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World War II veterans honored



ABCs of history: Patrick Bowes



page 6

Gwen Frostic's art studio



page 8

Main Street late summer, early fall

It's official, a drivethrough Jimmy John's sandwich restaurant is under construction at 1279 W. Main, and will open late summer or early fall, creating about 25 jobs.

"I've been in this business for years, and we're always looking for locations, so I've been through Lowell a lot," said owner Jerry Heath. "I wouldn't say I've spent an extensive amount of time in Lowell, but I've been there hundreds of times. I

It's official, a drive- just feel like it's a growing prough Jimmy John's town, it's a nice, small andwich restaurant is town."

Jimmy John's opening on

Heath, a Detroit native, moved to Grand Rapids 26 years ago. He now owns several West Michigan restaurants, including many local Hungry Howie's, the Lowell location will be his 15th Jimmy John's.

"I've kind of had my eye on Lowell for quite a few years, and it finally was approved by corporate," Heath said. "They thought Lowell might have been a little too small a town, but smaller towns are doing really well with Jimmy John's now, so they approved it."

the lowell Red der

> Jimmy John's Sandwiches was founded by Jimmy John Liautaud in a garage in Charleston, IL in 1983.

There are currently more than 2,800 Jimmy John's restaruants in 43 states, 98 percent of which are franchises.



Lowell Crop Hunger Walk is Sunday, May 2

by Tim McAllister lead reporter

Sunday, May 2 is the 27th annual Lowell Area Crop Hunger Walk, a five kilometer (3.1 mile) trek to raise money and awareness of hunger, both in the Lowell community and around the world.

The reason for the five kilometer length is to simulate the average distance somebody in a developing country must walk in order to access fresh water. The Crop Walk used to be longer, symbolically indicating that some progress has been made.

"The purpose of the Crop

Right in Grand Rapids there are 'Soup's On' and 'God's Kitchen' and all of that, but in my opinion there are still not enough people who are aware of how hunger impacts people.

So when we talk about people around the world who need to walk five miles everyday just to get clean water, that's what we're trying to get people more aware of, and to let them know their money, if they do choose to donate, goes to sustainable and renewable resources for communities."

The total amount raised

donations go to the Church World Service, 20 percent to Flat River Outreach Ministries and five percent is donated to Senior Neighbors.

"We've done about \$10,000 to \$15,000 on average every year in Lowell," Benjamin said. "Last year we still, through online donations, cash and checks, were able to raise almost \$9,000. We were kind of scrambling last year, learning how we could still make this work, keep people safe and still raise the awareness. So we're feeling really good that we could for people. It's more modern than it used to be, and it's much easier to use. So we're hoping we can cross the \$10,000 mark again this year, and maybe even set a record. We'll see!"

Last year they were forced to do a "Virtual Crop Walk." This year they will retain many of the virtual aspects, but they are not mandatory.

"We're a little more flexible now because of the pandemic," Benjamin said. "We don't want to force people to feel like they have to be in a big group. Walk wherever you want, film from Church World Service, the organization that started the Crop Walk and that sponsors all of this. We would maybe say a prayer or something, then everybody could go and walk from there. We had a route mapped out on the sidewalk for people to follow, whether it was only one kilometer or five kilometers. Now, because of the pandemic, we're saying that people can stay in their cars and we'll have a car parade going to the Wittenbach Center for anyone who wants to join us and walk out there.



www.thelowellledger.com

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Sometimes the Crop Walk occurs during warm weather, such as in 2015 (left), and sometimes the participants have to bundle up a little, like in 2016 (right).



Walk, besides raising funds to help people, is to raise awareness of what's going on," said event organizer Paul Benjamin. "There are an awful lot of people I know who do help out with issues of hunger and poverty.

over the previous 26 years of the Lowell Area Crop Walk adds up to more than \$400,000. Last year's total amount raised was slightly lower because of the pandemic. Each year, 75 percent of locally-generated

do even better this year. Not only do we have more members on our team who are a little more familiar with social media, the Church World Service also updated the main Crop Walk website to be much more friendly

yourself, take some pictures if you want to and let us know how it goes. Normally, before the pandemic, we would all meet at the United Methodist Church, signin and everything, and we would have a representative

Otherwise, people can walk from the United Methodist Church like they normally would, but we're not going to have a route actually planned out. What we're going to do

Crop Walk, continued, page 7

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Lowell city council meeting report, Monday, April 19



Screenshot from Zoom of Lowell city council in discussion during their regular meeting on Monday, April 19.

by Tim McAllister lead reporter

council Lowell city had their latest regular meeting, both in person and over the Zoom app, at 7 pm on Monday, April 19. The meeting lasted one hour and six minutes, and one person spoke during public comment. Mayor Michael DeVore was absent from for reasons unexplained, so mayor pro-tem Jim Salzwedel led the evening's proceedings instead.

Jake Davenport addressed the council on behalf of the 12-member Community Center Committee that formed in 2019. Davenport said the committee was the sixth attempt to bring a community center to

Lowell, it's about a \$17 million dollar project and they are currently working on creating partnerships with the YMCA, Lowell Area Schools and local businesses.

"Our goal is to not increase taxes, but it's kind of hard to say exactly where that issue is going to go," Davenport said. "A lot of community centers are funded through some sort of millage or bonding proposal, but there are a few out there that are privately funded."

The council approved a "letter of understanding" that would allow the city's eight part-time police officers to join the Fraternal Order of Police

Patients_

union. Currently, only full-time officers receive this benefit.

The reasoning behind the decision was explained in an April 15 interoffice memorandum written by city manager Michael Burns.

"One of the issues resulting from the Aug. 19, 2021 shooting involving former police officer Jason Diaz was that we realized our part-time police officers have no criminal defense protection in the event they are involved in an officer involved shooting or any use of force situation," the memo read. "Our full-time officers in the Fraternal Order of Police bargaining unit have legal defense protection they pay for as part of their union dues. As is quite common, our insurance carrier does not provide criminal legal defense for our officers in the event of a shooting. However, in the event of any civil action brought about against them, our

insurance carrier would represent them and the city. [...] They have been

excluded from most benefits dictated by the collective bargaining agreement. They are not given seniority, healthcare benefits, vacation or sick leave. [...] Former officer Diaz's criminal defense is in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000, which will be completely paid for by the legal defense fund, as officer Diaz was a dues-paying member to the fund. The legal defense offered to officer Diaz is only available to [Fraternal Order of Police] bargaining unit members statewide."

The council voted to sell the "Line Shack" building at 115 Riverside Dr. that is currently owned by Lowell Light & Power. The property will be listed at \$100.000.

next regular meeting is scheduled to take place in person and via Zoom at 7 pm on Monday, May 3. A "Coffee with Council" is scheduled for Saturday, May 1 from 8 am until 10 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building on the Riverwalk, then they will have a budget workshop at city hall the same day from 10 am until 2 pm. A public hearing about the next fiscal year's budget will take place during the regular city council meeting on Monday, May 17.

То watch previous city council, board and commission meetings, look for the "City of Lowell" "Lowell and Light and Power" channels on YouTube or

Lowell city council's visit archive.org.

Donna Jean Ford leaves legacy to beautify Lowell



When Donna Jean Ford passed away on Dec. 11, 2020, she left behind a \$110,000 gift for the city of Lowell and the Lowell Showboat Garden Club to use for landscaping projects.

Lowell citv manager **Michael** Burns and а committee from garden club the began discussions in February about what those projects would be, and they are currently seeking input from area merchants.

will More be revealed as the story progresses.



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Lowell PD officer Ian Shears promoted to full-time

by Tim McAllister lead reporter

Lowell police officer Ian Shears was promoted to full time on Tuesday, April 13.

Shears has been with the department part time since Oct. 2016. As a criminal justice major, he attended Grand Rapids Community College and Central Michigan University, and MCOLES-certified is [Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards].

During his five part-time years, Shears has filled in for full-time officers on various occasions, was awarded the "Life Savings" citation, earned the "Top Shot" and "Marksmanship" awards during training and has received letters of commendation.

In order to be hired, Shears had to pass an interview panel of local law enforcement officials, pass a hands-on scenario and complete a police report.

"Ian is an avid hunter and outdoorsman, a family man and a member of the Lowell area community," Lowell police chief Christopher Hurst said in a press release. "For the first time in months, the Lowell Police Department will be fully staffed."



Benson: MI GOP election reforms more restrictive than GA

Michigan's Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson Thursday made the case that a package of election integrity bills that Michigan Republicans are advancing are thinly veiled attempts to disenfranchise voters.

Specifically, Benson pointed to a proposal that would require Michigan voters to attach a copy of their identification when absentee requesting an ballot. "There's no security

Lowell Police Department activities in March

by Tim McAllister lead reporter

Lowell Police Department made seven arrests during the month of March. These arrests included two for driving with a suspended license, two for outstanding warrants and three that are described in the police department's monthly statistics sheet as "other arrests."

LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during March. There were two larceny calls, five breaking and entering incidents, seven malicious destructions, and 11 assaults. Lowell police

issued 12 citations and notified two residents ordinance about violations.

Out of 59 traffic stops in March, they let 48 drivers go with a warning.

Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 15 times and called other agencies for assistance three times in March. They were also called for assistance by citizens 48 times and motorists four times.

Lowell police were dispatched to 11 accidents during March, four with iniuries.

provision. there's no evidence or data or even precedent to suggest that somehow would prevent voter fraud," Benson said. "But the bottom line is, even in Georgia, they're not requesting citizens admit a photocopy of their ID to request an absentee ballot."

That provision, she said, opens up vulnerable senior citizens to the risk of identity theft as IDs move through the mail. Under current law, she notes voters have to sign the absentee ballot application. That signature is then compared to the qualified voter file. She contends it would be easier to forge a photocopied ID than to forge a signature and fraudulently obtain an absentee ballot.

David Becker, the founder of the Center for Election Innovation & Research, called Thursday the photocopied ID requirement something that would reduce election integrity, not increase it.

"When you make it hard for people to exercise their choice [..] you reduce election integrity," Becker said. "You have harmed election integrity because by creating that barrier, you

prevent people from voting early and you concentrate voting on election day."

Benson also argued that the content of the Republican's electionintegrity package is "anti-American," and the tactics the GOP is discussing would allow a small minority to "undo the will of millions."

"The bills are anti-American and the opposite of what our voters want," Benson said. "It's also the way by which Republican leaders are seeking to enact it. [...] They publicly admitted that their goal is to have these bills vetoed by the governor, who, unlike them, was elected by a majority of all voters, so that they can solicit signatures from a small selection of their supporters - less than seven percent of all Michigan voters - to override any gubernatorial veto and use their gerrymandered power to undo the will of millions of Michigan citizens."

In arguing the package is aimed at reducing the participation of voters from urban centers like Detroit, Benson noted that the package would "prohibit the counting of valid votes that are dropped in drop boxes" on Election Day.

"The majority of ballots

in 2020 were dropped off on Election Day, particularly in the city of Detroit," Benson added.

Detroit Clerk Janice Winfrey also noted the proposals' impact on city residents.

"These make voting harder for our citizens,' Winfrey said. "We all know that these bills are an attack on election administrators and our collective democracy. They include countless ill-informed and nefarious measures that will negatively impact our election and our voters."

Benson said she has been meeting with GOP lawmakers to shape the bills, and she would be willing to participate in negotiating a final package.

"Yes, I welcome the opportunity to talk with our state legislators, as I have and have been doing since the beginning of the year when we introduced a legislative series of legislative proposals that actually do follow the data and the interests and the needs of the voters in improving our election laws," Benson said.

Benson said the talks had not yet yielded any collaboration but "hope springs eternal.'

Benson is open to an earlier primary, but 2022 is problematic.

Asked about moving up the 2022 primary election, Benson said she's supportive of further election consolidation by combining the August primary with the May vote. However, next year won't be the year because of other "moving parts."

"I support efforts to consolidate our May and August elections and I've been very clear in my conversations with the legislators about this, that should not go into effect until 2024," Benson said. "Because of all the other pieces that have to go into play in 2022, in other words, there's no, in my view, reason or need to change the date of the Aug, 2022 primary."

It should be noted that 2022 is a gubernatorial year in which the governor is on the ballot for reelection. However, the schedule for the Independent Redistricting Commission is being pushed due to delayed census numbers.

It may push the release of final maps into late this year or early next year, depending on the success of any

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returned through drop boxes

potential legal challenge



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Spectrum Health to expand coverage for seniors Will provide in-network care for BCBSM Medicare Advantage PPO members

Grand Rapids-based Spectrum Health will expand its longstanding, network relationship with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan by joining the Blue Cross Medicare Advantage PPO network beginning July 1.

Spectrum Health, which is already а network provider for Blue Cross and Blue Care Network commercial plan members, as well as **BCN** Advantage Medicare plan members, will now welcome seniors with Blue Cross Medicare Advantage PPO plans to Spectrum Health physician offices and Spectrum Health's 14 hospitals in west Michigan, including Hastings.

This will enable Blue Cross members who have existing relationships with Spectrum Health physicians to seamlessly transition from their commercial HMO and PPO coverage to a Blue Cross Medicare Advantage plan, according to an April 13 press release.

Blue Cross also will be working with Spectrum Health on population health management and improving the quality and affordability of care for Blue Cross and Blue Care Network members.

"Through this expanded partnership, Spectrum Health is furthering its commitment to providing high-quality care and expanding access to our senior members," said Jeff Connolly, senior vice president of West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. "We are looking forward to growing our relationship with the system and

enhancing population health management while offering trusted, reliable health care services to senior patients."

Spectrum

Health

Alejandro Quiroga MD, senior vice president of population health for Spectrum Health of West Michigan, said, "We are pleased to collaborate with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to expand coverage options for our patients and partner on innovative ways to help patients improve their health. We look forward to working together to help improve care coordination and be sure patients are receiving the most effective care for their situation."

Bowne Township culvert replacement causes detour





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St St 92nd Street

84th Street will be detoured for the next few weeks.

The Kent County Road Commission announced last week that "Bowne culvert #13" on 84th Street would be replaced and traffic on that street will be detoured from Monday, April 19 through Friday, May 14.

"This project includes the replacement of existing 87" steel culvert with a 10' x 8' precast concrete box," read a KCRC press release.

The contractor is CL Trucking and Excavating and the project cost is \$107,000.

^{the}leedger

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger April 24, 1896

The upper Michigan mine workers, through their delegates in convention here, decided to demand an eight-hour work day. The vote was unanimous. It was agreed that the present conditions were unfavorable for making an immediate demand, owing to the overstocked condition of the ore market and the supposed willingness of mine owners to suspend operations, and it was decided to refer the duty of making the demand to the executive council with instructions to act as it sees fit.

There is an epidemic of typhoid fever in this city. The health officers report 30 cases, but there are probably 40 or 50, with many deaths.

Thomas Brown, serving a seven-year sentence from Oakland county, was shot through the heart Thursday afternoon while trying to escape. He, with a convict named Pat Dolan, took a ladder, rushed out of the Withington & Cooley shop, and planted it against the wall. Dolan was at the top, and Brown was following, when halted by the guard. Dolan jumped back, but Brown kept on, and, after firing in the air to frighten him, Gaud Southwick shot him through the heart.

> 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger

75 years The Lowell Ledger April 25, 1946

Lt. Carlton Runciman, who has been serving in the U. S. Navy for nearly three years, was recently promoted to a full lieutenancy. For the past year he has been serving on the island of Oahu, not far from Pearl Harbor. He has earned his discharge points and may soon be homeward bound.

The rural home provides a better atmosphere for the rearing of children than does the city home, a recent survey shows. This was revealed in a personal statement made by Dr. T. T. Swearingen, director of adult work and family life of the International Council of Religious Education and secretary of interfaith committee planning the observance of National Family Week.

Miss Mary VanOosten has purchased the Claude Thorne beauty parlor and equipment, which she is now operating under her own name. All join in wishing success to the new proprietor.

50 years The Lowell Ledger April 29, 1971

A survey conducted by John Paul Jones, Lowell Planning consultant, points out the need for low rent public housing in Lowell. His report, given to the Planning Commission Monday evening, proposed 50 units of low rent public housing for the elderly and 75 units of general family occupancy.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Third Class Kirk Y. Jefferies, 504 Lincoln Lake Avenue, Lowell, was named "Serviceman of the Year" while serving at the United States Coast Guard Base at Portsmouth, Virginia. He was cited for excellence in the line of duty.

At the base of the flag pole in the Lowell Post Office yard, standing tall and utterly handsome, is a full bloom of red tulips which give every indication that spring is really here. Their caretaker, Fred Phelps, is keeping his fingers crossed in hopes that the below normal temperatures that are predicted will not make them a victim of their "frost bite."

> 25 years The Lowell Ledger April 24, 1996

Senate subcommittees will kick out budgets next week

The Michigan Senate is intending to kick out appropriations subcommittee budgets next week and are on track to finish the budget "on time," according to Abby Walls, spokesperson for Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake).

In June 2020, the Legislature postponed the July 1 budget completion deadline for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the time, Michigan's income tax deadline was subjected to a three-month delay. Afterward, the state was pushed to use a fusion of spending cuts, federal coronavirus relief money and \$350 million from the Rainy-Day Fund to balance the 2020 budget and, later, the 2021 budget that started Oct. 1.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Jim Stamas (R-Midland) had welcomed and backed up the rescheduling, expressing publicly that more time was needed to put forward a constructive budget. Although the COVID-19 pandemic isn't over, more certainty in state revenue and a large influx of federal dollars could make mastering the July 1 budget deadline, which was agreed on by both the Democratic governor and Republican-majority Legislature in December 2019, a doable quest.

But for Superintendent Randy Leipa of the Wayne RESA, completing a School Aid Budget by June 1 is crucial for "planning for the upcoming school year and supporting our students" ongoing recovery."

"Our superintendents are working around the clock to put in place the best services possible for their students and getting a budget done by June 1 will give them time to finalize those plans with their school boards, hire the teachers and support staff they'll need and give our students the support they'll need moving forward," he said.

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.

April 28, 1921

The proposed libel law which has passed the house at Lansing, making it a criminal offense to criticize the people, creed or actions of any religious sect, while aimed at Henry Ford's paper for its war in the Jews, will if enacted and enforced destroy the freedom of the press in Michigan.

Peter J. Pell, sentenced to the county jail for 30 days by Police Judge Frank A Hess for failing to send his son, Gerald, to the local Christian high school, spends his time kneeling in his cell, praying "for the cause of God and the high schools of the country." Pell refused to pay a fine of \$25 and costs. He told the court he preferred jail to sending his boy to any school.

Absolute forbidding of beer as a medicine, a ban on liquor importations for five years, prohibition of manufacture of all spirituous liquors until the present supply reaches a level of 250,000 gallons, and centralization of liquor warehouses will be urged on congress by the national legislative committee of the prohibition forces which has assembled here. The news spread Wednesday morning as quickly as the flames did that engulfed the McDonald's restaurant here in Lowell. The fire, according to state Fire Marshall Sgt. Joel DeKraker, started in a closet holding combustible materials.

The most politically sensitive issue in regards to the proposed seven block format is the seminar period. Lowell High School principal Scott Vashaw, however, says what is going to improve and impact students is the key issue in determining success. "This will allow for students to be taught more and varied activities in a class session," Varshaw said.

Following in the footsteps of its neighbors to the south. Vergennes Township Board of reviewing plans to renovate its township hall. Dough Necci, AIA director of architectural services for JCK and Associates, presented plans to renovate the current facility instead of building a new one. The requirements are:

• All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.

• Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.

• All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.

• Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.

• Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.

• Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.

• "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.

• In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.

• We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.



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tinea versicolor

One of the most common fungal skin infections is called tinea versicolor. It is also called pityriasis versicolor. It occursmost often in teens and young adults.

The infection results in multiple small, discolored, skin patches.

They can appear lighter or darker than the surrounding skin. It most commonly appears on the trunk and shoulders. Sun exposure typically worsens the appearance. The rash does not cause itching or any other symptoms.

Hot, humid weather can make the rash worse.

Diagnosis is made by visual inspection and sometimes skin scrapings evaluated under the microscope.

Treatment is usually with topical creams. These include selenium sulfide lotion. ketoconazole cream, or ciclopirox cream. Sometimes or al medications like diflucan or itraconazole are needed. It takes several weeks to months before the skin returns to normal.





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 third round of the alphabet.

B is for Bowes Road

If you live in Lowell, or even just drive through. chances are good that you are familiar with Bowes Road. It is a common short cut to avoid Main Street, and in addition to houses and businesses, it is home to Stoney Lakeside Park, the Lowell Dog Park, and Lowell Township's North Grand River Riverfront Park. Of all the people who travel on the road daily, not many know about the man behind the name.

Patrick Bowes was born in Canada, lived from 1856 to 1939, and is now buried in Oakwood Cemetery. In the years he spent in Lowell, he left his mark, and now the street he lived on bears his name.

Pat Bowes was a tough lawman, serving as both Kent County Sheriff deputy and as Village Marshal. He was described as a picturesque character and a man of much physical vigor. It was known that, "when Pat says, 'I'll have the la-aw on yez,' he means business!" He wasn't afraid to say what he thought. When one citizen expressed concern over a marshal who



Mr. and Mrs. Pat Bowes.

used profanity on the street Pat told him he was a 'sore head

Bowes was known for his tough crackdown on violators of the liquor laws and public intoxication. He ran an efficient local police service. It was believed that his crack down angered enough criminals that an attempt was made on his life. While at his home, on a December evening in 1923, someone shot through the front window, narrowly missing him as he bent to put a record on the phonograph. He showed his quick wit and sense of humor as he told of his music selection, "Nearer, My God to Thee." Being the capable lawman, he was able to grab his revolver, rush onto the porch, and empty the gun in the direction of the assailant darting towards a running car.

In 1924, Bowes was expected to be reappointed as Village Marshal, but at

.6:00 PM

the council meeting the city attorney declared that the marshal needed to be a village resident. Bowes made a characteristic speech which he declared that "he did not have to have the dirty job on which he had spent 14 days a week, taken unlimited abuse and narrowly escaped being murdered; but that he was deputy sheriff yet and would go on doing his duty and defied anyone to show that he hadn't done his duty as Marshal." He also thanked the citizens and council men who had supported him.

The Sheriff, in a show of support said Pat would be Deputy Sheriff as long as he was sheriff. He explained that Kent County had moved from 17th place with regards to law enforcement to second with the help of Deputy Bowes. At the next meeting Pat Bowes (Village Marshal)

and Gene Carr (Night Watchman) presented their resignations. Two others were appointed in their place. Pat Bowes continued to serve the Lowell area as Deputy Sheriff. Whether because of the boundary change, or law change, in years to come Bowes would again serve as Village Marshal.

Bowes was known for catching escaped prisoners from the Ionia reformatory. One capture occurred about 12 miles north of Lowell. The man had evidently stolen clothing somewhere which he was wearing in place of prison garb. The observant eye of Bowes noticed that the man was wearing prison shoes, and arrested him. Bowes was compassionate as well as tough on the job. In 1932, at the age of 78, he captured two escaped prisoners. He

ABCs continued, page 12



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Roxann Roth, Connie Phillips, Ian Newhouse, Daniel Titcombe.

APRIL 22

Mallorie VanDerWarf, Hill, Mackenzie Tim Hacker.

APRIL 23

Nathan Roudabush, Jonathan Dixon, Karen Nicole Merriman, Cummings, Brandon Short.

APRIL 24

Gary Goff, Trevor Foss, Nichole Hoag, Don Shaffer, Logan Propst.

APRIL 25

Bonnie Weststrate.

APRIL 26

Marsha Ray, Casey Brown, Bonnie Baird, Audrey Bailey, Jonathan Christiansen, Brad Brzezniak.

APRIL 27

Janice Ryder, Dennis Pretzel, Debbie Burrows, Ashlyn Karp.



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES 2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free) 897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries SUNDAY WORSHIP....9:30 AM (Nursery provided) LIFE GROUPS11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult) Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 рм

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH discover. grow. share 621 E. Main Street 897-5938 www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance WORSHIP Traditional Service: 9 am Contemporary Service: 10:30 am Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

' [™]ledger

Crop Walk, continued

is have everybody show up there in their cars, just to gather as best as we can. We will have a Zoom meeting available, and I'm also going to try to have a Facebook live broadcast."

Leaders and congregants from many local churches will be present and involved, including Bowne Center United Methodist Church, Calvary Christian Reformed, First Congregational Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lowell United Methodist Church and Vergennes United Methodist Church.

"That is who will definitely be represented, but we are always petitioning other organizations, especially churches," Benjamin said. "Any organization in the area who would like to be represented doesn't even necessarily have to donate funds from their organization directly. If they'd like to just have one person show up and say they're from that church instead of being an individual on their own, then we can give them props for having directed support and representation from their church there, which benefits them. As far as the benefit to us, we just simply hope that it could maybe include more people from their organization who may want to participate in the future."

Many are able go about their daily lives unbothered by the fact that there are millions of starving people all over the world. Others are deeply disturbed by this and feel obligated to do something about it.

"Ever since I graduated high school in 1990, the plight of people who don't have enough to eat or drink has always been on my mind," Benjamin said. "I've tried to help out in little ways, and when I moved to Lowell 15 years ago, I became aware of the Crop Walk and was getting involved in it. About five years ago I joined the organization team. The pastor of the Vergennes United Methodist Church was moving, and he asked me to step up and be the

organizer of the team. So I graciously accepted his offer to do that. I just felt like it was something I was called to do, I suppose, and when that opportunity presented itself, I felt very fortunate to be able to be one of the people to have a guiding hand in getting the word out about this and trying to help people. The Church World Service has a phrase they like to use, "We choose to walk because other people have to," which is something I ascribe to. For me it's more than just choosing to walk, it's choosing to educate any way I can, and trying to stay educated. I know I keep saying this, and I sound like a broken record, but the



most important thing is just raising awareness of it."

For more information, to sign up or donate, call 616-481-2906, send a message to paulbenjamin@gmail.com or visit crophungerwalk.org/ lowellmi.

"If anyone is interested in more information and they'd like to speak with someone directly, feel free to contact me," Benjamin said. "We also have an Instagram, @ cropwalklowellmi"

Vast majority of school employees fully vaccinated, according to latest MEA survey

Michigan school employees are either fully or in process of being vaccinated against COVID-19, according to an online survey completed by more than 22,000 MEA members.

Beyond the 82.3 percent who report being fully vaccinated, some educators are still in the vaccination process - 3.6 percent having received the first of two Pfizer or Moderna shots and another 0.6 percent having their first shot scheduled. Another 1.2 percent still plan to receive the vaccine, with only 7.4 percent choosing not to be vaccinated and 4.7 percent unsure.

"These numbers are a testament to the success of Gov. Whitmer prioritizing school employees to receive the vaccine. That decision in early January was essential to providing more in-person learning opportunities for students. MEA thanks Gov. Whitmer for her leadership nationally in getting the vaccine rolled out to frontline workers like our members."

A survey released March 18 by the National Education getting testing and getting Association showed nearly vaccinated. That's the only

Nearly 90 percent of half of educators across the country had received at least one vaccine shot, an increase from a mere 18 percent in a February survey.

MEA research at the same time showed Michigan outpacing those national numbers, with nearly twothirds having received at least one shot in early February.

"These numbers are a bright spot as Michigan weathers our current wave of COVID cases. While most educators are vaccinated, most of our students are not and we're concerned about their safety," Herbart said. "That's why MEA supports Gov. Whitmer's call for a pause to many in-person activities and, further, encourages all school districts, community colleges and universities to make the local decision to switch to virtual learning until this surge subsides.

"We must make the conscious choice, across our communities, to band together and fight this disease by wearing masks, keeping our distance, avoiding gatherings, way to ensure Michigan students can safely learn in-person - which is how educators want to be working with our students."

This most recent survey, conducted online from April 9-14, was answered by 22,101 MEA members across the state, including PreK-12 teachers and

support staff, higher education faculty and staff, student teachers and school retirees. While not a scientific sample, the responses were geographically representative of MEA's membership, statewide which includes about 120,000 members spanning every Michigan county.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLANNING COMMISSION

On Tuesday May 4, 2021 the Planning Commission for Bowne Township will hear public comments related to the following request. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto concerning the following:

1. Application for Exception for Width to Depth Ratio

Mr. Ruben Ramos has submitted an application for exception for width to depth ratio regarding parcel 41-24-03-200-005 and 41-24-03-200-007 under Section 3.45 of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. The Ordinance requires properties smaller than 40 acres in size that are being split through the land division process to meet a minimum 3:1 Width to Depth Ratio. The parcel(s) that Mr. Ramos is proposing to split meet this minimum width to depth ratio at 5.8:1.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLANNING COMMISSION

On Tuesday May 4, 2021 the Planning Commission for Bowne Township will hear public comments related to the following request. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto concerning the following:

1. Amendment to Article 2: Section 2.48 - Lot Definitions

An amendment to the definition of the area of a lot for the creation of a "back-lot" provision to the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance.

2. Amendment to Article 3: Section 3.01 -Access to a Street

An amendment to Section 3.01 to permit access to a street for back lot properties with a dedicated 66-foot right-of-way easement owned by the back lot property owner with the provision that said property owner must maintain the minimum lot width stipulated by the applicable zoning district.

3. Amendment to Article 3: Section 3.08 -Driveways

An amendment to Section 3.08 to add a "shared-use" driveway for the exclusive use of only two back-lot parcels.

4. Amendment to Article 3: Section 3.24 -

CITY OF LOWELL **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Look Memorial Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for Spring 2021. Applications are available at Lowell City Hall.

Grant applications should be submitted to Susan Ullery, City Clerk, 301 East Street, Lowell, MI 49331. The deadline for submitting Spring 2021 applications is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021.



The application and any other information will be available for review and written comments will be received until 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.

> Bradley S. Kotrba Planning & Zoning Administrator (616) 988-3526

Private Roads

An amendment to Section 3.24 to establish private roads for the usage of three or more parcels that share said private roadway. The private roadway must meet all the minimum Township, County, and State roadway construction and design guidelines.

The amendments and any other information will be available for review and written comments will be received until 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.

> Bradley S. Kotrba Planning & Zoning Administrator (616) 988-3526

_____ ^{the} lowell dger **Gwen Frostic's studio listed in the National Register of Historic Places**



Greg and Kim Forshee, who own Gwen Frostic Prints, are "over the moon" that the late artist's studio has been added to the National List of Historic Places. (Photo provided)

Property that served as the studio, retail shop, printing operation, and private residence of renowned Michigan artist Gwen Frostic has been given special recognition through its listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation recently announced.

Administered in Michigan by the State Historic Preservation Office, the Register National of Historic Places is the United States federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance.

physically disabled artist and businesswoman functioning in a man's world, Gwen Frostic defied the odds and became a much-honored, Michigander," beloved said Debra Ball Johnson, AIA, architect, historic architect and architectural historian at SHPO. "She was an inspiration to both physically challenged persons and the women of Michigan and far beyond, as a noted artist, writer, nature lover and entrepreneur.

"Designed by her and reflective of her love of nature, the studio represents Gwen Frostic during her productive life and most directly reflects her significance in and "Although she was a contributions to art in

Michigan," Ball Johnson said. "With the help of this designation, the Gwen Frostic Studio will continue to be a destination and inspiration for art lovers, history buffs and tourists for years to come."

Located at 5140 River Road, Benzonia, southeast of Frankfort the studio building is multi-functional, containing all aspects of Frostic's professional and personal life. It opened in 1964 and housed her business, Presscraft Papers, including the printing press operation and retail store, as well as her personal office and residence.

Expressive of her love of nature, it is constructed in an organic style of architecture,

wedged into the hillside and utilizing natural materials from the site with long, lowpitched roofs to blend into the natural environment.

With large expanses of windows for natural light to allow for views of the bucolic landscape around the building, the building includes walls and buttresses of local boulders, sod roofs, a roundhouse addition to accommodate increased summertime visitors and sales, and natural materials used on the interior and exterior.

The original 40-acre site, which included her beloved Frog Pond, grew to more than 200 acres as Frostic acquired and preserved adjacent fields and wetlands.

The studio building is significant for the art she created while living there with nature; the books she wrote, illustrated, and printed based on her love Michigan's natural of environment; her unique store, which has hosted millions of visitors; the printing operation over which she had total control; and her actions to conserve and promote Michigan's natural environment.

Prior to her death in 2001 - a day before she would have turned 95 she had arranged to donate \$13 million to Western Michigan University, at the time, the largest single gift in the school's history. The university used the funds

to support art facilities and a broad array of funds and scholarships, including establishing the Gwen Frostic

School of Art. Following her death, the property was divided into three parcels, and in 2010, local residents and husband-andwife team Greg and Kim Forshee purchased the printing operation and 10 acres of property. The printing operation, and

Gwen Frostic's legacy, have remained flourishing to this day. The studio is expected to open

for the summer May 21. "We're over the moon excited that Gwen Frostic Studio has been named to the National Register of Historic Places," Kim Forshee said. "We consider ourselves caretakers of the property, and our mission is to continue to spread the word about Gwen Frostic and to share what she accomplished in her time in Northern Michigan. This opportunity is a step in the right direction for teaching current and future generations to stick to their



Gwen Frostic, photographed here in 1976, defied the odds and became known for her unique art style and love of the natural environment. (Photo courtesy of Kim and Greg Forshee)

> passions, no matter the hurdles."

> Forshee said she appreciated the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office for not only nominating the studio for the recognition, but also working diligently to ensure that the legacy of Gwen Frostic lives on nationally.

Focused on the historic preservation of culturally or archaeologically significant sites throughout the state, Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office's main function is to provide technical assistance to local communities in their





105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9261 Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8-5 pm • Fri. 8-noon

Gwen Frostic designed her Benzie County studio, which still reflects her love of nature. (Photo courtesy of the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office)



efforts to identify, evaluate, designate, interpret and protect Michigan's historic above- and below-ground SHPO also resources. administers an incentives program that includes federal tax credits and passthrough grants available to certified local governments.

- medger Some superintendents want state school aid budget by June 1, not July 1

Around \$3.7 billion in federal relief money is slated to come to Michigan schools, the largest-ever investment in the state's public schools. But some superintendents feel too in the dark about what exactly is coming to them and when to appreciate the pledged influx.

То inject more certainty into the process, superintendents at Thursday's K-12 Alliance of Michigan roundtable urged for lawmakers to finish doling out the federal money by June 1 while passing the School Aid Budget a month before its July 1 deadline.

"In many ways, when we don't have a clear picture from the state level, it's a little bit like throwing darts at a board. We don't really know what the financial picture is going to look like from the state level," said superintendent Kevin Miller of the St. Clair County Regional Education Service Agency.

Miller explained that for intermediate school districts and RESAs, their own budgets must be completed

this month to be issued out to local district officials for approval in May. He emphasized that it's always been a problem that public school budgets are due in June and that the state budget is not technically put out until Oct. 1.

"I can't stress enough how strongly I feel that getting an early budget from the state is imperative to success for us," Miller said. "Again, we appreciate the money that has flowed our way so far, both from the state and federal government. But to really deal with this pandemic in a proactive way, we need to have a look at that state budget."

diving Before into his introduction at the roundtable, Miller mentioned that it's been a tough time in St. Clair County, which had 169 new cases of COVID-19 and nine deaths Thursday. He said his school district is even considering giving some kind of an employee bonus to those willing to get fully vaccinated over the next 30 to 45 days.

Zooming in on the recurring issue of late budget that some superintendents are left without a basis for making important budgeting and hiring decisions.

"While the federal stimulus dollars coming into Michigan are unquestionably helpful and badly needed as part of those efforts, ultimately we need a state budget in place to make a lot of the longer-term decisions and the hiring decisions to move that process forward," McCann said.

The governor's School Aid Fund proposal for fiscal year 2022 would be the state's largest-ever school investment at \$14.7 billion, which executive director Amber Arellano of The Education Trust-Midwest said "would make important early progress on the investment front" for ensuring educational recovery and addressing inequities in Michigan's public school funding system.

Today's historic birthdays

1816: Charlotte Brontë, novelist, poet

1838: John Muir, environmentalist, author 1915: Anthony Quinn,

actor 1924: Ira Louvin, singer/ songwriter, The Louvin Brothers

1926: Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, etc.

1932: Elaine May, actor, comedian

1935: Charles Grodin, actor

1947: Iggy Pop, singer/ songwriter, Iggy & The

Gary Condit,



politician

1949: Patti LuPone. actor, singer 1958: Andie MacDowell, actor 1959: Robert Smith, singer/songwriter, guitarist, The Cure

Other National Register sites can be visited nearby

95,000 More than properties across the country, including nearly 2,000 in Michigan, have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since the program began in the 1960s. The National Register is a program of the National Park Service and is administered by the states.

To be considered for listing in the National Register, a property must generally be at least 50 years old, and also must be significant when evaluated in relationship to major historical events or trends in the history of their community, the state or the nation. A property also must possess historic integrity, which means the ability to convey its significance.

The list is not limited to homes, courthouses and or other buildings; it includes factories, churches, stores, monuments, bridges and structures. Kent other County has a variety of venues on the NRHP, including a former railroad culvert, some prehistoric burial mounds, historic schools, a retirement home, a performance hall, a seminary and a water filtration plant.

Other local sites on the National Registry of Historic Places include:

Alto: Whitney Tavern Stand, 5283 Whitneyville Ave., listed March 27, 1987. Bellevue: Bellevue Mill,

218 E. Mill St., listed March

NATIONAL REGISTER **OF HISTORIC PLACES** BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

THIS PROPERTY

HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE

Vermontville: First Congregational Church, 341 S. Main St., listed Sept. 3, 1971.

Vermontville: Vermontville Chapel and Academy, 106 N. Main St., listed Aug. 7, 1972.

Vermontville: Vermontville Opera House, 219 S. Main St., listed July 14, 1993.

Yankee Springs Township: Chief Noonday Group Camp Historic District, M-179 east of Briggs Road, listed Dec. 13, 1996.

Yankee Springs Township: Long Lake Group Camp Historic District, 10370 Gun Lake Road, listed Dec. 13, 1996.

Listing of a property in the National Register is honorary and places no restrictions on what a property owner may do. Owners are not required to open a site to the public or display a plaque acknowledging the listing, although many companies offer plaques to recognize the work and effort to get a property officially listed.

Listing in the National Register provides opportunities for promotion, makes available certain incentives such as grants and tax credits that foster investment in cities, towns and villages, and allows for the consideration of historic resources when federal funding or permits are involved.

More information about the National Register of Historic Places program in Michigan, and how nominate a property, to can be found at miplace. org/historic-preservation/ programs-and-services/ national-register-of-historicplaces.

releases, executive director Stooges Robert McCann of the K-12 **1948**: Alliance of Michigan said

Office Assistant Fuller Septic Services is seeking an Office Assistant to answer phones, prepare monthly reports, handle pre-collection accounts, and assist customers with scheduling, billing and payments. Experience with Accounts Payable / Accounts Receivable, Excel and Quickbooks desired.

4, 1975.

Hastings: Barry County Courthouse Complex, 220 W. State St., listed Aug. 3, 1981.

Hastings: Daniel Striker House, 321 S. Jefferson St., listed Jan. 13, 1972.

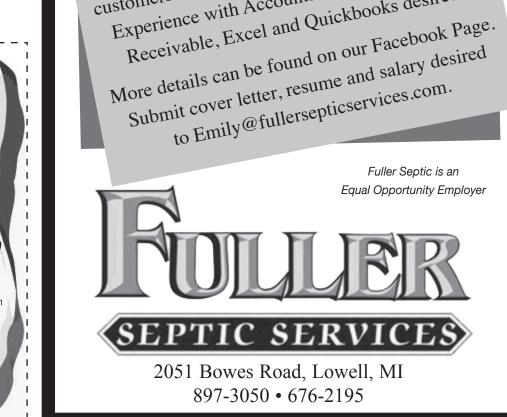
Hastings: Shriner-Ketcham House, 327 Shriner St., listed March 17, 1987.

Middleville: John Carveth House, 614 W. Main St. Middleville, listed Aug. 21, 1992.

Richland: Richland Historic District, North 32nd, Church, Park streets, East D Avenue, and Gull Road, listed April 11, 1997.

Sunfield: Sunfield Grand Army of the Republic Post 283 Hall, 115 Main St., listed Oct. 29, 1992.





^{the}leedger

- LACROSSE SPORTS

Boys lacrosse wins two lopsided games to start season

by Justin Scott contributing writer

page 10 _

The Lowell boys lacrosse team entered the game against South Christian with a roster of 40 players, and the program looked very strong this week with two lopsided wins. Lowell

jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, defeating the Sailors 16-1.

Connor Lixie scored the first goal of the game for Lowell. He scored three on the night. Cole Huisman led



the team with five goals. Andrew Rogers added four goals. Spencer Guppy, Marshall VanWagner, and Owen Carpenter each added goals in the win.

Northview, who in past years has been a strong rival to Lowell, found themselves on the wrong end of a 24-3 loss in the second game of the season. The win moved Lowell to 2-0 on the season. Lowell plays Kenowa Hills, Comstock Park, Portage Central, and Portage Northern this week.

While Lowell has the numbers to form a JV team, many area teams don't have this luxury, making scheduling for a JV season quite challenging, this is why for some games this season Lowell will field a team of 40 players. The JV team was able to schedule games against Jenison and Rockford this past week. David Foster scored the Lowell goal in a 5-1 loss to Jenison.

Despite being without head coach Jesse Vasquez for the game, the Lowell varsity girls lacrosse team was able to win their second game of the season, edging out Grand Haven 8-7 on a cold night at Bob Perry Field.

The team is 2-3 on the season with wins over Northview and the Buccaneers. Conference favorite Spring Lake, Hudsonville, and Grand Rapids Christian each scored wins over the lady Arrows.

Baseball shuts out Lakewood

by Justin Scott contributing writer

A combined nohitter by five different Lowell pitchers helped lead Lowell to a 5-0 nonconference win over Lakewood last week. Xander Reisbig and Kyle Teachworth each had two hits in the win, while on defense Lowell went error-less.

On Friday, Lowell took on undefeated Grand Rapids Christian who would improve to 6-0 after sweeping the LHS by a score of 9-1 and 4-0.

The Red Arrows are 2-6 in the early goings of the season with a seasonopening win against Wyoming and losses to Rockford (2), Cedar Springs, and Grand Rapids Christian (3). Lowell has conference games against Byron Center and Forest Hills Central this week.



- GOLF

Golfers start season on strong note

by Justin Scott contributing writer

The Lowell varsity boys golf team bested their last 18-hole team score from two years ago (2019 Regionals) by 44 strokes in last week's Thornapple Kellogg Invitational hosted at Yankee Springs. Lowell's 328 score was 17 strokes off the school record for the lowest 18-hole team score, set in 1991. The Red Arrows 80, Brad VandenHout with an 83, and Cameron Sluss rounded out the scoring with an 87. Ty Knottnerus also shot a 99 for the A-team. Both de Voest and Veldman earned medalist honors for placing in the top 10.

Lowell's B-Team, a first for varsity competition, which placed 11th was led

leading to higher scores than at Thornapple-Kellogg. Will de Voest led the team with an 83, followed by Veldman (88), Swanson (93), and Knottnerus (96).

At the Grand Rapids Christian Tournament, the boys placed fifth out of 10 teams with a 342 led by sophomore Drew Veldman's 83. Two players hit 12 fairways, and Knottnerus, who shot a 90, dropped 85 feet of putts including a 45 footer. Also scoring for the tournament were Will de Voest (83), Sluss (87), and VandenHout (90). Lowell has a jamboree at Brookside this week. For state qualification, teams who qualify will shoot near the 310 mark, which will certainly be a goal for this year's Arrows.

Busy start for Lowell softball

by Justin Scott contributing writer

- SOFTBALL

A lot can change in two years. In early 2020, Lowell was coming off a 2019 state quarterfinals appearance and had a senior-laden roster ready to make another deep run in the state tournament. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that season never materialized. Now, in 2021, the varsity softball program under new coach Blu Conrad will look to continue the positive trajectory of the program.

In the season-opening

into the game very well after giving up three in the first inning. In game two, Lowell won a thriller by a score of 13-12. Taylor Clark singled on a 3-2 count in the seventh inning scoring the game-winner. Clark had five hits during the game to lead LHS.

In a non-conference doubleheader, Lowell fell to Lakewood in both games. Olivia Outman hit a firstinning home run to give the Arrows a lead in game one, but that would be the only run scored for LHS in the game one 5-1 loss. In game two, Lowell improved in the offensive department putting up eight runs, but Lakewood went for 14 to take the doubleheader. Courtney Witten hit a home run for LHS in game two.

Three games. Three wins. That was the result of Lowell's first threegame conference series, as Lowell swept Grand Rapids Christian. Lowell exploded for 42 runs across the 11-1, 19-4, and 12-8 wins. In the 11-1 win, Taylor Clark brought in six runs including a grand slam. Macy Huver struck out seven in the victory.

The Red Arrows fell in two non-conference games

were paced by Will de Voest who shot a team-low of 78, which sits T-21st on the LHS golf all-time 18-hole rounds list.

Following de Voest for the A-team in scoring was Drew Veldman who shot at



by Terrick Stewart who shot a 92. He was followed by Patrick de Voest and Jake Bonney who each shot 96, Will Brandt (98), Mason Thomas (99), and Adam Swanson (100).

> In the season's opening tournament, Lowell braved the cold weather at the Kent County Classic held at Thornapple Pointe. The team placed 11th with a team score of 360. Despite only three penalty strokes all

> > day for the five

players, Lowell's

putting was not up

to par for the day,

The JV team defeated Byron Center at Ironwood 192-194. series against Cedar Springs, Lowell swept the Red Hawks. In game one, Lowell won 8-3 on the back of a seven-inning pitching performance by Kamie Venema. Venema settled

- SOCCER

over the weekend to settle at 5-4 before Monday's games. Lowell lost 14-4 to South Christian and 7-2 to Traverse City West. Faith Worsley had two hits in the loss to TC West.

Soccer claims and draw and a win

by Justin Scott contributing writer

The girls soccer team came away with a draw and a loss this past week. In the draw with Grand Rapids Christian, Lowell jumped out to an early lead, with Emily Ake scoring an unassisted goal. GRC fired right back with two goals to take back the lead. Lilly Kooistra scored the game's final goal bringing Lowell level, where the game ended, 2-2.

Against the Red Hawks, it was Cedar Springs who started the scoring in the ninth minute on a goal off a throw in. The Red Hawks added two more to finish off a 3-0 win. The JV team battled to a 0-0 draw with Cedar Springs earlier in the evening.

The girls soccer team is on the road against Forest Hills Northern and Byron Center this week. - 🖑 leer

Red Arrow SPORTS

Tennis starts the year three for three

by Justin Scott Contributing writer

It's been two years since the girls tennis team took to the court, but they're

three first place finishes for Unity Christian. Undefeated the varsity girls tennis team. Lowell won the annual showing no rust early in the Lowell quad over Reeths season. Three matches and Puffer, Zeeland West, and



on the day and winning their flights were Delaney Kelley (4th Singles) and Emalie DeBoer/Alana Peters (1st Doubles).

The team defeated East Kentwood 6-2. Singles winners were Brooke Knottnerus and Kelley; Doubles winners were DeBoer/Peters; Brynn Jackson/Olivia Torline; Hallie Greenop/Sedona Bonter; and Ella Baker/ Emma Hollern.

In the season opener against Wayland Union, Lowell defeated the Wildcats 6-2. Knottnerus, Grace Nielsen, Lexi Royer and Ella Todd won their matches respectively in singles. Doubles winners were DeBoer/Peters, and Kelley/Torline.

Lowell plays GR Christian, FHC, and Lakewood this week.

Emalie DeBoer and Alana Peters first doubles winners. Photo courtesy of Lowell Athletics.



Delaney Kelley, fourth singles winner. Photo courtesy of Lowell Athletics.

- TRACK

Boys track team places third at Soderman Relays

submitted by Paul Judd

A young Red Arrow track team started their OK White conference competition by splitting the first double dual snagging a win against Byron Center while coming up short against Grand Rapids Christian.

The Arrows took advantage of a strong distance crew as well as the hurdle events, sweeping a number of events to rack up the points. The relay teams also played a large role in the win against BC as the Arrows won three out of the four relays putting 15 unmatched points in the bag. Taking first places

overall were: Cole Weston, 3200m, 10:46.75; Josh Rau, 110mHH, 15.22 (personal record), 300mH, 41.63 (personal record); 3200m relay, (S. Fowler, J. Fowler,



Weston, Bromley), 8:52.06. Second place finishers were: Cole Weston, 1600m, 4:46.94 (personal record); John Lothian, 3200m, 10:46.82

Jakob Reynolds, discus, 111-01; Noah VanLaan, high jump, 5-07.00 (personal record); Ramsey Ponchaud, pole vault, 9-00.00 (personal record); 1600m relay team: Fowler,

(J. MacNaughton, Grant, Cater), 3:55.54

Third place

finishers were: Weston, 800m, 2:04.19; Sawyer Fowler, 1600m, 4:47.94 and 3200m, 10:46.89; VanLaan, 110mHH, 18.45 (personal record) and Landon Grant, long jump, 18-04.00.

Final team scores were: Lowell 86, Byron Center 50 and Grand Rapids Christian 79, Lowell 57.

The team took advantage of strong field events and their distance crew to capture third place at the Caledonia Soderman Relays on Saturday.

Two first-place finishes were gathered in the distance medley relay with a team of Sawyer Fowler, Jackson MacNaughton, Jackson Fowler and Weston with a time of 11:34.21 and in the 110M shuttle hurdle relay of Ramsey Ponchaud, Jackson Fowler, VanLaan, and Joshua Rau.

Second place relay teams were: discus relay (Keegan Cater 112-02 and Reynolds 108-11) and high jump relay (VanLaan 5-07 and Grant 5-07).

Third place finishes were: 6400m Relay (S. Fowler, J. Fowler, J. Lothian, Weston), 19:26.84; shot put (Rau 38-00.50 and Reynolds 36-02).

Final team scores were: Allendale 77, Caledonia 75, Lowell 57, Zeeland West 57, Holland 36.5 and Byron Center 31.5.

The Arrows travel to Byron Center on Thursday competing against FHC and Northview.



submitted by Paul Judd

- TRACK

The lady Arrows track team started their spring OK White campaign in great fashion defeating both Grand Rapids Christian and Byron Center in temps closer to winter as the windchill dipped into the low 30's. Lowell scored in all areas of the track to hit the magic number in the meet claiming wins in field events, sprints, hurdles, and distance.

Team scores were: Lowell 77, GR Christian 60; Lowell 90, Byron Center 47. Taking firsts overall in the double dual for the Arrows were: Theresa Judd, 100mH, 17.11; 300mH, 52.11; Kaylee Diamond,



200m,

28.61

1:06.61; Kaylee Byrne,

shot put, 30-00.25 (personal

record); Annika Sandman,

3200m, 11:33.58; 800m

Relay, (Simkins, Spaulding,

were: Annika Sandman,

1600m, 5:34.55; Katrina

Sandman, 3200m, 13:04.72

(personal record); Emily

Second place finishers

Tuuri, Diamond), 1:52.81.

(personal German, 100H, 18.96 record), long jump, 14-Diamond, high jump, 10; Jadan Sanders, 400m, 4-10.00.

> Third place finishers were: Julia Tuuri, 200m, 29.89; Jeselyn Spaulding, shot put, 27-03.75 and discus, 75-06 (personal record).

In competition on Saturday in Caledonia, the Arrows scored in twelve of the thirteen events leading to a third place finish at the Soderman Relays. Lowell used the meet to get some times/distances on athletes in different events and those surprises were just as nice as the team's finish, as the team has greater depth as a result. Rockford won the meet, with host Caledonia coming in second.

Finishing first for Lowell were the long jump relay team of Diamond 15-11.5 and Jadan Sanders 13-10.75.

Second place relay teams were: pole vault relay team of Judd 10-00 and Sanders 7-06; shot put relay team of Byrne 29-09 and Liberty Cook 27-03.50; sprint medley team of Sanders, Tuuri, Brown, Diamond 3:10.31 and distance medley team: K. Sandman, Harper, K. Sandman, A. Sandman, 13:39.31.

Third place relay teams were: 1600m relay (Sanders, Sandman, Byrne, Judd) in 4:30.49; 3200m relay (Sandman, Sandman, German, Sandman) in 10:55.71 and discus relay team of Spaulding 80-00 and Byrne 76-06.

Final team scores were: Rockford 91, Caledonia 63, Lowell 59, Zeeland West 48, Allendale 33, Byron Center 21 and Holland 20.

The Arrows travel to Byron Center on Thursday to compete in a double dual against the Northview and Forest Hills Central.



obituaries

FANSHER

Arlene A. Fansher, age 91, passed away at home under Faith Hospice Care on Thursday April 15, 2021. Born on September 21, 1929, she was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Clara Mendenhall, all five of her siblings; sisters, Mardell Ritter, Ardith Eyer, Karen Binion as well as brothers, Duane Mendenhall and David Mendenhall. Arlene will lovingly be remembered by her children, Dan (Nancy) Fansher, Kathy (Peter) Grimm, Sara (Diane) Fansher, and Julie Holten

Hansen, along with her grandchildren, Angela (Franklin) Ballard, Troy (Monica) Clinger, Soren (Birgitta) Holten Hansen, Vicki Holten Hansen, Steven Holten Hansen and Martin Holten Hansen; 10 Great-grandchildren, that put a smile on her face when ever she spoke of them; Ashlie,



Mason, Caleb, Peyton, and Paige Clinger, Jadyn, Xander and Diesel Ballard, and Erik and Emma Holten Hansen. She is also survived by two sister-in-law and life long friends, Patsy Fansher and Mary Mendenhall, along with many loving nieces and nephews. She retired from Richmond Indiana Community Schools and moved to Lowell to be closer to her family in 1996. She was a member of the Alpha Chapter Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. While she was still able to be active she volunteered for Lowell Senior Neighbors, Lowell Fine Arts, Friends of the Lowell Library, and Vergennes Coop Club. She gave of her time and later financial support to all local causes. Arlene moved into Schneider Manor in 2006 and lived there until just recently moving in with her son and being in Faith Hospice Care. The family is so grateful to all the friends that helped fill her life with happiness. She was an avid reader, loved to embroider and knit. Many family and friends have treasures she made them. Per her request there will be a small graveside service to be announced at a later time and interment will be in the family plot with her parents and brother at Castine Cemetery in Ohio. The family welcomes all memories and messages care of Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Memorial contributions can be made in her name to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-5783 or The Lowell Library Branch, 200 N Monroe St, Lowell, MI 49331



LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL CREDITORS: Notice is further given

Social Security's many online services

There's probably been a time in your life when you've wondered, "Can I do this online instead of visiting a Social Security office?" The answer is more than likely yes, and you can find more information about our online services at www. ssa.gov/onlineservices. Online, you can apply for retirement and disability benefits, appeal a decision, and do much more.

We've organized our Online Services webpage into four popular categories for easy navigation:

• Review Your Information. You can your access secure, personal information and earnings history to make sure everything is correct.

• Apply for Benefits. You can apply for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits without having to visit a local Social Security office.

• Manage Your Account. You can change your deposit direct

information and vour address, if you are receiving benefits, online.

• Find Help and Answers. You can find answers to your most frequently asked questions, as well as links to publications and other informational websites.

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retirement benefit estimates. • Get estimates for

your address.

form.

online.

• Print

verification letter.

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Print a benefit

Security 1099 (SSA-1099)

notices for those available

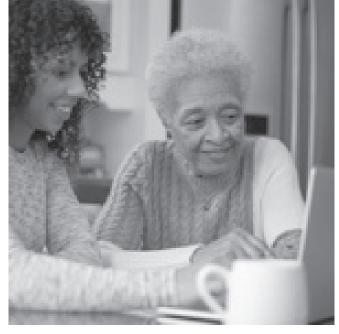
Social

spouse's benefits. • Print proof that you do not receive benefits.

• Check your application or appeal status. • Read your Social

Security Statement. If you are receiving

benefits, you can: • Set up or change direct deposit and change



with us online at www.ssa. gov.

Vonda Van Til is the Opt out of mailed Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Please let your family Rapids MI 49525 or via and friends know they can email at vonda.vantil@ssa. do much of their business gov.

ABCs continued

took them home where his wife gave them a good breakfast before returning them to the Ionia reformatory.

An incident that demonstrates the perseverance of Bowes and his commitment tracking down to criminals started out very embarrassing for Bowes. On September 26, 1926, Bowes arrested two men, one that turned out to be a killer, escaped from Leavenworth, and on the run from Ohio authorities. Bowes attempted to return them to Ohio, but they escaped and left Bowes and another officer in was publicly reprimanded. men would be in Chicago. He passed on the tip to and they were arrested. On October 13 he went to Chicago to pick them up. They confessed to Bowes that they had been to Lowell since the escape in Ohio and were planning further crimes in Lowell. The newspaper laughs last and best."

Bowes understood law enforcement and citizens.

their underclothing. Bowes In 1928, M-21 was being completed from one side He received a tip that the of the state to the other. The work was being done by prisoners who stayed in the Chicago Police Chief camps along the way. Locally, camp was set up near today's Vergennes and Lincoln Lake intersection. Deputy Bowes was concerned about Lowell citizen's fears of the camp of prisoners. He took the newspaper reporter around so he could write an article headline on the capture to assuage those fears. He fittingly read, "Pat Bowes himself worked the night shift as guard, on duty 12 hours a day.

In 1932, the unthinkable He had first come to Lowell happened here in Lowell. Pat in 1912 as foreman for the Bowes was the first to pursue main street paving project. a car full of bank robbers who

shot local Officer Charlie Knapp as he attempted to stop their pursuit on East Main Street. Bowes went on to testify at the trial of Henry (Baldy) Marshall.

Well known as "long time terror to evil doers in Lowell and vicinity," Bowes was a respected and well-loved member of the Lowell community. In 1939 at his death it was said that Bowes loved his home, and was only truly content when he was there. How fitting that today the remembrance to Bowes is the road where he lived.

The Settlor, Eugene Craig, who lived at 12375 64th St SE, Alto, MI, died on March 9, 2021. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against Eugene Craig will be forever barred unless presented to Deb Stormzand, within four months after the date of publication.

that the estate will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: April 13, 2021

Mary L. Benedict PC Attorney for Estate 4519 Cascade Rd SE Ste 14

Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-942-0020

> **Deb Stormzand** 2984 Gulliford Trail Lowell, MI 49331





__ledger-

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<u>sales</u>

LIVING ESTATE SALE collectibles, vintage toys, glassware, furniture, antiques. Case 448 garden tractor, Billy Goat model KD501. 2871 Snow Avenue SE, Lowell. Thurs., April 22 thru Sat., April 24. 9 am - 3 pm each day. No pre-sales & cash only.

APRIL23&24-Downtown Alto. Includes residences, Alto Meadows, rural, library book sale. Maps w/addresses will be available at sales.

<u>misc.</u>

<u>for rent</u>

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HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. All Vets Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday of each month at Keiser's. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.TIN EOW

WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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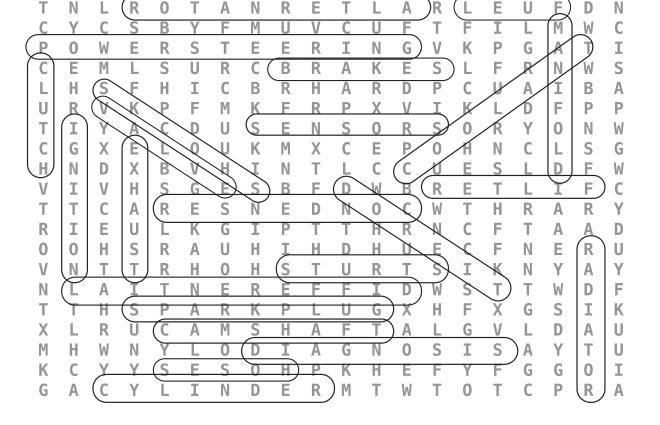
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Live the Life You Want Moving past the victim mindset

Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS Life Transitions Therapy LLC

My prior article about this topic focused on the behaviors of the victim mindset. This article will focus on ways that may help you move past this type of mindset. A "victim mindset" is a belief by the person that they are always the victim, everything and everyone is against them and bad things just keep happening to them. The person does not take any responsibility for what happens. Below I share some ways to help move past this mindset to live a more fulfilling life.

How to Stop Being in Victim Mode

The good news is that the brain can change its own structure and function, it's called brain plasticity. So, just as it was learned, the victim mentality can be unlearned. The not so good news, changing this mindset isn't always easy but that doesn't mean it can't be done. Below are some suggestions to help start you on your path to letting go of being a victim and the unhappiness, resentment, and bitterness that goes along with it.

1. Stop the blame game - You may think that blaming

someone else shifts the responsibility of the situation away from you or feel that it provides relief from the pain. But in reality, it increases feelings of hopelessness that things will not get better and takes away your power. If you find yourself starting to blame others actually say to yourself "Stop It". Then be honest about your role in the situation.

2. Take responsibility - What is it that you really want in life? What's important to you? Make a list and then come up with a solid plan of how to make it happen. If your plan doesn't work as expected don't go into blame mode, update the plan. Plans may have to be updated because unexpected things will happen and that's okay. To get started, try making lists with different ways you can change a situation. You can even use examples of past situations and see how many realistic possible outcomes you can come up with if you had taken an active, positive role in the event. Don't wait for or expect others to help you reach your goals, it's not their responsibility. I think Viktor Frankl said it best:

"Everything can be taken

from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

3. Treat yourself like someone you love and **cherish** – In other words be kind and compassionate to yourself. When you blame everyone one else for your pain it means you're ignoring your pain which actually makes it worse. Do you struggle with liking or loving yourself? Do you struggle with self-confidence? Do you self-sabotage? If so, then this is an area you really need to focus on. It's important to not only like who you are but to love yourself. There are many good books and articles on this topic to help. Go to reputable websites such as psychologytoday. com, psychalive.com, or goodtherapy.org and search the blogs.

4. Find the source of your learned helplessness/ powerlessness - This is something that is often learned early in life. Were you raised in a dependent environment? Did you have a critical parent, sibling, etc. that constantly said you could not do anything right or reinforced feelings of



Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS

worthlessness? Were you bullied? Did someone shut down your feelings making you think that your voice didn't matter, that you didn't matter? This can be a difficult step but it's an important one.

5. Challenge your perceptions - you have probably heard the saying your perception is your reality, well it's fairly accurate. Instead of assuming the worst (catastrophizing) look for the simplest explanation which is often the one that is most likely. For instance, you can't find your car keys so you think: this always happens to me, someone purposely moved my keys to mess with me, now I'm going to be late for work, I'll lose my job, I won't be able to pay the bills, and will end up losing everything. Instead, look for the simplest explanation. Maybe you just forgot where you put the keys. It happens.

6. Embrace gratitude – Gratitude changes attitudes. Focusing on gratitude can be difficult when you feel like the world is against you but it's a powerful force for good. Focus on what you can learn from a difficult situation instead of letting negative situations distract you from the good things in life. It's hard to see any good when you feel like the world is against you and the focus on the victim mindset is pain and negativity. Think about what you have, not what you don't. Every day we face challenges so look at them as an opportunity to grow stronger.

7. Learn to let go – the victim mentality breeds bitterness and anger from past pain. It skews perceptions so that when someone is actually trying to help you, you may see it as the opposite. It's important to keep this in mind when you start feeling as if someone is trying to harm you in some way. Try to see past prior hurts, bitterness, and anger to the real situation. Practice listening to understand what the other person is really saying and work to rid yourself of resentment and bitterness.

"There is pain that hurts you and pain that changes you. Either can be a source of growth."

You decide how you respond to painful situations. Do you let pain change you into someone you don't want to be or let it be a source of growth moving you instead toward being a helpful, kind, understanding, grateful person that feels peace and contentment in life? I suggest reading the book What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger, by Maxine Schnall to help you on your journey to shed the victim mindset.

You can let go and move past a victim mindset and you deserve to live a better life. One full of peacefulness, empowerment, happiness, and success. You get one life, make it the best one possible! If you're struggling to get beyond this mindset, a good therapist can help. This article is not intended to diagnose or treat.



Look at your financial situation holistically

What's the biggest financial mistake you can make? Choosing the wrong investments? Waiting too long to save for retirement? Underestimating the costs of retirement? All these are

reasonable answers, but the biggest mistake you might make is not looking at your financial picture holistically – that is, not bringing into the picture all the elements of yourself.

WHERE'S YOUR CARD?

Let's consider some of them:

Your views on helping your family – Your decisions about helping your family are clearly going to be a major part of your financial strategy – and this is true at virtually all stages of your life. When your children are young, you'll need to decide if you're going to put away money for their college education, and, if so, how much, and in what investment vehicles. When they're young adults, you may also need to decide how much financial support you're willing to provide for things such as the down payment on a new home. And when you're drawing up your estate plans, you'll need to consider how to distribute assets to your children, grandchildren or other family members.

Your personal beliefs – As someone with civic, ethical and moral concerns, you want to positively affect the world around you. And that's why you may feel compelled to make charitable gifts throughout your life and then make philanthropy part of your legacy. To accomplish these objectives, you'll want to include gifting techniques in your financial strategy today and your estate plans

for tomorrow. Of course, for the estate planning component, you'll need to work with your tax and legal advisors.

Your purpose in life when you retire - When you retire, you may be stepping off a career path, but you're also entering a world of possibilities. How will you define, and live out, your new sense of purpose at this stage of your life? Do you seek to broaden your horizons by traveling around the world? Do you want to give back more to the community by volunteering? Can you spend more time pursuing the hobbies you enjoy? Each of these choices will carry different financial implications for how much you'll need to accumulate for retirement and how

much you will need to take out each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k).

Your health - Your physical and mental health can play big roles in your financial plans and outlook. On the most basic level, the healthier you are, and the better you take care of yourself, the lower your health care bills will likely be during retirement, which will affect the amount you need to put away for health care. And you also may need to prepare for the costs of long-term care, which can be enormous in fact, a private room in a nursing home can easily cost \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth. It can be challenging to weave all these elements into a single, unified vision, so you may want to get some help from a financial professional. But, in any case, be prepared to look at your situation holistically - because, when putting together a lifetime's financial strategy, every part of your life matters.

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This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

FUN PAGE

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Puzzle solutions

on page 13

DUD UYOF : JOWSUY

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

10

13

ON THE ROAD WORD SEARCH

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

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WORD SEARCH

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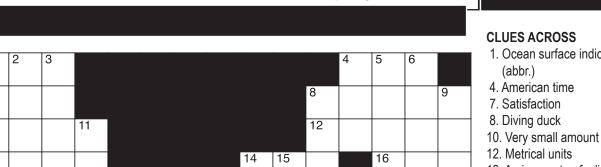
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CAMSHAFT

CLUTCH

Guess Who?

I am a wrestler and actor born in Massachusetts on April 23, 1977. I worked as a chauffeur at a limo company before pursuing a career in bodybuilding. I have won 25 professional wrestling championships.



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- 48. Salad restaurant
 - 49. Daughters of Boreas
 - (mythology)
 - 50. Men's fashion accessory
 - 51. Political action committee
 - 52. Unhappy
- 31. One point south of due east

SHOCKS

SPARK PLUG

STRUTS

TIE ROD

VALVE

FUEL

HOSES

IGNITION

MANIFOLD

RADIATOR

SENSORS

DIFFERENTIAL POWER STEERING

- 32. Soap actress Braun
- 33. Large domesticated wild
- ОΧ 34. Island nation

N

17				18			19				20			
21					22	23				24				
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			27	28				29				-		
			30				31							
		32				33				34	35	36	37	38
39	40				41					42				
43				44							45			
46			47								48			
49												50		
	51											52		

13. An ignorant or foolish

14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

person

16. It may sting you

19. Perform on stage

20. "CSI" actor George

17. Turn outward

25. Make a choice

26. Indicates position

27. One of Thor's names

30. "The Raven" author

41. Organization of nations

42. Texas pharmaceutical company

43. Mathematical term

disappointment

44. Expression of

31. Take in solid food

32. Legendary QB

39. Sorrels

21. Localities

pattern

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make unhappy 2. Heard the confession of 3. Capital of Taiwan 4. Fiddler crab 5. Brazilian dances 6. Fit with device to assist breathing
- 8. Brother or sister
- 9. Pastries 29. Indian musical rhythmic
 - 11. "Lone Survivor" director

Peter

- 14. Boat type (abbr.)
- 15. Apertures (biology)
- 18. Suffix
- 19. Creative endeavor
- 20. Icelandic poem
- 22. Spanish dances
- 23. Town in Central Italy
- 24. Cars need it
- 27. Mimics

35. Appear 36. Addictive practices 37. Loss of control of one's body 38. Type of poster 39. Greek mountain 40. Funny person 44. One and only 47. Pouch



Michigan has more shoreline than any other state except Alaska.

^{the}ledger

WWII veterans Schrouder and Marks honored with 'Ruptured Duck' awards

by Tim McAllister lead reporter

Two local World War II veterans, John Schrouder and Rev. Glenn Marks, both age 95, were honored with US military "Ruptured Duck" awards at Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. SE, on Sunday, April 18.

The honor was arranged for the two men by Herm Weststrate, on behalf of Lowell VFW Post 8303 and Lowell American Legion Post 152. Weststrate said it's likely they received Ruptured Duck awards when the war ended in 1945, but both of them subsequently lost track of their pins and patches.

"I never got the Ruptured Duck," Rev. Marks said. "We were kept over eight months after Germany surrendered to help get the wounded German soldiers back home."

"You got a Ruptured Duck back then, you just don't remember," Weststrate said. "Well, you're almost 96, Glenn!"

"Ruptured Duck" is the nickname for the Honorable Service Lapel Button. It was awarded to every soldier who was honorably discharged from service during or after World War II. The little gold button, less than an inch in size, depicts an eagle bursting out of a striped circle, and it earned its nickname thanks to some allegedly sloppy artistic design.

"This is probably our last opportunity to give them the recognition that they had forgotten about," Weststrate said. "There are so few of them left, maybe a million out of 16 million. The US population then was about 125 million. To accomplish this, we made a lot of phone calls, and we were able to order the pins and the patches. They had them a long time ago, they just forgot! It's their age! I've known these guys for a long time, Glenn somewhat longer, and John and his family have been coming to church here for maybe eight years. [...] Glenn is the chaplain of both VFW Post 8303 and American Legion Post 152."

Rev. Marks earned a Bronze Star for his heroic service as a medic tending to injured soldiers on both sides during some of the most intense battles in the European Theater during World War II.

"World War II Navy veteran John Schrouder was on an LST [Landing Ship, Tank, ships that carried troops, vehicles and other equipment for amphibious assaults]," Weststrate said. "John Schroeder was in the liberation of the Philippines, and if you were in the liberation of the Philippines, you were also in the liberation of Dutch Indonesia."

Eric Nelson, a Vietnam War veteran who was also assigned to an LST during his service, presented Schrouder with his Ruptured Duck award.

Weststrate's father Herm Sr. was a WWII veteran, so honoring these veterans is very personal for him.

"When my dad was 21, he turned 22 on Okinawa when they took it," Weststrate said. "When I was 21, I turned 22 in South Vietnam. He was already married to my mom at that age, and I was already married to Bonnie. We were able to survive our wars and increase the Weststrate family! During World War II, my dad was a tanker on Okinawa. They left all their tanks and went to occupy the dam. Then my dad was an MP at Incheon Prison. The rest of the tank battalion went up to Seoul in what is now called South Korea. We've been there ever since, and we still are."

The date of the ceremony was chosen to coincide with the 79th anniversary of what's become known as the

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"Doolittle Raid" on April 18, 1942, the first major turning point for the US during the war.

"It was four and a half months after Pearl Harbor," Weststrate said. "We were losing the war. FDR came up with an idea: We've got to hit Japan back, just to show 'em. Colonel James Doolittle said he had a plan. They got ahold of 16 B-25s, tore the guts out of them and added extra fuel tanks. They only left the guns and a place for the bombs, and then they practiced flying off short distances, because they had to take off from an aircraft carrier to hit the coast of Japan. The battle plan was within 300 miles of Japan. A Navy task force of three aircraft carriers and a dozen destroyers were supposed to get in there, but the Japanese had trawlers out there with radios. One of them spotted them and radioed in just before they were 400 miles out. The Japanese got the message, and they couldn't believe it. Nobody was ever going to hit Japan! They'd been conquering the whole Pacific! The admiral told them to launch now, because they couldn't stay, [the Japanese] were going to find out. They were on the USS Hornet. The first B-25 to fly off was Colonel Doolittle.



World War II veterans Rev. Glenn Marks and John Schrouder at Evergreen Missionary Church on Sunday, April 18.

They still have footage of that, where his B-25 launched off, went below the deck and came up. He was the first one of the 16 B-25s to launch. As soon they launched, the Navy high-tailed it back. By the way, the USS Hornet did not survive 1942. The plan was they were going to go over Japan and bomb Tokyo and a few other cities, then fly to China where, hopefully, they would land. Well, most of them ran out of gas, some of them crashlanded into China and one plane flew into Vladivostok in the Soviet Union. The Soviets held the crew captive for over two years, they had an agreement with

Japan. Several of them were captured by the Japanese, half of them were beheaded. During World War II, that information did not get out, not until after the war. By the way, Japanese radio reported that they were bombed by 60 American bombers, but there were only 16. And FDR told the Japanese that 'they flew off to Shangri-La.' That's a mythical city somewhere. It was the first blow that America had on any city during World War II. In Europe, the British had been bombing Berlin, but America didn't begin their bombing until April 18, 1942."

The Lowell Ledger will be honoring the LAS 2021 Graduates in the May 26 edition.
This section will include senior photos of all graduates (which are provided by the school). If you would like to celebrate your graduate with a personalized ad - please contact our office via phone or email.

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