

Ryne's Reviews



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Family Center of Lowell

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50¢



Lowell Pride on the Riverwalk, Sat., June 5



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The first ever Lowell Pride celebration will take place on the Riverwalk on Saturday, June 5 from 11 am until 9 pm. The event will include a drag queen story hour and performance, a panel discussion, a fashion show, kids' crafts and activities and a movie.

The original idea for the event came from Nicole Lintemuth, owner of the Bettie's Pages bookstore at 216 E. Main.

"I reached out to some of my friends last June and was like, 'Hey, let's make Lowell's first in-person Pride happen,'" Lintemuth said. "We have a fantastic planning committee, and we've been planning this

for almost a year now. I can't believe it's finally happening! Drag Queen Story Hour will be at 11, that's our first event of the day. The panel discussion is at 2:00, the fashion show is at 5:00 and then the movie is going to be at dusk, so we're not sure exactly what time that will be, but probably about 8:30, 9:00."

The first diversion of the day will be Drag Queen Story Hour, followed by a drag performance.

"We're going to have two different performers who will be reading kids books over the course of the hour," Lintemuth said. "I believe they're going to end up going through about

four or five books, but I'm still figuring out exactly how many we're going to be doing. The show is being produced by Beauty Beyond Drag, based in Grand Rapids. Three different performers will come out for that: BRIT, La Reine Divine and Alexa Vogel, who is going to be the MC, and then La Reine Divine will do a brief drag show after the story time."

The panel discussion at 2 pm sounds like it should be interesting and illuminating.

"We're still finalizing the names, but Grace Huizinga from the LGBTQIA Health Consortium is going to be one of them, and a couple of activists from Family Over Everything, an organization

in Grand Rapids that deals with LGBTQ and BIPOC issues," Lintemuth said. "They are really excited to come. I'm not sure who they're sending, but that will start at 2:00 and the discussion will last about one hour."

If you like the clothing you see during the fashion show, it might be possible to buy some of it right here on Main Street.

"For the fashion show, we're going to be working with Wear Forward, a store that opened here in town not too long ago," Lintemuth said. "The idea is going to be 'anybody can wear anything.' It's going to be very gender fluid, so

whatever is comfortable, you get to wear it. I'm very excited to see what they come up with. They're going to have about 12 models doing it, and there will be a really nice, diverse mix of people."

At dusk, there will be a screening of the documentary film "Real Boy."

"'Real Boy' is a 2017 documentary about a 19-year-old individual who is a trans male," Lintemuth said. "It's about their experience of going through that transition. I haven't seen it, so I am very excited."

Currently, there are more than 30 different vendors and organizations signed up to participate, including small businesses, authors, doulas and representatives from various organizations.

"We're going to have Bear Clan Crochet, she crochets all kinds of really cool things, for example she made my little 'Bernie Sanders in his mittens' guy. Lash House is going to be there. They just opened in town last year, and they're going to have a booth there. Missy Rose Studios from Ionia will be there, they do all kinds of different soap and jewelry arts and other crafty, creative things. Zero Aerial Fitness will be there from Grand Rapids, where they do pole, silk and hoop workouts.

Lowell Pride, continued, page 2

FROM's Food Fight back up and running

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Flat River Outreach Ministries' Food Fight started more than 20 years ago as a way to help fill their pantry's shelves. Today it is their biggest annual fundraising event. It was canceled last year, but it is returning in a big way for 2021.

"Last year we actually had to cancel the whole event because of everything going on, it was right when the pandemic hit, so we have had to make some adjustments," said FROM development director Arianne Hall. "We are not able to put out as many food barrels and things like that. But I'd say most of it is pretty similar. We have a \$31,750 match base, and our goal in total is to raise about \$135,000 between dollars and food

items, like we typically do. Most of [the event] is the same, we still have the two teams, North versus South. What's different this year is that we're only running it for the month of May, so it's a little bit shorter, and we're also matching all donations this year. In years past, it has just been newer increased donations, but this year we're matching everything until the match is gone."

Every dollar raised and each food item donated to Food Fight between now and May 31 is translated into points on the scoreboard. When you donate, you designate which team, North or South, gets your points. "The donated food items go to stock our pantry," Hall said. "The specific things we're looking for



Image from the 2016 Food Fight.

are those household items like toiletries, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, deodorant. We also have a need for gluten-free items and that sort of thing. Those

are all things we need that we end up having to spend a lot of resources on, so anytime people can help us with those, it makes a huge impact. We all go shopping,

I think it's really easy to just grab an extra can of vegetables or an extra bottle

Food Fight, continued, page 3

Lowell Pride, continued

There is going to be another crocheter and someone who does bath bombs and bath salts. We've got a couple of services coming, for example Disability Advocates, Lowell High School's Gay-Straight Alliance."

Bettie's Pages is the main sponsor of Lowell Pride, but several other local businesses and organizations also helped out with various aspects.

"The main sponsor is Bettie's Pages, but we have quite a number of sponsors,"

Lintemuth said. "First Congregational Church is sponsoring the movie, Liv Lyszyk Prints will be sponsoring the fashion show, Cassi B. Bella Pelle Bath and Body will be sponsoring our kids activity, Spectrum Health is going to be sponsoring our volunteer tent and the LGBTQIA Health Consortium will be sponsoring our panel discussion."

Events like this are particularly essential in

small towns like Lowell, where a LGBTQ individual can feel very alone.

"It's really important, especially for young people who are LGBTQ, to be able to know that they're accepted as they are," Lintemuth said. "That is like the number one thing that you can do to keep kids safe. Unfortunately, kids in the LGBTQ community are most likely to have to deal with things like self harm, violence and suicide, and having a place where

they can know that they're loved and accepted exactly as they are dramatically reduces the risk for those kids. So being able to see that in a place as small and conservative as Lowell, that they have a space, they have adults that care about them and love them, is such a huge thing. It's one of those things that, if they'd had this when I was a kid, I can't even imagine, it would have been amazing. I grew up in the U.P., so I am very

much aware of those places that are not so welcoming and friendly. So I think it's just really cool to be able to give that to our community. And even for adults, I'm 33 and I'm so excited to see the positive feedback that we've already had from people who are so excited about this."

The schedule is subject to change, so keep an eye on Lowell Pride's Facebook page: facebook.com/lowellpridemi.

"Obviously, with COVID

and everything, we're keeping a very close eye on how things are going in Michigan," Lintemuth said. "All of our vendors and volunteers are required to wear masks at the event, regardless of their vaccination status, and if things continue to be on the 'not good' trend that we're having right now in Michigan, we will be going virtual. But we're really hoping that we can get it together and be able to celebrate in person."

Radical shift in college funding clears subcommittee

Michigan's 15 university and 26 community colleges would receive state dollars closer to a per-student model, a radical shift in how higher education is funded, under House budgets that moved out of a subcommittee Thursday morning.

The proposed three-year reshuffling would mean significant state funding cuts in the first year to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (13.4 percent), Michigan Tech (9.3 percent), Gogebic Community College (18 percent) and Southwestern Michigan College (12.4 percent), to name four.

However, it would mean significant state funding boosts in the first year for Oakland University (33 percent), Grand Valley State University (27.2 percent), University of Michigan-Flint, University of Michigan-Dearborn (18.6 percent) and Washtenaw Community College (23.5 percent), to name four more.

The budget presented by Rep. Mark Huizenga (R-Walker), the chair of the House Higher Education and Community Colleges Appropriations Subcommittee, is a dramatic departure from years past in that it's not recommending incremental increases to the

schools.

Huizenga's HB 4400 and HB 4401 scrapped funding increases based on any performance model, saying the money at play in the past has been so minuscule that it didn't make sense to continue.

Instead, he's taking the historical model of funding, which he said was based in large part on the allegiances of former legislators and aggressive lobbying, and shaking it up to resemble what's done in the K-12 system.

Huizenga noted that Oakland University receives \$2,863 per student under the current system while the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor gets \$10,000.

"Some win and some lose, and that's always difficult,"

research universities would receive a bonus pot of money. Huizenga also noted the Capital Outlay process OKs money for significant infrastructure improvements, which would change under this proposal.

Rep. Steven Johnson (R-Wayland Twp.) was supportive of the concept of moving away from a system where he sees per-school funding based on a lobbyist's effectiveness. He believes money should flow to the schools that students want to attend.

He pointed to the various lobbyists in attendance. He credited them for creating the system the state operates by selling legislators current and past on how great their school is.



Rep. Mark Huizenga (R-Walker)

said. "That's how the free marketplace works."

Still, subcommittee Democrats didn't immediately embrace Huizenga's model. Rep. Felicia Brabec (D-Pittsfield Twp.) said institutions could have significant disparities in their missions and focus, which require a different level of resources.

While she conceded the current system isn't perfect, it was crafted over time to recognize the different costs that come with operating specific schools, based on varying levels of infrastructure costs, location, and student population, among many

other things. "Treating all of our universities the same misses the richness each university brings," Brabec said.

Rep. Abdullah Hammoud (D-Dearborn) said the information was a lot to digest but focused his comments on a provision in the budget that bans universities from requiring COVID-19 vaccines as a condition for enrolling in an in-person class.

Both bills moved to the full House Appropriations Committee 5-0, with Hammoud passing on the vote. Brabec was participating remotely and could not vote per House rules.

"Treating all of our universities the same misses the richness each university brings."

Rep. Felicia Brabec (D-Pittsfield Twp.)

Huizenga said. "It will cause some challenges, which is why we're implementing this over three years."

Under the model,

"We should not be the ones deciding how great a university is. That should be the students," Johnson

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

On April 19, 2021, the Lowell Charter Township Board adopted **Ordinance No. 02-2021** to amend the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance which is summarized as follows.

The amendments delete the existing language for the Commercial Planned Unit Development District in Article 15 and puts into place regulations for the I-96 Planned Unit Development (PUD) District as Chapter 15. The new I-96 PUD District would permit both commercial and industrial uses, with certain uses prohibited, and limit the commercial uses to 15 percent of the area proposed for I-96 PUD zoning.

The requirements allow the Township Board to approve modifications from the site development requirements for the zoning district in which the use or uses proposed are normally allowed. The amendments also provide specific requirements for landscaping, building facades, sidewalks, performance standards for industrial uses, procedures for review and approval standards and other requirements.

This Ordinance shall take effect seven days after publication.

The adopted ordinance is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

Monica Burt, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

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Alpha Family Center 5k run/walk on Saturday, June 5

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Alpha Family Center of Lowell and Lake Odessa, 519 E. Main, will have a 5k run/walk at North Grand River Riverfront Park at 7:30 am on Saturday, June 5.

“At the event, on the day, we’ll all start at the same time, but there is not a time limit on when we all must finish,” said Alpha Family Center executive director Christa Wetzel. “The runners will, of course, run first. They’ll start at the beginning of the group and then the walkers will follow. The runners are timed, and there will be prizes for them. We are allowing those that do it before to submit their time, just to be part of the raffle.”

Registration is open now through Thursday, May 20, and it costs \$25



per person, with a \$60 maximum per family unless submitting \$50 or more in sponsorships. They are also still looking for a few more local businesses to become

t-shirt sponsors.

“People can do the race virtually, before the event, on their own, and we have routes listed on our website,” Wetzel said. “That

will help anyone that’s concerned about COVID, they can do it on their own and not have people around. So people have the option to get involved ahead of time

and do it on their own, and they can raise sponsorships on the Internet and social media.”

Proceeds generated by the event will benefit the Alpha Family Center, where they provide various forms of counseling, training and assistance for women who are pregnant or have children under age five. As a “crisis pregnancy center,” the Alpha Family Center does not provide their clients with access to birth control or abortion.

“We don’t receive any federal or governmental grants, so we depend very heavily on these fundraiser events,” Wetzel said.

For more information, visit aflowell.org or call 616-987-9533.

“For me, the walk is kind of cool because it’s both an individualized thing and a collective action,” Wetzel said. “You’re not sitting in a room having someone to talk to you, you’re out there literally taking steps, taking action.”

Dairy Discovery 5k/15k race is Saturday, May 8

Dairy Discovery at Swiss Lane Farms in Alto is hosting a 5k/15k race through their farm, their property and some local roads.

“We are hoofin’ it for Dairy Discovery, a nonprofit focused on providing a personal connection to

First place winners in the 18 and under, 19-34, 35-50, and 50 and up age groups will receive plush “Dairy Discovery” cows, there will be other prizes available for second place finishers.

Parking is across the street, and no pets are



allowed, but strollers will be allowed in the 5k (not the 15k, however).

For more information, visit dairydiscovery.org and click on “special events,” look for the event on Facebook or call 616-293-0432.

“Not only will you have

a chance to compete with other runners again, but you will also get the best prize of all at the end: healthy, nutritional chocolate milk to refuel your body after the hearty race, along with other amazing snacks,” the press release read.

your food,” read a Dairy Discovery press release. “We are teaching the truth in agriculture and healthy nutrition, and no better way to teach about health and nutrition than by getting people to moo’ve their dairy airs.”

Registration is open right now at dairydiscovery.org, it’s \$40 for the 5k and \$50 for the 15k, and registration includes a racing bib and a “dairy fun” goody bag.

Packet pick-ups and registration will begin at 6:30 am, and the races will begin at 8:30 am on May 8, with staggered starts to help avoid crowding. Epic Race Timing of Grand Rapids will be on hand to assist with the packets and timing of both races.

There’s no better time to take care of yourself!



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Food Fight, continued

of shampoo. It gives you an opportunity to think about your neighbors when you’re grabbing that, and it’s a great way to give back.”

FROM offers over a dozen programs like employment services, the food pantry, the thrift store, tax preparation, kids lunch, money management classes and assistance paying utility bills. Their Connections office can even connect people with other programs offered outside of FROM.

“As an organization, we can buy more food at a lower cost, so we can have a bigger impact with a financial donation,” Hall said. “Those donations also allow us to fill in the needs, to kind of help fill the gaps. So we would definitely encourage financial donations, but any kind of donations are very helpful in keeping our food pantry stocked.”

For more information or to donate, visit fromlowell.org/foodfight.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

On April 19, 2021, the Lowell Charter Township Board adopted **Ordinance No. 01-2021** to re-adopt the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance which has been re-formatted to make the Ordinance easier to read and utilize in both electronic and printed form. Minor changes have been made to add illustrations, change the term “article” to “chapter”, add color headings and footers, correct spelling and numbering errors and re-format the Table of District Regulations for easier reading.

Several substantive amendments were made including adding a definition of Building Height, reducing the required front setback for Agricultural Service Establishments from 60 feet to 50 feet and adding language to require that the Township Board hold a public hearing for all Planned Unit Development rezoning requests in accordance with Michigan zoning law. The adoption of this re-formatted Ordinance is necessary to ensure that it will be considered the official Zoning Ordinance of Lowell Charter Township.

This Ordinance shall take effect seven days after publication.

The adopted ordinance is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

Monica Burt, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

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Additional food assistance for Michigan families extended through April

Approximately 350,000 Michigan families will continue to have access to additional food assistance benefits during April as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced today.

Michigan previously approved the additional food assistance beginning in March 2020 – and now that is being extended for April 2021 with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

Eligible clients will see additional food assistance benefits on their Bridge Card April 24-May 4.

Additional benefits will be loaded onto Bridge Cards as a separate payment from the assistance that is provided earlier in the month.

“Michigan will recover from the pandemic as more people received the safe and effective vaccine, said MDHHS director Elizabeth Hertel. “In the meantime, MDHHS will continue to help families affected by the pandemic put food on the table.”

More than 1.3 million people in Michigan receive federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits through the state’s Food Assistance Program.

Households eligible for Food Assistance Program benefits will receive additional benefits in April to bring all current SNAP cases to the maximum monthly allowance for that group size. This change only applies to customers not currently receiving the maximum benefit amount. The 350,000 households that receive increased benefits represent close to 50 percent of the more than 709,000 Michigan households that received food assistance in January. The remaining households already receive the maximum benefit.

Below are the maximum allowable benefits for SNAP customers based on their respective household size:

- One Person: \$234
- Two People: \$430
- Three People: \$616
- Four People: \$782
- Five People: \$929
- Six People: \$1,114
- Seven People: \$1,232

Eight People: \$1,408
The federal government is providing additional funding to states for food assistance under House Resolution 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Eligible families do not need to re-apply to receive the additional benefits. People who receive food assistance can check their benefits balance on their Michigan Bridge Card by going online to www.michigan.gov/MIBridges or calling a consumer service representative toll-free at 888-678-8914. They can ask questions about the additional benefits by calling or emailing their caseworker.

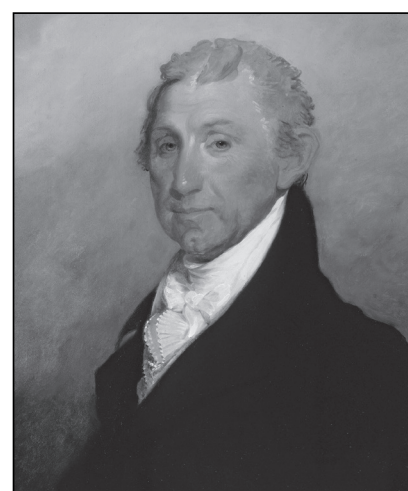
Customer service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Spanish and Arabic service is available. If you are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing or speech-impaired, call the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1.

Information around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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Today: Wednesday, April 28 Wednesday, April 28 is the 118th day of the year. There are 247 days remaining until the end of 2021.



President James Monroe (April 28, 1758 - July 4, 1831)

Historic Birthdays
32: Otho, emperor or Rome
1442: King Edward IV of England
1676: King Frederick I of Sweden
1758: James Monroe, fifth President of the USA

1878: Lionel Barrymore, actor
1896: Tristan Tzara, poet
1908: Oskar Schindler, businessman, list keeper
1923: Carolyn Cassady, author
1924: Blossom Dearie, singer, pianist
1926: Harper Lee, novelist
1930: James Baker, US Secretary of State
1930: Carolyn Jones, actor
1937: Saddam Hussein, dictator of Iraq
1937: Jean Redpath, singer/songwriter
1941: Ann-Margret, actor, singer
1948: Terry Pratchett, author
1949: Bruno Kirby, actor
1950: Willie Colón, trombonist
1950: Jay Leno, comedian, talk show host
1952: Chuck Leavell, singer/songwriter, keyboard player, Allman Brothers
1953: Kim Gordon, singer/songwriter, bass player, Sonic Youth
1960: Elena Kagan, US Supreme Court justice
1966: Todd “Too Short” Shaw, rapper
1972: Joseph “Violent J” Bruce, rapper, Insane Clown Posse
1974: Penélope Cruz, actor

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viewpoint

outdoors

walk a mile

Dave Stegehuis

The number of people participating in outdoor activities has been steadily on the rise since we have been restricted from living our normal lives. We may have been shut down but not necessarily shut in. Getting out in the wide-open spaces is healthy and safe. Walking the local trails has become more popular. We should continue to practice the good habits we may have acquired over the past year.

Considering the population density in this area, there should be many more folks out on the trails

and sidewalks. There are many places to walk or ride in parks, around town, across counties on rail trails, and across the state on the North Country Trail. All of these walkways can be accessed locally. There is almost always a place to walk, even when traveling to far away places.

Walking is low budget and time efficient. A fifteen-minute stroll is better than sitting all day. Longer walks on a regular schedule can have a significant influence on one's over-all health and physical abilities. Do some

research to learn about the effect walking has on our physical and mental health. The list is extensive. If there is any question about risks or disadvantages of walking one should consult professional medical advice before starting out. For those with mobility issues, miles of trails are level and hard surfaced which will accommodate wheeled vehicles or walkers.

Walking with a partner provides an added benefit to the experience. Couples can use the uninterrupted time to deal with current domestic issues. Partners can help keep each other stay on task. Children can join the trek on foot or in a buggy. And, of course,

there is always walking the dog. Solo outings provide an opportunity for relaxed clear-headed thinking and reflection.

Shoes with proper fit and support are important for comfort and safety. Clothing selections will change with the weather. Pay close attention to weather forecasts and check outside conditions before setting out. Wind will have an effect on comfort regardless of the temperature on the thermometer.

Search online for all kinds of information regarding walking. If you are not sold already, some investigation may convince you to get involved. It is never too late to start.

to the editor

To the Editor:

Wow! Today I had the occasion to be on the road, specifically driving in from Grand Rapids to Lowell on M-21 (Fulton). I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to the countless hours that my fellow citizens have dedicated to sprucing up the highways and byways.

Yep, there along the route all the way into town, there were countless bags waiting for the State of Michigan Transportation folks to collect and properly dispose of. I think too often we leave these tasks to

Really, is it that difficult to find a trash receptacle? I think not. Secondly, take a moment to express your appreciation to anyone that you know who participates in the Adopt-a-Highway program, we all owe them our thanks.

So the next time you're cruising along Michigan's beautiful byways give a thought to those fellow citizens who make it possible.

*Thanks for listening
Roger Royer
Lowell*

Dear Editor,

To encourage people in these trying times.

Do Not Fear

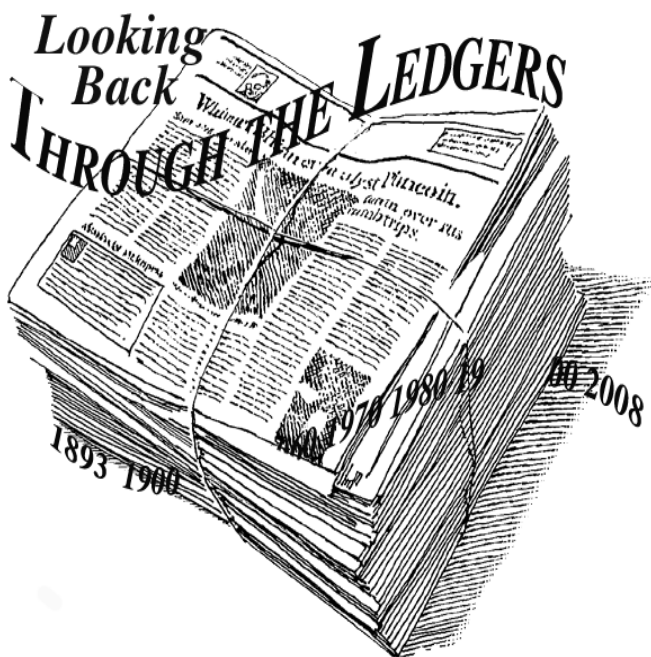
Do not fear as Covid soars, the Lord's Hand is near.

You must trust and hold on tight to the Lord and His Might.

God in Heaven knows it all, what happens here below.

Someday when He calls us strong, with the Master we will go!

*Cindy Nagy
Lowell*



100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 5, 1921

Sheriff Viergever has announced a war upon motorists who violate the speed laws and has begun action in which a speedy chaser, pistols, punctured tires and jail sentences figure. The action is right and should have the co-operation of all safe and sane motorists and of local officers everywhere. The costs of highway building and maintenance is one of the cases of high taxation to which all must contribute, whether automobile users, horse drivers or pedestrians, and all have equal rights to use of the roads without peril of life and limb.

The poor farmers are not through with their many losses thus far. We know of one farmer who, with first-class sheep, offered to give the crop of wool to anyone who would take it from the sheep's back. Two weeks later his offer had not been taken. Where is his profit after caring for his sheep so long?

Canned sauerkraut served at the home of William Johnson is believed to have been the cause of the poisoning of eight persons, all of whom are recovering after having been severely ill.

75 years The Lowell Ledger May 2, 1946

Canadian gold mine promoters are mailing sales literature to Michigan residents from Toronto, peddling stock with luring ballyhoo of future profits. The U. S. securities exchange commission, to which this activities has been a headache, estimates that the Canadian promoters are selling at least \$1,000,000 worth of the stock each week to gullible U. S. citizens. The old rule still is good: Investigate before you invest!

A walk-in cooler has been installed in Keiser's Kitchen. Installation by Clark Fletcher, of Roth and Sons Co.

Arthur F Frazee, of Dowagiac, was elected governor 151st Rotary district, at the district convention held in Grand Rapids Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Frazee was superintendent of Lowell schools for 4 years, 1912-16.

125 years ago Lowell Ledger May 1, 1896

By removing a thick piece of bone which had grown into Benjamin Wheatby's brain, as the result of an accident ten years ago, Dr. H. O. Walker has restored the man to reason after a decade of insanity, which was gradually transforming him into a raving maniac. In place of the bone removed a silver plate will be inserted, and the patient gives promise of quickly recovering. He says of the ten years during which he was without reason he recollected nothing.

William Stapleford, sentenced from Huron county in 1894 for three years for killing a man at a charivari. Was pardoned Saturday from the state house of correction by Gov. Rich. Stapleford was known as "The Human Pincushion." Twenty years ago in Chicago he narrowly escaped death by poison, and is now strangely afflicted with paralysis of the nerves. He sticks needles and pins into any part of the body and cannot feel them. He burns his skin without pain, and is a puzzle to the doctors.

The dental students are very angry over the action of the regents in forbidding them to play any baseball team, the regents taking the ground that ball playing tends to deform the hands and impair a dentist's ability. E. V. Deans, third baseman of the university team, is thus ruled out. The students declare the new rule is an infringement of their liberties and contrary to the principles of student self-government.

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

HEALTH

M METRO HEALTH UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Johnathan G. Meier, D.O. Laura E. Kass, PA-C
 Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. Kaili M. Walker, PA-C
 Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. Alexandria Clum, PA-C
 Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

- shingles

Shingles is a painful, blistering rash that can occur in people of all ages. It always presents on an area of skin that is on one side of the body. This means the rash does not cross the midline of the body. It usually starts with a tingling or burning sensation on an area of skin that turns into painful, small red blisters by the second or third day.

Shingles is a reactivation of the chicken pox virus. Anyone who has ever had chicken pox is susceptible to developing shingles. Shingles is not contracted from another person, rather it is a reactivation of the chicken pox virus that has been lying dormant in the body.

An outbreak of shingles tends to occur more often in the elderly and in people who may be immunocompromised. An immunocompromised person is someone who may be receiving chemotherapy, or someone whose immune system is worn down. A person's immune system can be temporarily worn down from emotional

stress or physical stress, like another infection or illness.

Exposure to someone with shingles will not cause shingles, however it can cause chicken pox in those who have never had chicken pox. Shingles may also be contagious to someone who is immunocompromised. Therefore, it is important that a person who has shingles avoid those who have not had chicken pox or the chicken pox vaccine, may be receiving chemotherapy, may be ill or may be pregnant.

If you think you may have shingles it is important to visit your health care provider immediately. There are antiviral medications which can decrease the severity and length of the outbreak, but they must be started within the first three days to be most effective.

There is a vaccine available to decrease the risk of a shingles outbreak. It's called Shingrix and it's available at most pharmacies without a prescription. It is recommended that all men and women receive Shingrix at age 50.

weddings

Davenport/Jurica



William and Courtney Davenport

Michael and Glenda Davenport, of Lowell, would like to announce the marriage of their son, William (Bill) Davenport to Courtney Jurica, daughter of Tom and Dianne Jurica of Traverse City.

The couple was married on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at an outdoor ceremony at Kirkbride Hall in Traverse City.

After a honeymoon in Bay City, the couple will be living in Traverse City.

A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.

~ Robert Quillen

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Looking Back, continued

50 years The Lowell Ledger May 6, 1971

"They ordered me to come to work early today, and I thought it was kind of funny, but I had no idea that it was for something like this," were the only words that Fred Phelps could come up with last Wednesday morning. Fred's comment followed a presentation made to him by Postmaster Charles Doyle, before his fellow employees and several guests. The presentation "The Superior Accomplishment Award" was given to Mr. Phelps by the United States Postal Service for sustained above average performance of assigned duties for a period in excess of twelve months.

Even though a bill to allow vehicle owners to pay for license plates with personal checks has been signed into law, it will be July 1 before checks may be accepted by Secretary of State branch offices under provisions of the new law.

Husbands may now be awarded alimony, and mothers as well as fathers may be required by court order to pay child support, under a new Michigan law. Regarded as long overdue by many members of the bench and bar, this statute, passed by the Michigan legislature as Act 182 of the Public Acts of 1971, for the first time declared as a matter of law that "in every action brought for a divorce...or separation...the court...may require "Either Party" to pay alimony for the suitable maintenance of the adverse party.

25 years The Lowell Ledger May 1, 1996

When plans were approved to make room for a new library at Riverside Park, Dorothy Roth saw the dawning of a new era and an ending to an old one. While the library is much appreciated, Roth was upset to see "her" five trees being removed.

When the Lowell football team hits the field this year, the focus will be on the new head coach Noel Dean and what changes he has in store for the Red Arrows. Dean was named head coach last week, replacing longtime coach Phil Christiansen.

Vergennes and Lowell Charter Township officials ironed out an agreement with the city of Lowell to provide fire and rescue services. While the city has always provided the emergency services, no formal agreement existed.

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happy birthday



APRIL 28
 Terese Brown, Timmy Vezino, Shawna Austin, Kattie Hildenbrand, Beth Weston.

APRIL 29
 K.J. Vezino, Bryan Roth, Lucy Wade.

APRIL 30
 Carmen Roudabush, Stacey Irwin, Shawn Dulin, Nancy Leary.

MAY 1
 Mark Christiansen.

MAY 2
 Melinda D'Agostino, Tim Mastenbrook, Madison

Briggs, Glen Bryant, Jaclyn Batt.

MAY 3
 Wilma Roudabush, Melissa Merriman, Mimi Mitchell, Rich Bieri.

MAY 4
 John Borton, David Rhodes, Jerre Sue Smith.



Work Zone Safety Poster contest for MI 3rd graders

Public works and road agencies throughout Kent County collaborate for the fifth annual Work Zone Safety Poster Contest for third-grade students. From April 26 - May 7, third graders are invited to submit a caution sign that helps spread an important safety tip for those traveling through a work zone.

The poster contest kicks off National Work Zone Awareness Week, running April 26 through April 30, and supports this year's theme: "Drive safe. Work safe. Save lives."

"Our crews are continually trained regarding how to take proper safety precautions and respond appropriately to emergencies while in a work zone," said Steve Warren, managing director of the Kent County Road Commission. "We need the traveling public to use similar care and caution as they navigate the orange barrels."



"Being a 'backseat driver' usually has a negative connotation, but in this context, it can help save lives," said John Gorney, public works director for the City of Kentwood. "We hope these youngsters help educate their parents and family members about safe driving tips and then incorporate the lessons when they are ready to get behind the wheel themselves."

This year's entry options have been tailored to accommodate both in-person and remote learning environments, seeking to make it easier for students to participate either from school or home. Winning entries will be announced during Public Works Week, May 16 - 22, and will be used by the local agencies on various outreach platforms to promote work zone safety.

Participating agencies include the Department of Public Works for the cities of East Grand Rapids, Grandville, Kentwood, Rockford, Walker, and Wyoming and the Kent

County Road Commission.

Third grade students are asked to design a "caution sign" that focuses on one of the following safety tips for driving through a work zone:

Stay Focused/Avoid Distractions. Dedicate your full attention to driving. Avoid distractions like using a phone, eating or adjusting dashboard controls like the radio.

Obey Flaggers and Work Zone Signs. Flaggers are people who help direct traffic safely through work zones. It is important that motorists obey directions given by flaggers and any temporary traffic control signs or devices. These help to define a safe path through the work zones.

Slow Down, Move Over. Workers are often just feet away from motorists.

That's why Michigan's "Move Over" law requires drivers to move over one lane when an emergency or road agency vehicle is on the side of the road with its lights flashing. If it is not possible to move into another lane due to traffic, weather, or road conditions, the motorist should slow down and pass with caution.

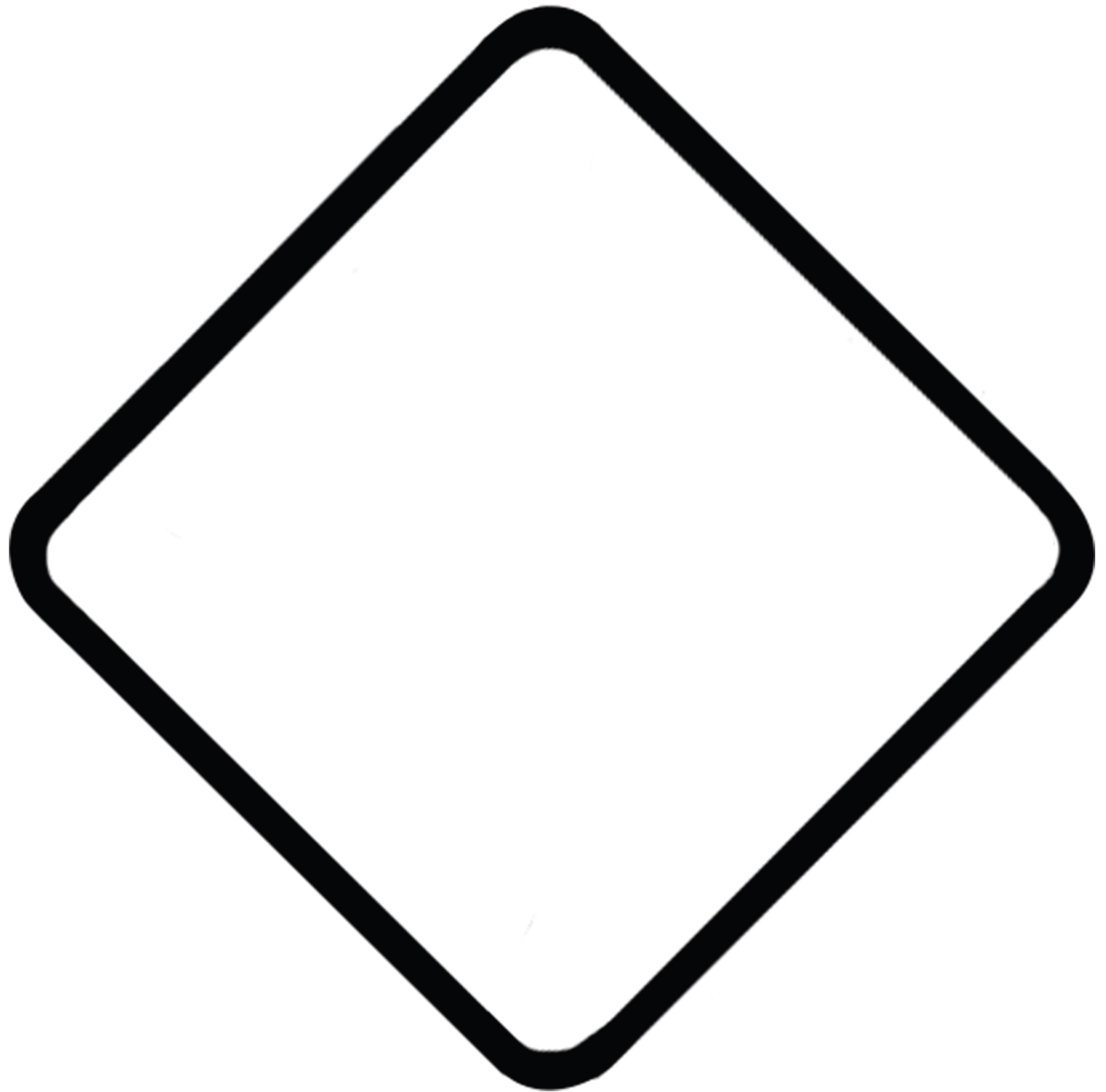
Parents or guardians may post the design to

their own Facebook or Instagram and tag their local road agency (i.e. @mikerc), or scan or take a picture of the student's "caution sign" and email it to Maura Lamoreaux at mlamoreaux@kentcountyroads.net. Make sure to include the student's name as you would like it to appear on a certificate of appreciation.

Winners will be announced during National

Public Works Week, May 16 through 22. Winners will receive a special prize of recognition, all participants

will receive a "Certificate of Appreciation." Submissions are due by 5 pm on Friday, May 7.



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Ryne's Reviews: The best albums of 2021 (so far)



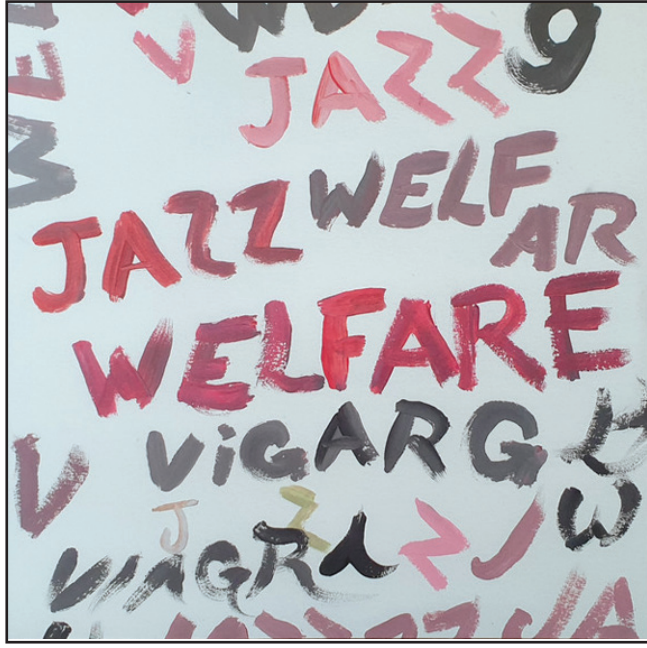
Weezer - "OK Human"

Weezer, one of the most loved and hated groups of America, released their 14th studio album early this year in January, their first release of this decade. I can think of no better start to the next 10 years of Weezer than with their latest pop piece "OK Human."

The 2010s weren't kind to Weezer, with attempted pop albums failing and the areas of success being a large departure from what Weezer once was. Nonetheless, they had shining moments outside of their covers album, with 2014's "Everything Will Be Alright In The End" and 2017's "White Album." These two records brought life back to the sounds of the fan-loved albums "Blue Album" and "Pinkerton." With "OK Human," Weezer makes a new sound that blends the past 30 years into one record.

An important part of this album is the 38-piece big band of horns, strings, piano and rock instruments, all composed by front man Rivers Cuomo. This is one of the few albums Cuomo plays no guitar on, leading with a piano. Cuomo took a play on Radiohead's "OK Computer" for the title of this record and draws sounds from The Beach Boys' "Pet Sounds" and Harry Nilsson's "Nilsson Sings Newman." The finished product comes across as calculated and poppy in all the right ways, with every song flowing into the next in the short half-hour journey.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused Cuomo to jumpstart work that he started in 2018 to finish "OK Human" and use some of his experiences of being indoors to add weird and quirky lyrics to the songs. And if this isn't enough to hold you over, next week Weezer is releasing another album entitled "Van Weezer."



Viagra Boys - "Welfare Jazz"

Swedish post-punk music majors the Viagra Boys daunt us with another sampler of songs following their acclaimed debut "Street Worms." Viagra Boys somehow tighten the sound of their last record to make noisy songs somewhat catchy, with their humor sometimes standing in the forefront of songs like "Ain't Nice" and "Toad," not to mention part two of their song "Best In Show."

The early punk and blues influences shine through on most tracks with abrasive shouting vocals. Viagra Boys are also widely successful at targeting American listeners with English lyrics about juvenile activity with a sense of lightheartedness.

Throughout the loud and crazy, they still find times to slow it down and groove out with songs like "Into the Sun." With a song like this, singer Sebastian Murphy hits the heavier topics about how he was on the wrong life path last year and wants to start to turn it around.

On top of a weird bluesy punk feel, Viagra Boys also throw in some 80s staple sounds of dance beats, low flat gang vocals and electronic instruments, tackling yet another territory of sound. It's rare for a band so young in their career to see such notoriety, but the Viagra Boys will soon climb even higher into mainstream music as time unfolds.

Music by Ryne Clarke and his band the Ryne Experience is available on all major digital streaming services (Spotify, YouTube, etc.), at theyryneexperience.bandcamp.com or at ryneshyne.club.



Psychedelic Porn Crumpets - "Shyga! The Sunlight Mound"

My first new-to-me album and band of 2021 is Psychedelic Porn Crumpets, and what a pleasant delight it has been. Yet another Australian psych-rock band that started off playing garage raves, their latest album "Shyga..." seems to be performing the best out of what they have done.

As someone who had no prior knowledge of the band, I went in blind to listen. The Psychedelic Porn Crumpets are effective in making sounds and segues to tie their tracks together that vary from slow droning psych pieces to straight rock bangers. Psychedelic Porn Crumpets remind me of many bands, such as Thee Oh Sees, King Gizzard, The Killers and Jeff Rosenstock, but they use their DIY recording to let their own style shine through. Jack McEwan fronts the project and offered the space in which to record this album during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Psychedelic Porn Crumpets are still fairly new on the scene, with this being their fourth studio release, but I see good things in their future with an album such as this.



Dinosaur Jr. - "Sweep It Into Space"

Three piece alternative rock band Dinosaur Jr. treats us with their 12th studio album since their start in 1985. Dinosaur Jr. generally takes a few years between albums before delivering their next, but "Sweep It Into Space" breathes a new life into their discography.

Frontman J. Mascis takes the spotlight once again with this album with his recognizable fuzzy screeching lead guitar work and aging voice. We also see an appearance and producing role from singer/songwriter Kurt Vile on this record, in addition to two songs by the original bass player Murph, who left the group in 1989 and rejoined in 2007.

One of Murph's songs, "Garden," is a highlight of the album, with its soft but strong sound. From the sound of "Sweep It Into Space," you would think Dinosaur Jr never left the 80s and 90s and live in the heyday of playing together and being a band, with their biggest critic and audience being themselves, telling them not to change a beat. Some bands are around just to consistently make good albums that never stray too far from their roots but still help them grow as artists and friends. This is one fine example of that.

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Chain of Lakes' Kyle Rasche is LowellArts "featured artist of the month"



Chain of Lakes

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Kyle Rasche, best known as lead singer/songwriter of the Alto-based folk rock band Chain of Lakes, will be the "Featured Artist of the Month" at LowellArts for May.

"Michigan and the Midwest are definitely a regular muse for me," Rasche said. "I live on a little bit of land in Alto, and could not be more grateful to raise my family here. Michigan is where I am from. It's in my bones."

Rasche (it rhymes with "Kashi") just released a brand new EP a few days ago called "Next Few

Winters."

"I wrote the song 'Next Few Winters' for a special concert that J. Oscar Bittinger hosts called 'A Winter's Tune,'" Rasche said. "He invites several songwriters to perform one freshly-minted, winter-themed original song and a revamped traditional song. My song came from a place of feeling defensive of my home state, and just exhausted from hearing people whine about the cold. Our winter chill is literally the most predictable trend we experience as Michiganders. I really can't

think of a less intelligent grievance to harbor and express. The record as a whole kind of marked a concerted return to focusing solely on the craft of writing. I was tired of making songs

Over the past year of pandemic, many artists have found themselves stuck, unable to create, while others have been deeply inspired by the events and the solitude. Rasche said he was "inspired beyond measure."

"The first few months of shutdown afforded me more time than I have ever had to focus on music," Rasche said. "I got to use what I call my 'morning brain' to work on songs. In the real world, music always gets what's leftover after the kids are fed, bills are paid, chores, etc. but the shutdown wiped away everything but time. Obviously, I would give anything to have avoided the unspeakable tragedy and subsequent heartache that

this pandemic has inflicted upon so many families, but I really tried to soak up the alone time with my instrument. I am grateful to have had something to focus on other than the news."

While his most recent live performances have been under his given name, he has not abandoned the "Chain of Lakes" band name.

"The cast of musicians rotates a bit more now than in years past, but I'll always solicit my pals to help me perform when the right occasions arise," Rasche said. "Obviously COVID has pulled everything inward, and I'm loving the solo shows in listening rooms, but if a gig comes up that would kick with the band, I'd be all about it."

Rasche will be a finalist at the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas in May. This festival has a knack for recognizing high quality work long before the larger world does, past non-winning finalists have included Steve Earle, Nanci Griffith, Lyle Lovett and James McMurtry.

"Just this past week I found out that two of my songs got me selected as one of 24 new folk finalists for the Kerrville Folk Festival's annual songwriter awards. We will all be streaming performances of our songs on May 22 and May 23. It's the biggest platform I've ever had for my songs, so I'm beyond honored and proud to say I've been recognized by the Kerrville community."



Kyle Rasche

fit the band, rather than making the band fit the song. This batch is all about the tunes. I recorded with Kevin Fein and Eric Raby of Good Old Days Recording in Grand Rapids."

Rasche said he draws his biggest inspiration from the artistic-minded circle of friends he's cultivated.

"I'm so drawn to talented people [like] artists, photographers, comics and especially songwriters," Rasche said. "I curate a songwriter guild called the SongHaul where twelve of us all post new work each month. It provides a level of accountability to finish and post new music, but more than anything it is a bottomless source of inspiration seeing what my friends make. I get a front row seat to hear works in progress from insanely gifted writers like Josh Rose, Mike Ward, Kari Lynch, Andrew Lutes, Nicholas James Thomasma, etc. It's such a privilege."



King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard - "L.W."

As promised, prolific Australian psych-rock band King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard delivered the second half of what they started with last year's "K.G."

This album is the third volume of what King Gizzard started in 2017 with "Flying Microtonal Banana," complete albums composed and recorded with microtonal instruments. A microtonal instrument is typically a instrument that was made or modified with extra frets to hit notes in-between notes, for instance a quarter step instead of a half.

With "L.W.," King Gizzard seamlessly carry the same sound over into part two of their self-titled montage, the ending of the last album and beginning of the new album line up so the listener doesn't notice when the next album starts. Despite exploring almost every genre, King Gizzard finds a new wave of psychedelia sound with their latest record.

It is unsure what King Gizzard will do next but they never seem to stop, with 17 studio albums, their own label, Flightless Records, and their own festival created in just ten years, paving the way for other Australian underground acts to emerge from their trail-blazing ashes.



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Red Arrow

- TRACK

SPORTS

Arrows take second in Kathy Talus Relays

submitted by Paul Judd

The Red Arrows used the distance, hurdles, and field events to defeat Northview last Thursday but came up shy against a strong Forest Hills Central team. The meet against the Rangers was close throughout, but in the end it was a seven-point difference which is really only a three-point swing in a dual track meet. Overall, there were many personal records and season bests on the team and things are continuing to come together. Record board changes were achieved by Cole Weston as he moves to number six in the 3200m (10:08.94).

Final team scores were: Lowell 106.33, Northview

30.66 and Lowell 62, FHC 69.

Overall first place finishers were: Sawyer Fowler 800m in 2:10.57; Weston 3200m, 10:08.94; Josh Rau 110mHH, 15.30; 300mH, 42.54; Jakob Reynolds discus, 119-07 (personal record).

Second place finishers were: Weston, 1600m 4:45.52 (personal record); 800m, 2:10.92 (personal record); Landon Grant high jump, 5-06.00; 1600m relay team of L. Mills, MacNaughton, Grant, Cater, 3:51.61.

Third place finishers were: Levi Mills 400m, 56.32 (personal record);

Benjamin Bromley 800m, 2:11.60 (personal record); Sawyer Fowler 1600m, 4:45.69 (personal record); 3200m, 10:35.62 (personal record); Noah VanLaan high jump, 5-06.00; Ramsey Ponchaud pole vault, 10-00.00; Keegan Cater discus, 111-08.00.

At the Kathy Talus Relays last Saturday, field events, hurdles, and distance events marked the day as the Arrows finished in second place, coming up two points short from team champion Caledonia. In those events Lowell captured a top-three place in all but two events which jump-started the day on the track. Lowell gathered

three first-place finishes on the day with Joshua Rau winning the 110HH and 300H in 15.50 and 41.50 respectively, and the high jump relay team of Landon Grant and VanLaan both going 5-06.00 to tie Holland with a combined jump of 11 feet. Ponchaud matched his personal record of 10' to tie for first place in the pole vault.

Second place finishes were: distance medley relay (Lothian, Bromley, Fowler, Weston) 20:29.10; pole vault relay Ponchaud 10n feet.

Third place finishes were: shot put relay team of Rau 35-09.50 and Reynolds 35-05; discus team of Cater 111-10 and Reynolds 111-



06; VanLaan 110HH, 18.50 and 300H, 45.00.

The Arrows will be hosting East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Northern on Thursday.

Final team scores were: Caledonia 90.96; Lowell 88.99; Byron Center 81.95; Fremont 71.98; Jenison 54.98; Holland 49.95; Calvary Christian 11; Wyoming 7.

Arrows have strong showing against Rangers

by Justin Scott
contributing writer

The girls tennis team nearly pulled off a historic upset this past week against perennial tennis power Forest Hills Central. Lowell came into the match with the Rangers with a 2-26 record historically, and almost came away with a victory, falling 5-3.

Winning points for LHS were Ella Todd at 4th Singles, Brynn

Jackson/Olivia Torline at 2nd Doubles, and Sydney Spanbauer/Hallie Greenop at 4th Doubles.

Lowell bounced back with an 8-0 sweep over Lakewood. Winning their matches for LHS were Brooke Knottnerus 6-0, 6-1, Grace Nielsen 6-0, 6-0, Delaney Kelley 6-0, 6-0, Ella Baker 2-0, 2-0, Emalie DeBoer/Alana Peters 6-0,

6-1, Brynn Jackson/Olivia Torline 6-1, 6-1, Ella Todd/Hallie Greenop 6-0, 6-2, and Sedona Bonter/Emma Hollern. Lowell is now 20-13-1 historically against the Vikings.

Earlier in the week, Lowell fell to Grand Rapids Christian by a score of 8-0.



Brynn Jackson goes for a return against Grand Rapids Christian. In the background, construction crews are beginning the process of installing turf fields outside the tennis courts.

Join us for the Kentucky Derby Big Hat Dinner and Viewing before the gun raffle drawing. Open to the public. *Race to follow.*

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6 PM	STEAK DINNER (\$15) & *GUN RAFFLE
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Red Arrow

- TRACK

SPORTS

Lady Arrows grab the win at Kathy Talus Relays

submitted by Paul Judd

The Lady Arrows used strong field events, hurdles, mid-sprints, and distance to get a solid win against Northview but came one point shy of a win with the Rangers. The one point deficit makes one look where there was anything left on the tree but with the number of PR's it looks like everything was left on the track. In addition to the PR's there was some movement in the Lowell record board as Annika Sandman's time in the 1600m #2 (5:24.14) moves her up from #4 (5:28.99) and her 3200m time is still number one (11:22.77) but is a seven-second improvement from 11:29.79.

Final team scores were: Lowell 86.50, Northview 50.50 and Lowell 68, FHC 69

Taking firsts overall in the double dual for the Arrows were: Theresa Judd 100mH, 16.05; 300mH, 49.93, pole vault 10-00.00; Kaylee Diamond high jump, 5-02.00 long jump, 15-01.00; Jadan Sanders 400m, 1:03.85; Kaylee Byrne shot put, 28-03.25; discus, 85-05.00.

Second place finishers were: Annika Sandman 800m, 2:35.85; 3200m, 11:22.77 (new school record); Liberty Cook shot put, 27-11.25 personal record; 800m relay (Simkins,

Brown, Diamond, Tuuri), 1:57.89; 1600m relay (Sanders, Harper, Byrne, Judd), 4:33.77.

Third place finishers: Diamond 200m, 28.92; Katrina Sandman 800m, 2:37.68 (personal record); Annika Sandman 1600m, 5:24.14 (personal record); Emily German 100mH, 19.32; Cook discus, 76-08.00; Sanders pole vault, 8-06.00 (personal record); long jump, 13-01.00.

The ladies did their part to honor Kathy Talus Saturday by outdistancing Caledonia for the win at the track invitational that Lowell hosts in her name. The Arrows used the field

events to get off to a strong start and were in good shape before the finals in the track events started. Diamond 15-09 and Sanders 13-02 combined to take first place in the long jump relay while the Arrows captured second place in the pole vault, discus, and shot put relays. Lowell kept at it on the track with Judd winning the 100h in a time of 16.13, the team of Madison Brown, Diamond, Julia Tuuri, and Grace Simkins won the 800m relay in 1:53.92, and the team of Brown, Tuuri, Diamond, and Sanders winning the Red Arrow Relay in 1:59.60. The day also saw the LHS record board change as Annika Sandman set the school

record in the 1600m taking second place with a time of 5:19.34 breaking the 2009 record of 5:23.64 set by Kallie Holzhueter.

Second place finishers were: Judd 300h, 52.16; pole vault relay team of Judd, 9-00 and Sanders 7-00; shot put relay team of Byrne, 30-05 and Cook, 28-04.50; discus relay Byrne, 81-07 and Cierra Sayer, 71-05; 1600m relay of Sanders, Harper, Byrne, Judd, 4:35.20; distance medley team of K. Sandman, Abby

German, K. Sandman, A Sandman, 24:39.04.

Third place finishers were: 400m relay team of Sayer, Brown, Seddon, Tuuri in 55.20.

Final team scores were: Lowell 116, Caledonia 116, Jenison 85, Byron Center 59, Holland 49, Fremont 20, Wyoming 7, Calvary Christian 7

The Arrows will be home this Thursday against East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Northern.



Golf places third twice last week

by Justin Scott contributing writer

Plenty was learned by the Lowell boys golf team this past week, including an idea of where they fall in the new OK White conference. The Red Arrows finished third at Brookside Golf Club, home of conference foe Greenville, last week.

The third place finish at the conference jamboree included a team low 41 by Will de Voest. Also scoring for the Red Arrows were Ty Knottnerus (43), Brad VandenHout (44), and Drew Veldman (44). Cam Sluss had a strong fifth score of 45.

Top four scores per team are counted, but tiebreakers are decided by best fifth scores.

No tiebreakers were needed last week as Lowell took third by themselves. East Grand Rapids won the jamboree with a 159. Forest Hills Northern took second with a 167. Lowell's third place finish came with a 172, ahead of Byron Center by five strokes and Northview by 13 strokes.

The JV team took on Grand Rapids Christian amidst the fall of snow flurries at Morrison Lake Golf Club on Wednesday. The Red Arrows defeated the Eagles 185-204. Lowell's JV team has a strong lineup this year led by Henry Vredeveld and Patrick de Voest.

Henry Vredeveld tees up for the JV team in the snow at Morrison Lake last week.

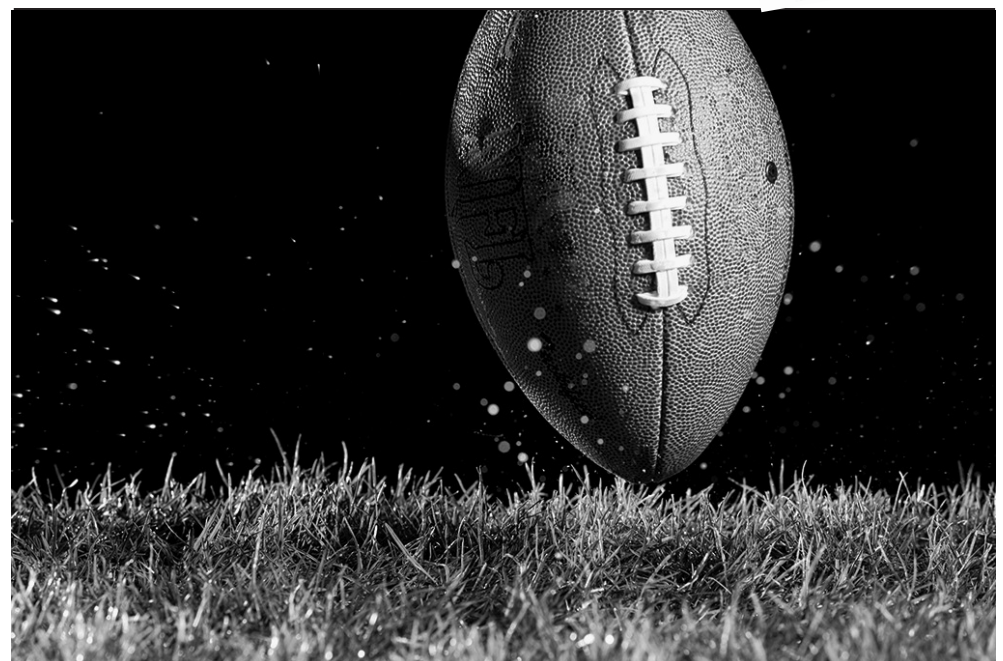
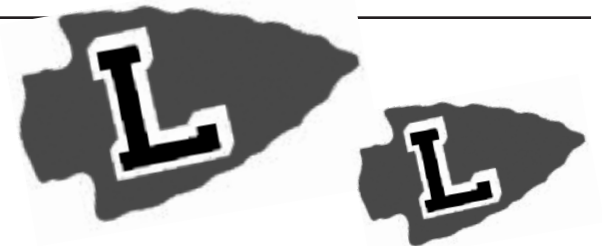


Another strong week for lacrosse teams

After a roaring start to the season, the Lowell boys lacrosse team suffered their first defeat this weekend at the hands of Portage Northern. The Red Arrows fell to the Huskies by a score of 9-5.

Prior to the loss, Lowell had racked up five straight wins all by a 15 goal margin or higher, including a 15-0 win over Portage Central earlier in the day, and a pair of 22-4 wins over Kenowa Hills and Comstock Park.

In their only game last week, the girls lacrosse team beat Grandville by a score of 11-8.



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obituaries

FUSS

Paul F. Fuss, age 87 of Alto, passed away Monday, April 19, 2021. He is preceded in death by his wife, Lois Fuss. Paul is survived by his children, David (Gerrie) Fuss, Carl Fuss, Jerry (Jenny) Fuss; sister, Marion (Jim) Lewis; grandchildren, Dalton, Sophia, and Wyatt Fuss, Marvin (Melissa) Cochran, and Kristine Woolym. Paul graduated Valedictorian from Lowell High School in 1951. He then went on to serve in the United States Army. Paul ran the Fuss Dairy Farm for 50 years. He was a kind and generous man, who loved his family. Visitation with the family will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021 from 11 – 1 PM at Elmdale Nazarene Church, 11830 Drew Rd, Alto, MI 49302, funeral services will follow at 1 PM, with Pastor Nathan Gray officiating. Masks and social distancing will be required. Services will be livestreamed on the Roth-Gerst Facebook page starting at 1 PM. Interment will take place at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Paul's honor can be directed toward Elmdale Nazarene Church.



GUILD

Jacqueline Ann Guild, age 95 of Lowell, passed away on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Jacqueline was born on April 22, 1926 in Battle Creek. Jacqueline is survived by her nieces and nephews, Tim Jankowski, Mary Anderson and Melissa Stiles; great-nephews, Nicholas Stiles, Logan Stiles, Matthew Anderson and Michael Anderson; and step-children, David Guild, Cheryl Harms, Susan Sekach and Raymond Guild Jr. She is preceded in death by her parents, Dale and Thelma Page; husband, John Richards; husband Raymond Guild; brother, James Page; and sister, Anna Jankowski. A Memorial service was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at the Lake Funeral Home in Ionia. Online Condolences can be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com.

MIKULSKI

Lawrence Mikulski entered into this world on April 20, 1945 and peacefully passed into the arms of Jesus 76 years later on April 20, 2021. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Maureen Stapleton Mikulski; parents Stephen & Anne Mikulski; brothers, Robert, Steven, and Paul Mikulski; and sister, Carol Mikulski Trasky. Larry is survived by his wife, Judy Hath Mikulski; children, Cara (Richard) Sauber, Michelle (Michael) Kasper, Scott (Jenny) Mikulski, Jennie (Dennis) Manzano, David (Amber) Hath, Angie (Brett) Ulanich; grandchildren, Lauren (Jennifer) Suggs, Fernando (Marissa) Ortiz, Taylor Suggs, Mycah and Liberty Kasper, Ella, Malen, and Conner Mikulski, Nickalis Salmons, Drake and Maylyne Hath; great-grandchildren Faith, Skylar and Julian Suggs, Vera Ortiz, and Ruby McCall; several brothers and sisters-in-law, many nieces and nephews; and beloved dog, Sparky. Larry graduated from West Catholic High School in 1964. He joined the Navy and proudly served from 1964 - 1968. He is a Vietnam veteran and received many military honors. After working for DeKorne's furniture for 20 years, Larry then worked for 23 years for Lowell Area Schools as Transportation Director. He served in many other areas for the district including managing custodial, security, grounds, and construction. Larry was very active in the Lowell Community. He enjoyed planning the Expo, several parades, and as a senior volunteer police patrol. Larry called St Mary's church home for over 50 years. He was active in the Knights of Columbus and many other areas of church life. Larry loved golf and was a member of Arrowhead Golf course for over 40 years. He enjoyed league golf as well as his Tuesday geezer golf. Larry was a kind and caring man. Service along with family, community and country was important to him. He was proud of all of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Larry is deeply loved and missed profoundly. A life well lived, always a sailor at heart. Fair winds and following seas. A memorial mass was held at 11 AM on Friday, April 23, 2021 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell Michigan, 49331, with Fr. Aaron Ferris officiating. Masks and social distancing were required. Interment will take place at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery. Memorial Contributions can be directed in Larry's honor to either the Pink Arrow Project, Lowell Pink Arrow Pride c/o Lowell Community Wellness P.O. Box 246 Lowell, MI 49331 or Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331.



PERRIN

Judy (Block) Perrin, 77, of Lowell, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, April 19, 2021. Judy is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 55 years, Bill Perrin. She was born in Grand Rapids, MI to Arthur & Delia Block. She spent her life caring for others. For over 50 years she was a nurse's aide, beginning her career at St Mary's hospital and just retired last year from Thresholds Group Home. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother who brought light and laughter to any room. She is well known for her wonderful hugs. She never met a stranger and made friends everywhere she went. She is survived by her daughter, Pam (Chris) Platz; grandchildren, Daniel (Jackie) Barrett, Samantha (Kendall) Jackson, Nicole (David Shores) Platz, Christopher (Tiffany Miller), Stephanie Platz; great-grandchildren, Memphis, Savannah, Logan, Erika, Lilly, Amber, Gabby, Kayden; sisters, Marilyn (David) Wert, Kathy (Tim) Hunt; brothers, Jerry (Rose) Block and Bill Block. Visitation was held on Thursday, April 22, 2021 from 5-8 PM at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331. A graveside service was held on Friday, April 23, 2021 at 1 PM with Pastor Ryan Landt of Calvary Christian Reformed Church officiating. Masks and social distancing were required. Interment at Roth Coons Cemetery. Memorial Contributions can be directed toward Calvary Christian Reformed Church, 1151 West Main Street, Lowell Michigan, 49331.



STEDMAN

Joan Stedman, age 70 of Lowell, went home to the Lord on Sunday, April 18, 2021. Joan was an awesome and loving mom. She was kind, compassionate, and willing to help anyone out who needed it. She is preceded in death by her husband, William Stedman; and parents, Gerald & Viola Smoes. Joan is survived by her daughter, Susie Stedman (Thomas Brown); two granddaughters, Chloe and Ava; three brothers; two sisters; and a large extended family. A celebration of life will be held at a later time. Donations can be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331



If you want to be a doormat you have to lay yourself down first.
~ Oscar Wilde



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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Here's a long-lasting Mother's Day gift

Mother's Day has almost arrived. As an adult, you can fully appreciate all your mother has done for you, so, on this occasion, you may be happy to give Mom flowers, candy, jewelry or something similar. But Mother's Day is here and then it's gone. Is there a longer-term gift that can make a real difference in your mother's life? Actually, there is – the

gift of knowledge for her financial future. Specifically, there are two key areas in which you may be able to provide valuable help to your mother: long-term care and estate planning. But don't panic – you don't have to be an expert in either one of these subjects. You can, however, steer Mom – and possibly your other parent, too, if one is in the picture

– in the right direction. Let's take a quick look at both these topics. First, consider long-term care. If your mother is in good health, you may not have thought much about whether she would eventually need an extended stay in a nursing home or the services of a home health aide. But the odds aren't necessarily in her favor: About 70 percent of adults who reach 65 will eventually require some type of long-term service and support, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. And this type of care is expensive: The annual median cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000, and it's nearly \$55,000 per year for

the full-time services of a home health aide, according to a survey by the insurance company Genworth. Unless your mother has accumulated a great deal of financial resources, she likely won't be able to pay these costs out of pocket without jeopardizing her financial independence. Furthermore, Medicare typically pays only a small portion of these expenses. To help your mother deal with this potential financial threat, you might want to suggest she meet with a financial professional, who can explore possible strategies and products designed to address long-term care. And the sooner, the better, because these solutions will become more expensive

and challenging the older your mother gets. The second topic you may want to bring up with your mother is her estate plan. Has she drafted a will? Has she safeguarded her wishes by creating the necessary legal documents? These could include a durable power of attorney for finances, which allows her to name someone to manage her financial affairs if she becomes incapacitated, and a durable power of attorney for health care, which allows someone to make medical decisions for her if she is able to do so herself. Having her estate plans in order can help protect your mother's finances and ensure her legacy is honored – which is almost

certainly an outcome she would keenly desire. So, if your mother doesn't already have a comprehensive estate plan, encourage her to see a legal professional to start the process. Helping your mother protect herself from the catastrophic costs of long-term care and the chaos of an inadequate estate plan may not sound like a typical Mother's Day offering, but your actions can help keep Mom in a good place in life – and that's a pretty valuable gift. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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BIRDSEYEMAPLE - 3/4 x 2 1/2 pre-finished flooring, 40 sq. ft. NEW still in box. \$75 per carton. 616-446-0240 or 616-446-0308.

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Chalet-Thunder Bay Resort, Hillman, wooded Site-great view, Cathedral Ceiling, 2 bedroom-loft-sleeps 10, three baths, fireplace, superb quality, finished garage, fiber optic, city water, sewer, natural gas, paved street, 1950 sqft, \$269,750 golf privileges available jack@thunderbayresort.com 989-657-6996

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NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. Usually \$3-\$5 each. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - A refrigerator, stove, washer & dryer. Cash. 616-585-1709.^{TFN}

misc.

NEED AN AL-ANON MEETING? - Al-Anon is a fellowship of families and friends of alcoholics. Join us Sunday-Saturday at 10:30 AM and 7 PM on Zoom. Come learn the Steps, Traditions & Concepts of living and coping, in Serenity, with alcoholism. There are no dues or fees for Al-Anon. For Zoom meeting ID & Password, please call Joy at 616-901-7779.

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

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.^{TFN 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.

sales

ANNUAL STREET SALE - River Place Rd., Lowell off Vergennes between Lincoln Lake and Flat River. April 30 - May 1, 8-4 pm. Home decor, Taste of Home collection, dishes, ceiling fan, hunting & fishing, guns, tools, 20" tires, car parts, snowblower, tent canopy, baseball pants & cleats, brand name clean clothing infant thru adult, GVSU clothes, many misc. items.

ESTATE SALE - 3462 Pinckney Road, April 29 to May 1, 10 to 5. Cash Only. Household and tools and lots more.

UPS SHIPPING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, SCANNING SERVICE PRINTING POSTERS & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-noon Ph. 897-9261 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

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services

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PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER - Needs work. Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

STICKNEY ROOFING - A local, licensed & insured company. Tearoffs & new construction. Free estimates. Call 616-293-9772.

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 616-642-9180. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Dave Traver head mechanic.

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NOTICE DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARY AND REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

DATE: Wednesday, May 12, 2021
TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Office of the Kent County Drain Commissioner
 1500 Scribner Ave, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Or Alternatively Remote Electronic Access by Zoom
Meeting ID: 963 5565 3762
Passcode: 5122021
Call-In#: 1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

QUESTIONS: (616) 632-7910

The Day of Review is an opportunity to review the Drain Drainage District boundaries and apportionment of benefit with the Drain Commissioner or a staff member for the list of Drains below. A map depicting the proposed Drainage District boundary revisions can be found attached to this notice and/or on the Drain Commissioner's website at: https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/DrainCommissioner/meeting_notices.htm. The Drain is located and established in the following municipalities, and a general description of the lands proposed to be added or deleted, in whole or in part, include the following:

Drain No.	Drain Name	Municipalities*	Portion of Section Added	Portion of Section Removed
8058	BUNDY	LOWELL TOWNSHIP	19, 20, 29 & 30	19, 20, 29 & 30
8499	CHERRY CREEK	LOWELL TOWNSHIP	3, 4	3, 4
		CITY OF LOWELL	2, 3	2, 3
		VERGENNES TOWNSHIP	20-22, 27-29, 33-35	20-22, 27-29, 33-35

*The above listed Municipalities with the Drainage Districts are subject to an At-Large Assessment

The Drain Commissioner intends to hold an in-person Day of Review at the location stated above. However, due to the ongoing coronavirus public health crisis, the Day of Review will alternatively be held through remote electronic access, as provided in this Notice, if public gatherings are unable to be held due to federal, state, or local orders, laws, regulations, and guidelines. Prior to the Day of Review, the Drain office shall post an update on its website whether in-person attendance will be available.

Prior to the Day of Review, you may contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at (616) 632-7910 or visit its website at https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/DrainCommissioner/meeting_notices.htm to get information about your apportionment and assessment. Remote electronic access will be available even if in-person attendance is available.

Electronic participation will be conducted through Zoom. The Day of Review may be accessed through any device supporting the Zoom app, which includes many computers, laptops, smartphones. Users on a computer or laptop will be given the option to join the meeting through a web browser without downloading the Zoom app. Additionally, individuals may call into the Day of Review by telephone.

Prior to the Day of Review:

- **Website.** Please visit the Drain Commissioner's website at https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/DrainCommissioner/meeting_notices.htm for more information regarding the Day of Review, including a map of the proposed Drainage District boundary revisions and proposed apportionment roll
- **Email.** If you would like to ask questions about your property or proposed apportionment prior to the Day of Review, please email drinfo@kentcountymi.gov and we will provide you information through email.
- **Telephone.** If you wish to speak with a staff member of the Drain Commissioner's Office about your property or the proposed apportionment, please call (616) 632-7910
- **Special Access.** Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at the number noted above (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

On the Day of Review:

- The Drain Commissioner, engineers and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day. However, due to the coronavirus public health crisis, the facilities are requesting limited walk-in and request that an appointment be scheduled to limit the number of walk-in visitors. If you do enter the building, it will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask
- To participate electronically through Zoom, you can access the Day of Review through the following link: <https://kentcountymi.zoom.us/j/96355653762?pwd=ZCtGT0t3eWw5dVZmNFREWUNkZFd3UT09>
- For participation on Zoom via telephone, please call: + 1 646 876 9923 US (New York). When prompted the Meeting ID is **963 5565 3762** and the Passcode is **5122021**
- Once individuals have joined the Day of Review electronically, the Drain Commissioner will provide further information about procedures for participation.
- The computation of costs for the Drain will also be available at the Day of Review and will be on the Drain Commissioner's Office website. Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on your 2021 winter tax bill. If drain assessments are being collected for more than one (1) year, you may pay the assessment in full with any interest to date at any time and avoid further interest charges.

After the Day of Review:

You may appeal the Drain Commissioner's decision to revise the district boundaries to the Kent County Circuit Court within ten (10) days, and you may also appeal the determination of apportionments to the Kent County Probate Court within ten (10) days.

Dated: April 30, 2021

Kenneth J. Yonker
 Kent County Drain Commissioner

Live the Life You Want

Quieting your inner critic

Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS
 Life Transitions Therapy LLC

You know that voice, the one that says "I can't ever do anything right," "I'm too old," "I'm worthless," "I never say the right thing," "I sound stupid," "I'm a terrible husband," "I'm a horrible mother." That annoying inner voice that sometimes hamster wheels these negative thoughts over and over. On occasion, our inner critic can help push us toward a goal, but in general it tends to be more harmful instead of helpful. So, if your inner voice is spewing harmful, negative hate speech in your head it's time to shut it up.

Quieting the Inner Critic

The inner critic is harmful to our confidence, resolve, growth, determination, and self-worth. It may seem like it's providing a barrier to prepare you for rejection and failure, a safe bubble to hide in but it's actually setting you up to fail. For some, the inner critic is so harmful that it can lead to anxiety and depression. Our judgmental inner voice rarely goes away. So, the goal is to find a way to make it work for you.

- Try self-distancing.

So instead of "I'm so stupid, I forgot where I put my keys again and I'm going to be late" change the inner voice from "I" to "you". So, this becomes the new inner dialog: "You forgot where you put your keys because you have a lot going on. So, starting today you will put them in the same spot, problem solved. It's just a matter of you starting a new routine." This example of self-distancing helps you look at the situation more clearly like an observer.

- Label your inner critic.

When you start to hear that voice, think, "I hear you judge," or "that's just that poison parrot again."

- Challenge the inner voice.

If it says "you are a terrible artist, your art will never be good enough" say "Who cares, my art is for me" or "So what, just because you tell me that, doesn't make it true." This helps to take away the power of the inner critic and detach yourself from it instead of identifying with it and giving it power.

- Question your inner critic.

If you hear "You can't be successful, you're not smart enough" come back

with: "So who cares what you think, I'm going to do it anyway."

- Use humor.

Think of your inner critic as a cartoon character being gagged or having a sock put in its mouth. Then tell the inner critic "I'm going to gag you" or to "put a sock in it." This works for some because adding humor takes away the power.

- Try self-affirmations.

When you hear that negative inner voice tearing you down try instead to see the facts that show what it's saying isn't true and change the message you hear. So going back to the art example "You are a terrible artist, your art will never be good enough." Change it to, "I'm really good at landscapes so I am a good enough," or "I'm really good with color blending," etc. Focus on known strengths.



Melissa Spino
 MA LPC CDMS

- Practice self-compassion.

Try and talk to yourself like you would someone you love and care about. For example, change the inner critic's voice from "The house is a total mess," to "I've been so busy lately without enough time to keep the house clean." The messy house hasn't changed, but your view of it does. Don't be afraid to ask for help or to take some needed downtime.

You can also Google additional ways to help quiet your inner critic. There are numerous other articles and suggestions on reputable sites. Just know that there isn't one tool that works for everyone so try different ones or a combination to see what works best to silence your inner critic.

You only get one life, make it the best one possible! This article is not intended to diagnose or treat.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

POETIC TERMS WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

POETIC TERMS WORD SEARCH

ALCAIC
 ALLEGORY
 ALLITERATION
 ALLUSION
 ANACHRONISM
 BALLAD
 BLANK VERSE

CACOPHONY
 CAESURA
 CANON
 CONSONANCE
 COUPLET
 DISSONANCE
 DRAMATIC

IAMBIC
 MEASURE
 SONNET
 SYLLABIC
 SYLLABLES
 VERSE

Guess Who?

I am a pop singer born in Michigan on April 27, 1988. I started performing with groups in 2011. In 2014 I was named as an artist to watch, and a few years later I had a No. 1 hit.

Answer: Lizzo

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to poetry.

T R C O I M N A

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

Answer: Romantic

			1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	
	10	11									12		
	13									14			
	15									16			
17										18			
19			20							21			
22				23	24	25	26			27			
	28								29		30	31	32
				33									35
				36							37		
				38								39	
	40									41	42	43	
44									45	46	47		
48									49				
50									51				

CLUES ACROSS

- Switches
- Legal financial term (abbr.)
- Sweeties
- Competition
- Measures electrical resistance
- Psychotherapy researcher
- Causes injury to
- Open
- Polish peninsula
- Hebrew calendar month
- Whale ship captain
- Children's accessory
- Unknown point
- Exists
- Extremely confident
- Expression of disgust
- The government has many
- Small constellation
- Northern Indian city
- The best pitchers
- Naturally occurring solid
- Apple computers
- Portuguese city
- Ancient Greek war dance
- More reliable
- Sailboat
- Newspapers
- Frequently flooded area
- They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

- Partial
- "Mad Men" leading man
- The ___ of March
- Healthy
- Where golfers begin
- Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
- Of the cheek
- Injury reminder
- Statesman Franklin
- For an unknown reason
- Brain parts
- Islamic calendar month
- Avenue where ad men work
- Possesses
- Accept
- Stake
- Former British PM May
- US battleships circa 1939
- Greek alphabet letter
- When you hope to get there
- Top lawyer
- Fiddler crabs
- Intolerant
- Persons that cause extreme fear
- Car mechanics group

- Capital of Ghana
- Famed ballplayer Hank
- Emphasizes insignificance
- Light-colored
- Distinctive smell
- Muckraking journalist Jacob
- Sunscreen rating
- Short-term memory
- Japanese delicacy
- One point north of due east



The 19 chandeliers in the Capitol in Lansing are one of a kind and designed especially for the building by Tiffany's of New York. Weighing between 800-900 pounds apiece they are composed of copper, iron and pewter.

Democrats introduce legislation to close marital rape loophole

On Thursday, April 22, Sen. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) and Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (D-Livonia) introduced legislation to close a legal loophole in Michigan law that permits marital rape when the perpetrator's legal spouse is mentally incapacitated.

Currently, Michigan law provides an exemption for being charged with rape in the case of someone's legal spouse being mentally

incapacitated, whether by "influence of a narcotic, anesthetic, or other substance administered to that person without his or her consent, or due to any other act committed upon that person without his or her consent."

"It is critical that all Michiganders know that a person cannot sexually assault their spouse, regardless of how they accomplish it," said Elinor

Jordan of the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence. "Survivors who have already been betrayed by someone they love and trust should not be betrayed again by the law. Further, those who perpetrate sexual assault are emboldened when they learn that their actions have no consequences."

Senate Bill 373 and House Bill 4699 mirror proposed legislation from 2019 and

would end this inhumane loophole for good.

"While Michigan's marital rape exemption was repealed 30 years ago, we still have a statutory loophole that allows someone to incapacitate their spouse, rape them, and get away with it on a technicality," Sen. Brinks said. "Having a pre-existing relationship with your rapist shouldn't make a difference. We need to close this loophole so that going

forward, these perpetrators can be brought to justice."

Similar legislation to end exemptions, especially based on the status of one's relationship as married, is moving in California and Maryland, and another bill is expected to be signed into law in Idaho.

"There is absolutely no excuse for allowing this reprehensible exemption to exist. If we want to really

move Michigan into the 21st century, we have to throw out our 17th century laws," said Rep. Pohutsky. "A law like this only empowers those who view their spouses as property, preventing justice for Michiganders who have already experienced unspeakable trauma. It's time for us as a state to make it unequivocally clear that rape is rape in all circumstances, no exceptions."

Wentworth, Lasinski agree to close 'revolving door'

The House Republican and Democratic leaders announced last Tuesday, April 20 they've agreed to put a stick in the legislator-to-lobbyist revolving door, financial disclosure for legislators, a new bipartisan ethics committee and supermajority support to give bills immediate effect.

In total, 13 reforms were agreed to as part of a systematic "ethics reform" package that House Speaker Jason Wentworth (R-Clare)

and House Minority Leader Donna Lasinski (D-Scio Twp.) announced along with Voters Not Politicians.

It includes making lobbyists report when they lobby legislative staff. It bans legislators from lobbying legislators in other states, something former Rep. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) was doing in her later years in the legislature.

Speaking of lobbyists, they could not be

appointed to state boards or commissions under the ethics reform package. Some of the proposals, Freedom of Information Act expansion to legislators and the governor and requiring a supermajority of support in order to pass bills in lame duck, have already passed the House.

However, lobbyists who give state officials gifts of more than \$3,000 are looking at a \$7,500 fine under this

package. While talked about for years, putting a pause on when retiring lawmakers can enter the lobbying corps has not gotten much mileage in a term-limited legislature, where members like to keep their options open.

Requiring financial disclosure for legislators hasn't gotten much support from the Senate majority leader, but both appear likely to move in the House as soon

as next week.

"When you get outside of the small Lansing and capitol community and tell people back home how their state government operates, you really see how bizarre some of our rules are and why so many people are losing their faith in government," Wentworth said. "We must do better and hold ourselves to a higher standard. We must listen to the people who sent us here and understand

why they are losing faith."

A permanent equally bipartisan ethics commission in the legislature would be charged with investigating public complaints and ensure compliance under this proposal.

"The people are asked too often to simply trust that elected officials are acting in the public interest and holding themselves accountable," Lasinski said. "That's a failed, unacceptable system."

MDHHS RFP for suicide prevention

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has issued a Request for Proposals to provide services aimed at reducing suicides among young adults.

The purpose of the Transforming Youth Suicide Prevention program is to decrease the rates of suicide in young adults aged 18-24 years old, not in a traditional college/university setting, by carrying out identification and early intervention projects, particularly for areas where

the 2015-2019 suicide rate for the designated age group exceeds the national rate of 15.66 per 100,000 people.

The RFP seeks competitive plans for local projects that will expand services, prioritizing proposals that focus on suicide prevention among young adults, service counties that exceed the national rate of suicide, serve high-risk populations and incorporate health equity into their approach and outreach.

Funded applicants will receive ongoing technical

assistance from the MDHHS project coordinator which include help with program start-up, reporting requirements and removing barriers to program implementation.

The award period begins Oct. 1, 2021 and ends Sept. 30, 2022. MDHHS expects to award approximately \$180,000 to up to three applicants, with a maximum of \$60,000 per applicant.

Grant applications must be submitted electronically through the EGrAMS program by 3 p.m. on May

12, 2021.

For more information or to apply, visit the EGrAMS website and select "About EGrAMS" link in the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete RFP can be accessed under the 'Current Grants' section under the "Public Health Administration" link and selecting the "TYSP-2022" grant program.

Earth Day legislation announcements

Legislation was introduced Thursday in celebration of Earth Day, such as SB 0358 from Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) to revive the use of plastic bag bans and regulations around the utilization and sale of plastic bags.

It gives local governments the power to limit use of plastic bags, clearing the path to find a creative and financially-responsible way to reduce consumption of them.

"Plastic bags are a pervasive form of pollution and litter in our communities," Irwin said. "Other communities have shown success in keeping trash off their roads, beautifying their communities and keeping this trash out of their rivers and streams by introducing limits, deposits or other creative ideas to improve plastic bag recycling. This bill is designed to do that."

According to For Love of Water, the US and Canada discarded a combined 22 million pounds of plastics into the Great Lakes annually as of 2016, with 11 million pounds going into Lake Michigan.

Lake Erie is subjected to 5.5 million pounds of plastic, 3 million for Lake Ontario and smaller amounts being released into Lake Huron and Lake Superior.

The United States

Geological Survey found that 12 percent of fish from the Great Lakes carried plastic particles inside of them.

"Local leaders are closest to our roads, parks and waterways. They need this tool to fight litter in our communities and we should be able to provide this to them," Irwin said.

Sen. Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo) and Rep. Christine Morse (D-Texas Twp.) also introduced SB 0167 and HB 4331 that would expand Michigan's Bottle Bill to include non-carbonated beverages like water, juice and sports drinks.

"Our bills will expand our existing production system, ensure that it's convenient for customers to return and retailers and grocers have the support they need to run the program," Morse said.

Under the Michigan Bottle Bill, the state provides a 10-cent deposit on beer and soda pop cans and bottles. Exactly 75 percent of unredeemed deposits go to the Cleanup and Redevelopment Trust Fund, which goes to cleaning up contaminated sites and pollution.

"We do a great job of returning bottles here in Michigan, and by expanding the Bottle Bill, we can increase the amount of single-use plastic we recycle," McCann said.

HONOR YOUR 2021 LAS GRADUATE

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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