject of the hearing will be:

Add advisory pertaining to electronic meeting pursuant to applicable emergency orders

Proposed Auto Repair Service at 211 S. Washington Street SE

An application has been submitted by Mr. Chris Nelson for a vehicle repair service at 211 S. Washington Street SE (PPN 41-20-02-435-006). The applicant has received conditional special land use approval for a towing service on this property, and towing services can only include an auto repair facility if it is specifically authorized by the Planning Commission. Vehicle repair services are permitted in the I-L Light Industrial district only with special land use approval from the Planning Commission.

Copies of the application and the City's Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Written comments will be received until the night of the hearing.

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.

Respectfully,
Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk

Today: Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Wednesday, March 24 is the 83rd day of the year, and it's also World Tuberculosis Day. There are 282 days remaining until the end of 2021.

Historic Events

1199: King Richard I of England is wounded by a crossbow bolt during a battle in France. He will die on April 6.

1387: The English are victorious in the Battle of Margate over a Franco/Castilian/Flemish fleet.

1603: Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth I, James VI of Scotland is proclaimed King James I of England and Ireland.

1663: The Province of Carolina is granted by charter to eight "Lords Proprietor" in reward for their assistance in restoring Charles II of England to the throne.

1721: Johann Sebastian Bach dedicates six concertos to Margrave Christian Ludwig of Brandenburg-Schwedt. They're now commonly called the "Brandenburg Concertos."

1765: Great Britain passes the Quartering Act, requiring residences in the "Thirteen Colonies" to house British troops.

1829: UK Parliament passes the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, which allows Catholics to serve in Parliament.

1832: A group of men beat, tar and feather Mormon leader Joseph Smith in Hiram, OH.

1854: President José Gregorio Monagas abolishes slavery in Venezuela.

1860: Assassination of Japanese Chief Minister Tairō Ii Naosuke by the Sakurada Gate at Edo Castle in Tokyo.

1878: More than 300 people are killed when the British frigate HMS Eurydice is caught in a heavy snowstorm and sinks. Her ghost ship is said to haunt the Isle of Wight to this day.

1882: Robert Koch announces the discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium responsible for tuberculosis.

1900: New York City mayor Robert Anderson Van Wyck breaks ground for a new underground "Rapid Transit Railroad" that would link Manhattan and Brooklyn.

1921: The 1921 Women's Olympiad begins in Monte Carlo. This is the first international women's sports event.

1934: US Congress passes the Tydings/McDuffie Act,

allowing the Philippines to become a self-governing commonwealth.

1944: German troops murder 335 Italian civilians in Rome, an event eventually known as the "Ardeatine massacre."

1944: In an event later dramatized in the 1963 Steve McQueen movie "The Great Escape," 76 Allied prisoners of war begin breaking out of the German camp Stalag Luft III.

1958: Elvis Presley is drafted into the US Army.

1965: Images from the Ranger 9 lunar probe are broadcast live on network television.

1976: The armed forces overthrow the government of Argentinian President Isabel Perón and start a seven-year dictatorial period they call the "National Reorganization Process."

1989: After running aground, the Exxon Valdez oil tanker spills 240,000 barrels of crude oil in Prince William Sound, Alaska.

1993: Discovery of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9.

1998: Five people are killed and ten are wounded when 11-year-old Mitchell

Johnson and 13-year-old Andrew Golden fire upon teachers and students at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, AR.

1998: A tornado sweeps through Dantan, India, killing 250 people and injuring 3,000 more.

1998: The first computer-assisted Bone Segment Navigation is performed at the University of Regensburg in Germany

1999: NATO begins attacks on Yugoslavia without United Nations Security Council approval, the first time NATO ever attacked a sovereign country.

2003: The Arab League votes 21-1 in favor of a resolution demanding the immediate and unconditional removal of US and British soldiers from Iraq.

2008: Bhutan holds its first ever general election, officially becoming a democracy.

Birthdays

1725: Samuel Ashe, governor of North Carolina

1855: Andrew W. Mellon, US Secretary of the Treasury

1869: Émile Fabre, author, playwright

1874: Harry Houdini, illusionist

1887: Roscoe "Fatty"

Arbuckle, actor

1897: Wilhelm Reich, psychotherapist,

1901: Ub Iwerks, animator, co-creator of Mickey Mouse

1902: Thomas E. Dewey, governor of New York

1903: Malcolm Muggeridge, author

1909: Clyde Barrow, bank robber

1910: Richard Conte, actor

1911: Joseph Barbera, animator, co-founder of Hanna-Barbera

1919: Lawrence Ferlinghetti, poet, publisher

1924: Norman Fell, actor

1930: Steve McQueen, actor



Born in Yonkers, NY on March 24, 1919, Lawrence Ferlinghetti was a poet and publisher primarily associated with the Beat Generation literary movement of the 1950s.

Through his City Lights publishing company, Ferlinghetti published works by authors including Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Charles Bukowski, Diane di Prima, Henry Miller, William Carlos Williams, Sam Shepard and Gregory Corso. The City Lights bookstore in San Francisco has become a tourist attraction, and was designated a historical landmark in 2001.

Ferlinghetti passed away from lung disease on Feb. 22, 2021, a few weeks before his 102nd birthday, which would have been today.

PICTURED ABOVE: Musician Robbie Robertson, poet Michael McClure, musician Bob Dylan, poet Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti hanging out in the alley behind the City Lights bookstore in 1965.

Photo by Larry Keenan.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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

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This is another installment in the Lowell Ledger's series of feature articles about the many different types of artisans who do business in the Lowell area. Some use the Internet as their storefront, others sell their wares out of a brick and mortar location. All of them are fascinating people and incredibly talented.

If you know of somebody who makes things and sells them, we want to do a story about it! Contact the Lowell Ledger at 616-897-9261 or send a message to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Tuckertown Forge

Tuckertown Forge - a family business

Blacksmith Frank Leasure was born and raised in Lowell, and his business is home-grown through and through. For years he has operated Tuckertown Forge on Pratt Lake Ave, making custom-forged metal products that range from the practical to the whimsical.

"I grew up here in Lowell. My wife, Laura and I raised our three girls Teresa, Patti and Mary here. We enjoy the small town feel Lowell has to offer."



Leasure named his forge after Erwin W. Tucker, the inventor and manufacturer who was the first known settler of the land on which the Leasure home was built in 1839. Growing up in this home, he would often hear his father tell stories about Tuckertown, as the area southeast of Lowell at Pratt Lake Avenue and 28th Street was once known. The mills and factories that Tucker built there in the 1860's at one time employed as many as 60 people. Tucker patented and produced a number of his own inventions at these factories, manufacturing a wide range of items including grain cradles, bed bottoms, harvesting implements and wooden door knobs. A similar range and inventiveness is also evident in the products that the modern-day Tuckertown Forge offers.

Leasure has worked with metal for several years, using everything from computerized machines to lathes and

mills, until an interest in the history of the craft led him to learn the "pioneer ways" of metalworking. Over the years, he has developed a skill set as diverse as the products offered by both the original Tuckertown and its namesake forge.

Leasure's daughter Teresa Goldner says, "My grandpa, my mom's dad, owned Dey Machine and Tool and they did a lot of fabricating for businesses in the area and that's where he learned his trade. He took over the

stay hot and keep the fire going. The propane is more of a constant heat; with the coal, it needs a bit more maintenance. You're actually cranking it to keep the flame going."

Tuckertown Forge is a family business; everyone pitches in. Leasure's daughters and wife all help with product ideas and many of the craft shows. Goldner handles all the shipping of orders, Etsy updates and scheduling of blacksmithing classes. Patti keeps the web and Facebook pages up-to-date, and Frank's youngest, Mary, is off finishing college but helps out when she is home on break.

In addition to working in his forge, Frank enjoys teaching and sharing his art with others. He'll often give demonstrations at festivals and high school shop classes and has helped Boy Scouts to earn their metalworking merit badges. In this spirit, Tuckertown Forge has begun to offer



blacksmithing classes to the public. While a number of these were put on hold over the last year due to COVID-19 and cold weather, they are looking forward to starting classes again as conditions are improving. They are currently offering private classes at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Classes start at \$60 and are normally one and a half to two hours long and two or three days each, depending on the project and skill level.

"Our beginners



start out with learning a little history about blacksmithing, the forge, and the tools needed for blacksmithing," says Goldner. "They then work on projects which include, but are not limited to, salt spoons, horse shoes, and a candle holder. As you advance through the classes the projects get a little more complex. We try to keep the class size to five people. The

classes are great for families, youth groups, church groups, 4-H clubs, or anyone who wants to learn a little bit about the art of blacksmithing."

Not everything produced at Tuckertown Forge is so utilitarian, far from it. Custom orders are welcome, and a quick glance at their Etsy store and website will show a wide range of artistic and decorative items. In addition to custom railings, fireplace pokers, and

marshmallow roasters you can find birds made from golf clubs, jack-o-lanterns made from old propane tanks, a grill shaped like a pig and a nativity scene made from railroad spikes. Frank will take raw materials or found objects and let their shape and his imagination determine what any given piece of metal can be, often with surprising results.

"Many of our items are repurposed," Goldner says. "We don't like to waste anything. People always joke 'Wonder what Frank is going to make with that old chain, or sewing machine base, etc.' I love seeing what my dad will create out of some of the items that are dropped off at the shop or he finds at the flea market. We look at items very differently and it just is amazing how he can look at something and already have a plan for it. We go to flea markets, or garage sailing or something and we'll separate and see what we can find. And he'll pick something up off the table and be like, 'Yeah, this is going to be a

fish,' or 'Oh, I see that this is a person.' He can just visualize things and it's so amazing to see what he finds and then what he turns it into. That's always amazing to people – and me, because I see something completely different than what he sees."

Leasure doesn't always need to know ahead of time exactly how a given project is going to come together.

"When my dad is working in the forge, a lot of times really all he does if he doesn't have a project in mind – if he's trying to create a new product or a new item or just working on something, he'll just take a piece of metal – whether it be round stock or square stock or you know, just anything that he might have lying around. You just put it in the fire and you have to let it get red-hot. Then, really all you do is, you're changing the shape of whatever you're working on. If

Tuckertown, continued page 16



Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

All 14 Lowell wrestlers move on to Regionals

by Justin Scott
contributing writer

It was business as usual for the Lowell wrestling team who once again made extraordinary feats feel ordinary in team district and individual district action last week. The Lowell wrestling team went 38-5 at the individual district tournament on Saturday.

Three of those losses came at the hands of fellow Lowell teammates in the three-district championship bouts that pitted two Lowell wrestlers against each other. All 14 Lowell wrestlers that entered, secured their ticket to the individual regional tournament.

In the district featuring wrestlers from FHE, Allegan, Lowell, Byron Center, East Grand Rapids, GR Northview, Hastings, Ionia, Middleville TK, Wayland, Wyoming, Godwin Heights, and Kelloggsville, Lowell stood tall at the end of the day with

nine district champions.

District runners-up included Landon Miller, Tacho Gonzales, Carson Crace, and Nate Cleaver. Terrick Stewart was the only Lowell wrestler who faced the must-win blood round. He bounced back from a semifinal loss to Kyron Zoet of Thornapple Kellogg with a pin in the consolation semifinals, securing his ticket to regionals. In the third place match he also recorded a pin.

Will Link, Doak Dean, Jacob Lee, Derek Mohr, Keegan Nugent, Carter Blough, Ramsy Mutschler, and James Link, and Zeth Strejc all won district championships. Dean, Will Link, and Strejc had the unique opportunity of competing against teammates (Gonzales, Crace, and Cleaver). Lowell entered two wrestlers at those weight classes.

The match of the day certainly came at

heavyweight, pitting Lowell's Keegan Nugent against Middleville TK's Carter West in a battle of unbeaten. Nugent, a state runner-up last year was pushed to the limit as both wrestlers exchanged four separate near falls. Nugent, in a losing position, was able to throw West onto his back and get the pin with just 13 seconds left in the match.

In a week where some traditional powers found themselves out of the tournament early, Lowell wasn't one of them. Lowell defeated Forest Hills Eastern 69-11 in the district finals. The Hawks defeated Ionia 42-33 earlier in the night.

Daniel Nagy started the Red Arrows with a pin. Mutschler and Stewart followed up with pins as well to put the Arrows up 18-0. Lowell cruised to a win after that with wins by Miller, Cole Huisman,

Nathan Mohr, Cole VanderVest, Crace, Brady Musser, Luke Skinner, and Chris Rogers.

Some teams normally making deep runs, found themselves on the losing end in district action. Others received byes in the district round, including the finals. Eaton Rapids fell to Charlotte. Monroe Jefferson, Goodrich, Ferndale, and Redford Thurston all won district championships without wrestling a match.

Lowell hosts team regionals this week, and will look to punch their ticket to the team state finals. LHS faces Northview in the regional semifinals. A potential matchup with the winner of Byron Center and Middleville TK awaits. Wrestling starts Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Spectator limits remain in effect.



Zeth Strejc competing at individual Districts.

- HOCKEY

Hockey falls in playoff action

by Justin Scott
contributing writer

It's March which means the sports world is abuzz with talk of upsets and March surprises. Upsets are aplenty in the MHSAA hockey playoffs as well, with Lowell-Caledonia being involved in one of them.

The co-op team of Grand Rapids Christian, GR West Catholic, Cedar Springs, and Coopersville, competing under the GR Christian name, finished bottom of the Baum Division during the regular season. They came back and surprised the silver and black last week with a 4-1

win in regional semifinal action. The Eagles 5-10-2 record was certainly deceptive though, and later in the season, they played well above their record. GR Christian started off the season with eight straight losses, that is, before they flipped the script and finished the remainder of the season with a 5-3-2 record. In that span, they drew 1-1 with Lowell-Caledonia and lost a competitive 6-4 game.

The Eagles beat Jenison 3-2 in the pre-regional round before jumping out to a 3-0 lead

over Lowell-Caledonia in the first period. They were able to hold on for a 4-1 win over the 1-seeded LC team. GR Christian went on to lose to Grandville 6-1 in the regional finals. Lowell-

Caledonia concludes their season at 9-8-1 after competing through a tough schedule this season. Coupled with the pandemic shortened schedule, it was a unique season for LC.

The team graduates nine seniors: Austin Douma, Ethan Bierlein, Colin Clairmont, Nick Lockhart, JT Schwartz, Drew Davis, Brendan Clarke, Ethan Riley, and Garrett Walker.



Lowell-Caledonia hockey seniors. Photo Courtesy Lowell-Caledonia Hockey.

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Red Arrow

- CHEER

SPORTS

Competitive cheer season comes to an end

by Justin Scott
contributing writer

The Lowell competitive cheer team rounded out a challenging pandemic season with their best score of the year at the MHSAA district meet at DeWitt on Saturday. Lowell earned a score of 683.7 highlighted by their round three score of 278.7.

LHS took sixth place out of 14 teams, beating out the scores of Mt. Pleasant, Forest Hills Eastern, Forest Hills Central, Northview, St. Johns, Gaylord, Lansing Waverly, and Owosso. The teams of DeWitt, Cedar Springs, Mason, and Charlotte advanced to the regional tournament which took place on Tuesday.

Forest Hills Northern (fifth) and Lowell (sixth) were each 20 and 24 points off fourth place Charlotte for the final regionals spot.

The Red Arrows were led by seniors Faith Worsley, Olivia Winn, Izabel Rutz, Mikayla Keller, Nora Jannenga, Sydney Hults, Ashlyn Fryers, and Delaney Beimers this season. Exchange students Constanca Copeto and Marlene Ehmann also competed with the team this year. While the team had no home meets this year, they were able to honor their seniors and exchange students during a ceremony on March 5 in the LHS

Freshman Commons where the team practices.

Despite the pandemic, Lowell had plenty of great moments during the season including a first-place finish at the Hastings Invitational with a 658.8, consistently improving their scores, and earning a third-place finish in the conference.

Lowell competitive cheer after districts at DeWitt. Photo courtesy of Lowell Competitive Cheer.



- BOWLING

Two Lowell bowlers advance to state

by Justin Scott
contributing writer

Last Saturday, the Lowell Red Arrow bowling teams took to the lanes for regionals at Westgate Bowl in Comstock Park. The boys team took 12th out of 16 teams with games of 840, 789, 718, and 736. Only the top two teams from this year's regional advanced to state, a painfully relevant number for the Lowell girl's

bowling team who finished in third.

The team rolled games of 789, 753, 769, and 751. That combined score was a mere 42 pins behind Northview, who finished second and took the last team qualifying spot. With a high game of 196, Courtney Witten qualified for the state tournament for the second

straight year. She finished in second place individually. She was joined by teammate Haylie Beers who recorded a high game of 201 and placed fifth. Amelia Wells, Savannah Escobedo, and Tatum Chambers rounded out the Lowell bowlers who all finished top 50 on the day.

For the boys, the Red Arrows were led by Lucas Sloma who finished with a four-game series of 660. Jakob Reynolds, Gunnar Nelson, Mitchell Anderson, and Noah Proctor each also scored for Lowell. Sloma had the team-high game with a 191.

Beers and Witten will both move on to the state tournament which takes place this weekend at Century Bowl in Waterford. This will be Beers' first state finals appearance. Witten placed 27th last year as a freshman. Kristin Bouwhuis has the highest ever finish for a Lowell girls bowler. She advanced to the state quarterfinals in 2010.



Courtney Witten and Haylie Beers advanced to state after top-10 finishes at regional tournament. Photo courtesy of Lowell Bowling.

- GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics qualifies for team state tournament

by Justin Scott
contributing writer

One year after the gymnastics season was abruptly cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lowell gymnastics team is back at the state level after qualifying for the MHSAA State Tournament.

Rockford who finished with a 146.075. The Jackson co-op team finished just behind Rockford with a 146.025.

Lowell finished with a 36.1 on bars, 33.475 on beam, 36.425 on floor, and 35.250 on vault. LHS will

Ivy McDonald and Alexis Clark all qualified with strong performances at regionals.

Vault: Alexis Clark (2nd), Greta Forward (6th), Ivy McDonald (7th), Marlie McDonald (8th),



Lowell gymnastics after qualifying for the state meet. Photo courtesy of Lowell Gymnastics.

Lowell finished in third place at Saturday's regional tournament with a score of 141.250. The score was just short of the team's 2014-2015 record of 141.65, and the third highest score in team history. The score was comfortably ahead of fourth place Coldwater who finished at 134.500. Also qualifying for the state finals were regional champion

and Marissa Wever (6th - Division 1). Uneven Bars: Ivy McDonald (2nd), Greta Forward (7th) and Marissa Wever (2nd - Division 1). Balance Beam: Ivy McDonald (3rd) and Marissa Wever (8th - Division 1). All Around: Ivy McDonald (2nd) and Marissa Wever (6th - Division 1).

Five Lowell gymnasts also advanced to the individual state tournament. Marissa Wever, Greta Forward, Marlie McDonald,

and Marissa Wever (6th - Division 1). Uneven Bars: Ivy McDonald (2nd), Greta Forward (7th) and Marissa Wever (2nd - Division 1). Balance Beam: Ivy McDonald (3rd) and Marissa Wever (8th - Division 1). All Around: Ivy McDonald (2nd) and Marissa Wever (6th - Division 1).

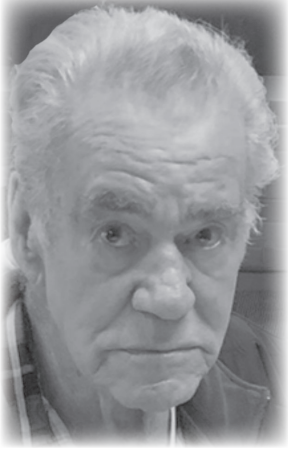
obituaries

BAKER



Gordon D. Baker, age 81, of Lowell, passed away Saturday, March 20, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Joyce M. Baker; children, Rhonda (Kevin) Johnson, Jerry (Arselia) Baker, Paul

(Sheryl) Baker, Susan (Jen) Kammers; grandchildren, Adam (Tamisha) Roossien, Krystal Steffensen, Missy (Lew) Powell, Heather (Robert) Baker Halladay, Marcie Baker, Jerrie (Chris) Baker, Phoebe Ferolino, Ayiesha Ferolino, Erika (Kevin) Lipp, Bradley Baker, and Britni Kammers; many great-grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. Family greeted friends at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Alton Cemetery (3 Mile & Alden Nash Avenue, Lowell, Michigan), graveside service began at 2:30 PM with Pastor Josh Cahill officiating.



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JOHNSON

Lucille Ann (Christiansen) Johnson, aged 85, of Freeport, Michigan went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, March 7, 2021, at her home. Lucille was born in 1935 to Milo and Carolena (Doorn) Christiansen. She was number eight out of ten children. She valued the time spent playing in the woods with her brothers and sisters on the family farm. She had a lot of stories about picking potatoes together. Lucille attended Neven's Lake School in Montcalm County through eighth grade and graduated from Central Montcalm High School in 1953. She was very active in high school playing sports, being a cheerleader, and a member of the junior senior play, and the Future Homemakers of America. In 1957, she married George Frederick Johnson. Almost 10 years later Erin Charles Johnson was born. One year later, Jami Ann was born. George and Lucille were



married 61 years until George's death in 2018. Lucille worked as the school secretary for Central School in Hastings, MI, a job she absolutely loved, until the birth of her son in 1967. She was then a stay-at-home mom and farm wife until 1986 when she got a job in the catalog department at Gantos. She was an active member of the Calvary Grace Brethren Church serving on many committees and helping out wherever she could. Lucille is preceded in death by her husband, George; son, Douglas Marvin; son, Erin Charles Johnson; sisters, Eleanor Lenz, Mildred Peterson, and Marion Ritter; brothers, Elden Christiansen, Homer Christiansen, and Edward Christiansen. She is survived by her daughter, Jami (Todd) Voshell of Freeport; grandchildren,

Gordan, Henry, Lydia and Samantha Voshell; sisters, Marjorie Staines of Florida, Joan Williams of Grand Rapids and Phyllis Black of Amble; sisters-in-law, Lois Christiansen, Evelyn Knaak and Doris Feasal; plus, several nieces and nephews. Those wishing to make contributions in Lucille's memory may do so to the Calvary Grace Brethren church of Alto, MI.

MILLER

Donald Craig Miller, born on September 14, 1952 and departed this earth too soon on March 11, 2021. He will be sorely missed by his wife, Joella; his son, Tony Miller; daughter-in-law, Billiejo Allen-Miller; and grandson, Jordan Allen; along with his goddaughter, Kate (John) Buckler. He married Joella Hesche on September 10, 1977. He was preceded in death by his mother, Violet Miller; his father, Olen E. Miller; brother, Boyer; sister, Cindy; and nephew, Christopher Thode. He is survived by brothers, Olen E. Miller (wife Rita), Ralph E. Miller (wife Sandy); along with nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind a multitude of friends. Don was a burn survivor, injured as a child, and took the word survivor to the full limit hating the term burn victim. He was eternally grateful for his doctors, nurses, and his parents for helping him through the injury.

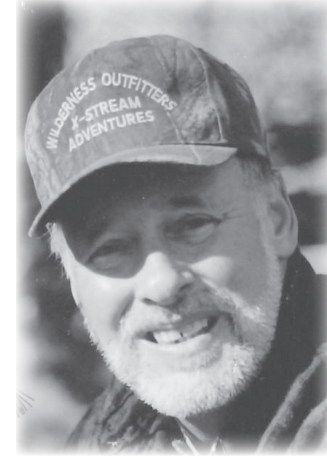


He was an organ and tissue donor, both of which are deeply important to him. He hopes to help other burn survivors recover from their injuries. He loved the Phoenix Society and was grateful to meet and know Amy Acton, chair of the Phoenix Society along with so many others from that part of his world. Don's first job was at Dog & Suds in Lowell and always mentioned his boss and her expectations. He then went to work at Root Lowell, leaving there and starting at Attwood where he made many lifelong friends. He eventually retired from General Motors in Janesville, WI in 2008 after 30 years of service. After living in Brodhead, WI for 17 years, he left behind his beloved train club, Wisconsin Garden Railway Society where he and Joella made many new friends. As was always true with Don, he and Joella made many friends while there living in Wisconsin. Moving back to Michigan, he slid easily back into his previous life, enjoying time spent with his childhood friends playing cards and camping and Wednesday outings with the guys. Don tried out a variety of retirement jobs, serving as custodian at Brodhead United Methodist Church and Lutheran Churches concurrently. Upon returning to Michigan, he worked for a time for his daughter-in-law helping trim trees and harassing her. He was a parts delivery man for Showboat Auto and then a custodian at the Lowell United Methodist Church. Retirement jobs helped keep him busy, cleaning, tinkering, and fixing things; always having the need to stay busy and improve the items he worked on. When meeting someone his wife didn't recognize, she could generally tell what part of his life his friends were from by what they called him. Childhood and high school friends called him either Donny or Duck. People that he worked with generally called him Don. Really good friends called him Donny. This obituary cannot be closed out without mentioning trains. He loved them all – full sized and small models equally. He and Joella spent many days going to train club meetings, train shops, and train crossing to watch passing trains. He loved the trips to California and Colorado to visit other train enthusiasts and see their layouts and how they constructed their layouts. In 2019, he was thrilled to travel to Wyoming and Utah to see the rebuilt Big Boy engine, the 2014. He had planned that trip for six years. Don was always happy playing with G scale trains at his home in Saranac. He had

built three train layouts, improving each over the layout before. He loved running his trains and spent many contented hours running trains while contemplating how to improve the running and layout. Over the years, Don has attended a variety of churches. He and Joella attended Genesis UMC on Snow Ave. Pastor Tommy Boutell will be helping the family with services. Don was happiest with friends and family, having a few beers and enjoying good food. His family asks that Memorial Donations be made to the Phoenix Society, 525 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 in lieu of flowers. A Celebration of life will be held at 10:30 am, Saturday, March 27, 2021 at the Steele Street Hall in Ionia, 115 S. Steele St., Ionia. Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 pm Friday at Lake Funeral Home in Ionia, MI with burial in Lowell at Oakwood Cemetery. Online Condolences can be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com. MASKS ARE MANDATORY AT REQUEST OF FAMILY.

MOMBER

James Charles Momber, age 70, of Lowell, unexpectedly passed away March 16, 2021. He is preceded in death by his parents, Merle (2003) & Ruth Momber (2020); and sister-in-law, Therese Momber (2020). Jim is survived by his life partner, Elizabeth "Liz"; children, Roseanne Shears, Melinda Momber, Tera (Justin) Lotz, Laura Momber, Trent (Julie) Raab, Tricia (Bill) McGovern, and Tera Raab; brothers, Richard (Marilyn) Momber, Kenneth (Danica) Momber, Wayne Momber, and Dale (Virginia) Momber; sister, Nancy (David) Eynon; 20 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Ed (Lisa) Stormzand; sister-in-law, Elaine Gregersen-Blumenshine; and numerous nieces & nephews. Jim was raised and spent his youth on his family farm in Sparta. He worked for 40 years at American Seating before retiring. Jim spent much of his free time outdoors as an avid hunter and fisherman. Visitation with



the family will take place Friday, March 19, 2021 from 5-8 PM at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 11:30 AM with visitation one hour prior at 10:30 AM at Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St, Lowell, Michigan, 49331, with Pastor Brad Brillhart officiating. Masks and social distancing were required. Interment at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to Lowell High School Scholastic Shooting Club; checks payable to "LHS SCTP", 2020 Parnell Avenue SE, Ada, Michigan 49301.

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SPICKLER

Daniel Ray Spickler passed on Monday, March 8, 2021. He left behind his mother, Arlene Spickler; brother, Thomas Spicker (wife, Marie Spickler); niece, Cora Wielinga; nephew, Mathew Spickler; sister, Lisa Ingersoll (husband, Anthony Ingersoll); and nieces, Dexarae Ingersoll, Madison Ingersoll and Tiffany Ingersoll. Preceded in death was Daniel's father, Robert Cecile Spickler and younger brother, Michael Allen Spickler. Funeral services will be held on March 29, 2021 at 10 am at the Church of the Nazarene, 201 N Washington St., Lowell, MI 49331. There will be a luncheon shortly after the service where family and friends can get together.

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~ Traverse City Asylum - part two

Who better to understand mental illness than one who had been seized by authorities and hospitalized five times over a twenty-two year span? Dr. Ferguson led a troubled life of addiction and psychotic breaks. In 1954 he arrived at Traverse City State Hospital, but not as a patient, but rather as a general practitioner to treat mentally ill residents. However, he lacked any credentials as a psychiatric doctor. Many people adored him and others questioned his tactics.

During his medical schooling he had perfected the execution of lobotomies in only five minutes. When he arrived at Traverse City State Asylum five hundred patients were assigned to him for this procedure.

Although Dr. Jack Ferguson had developed a systematic method for quickly executed lobotomies, he had come to realize that it wasn't a 'cure.' He also rejected straightjackets, shock treatments and solitary confinement. He believed that diseases were chemically based and could be reversed with neuro-chemical medications. This view was completely radical for mental health in the 1950's.

Dr. Franzin, Dr. Phipps and especially Dr. Gallup had been caring doctors when Jack had been committed. (five times in twenty-two years) They hadn't done the typical shock therapy. Rather, Dr. Gallup had Jack write his worries down. Dr. Gallup would read each aloud and ask Jack to tell him more about these thought patterns and concerns. Talking through his fears had really helped Jack see a new perspective. Terry and Griff, the hospital attendants, were respectful and treated Jack as a person. Using tranquilizers and talk therapy had been effective for him, so it should work for others who suffered with mental illness. "We don't treat diseases, we try to treat sick people." was Dr. Jack Ferguson's motto.

On February 24, 1957, Norma Lee Browning from the Chicago Tribune reported that, "He never did get around to even the first one (lobotomies). Instead, with an unscientific combination of chemicals plus love, he pierced the veil of insanity in one of the boldest, most bizarre and awesome experiments ever tried in a mental institution." The study was deemed one doctor, one hundred seven nurses and one thousand (chronically hopeless) patients.

Dr. Jack Ferguson's medication experiments were only conducted by himself and his nurse attendants. There wasn't a control group involved in his studies. "They (nurses) all have a high-school education or its equivalent," he stated proudly to Paul De Kruif who had interviewed Ferguson extensively for his book. "There is no abnormal behavior that we cannot control or change for the better."

One woman was uncontrollable with dementia, diarrhea and dermatitis. Her diagnosis was Pellagra, a vitamin B deficiency. If untreated it could be fatal. After a few massive shots of Niacin (Vitamin B), she was able to return home a week later.

What brought Dr. John (Jack) Ferguson to his "chemicals and love approach?"

Ferguson had several occupations before earning his medical license. Starting at age 11 he worked on a tugboat.



Dr. John (Jack) Ferguson was known for his five minute lobotomy procedure. He started working at the Traverse City State Hospital in 1954.

He told the captain he didn't want pay, rather the fish damaged in the gill nets. He sold these on the street and made more money than the small wage he would have been paid. Jack Ferguson was resourceful. He also ran two paper routes and worked at a drugstore after school.



"I'd trample on anyone for affection. That was the first hint of a mad monster in me." He shared with Paul De Kruif. Ferguson said he was frail and a bedwetter. He felt compelled to compete with his younger brother for his parents' love.

He gained employment in a steel mill in Gary, Indiana. He learned to curse in German, Lithuanian, Spanish and Polish. Using dolomite to write on the mill's floor, Ferguson taught a Polish worker some basic English.

Next he joined his father on the Monon Railroad as a fireman. He worked full time and squeezed in medical school courses starting in 1929. Surprising himself he got married and within a year they had a baby girl. Soon after his daughter was born, he dislocated his knee at the railroad and could no longer work. He slipped into a depression. He attempted suicide by slitting his wrists.

He tried to be an insurance salesman, then a bartender and a whiskey peddler. He sold secret car loads of booze to Al and Ralph Capone at the Fowler Hotel in Lafayette. Ferguson learned about alcoholic insanity first hand.

In 1941 at thirty-three years old Ferguson reinstated his dedication to medical school. His wife displayed her lack of trust and would pester him with questions about his plans, work hours, money and study habits. This started their family 'break up.' They divorced and his ex-wife and daughter moved to California.

When not in class Jack tended bar at a campus tavern and met Mary Tosti, a 28 year old Italian girl who worked as a cashier. Mary said that Jack was 'large' when they met. It took time for their attraction to develop. On April 24, 1944 they were married.

In 1945 he suffered a heart attack. He spent seven weeks in the hospital. Ferguson started taking barbiturates. "They blotted out my perspective of reality." When he returned home he continued to take the little yellow capsules. Mary nurtured Jack during his recovery. However, Jack's addiction made him paranoid and he started to blame Mary for his misery.

Soon after he recovered Ferguson was in a horrible car accident and unable to attend classes. The professors arranged to have Ferguson work in the biochemistry laboratory and teach anatomy. He had to prepare the bodies for the anatomy students.

Ferguson was fascinated by Professor Fulton's lobotomies performed on chimpanzees. In 1936 Dr. Egas Moniz in Lisbon, Portugal conducted 20 leucotomies on 'human mental sufferers.' This was done by drilling a hole in each side of the head and cutting nerve fibers that connected the frontal lobe of the brain. Seven of the patients recovered their sanity. Dr. Moniz earned a Nobel Prize for this accomplishment. In the states Dr. Walter Jackson Freeman followed and performed many more. I wondered if Ferguson started perfecting his lobotomy procedures on the cadavers that he was preparing for the medical students.

Jack Ferguson was later known for his five minute lobotomy where he used a long sharp tool through the upper part of the eye socket to cut the nerve fibers severing the frontal lobe from the thalamus.

Finally after 18 years, forty-year-old Ferguson earned his M.D. in 1948. Hamlet, Indiana, a town of 500, welcomed the outgoing personality of Dr. Ferguson, who reported he had still been "shaky."

His perfectionist personality continued to cause him grief. In his desire to be the best, he bought the latest x-ray machine, putting them into debt. Mary worked tirelessly as the receptionist, book keeper, janitor and cook. He continued to lean on his little yellow pills to get through the demands of keeping his country practice

running smoothly.

His addiction created hallucinations and paranoia. He had a "blow up" where he tried to kill Mary and take his own life. He was taken into custody and committed to a mental hospital.

Dr. Gallup along with Dr. Franzin and Dr. Phipps treated Dr. Jack Ferguson. "They made me dig up and face the bad deeds I had done." It had been an intense six months of therapy. By 1954 Dr. Jack Ferguson was considered cured.

Traverse City State Asylum

Art Nickerson, who worked with Dr. Jack Ferguson in Hall 11, chuckled, "He was a jolly old Saint Nicholas type." "Everybody loved him and thought he did a good job," was Nickerson's stance on an oral history recording.

Jim Morse, who worked at the hospital from 1956-1984, shared that Dr. Ferguson bought a new coffee pot for each ward. "That was 50 of them!" He stated with enthusiasm. "The medication (for patients) was a welcomed addition."

Horace Storrs worked in Cottage 24 for seven years. He recalled Dr. Ferguson using Stelazine medication. It would bring a patient 'out' otherwise the individual would



A TCSH patient kisses Dr. Ferguson on the forehead. "They all love this outgoing man." Chicago Tribune, November 30, 1955. Photo by Andrew Ravlin.

be aggressive and angry, so he'd have to be segregated. These tranquilizers made a huge difference in managing the residents.

Dr. Ferguson used Serpasil (a tranquilizer) and Ritalin (a stimulant) together on 225 varying aged "hopeless" patients. 80 percent significantly reduced their fighting and destructive behaviors. The eating habits of 71 percent become normalized. 74 percent became productive in occupational therapy. 72 percent could attend social functions on campus. They had movies on Monday nights and once a month they held a dance.

Since the start of Serpasil-Ritalin therapy the on-campus beautician was being overbooked for trims and permanents. These "hopeless" patients started to care about how they looked.

This was when Maurice Mummy, an instructor at the Northern Michigan Beauty School, started organizing his students as volunteers. My mother, Marcia Lee Bunek, was one of his pupils. "The people I worked on were subdued. They probably had given them medication of some sort." She recalled, "However there were some others who were screaming out from behind the bars. Some had taken off their clothes."

Gudrum, a 71-year-old female patient, had been hospitalized for 52 years. During her first 50 years she couldn't care for herself at all. She had often laid down naked on the floor of the seclusion room. In 1942 it had been recorded that she had received 28 metrazol shock treatments with no lasting results. In 1943 she was 420 "neutral pack treatments" where she was wrapped up tightly and dipped in cold water. Gudrum was also given electro shock treatments where she had 68 convulsions. Her behavior continued to be similar to a disgruntled wild animal.

On Christmas day in 1954, Dr. Ferguson began administering a half a milligram of Serpasil three times a day. After two weeks Gudrum remained dressed for the first time in 30 years. Continued doses put her into a depressed state. Dr. Ferguson gave her Ritalin. This made her edgy and aggressive again, so he re-introduced Serpasil. Then

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Are you or maybe someone you know stuck in past trauma? When you get together with family or close friends your conversation usually moves to discussing past trauma? There is rarely a day that passes that you don't think about it, talk about it, or have something trigger it? You struggle with feelings of pain (emotional and/or physical), sadness, guilt, shame, vulnerability, and/or confusion. You don't trust others. You tend to have a lot of negative self-talk and blame. If this sounds like you or someone you know, then it's time to work through past trauma to finally start to live the life you want! There are many types of trauma that one can experience during childhood or as an adult. Below are some of the trauma types.

Types of Trauma

Unfortunately, there are too many types of trauma

to list them all but the main types include:

Childhood trauma: physical abuse, psychological-emotional abuse which includes gaslighting, sexual abuse, bullying, human trafficking, childhood neglect – physical and psychological-emotional.

Adult trauma: physical abuse, psychological-emotional abuse which includes gaslighting, sexual abuse, bullying, human trafficking, intimate partner violence.

Children and adults community violence: intentional acts of interpersonal violence committed in public areas, acts of terrorism – for example 9-11, complex trauma – includes multiple traumatic events, disasters - such as hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, and wildfires. This also includes extreme

weather like excessive heat, wind storms, blizzards, or droughts. Medical trauma – psychological and physiological responses can happen in response to medical events and treatments.

Getting Stuck

Most of us have had horrible experiences, so why are some able to work through traumatic events while others get stuck reliving it over and over? There are many reasons, but the main ones include the degree of the trauma, the resilience of the individual, level of executive decision-making skills (fully developed around age 20) and support system.

A strong support system of trusted people that provide love and support is needed to help someone work through traumatic events. When the trauma is inflicted by someone that is supposed to



Melissa Spino
MA LPC CDMS

love and care for the person, the brain has a difficult time processing this and they can become stuck in the situation.

When stuck, the body as a whole, feels the world is unsafe. The person may then form an attachment to a set of beliefs, patterns, and behaviors around the trauma. So, when someone says "it wasn't your fault" or "you're not a bad person"

...that doesn't really help. They feel the way they feel and may be struggling with feelings of pain (emotional and/or physical), sadness, guilt, shame, vulnerability, and confusion. There tends to be a lot of negative self-talk and blame. The person may start to take on the identity of the trauma. It then stops being about what happened to them and starts to become part of them, who they are. It may even progress to a victim identity.

Developing the Victim Identity

Those who have adopted a victim identity feel that their life is entirely under the control of forces outside of them. That they are at the mercy of others, fate, or luck. To really live life is too hard and risky. They can't trust anyone and they have an "I can't" mindset. They have low expectations, avoid expecting more and

are always waiting for "the other shoe to drop." They often self-sabotage and feel they have valid reasons as to why they can't change their life. They are ready with the "yes, but" statements when suggestions are made as to how they could make changes or if it's suggested that they get professional help.

The bottom line is they have made the trauma their identity, they blame themselves for what happened, and often don't feel they deserve to be happy. They become stuck.

This article is a two-part series. The continuation of this article will share ways to help you get unstuck from a trauma identity.

I hope you find this information helpful but it is not intended to diagnose or treat.

Apply for retirement benefits online with Social Security

It's never too early to start planning for retirement, and our online tools can make your planning easier. Visit www.ssa.gov/myaccount to access your *my Social Security* account, get a personalized estimate of your retirement benefits based on your earnings record, and find out how your benefit amount increases depending on the age you start them. Don't have a *my Social Security* account? You can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

You can also review your entire earnings history in your *my Social Security* account. It is important that your earnings history is correct because we base your benefit amount on the earnings reported to us. If you find an error, the publication, *How to Correct Your Social Security Earnings Record*, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf, tells you how to get your information corrected.

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months in advance.)

Find out more about our online services at www.ssa.gov/onlineservices.

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.

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Honor your graduate

In the Lowell Ledger!

The Ledger will be honoring all 2021 LHS graduates in the May 26 edition. This section will include senior photos and names of all graduates. These are provided by the school. If you would like to celebrate your graduate with a personalized ad, please contact our office.

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 7:00 PM. The subject of the hearing will be:

Add advisory pertaining to electronic meeting pursuant to applicable emergency orders

Proposed Auto Repair Service at 211 S. Washington Street SE

An application has been submitted by Mr. Chris Nelson for a vehicle repair service at 211 S. Washington Street SE (PPN 41-20-02-435-006). The applicant has received conditional special land use approval for a towing service on this property, and towing services can only include an auto repair facility if it is specifically authorized by the Planning Commission. Vehicle repair services are permitted in the I-L Light Industrial district only with special land use approval from the Planning Commission.

Copies of the application and the City's Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Written comments will be received until the night of the hearing.

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.



Respectfully,
Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk

Tuckertown, continued



he has a piece of metal that's square, he might flatten that out to make a hatchet. He's made tripods and cook sets for over the fire. You're just kind of forming it into something else. But you can also weld with it, but getting two pieces hot and pounding them together, so it's kind of hard to explain, but it's a cool process to see."

Friends and neighbors seem to share Theresa's enthusiasm for the unique, hand-made items.

"We're just a staple here in Lowell," says Goldner. "When we're at those shows, it's almost like a mini family reunion. Everybody likes to just chat with us and catch up and see what we're working on because

nothing is ever the same. We might make multiple items. We have these owls made out of shovels and we've made hundreds and hundreds, but none of them are the same, because the eyebrows might be different or the beak might be a little different, the eyes have changed over time. It's just so fun. You can make a bunch of items, but they're all different. It's not cookie-cutter."

With the joy that Frank and his family take in the work and an Etsy store that has shipped items to all 50 states as well as England and France, it seems clear that we can expect further hundreds of these eclectic creations in the years to come.



"He just loves to create things and he's done that my whole life. He never calls it a job, it's a hobby. Because he loves what he does, he never thinks of it as work."

To learn more about Tuckertown Forge, visit their website,

Facebook page or Etsy store: <https://tuckertownforge.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/TuckertownForge-104397132969527/>, <https://www.etsy.com/shop/TuckertownForge>

The Restless Viking, continued

he tried his 'treatment gimmick' of giving her Ritalin, but before she could become agitated he would quickly give her Serpasil. It was a delicate dance of dosing (three milligrams of Serpasil and fifteen milligrams of Ritalin three times a day) was the key to keep Gudrum on an even keel.

Gudrum was able to receive 'ground parole' and walk about the campus. She liked to go to The Canteen to shop for snacks. She was able to eat in the dining room. A nurse said that they only had to occasionally remind Gudrum to wear her shoes. Dr Ferguson took Paul De Kruif to meet her and said, "Gudrum cannot be called mentally well, but we are sure she is enjoying life for the first time in many years."

The Journal of the American Medical Association published a paper by Dr. John T. Ferguson and Dr. William H. Funderburk about improving senile behavior. "Urge Drug Use to Curb Antics of Aged" 15,000 reprints were distributed. Ferguson's hope was that family doctors could start medication therapy at the first signs of dementia, before institutionalization. This would reduce heartache and burden. It seemed so simple to Ferguson.

In early 1956 Ferguson felt pride that 150 of the 1,000 "chronic hopeless" patients had been able to be sent home

or to family care. However, he saw trouble. Some patients weren't wanted by their families and the fact that there wasn't enough family care facilities available.

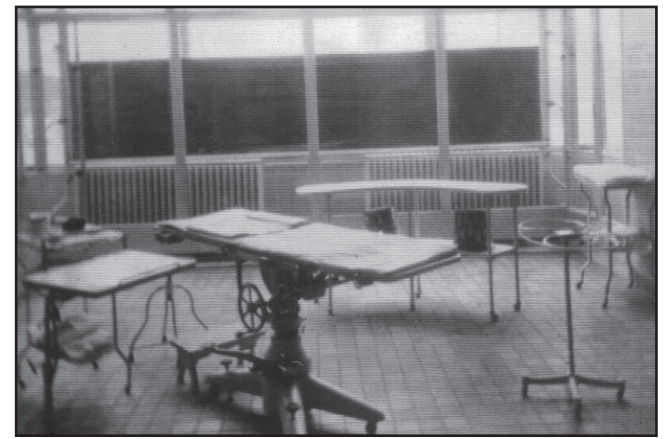
His own colleagues were more interested in sharing rumors about his past and not embracing his model of "chemistry and tender loving care" as viable treatments for individuals struggling with mental challenges. Ferguson found little support for which he had always yearned.

In February 1968 there was a small fire at the hospital. Dr. Ferguson was directing traffic on a busy corner of 11th and Division when he was struck by a car. He died on arrival to Munson Medical Center.

Dr. Jack Ferguson had always craved acceptance and perfection. After experiencing his own mental health struggles and treatments, he steered toward alternatives to lobotomies. Dr. Ferguson's methods were unconventional and upsetting to many colleagues. "Tender Loving Care" along with medication was a fine balancing act, but had proven to be effective in most cases. He spearheaded a whole new outlook on how to treat mentally ill patients.

Resources:

Norma Lee Browning. *Chicago Tribune*, February 24, 1957
De Kruif, Paul. "A Man Against Insanity" 1957



This was a treatment room in the asylum. The extra large windows allowed for more natural light which made procedures easier to execute. Looking at this room, I feel queasy. *Photo courtesy of Traverse City State Hospital.*

Miller, Chris. "Traverse City State Hospital" 2005
Traverse City Oral History Project, Grand Traverse Commons
<https://medium.com/invisible-illness/the-country-doctor-who-cured-insanity-d849cac9bd2d>

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