

WellNow Urgent Care now open



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ABCs of History



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Restless Viking



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Lhs sports
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50¢



Renovations to LMS about 33% complete

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Area Schools superintendent Nathan Fowler said that renovations to Lowell Middle School are about a third of the way through. Students in seventh and eighth grade are enjoying new classrooms, and the current focus is on completing the sixth grade classrooms.

“It’s going to continue to unfold, but I’d say we’re about a third of the way through,” Fowler said. “Moving into the new space is a big deal and it feels pretty good, but we still have a long way to go. I would say we’ve just kind of wrapped up the first phase and we’re on the second phase. There are probably four phases. It’s a big project! I would say it will be completed by the end of 2023, by the end of that calendar year. We’re hoping that construction will be wrapped up partway through the 2023-24 school year.”

“Tower Pinkster is the architect firm that we worked with and Owen-Ames-



Exterior view of the new two story addition to Lowell Middle School.

Kimball is our construction management company,” Fowler said. “You learn a lot about construction! For example, we had to build what’s called a two-

hour firewall. It’s a block wall with new footings underneath, up against the old block wall from the gym. So it’s actually two block walls! The idea is that a fire

could burn externally for two hours and not penetrate.” At this stage, even the aspects that are “done” and teeming with students are not really 100 percent complete.

“There are still a few finishing touches, like the lockers will have tops placed on them and some

LMS, continued page 8

Pub Poker Run is Thursday

by Bill Lee
contributing reporter

On Thursday night the Lowell Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the fifth annual Pub Poker Run downtown.

got a little bit better,” said Liz Baker of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce. “Our highest point we had about 80 people participating. We thought that was great because it’s

buy multiple wrist bands if they wish. Once registered, participants can visit any of the six locations: Big Boiler Brewing, Flat River Grill, Larkins, Main Street BBQ, New Union Brewery and Sneakers Bar and Grill between 4-8 pm. Participants receive a poker chip at each establishment they visit and then finish their night at Big Boiler Brewing before 8 pm.

Each restaurant is hoping participants will enjoy their drink

and food specials during their stay before moving onto their next stop. Big Boiler Brewing will be providing \$4.00 pints of any of their brews. Sneakers will offer \$1.99 chips and salsa and



Started to help promote local restaurants while also supporting Lowell residents to meet others during the winter, the event has grown over the years with lots of positive feedback.

“Each year we did it, it

a Thursday night, and it’s cold outside. We’re trying to help people beat the winter blues.”

Registration for the event is from 4-6 pm at the Lowell Chamber and the cost is \$10.00 for a wrist band. People may

Poker Run, continued page 3

Wine About Winter is this Saturday

Beginning on Saturday January 15, Lowell merchants downtown will be sponsoring one of three “beat the winter blues” events for anyone who wishes to explore the local stores. The first event “Wine About Winter” will take place this Saturday from 10-5 and be followed by “The Lowell Chocolate Stroll” on Feb. 12 and end with “Get Lucky in Lowell” on March 12. Planning this year’s events are owners Lori Chambers from Red Barn Consignments and Antiques and Martha Davis from the Tap House Bo.

“We wanted to plan a fun shopping day to get people out and enjoy Lowell,” said Martha Davis of the Tap House Bo. “We do a punch card and participants go to

the stores, get their cards punched and then turn them in at the end of the day to get Lowell Bucks. Within each store we usually give something away too. There is a drawing at each store location.”

A big part of Wine About Winter is, obviously, wine. That’s where the local restaurants in town come into play. Participating restaurants will be offering wine specials during the event so that folks can shop and drink wine. Five years ago, Davis partnered with two other boutiques in town - both no longer in business - to promote shopping in Lowell during the winter.

“It all started because in January, February and March there were no events for Lowell,”

Wine, continued page 2

Lowell graduate passes away in Colorado

submitted by Perry Beachum, Deb Collins, Karen Ford, and Nancy Roth

Brooke Carter Johnson, a 1972 graduate of Lowell High School passed away at Skyridge Medical Center in Denver, CO on January 4, 2022 of a cerebral hemorrhage, he was 67.

Johnson was the son of Phillip and Janet Johnson and much like his parents, was a creative soul. He was a member of his school band where he played the drums. Johnson started a garage band in junior high with classmates Chris

Collins, Denny Thomet, Randy Jones and Kris Kropf known as The Invaders and later called The Psychedelic Sound Burst. Their first gig was at "Curlies."

Johnson continued his creativity, working for The Lowell Ledger as a photographer and contributing writer in high school. He graduated in 1972 and attended Grand Rapids Junior College, where he studied cinematography.

He moved to Colorado, where he started his career,

although his first film was a French class project in high school making an 8mm movie of the French Foreign Legion at Silver Lake Dunes.

Lowell friend, Mark Murphy writes, "I got out of the army in early 1975. I saved a little money and bought a car that didn't run very well and had bad brakes. I had enough money to tune it up but no money to fix the brakes. I told Brooke that I was heading to Colorado in the morning and he said he'd go with me. So off we went to start the Colorado adventure.

Who does that? We did. Our emergency brake was our means of stopping. We made it to Colorado and never left."

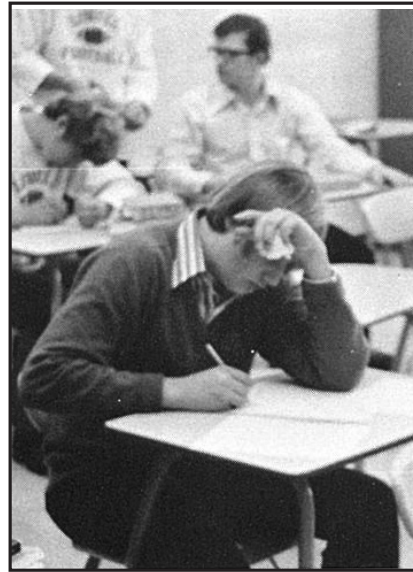
Johnson's first professional start was creating closed circuit

Johnson, founder and owner of Colorado Film Locations, and I've spent decades getting to know Colorado, as an outdoorsman, horseman, a skier and for over 30 years, as a location scout, location manager and production manager. I know the place...and more importantly, I know the people - the right people."

Johnson had the opportunity to work with Samuel L. Jackson and Robert Redford, to name a few. He had corporate giants like Coors, GMC and Ford as clients. One of his professional highlights was filming Mannheim Steam Rollers Christmas concert

married on a mountain slope. They had a daughter, Skylinn. Though their marriage ended, they remained friends and share raising their daughter.

Obviously Colorado was one of his great pleasures in life but he always treasured returning to Lowell and being on the Flat River, building a makeshift raft and playing Tom Sayer as a young child, as a member of the Flat River Frogs hockey team on the ice, living in front of the Showboat boarding dock, getting together was 40 friends and kayaking down the Flat from Whites Bridge to Fallasburg the day before the bridge fire. With that in mind, friends of Johnson plan a float at 10 am on July 3, 2022 from Whites Bridge to Fallasburg, honoring his memory. More information will follow.



Wine, continued

said Davis. "We wanted to promote our town and get people to realize that small businesses are still here. We wanted to keep people interested in the downtown in the winter by having an event every month."

The day has been a great success with hundreds of patrons visiting downtown shops, dozens of which participate in the event.

"It has gone fantastic," said Davis. "People need something in the winter because it just gets gloomy sometimes. You get stuck inside and snowbound. It

gives everyone a really great excuse just to bundle up and know other people are going to be out there, so it becomes a great social event for everybody." Participants can pick up a punch card at any of the participating stores, then visit each shop, enter a drawing, get their cards punched, and turn them in when they are done to receive Lowell Bucks that can be used to buy merchandise later on - all while enjoying some of the wine specials at the restaurants. There is no cost for the event.

It has been a win-win for merchants and shoppers.

"It has grown every year," said Davis. "We get a lot of people and sales are good that day. I think people have a good time and it is a good excuse to get out with your friends, and we just love our town."

You can learn more about the event on Facebook at "wineaboutwinter lowellmichigan" and on Fox Morning Mix a day or two before the event. Also, you can visit the Tap House Bo website for more information: taphousebo.com



Picture of downtown Lowell from last weekend.

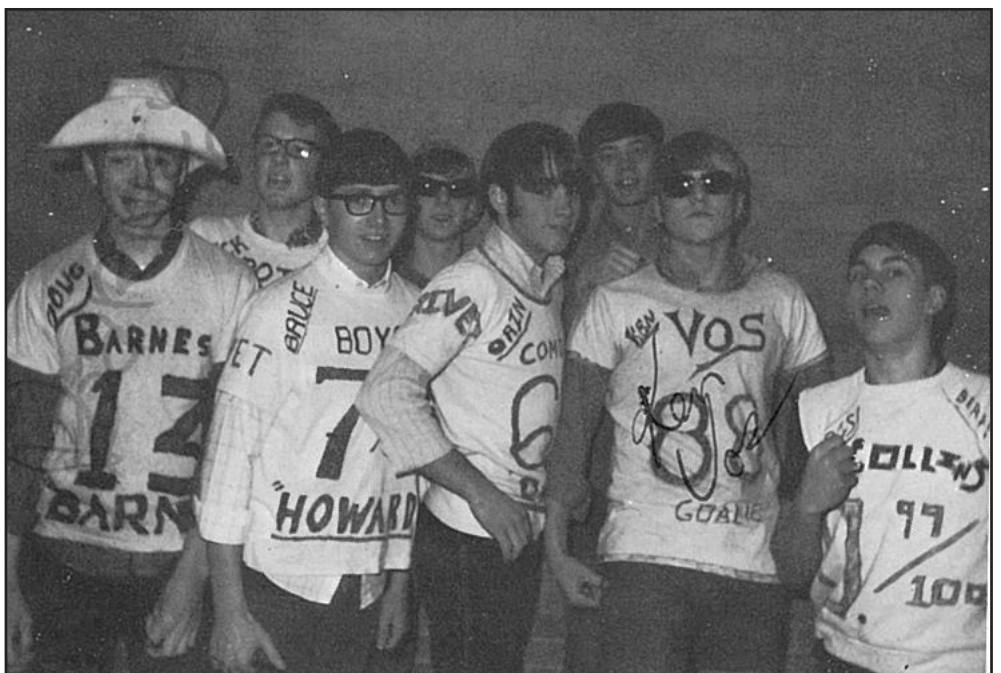
videos for the ski industry to show skiers what slopes and runs had the best availability in real time.

These are from Johnson's website, "Nothing beats knowing the lay of the land. My name is Brooke

at Red Rocks.

Johnson embraced what you think of a Colorado outdoorsman. He became an accomplished horseman, avid fisherman and hunter, and proficient skier.

Johnson met Rose and was



Flat River Frogs hockey team. Brooke Johnson is taking the photo. Front row: Doug Barnes, Bruce Boyce, Orin Comdure, Ken Voss, Chris Collins. Back row: Rick Roth, John Will, Blake Johnson.

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WellNow Urgent Care Opens in Lowell

by Bill Lee
contributing reporter

In a town without a hospital, there is always need for immediate health care. Opening its doors on Wednesday, Dec. 15, WellNow Urgent Care of Lowell, located at 11921 Fulton St. in front of Meijer, has started seeing patients for most non-life-threatening injuries and illness.

“As most of us have experienced at some point, injuries and illnesses tend to happen at the most inconvenient times, including over the weekend,” said Annie Keller, Public Relations Manager for WellNow. “Colds and flu, strep throat, allergies, ear infections, sinus infections and more. WellNow also treats minor abrasions, burns, cuts and lacerations, sprains and strains, and our centers are equipped with X-ray technology and on-site stitching capabilities.”

One of the goals of the center is to provide quality walk-in service with shorter wait times and lower costs for patients than the traditional emergency room of a hospital. Most major

insurances are accepted and WellNow offers competitive self-pay rates for those without insurance.

Also, as COVID-19 continues to be an urgent matter for the United States and Michigan, WellNow provides PCR testing with no appointment required.

“We offer COVID-19 PCR testing at our Lowell center for both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients,” said Keller. “Currently, more than 90 percent of PCR tests collected at WellNow return results within 24 hours, and the rest return within 48 hours.”

Along with being a traditional urgent care center for Lowell, WellNow presently offers virtual care options from 7 am to 7 pm with plans to expand to 24/7 virtual care in 2022.

“Patients can start a visit from their personal computer, smart phone or tablet,” said Keller. “Wait times are typically around 15 minutes and our providers can treat a wide range of conditions. If medically necessary, prescriptions can be sent directly to a patient’s local pharmacy.”



Lowell’s new WellNow Urgent Care Center, 11921 Fulton St.

The Lowell center has been in the works since the beginning of 2021 with construction beginning last summer. The new WellNow is open seven days a week from 8 am to 8 pm and is staffed with six full-time employees including nurse practitioners, nurses, physicians assistants, patient care technicians and

receptionists. The plan is to hire more staff in the future as the center gains more patients.

“We’re looking forward to welcoming new patients and establishing ourselves as a convenient care option in the community,” said Keller. “The response we’ve received from patients and the community so far

has been very positive, and patients have told us they’re happy to have more access to quality medical care close to where they live and work. Our team is grateful for the warm welcome and we’re excited to be supporting the overall health of the community.”

The new center is the eleventh in Michigan.

WellNow has over 100 centers located in MI, IN, OH, IL and NY. More details about patient services and insurances accepted for WellNow can be found on its website at wellnow.com.

Poker Run, continued

\$3.00 wine. Flat River Grill will have \$5.00 arugula dip with the purchase of an alcoholic beverage and happy hour prices all night. Main Street BBQ will also offer happy hour specials all night. New Union Brewery will have \$1.00 off all 16-ounce beers, and Larkins will be offering many drink specials.

Angie Fonger, a waitress at Sneakers Bar and Grill, has enjoyed the event over the years.

“We have new people come in and get a drink and

a card and see what we’re about,” Fonger said.

At the end of the night before 8 pm, participants need to be at Big Boiler Brewery to present their six chips to members of the chamber of commerce. At that time, there will be an opportunity to buy an extra chip for \$5.00. Participants will be given one playing card for each chip and put together their best five-card poker hand. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners with the best hands. Money from the

extra \$5.00 card is donated to a local non-profit to help with needed projects. Each year the event has raised a few hundred dollars, and this year’s funds will go to Lowell’s VFW and American Legion.

Overall, the Lowell Chamber of Commerce and the participating restaurants have enjoyed putting on the winter event as a way to not only promote business but also allow people to network and socialize. “It’s a fun night,” said Ed Lee who works at Larkins. “It brings in people who

sometimes don’t come into Larkins. They all seem to have a good time.”

For more information, please visit the Lowell Chamber of Commerce page on Facebook.



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What causes mental illness

As I was thinking about what to write, I had someone ask me what causes mental illness. I'm asked this question often, so I thought it would be a good topic to write about this week. Mental Illness (MI) isn't just a nature vs. nurture issue, since both may influence the development of mental illnesses. Causes can be environmental, genetic, a combination of both and/or include other risk factors. So, what causes MI is much more complicated than it may first appear.

Possible Causes

It's not possible to include all potential causes of mental illness because MI is a complex issue often involving multiple different factors and potential causes.

The below list shows findings from the latest research and possible causes of MI.

Genetic or Inherited traits (nature)

MI is sometimes seen in families. Certain genes are known to increase the risk of developing MI. For instance, schizophrenia is known to be linked to specific genes. However, while research shows MI is seen in some families, this does not mean it is the only cause or factor involved in someone developing mental illness.

PTSD affects approximately 7 out of 100 people in the U.S. Recent studies have found that differences in certain areas of the brain can be a risk

factor for developing post-traumatic stress disorder after a distressing event.

Brain chemistry

While brain chemistry and chemical imbalances in the brain may play a factor in MI it has not been proven that they are the sole cause. For instance, I often hear people say, "I have to be on medication for depression because I have a chemical imbalance in my brain." A chemical imbalance is only one possible cause because depressive symptoms can also be triggered by other factors such as medications, substance abuse and stressful or traumatic events.

Pre-birth environmental exposures

A fetus exposed to certain environmental factors during pregnancy may also play a part in the development of MI. Studies show that a child in the womb exposed to alcohol, drugs or other substance abuse chemicals, trauma or other stress, environmental toxins, or certain health

conditions may also be linked to the development of MI.

Environmental & learned factors (nurture)

Nurture refers to the influence of external factors after birth and includes life experiences, learning, and other environmental influences. One area being studied is called epigenetics. The purpose of epigenetics is to possibly show how the environment may affect genes.

Possible risk factors in this area include:

Stressful life events, such as death, divorce or financial problems

Traumatic events such as:

childhood abuse or neglect

assault and/or rape

near death experiences possibly from an auto or other type of accident,

severe weather (tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, etc.) or other events.

military combat

severe bullying

Brain damage, traumatic brain injury, as a result of a serious injury to the head

Chronic ongoing medical conditions

Substance abuse – alcohol, drugs, prescription drugs or other chemicals

Additional Info about Mental Illness

Mental illness is seen annually in about 1 in 5 adults. It can happen at any age, from childhood through later adult years, but most cases begin earlier in life.

The effects of mental illness can be temporary or long lasting. Individuals can also have more than one mental health illness at the same time. For example, an individual may have depression and a substance use disorder.

MI is one of the leading causes of disability and is seen annually in about 1 in 5 adults. MI can affect anyone of any age, gender, location, social standing,

race, religion, background or income.

Mental illnesses can be mild to severe. Most people with MI continue to function in their daily lives but some with severe illnesses they may need to be hospitalized. They can be long lasting or temporary. The most common mental illnesses are anxiety disorders, depression, eating disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia and substance use disorders.

Mental illnesses don't typically improve without assistance. When left untreated, MI will most likely get worse and cause serious problems. So, don't wait until MI symptoms begin having a serious negative effect on your life and you have problems functioning. Don't let MI symptoms get out of control before getting help.

This article is not intended to provide advice, diagnose, or treat in any way. It is for informational purposes only. I hope everyone stays healthy and has a wonderful 2022!

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36th annual West Michigan Art Competition

Thursday, Jan. 20 is the final day to submit your entries to the 36th annual West Michigan Art Competition at LowellArts.

The competition is open to artists 18 and old who live in one of these counties: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Cass, Calhoun, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Saint Joseph and Van Buren.

There are \$2,500 in prizes up for grabs, which will be split among the top five finalists.

The artwork must be less than three years old, not previously exhibited at LowellArts, no larger than 62 inches in any direction, must fit through a standard door frame and can easily be moved about by two people.

Submissions must be made through the website callforentry.org, the entry fee is \$25 for LowellArts members and students, or

\$35 for the general public. Members and students should call LowellArts to receive their discount code before entering.

The competition's judge is going to be Western Michigan University photography professor Bill Davis, who has an MFA from The Tyler School of Art and has a BFA from Ohio University.

For more information, visit lowellartsmi.org/west-michigan-art-competition or call 616-897-8545.

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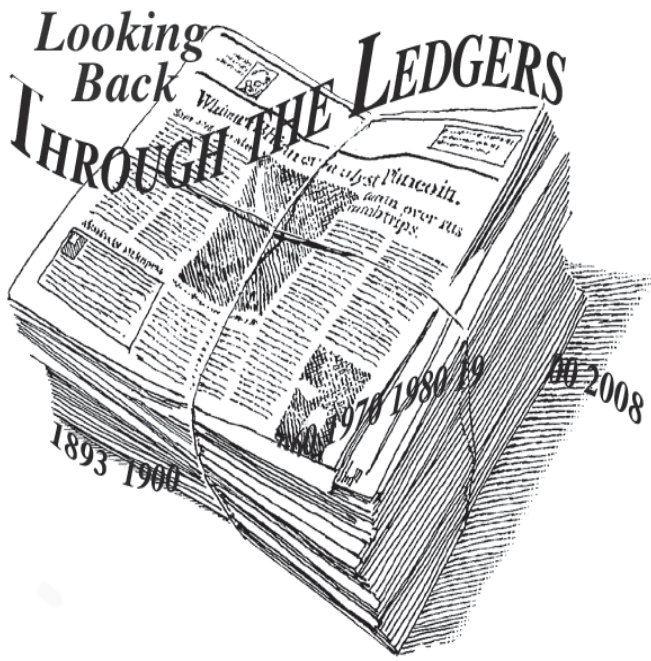
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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger January 15, 1897

The proposed Cascade Springs Sanitarium is a sure thing. E. H. Hayes of Detroit, who is the prime mover of the concern, will be in the city in a day or two, when the scheme will take definite shape. A \$100,000 stock company will be organized to take charge of the property that has been secured at Cascade Springs. James K. Johnson, the proprietor of the Eagle hotel, is one of the interested parties and has kept in touch with the scheme since its incipiency last summer.

While playing with a dog on the track of the Lowell & Hasting railroad at Elmdale last Friday afternoon, Alonzo McDiarmid, of Bowne, was run over by three cars which had been "kicked" down track in an act of switching.

For the first time in the history of Grand Rapids it was absolutely impossible to get a drink of anything stronger than river water to-day. The tragedy in Tradewell's saloon on New Years day caused the police to close all saloons and bars of all kinds to-day, even to the hotel and private clubs. It was an application of the Raines law more severe than Dr. Parkhurst ever enforced. The saloon men who complained at the action of the police on New Years day are learning what a real enforcement of the law is.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 19, 1922

R. Van Dyke, for twenty-five years a Lowell grocer and prior to that time associated with the clothing business of Charles Althen, after a play spell of three years, has yielded to his impulse to be doing something by re-entering the mercantile game, this time as a partner of F.J. Hosley in the shoe business, having purchased a half interest in same and beginning business under the style of Hosley & Van Dyke Monday morning, January 16.

A campaign has been launched to repeal the prohibition amendment and the promoters do not hesitate to drag in the revered name of Lanesta as an alleged friend of the evil cause. They prate about "the evils of prohibition," while the evils they refer to are the results of willful violations of prohibition by those who have deliberately sought to bring the reform into disrespect even at the price of their own honor.

The Ionia prison board has purchased the shoe making machinery of the Bridge Kalinbach company, and will move it to Ionia immediately. It is planned to have an output of 300 pairs of shoes a day at the prison.

75 years The Lowell Ledger January 16, 1947

Work started a month or so ago by the Grand Trunk Western railroad to change from telegraphic to telephonic dispatching in handling trains on the western end of it Detroit-Lake Michigan division is expected to reach Lowell some time this week.

More drilling for oil and gas in Michigan was authorized in 1946 than in any wartime year, according to F. R. Frye of the oil and gas section of the conservation department's geological survey. Total number of permits for 822 wells in 1946, of which 32 were issued to Kent county.

Mrs. Esther M. Fahrni reports that the sale of license plates for 1947 has not been very brisk, only about 200 having been issued thus far. March 1st is the deadline. It is reported that half-year license plates are not being made available for the first half of the year. However, half-year plates will be placed on sale next August for the last half of the year.

50 years The Lowell Ledger January 20, 1972

The weekend's record breaking cold spell stranded many area motorists, caused water pipes to freeze, and put a heavy work load on heating units. A few homes were without heat or had a hard time trying to keep warm as ole man weather dipped thermometers to a record 16-20 degrees below zero. And that's cold.

Carl W. Behnke, a retired safety engineer, known to so many as "Uncle Carl" has a workshop in his home garage that turns out products of delight to the recipients. Utilizing his creative and carpenter talents, Behnke builds doll houses of unique designs, repairs broken toys, designs and constructs play toys, makes safety displays...all to his own personal satisfaction that a smile of delight will be his only reward.

Sub-zero temperatures over the weekend froze the water pipes at Attwood Corporation, North Monroe Street, setting off the company's ADT alarm system, summoning firemen to the scene, on three different occasions.

25 years The Lowell Ledger January 15, 1997

The body of an 83-year-old Lowell woman was found Monday morning at the northwest corner of the Washington/King Street intersection. Joe Baker, a snowplow driver for the city of Lowell, spotted the body of Marguerite Shaler while plowing Washington Street near Shaler's home.

Winning \$15,000 in a state lottery game is a fantasy for most. It is now a reality for Lowell's Rosie Fonger. The Florida snowbird matched five of the 26 numbers picked in the state's Fantasy Lottery on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

District and statewide fourth and seventh-grade math and reading MEAP scores were down. Superintendent Bert Bleke was excited to announce that Lowell students were the exception and not the rule.



sharing the vision

LAS Superintendent Nate Fowler

Lowell Area Schools is joining 537 local and 56 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

In another year full of challenges for public education, our school board members persevered through the adversity of 2021 to provide the best possible education for our students. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one of the very small ways to express appreciation for all they do.

School board members represent the views and priorities of their community in the complex system of maintaining and running a public school. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan. Too often, the efforts of school board members go unrecognized.

The school board's main goal is to support student achievement. To achieve that goal, the board focuses on the following needs:

- Creating a vision for what parents and citizens want their school district to become and how to make student achievement the top priority.
- Setting standards for what students must learn and be able to do.

- Assessing whether schools achieve their goals and whether students are learning.

- Accounting for the outcomes of decisions and by tracking progress and reporting results.

- Aligning the use of the district's human and financial resources.

- Creating a safe and orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach.

- Collaborating to solve common problems and to support common successes.

- Focusing on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining and revisiting issues related to student achievement.

Another important role of the school board is to oversee management of district facilities. The LAS Board of Education has charted a path to improve existing buildings and make improvements for our current and future generations of students. The current construction includes updating the parking lot to improve student drop off and pick up lines at Murray Lake Elementary. Bushnell Elementary received heating and cooling upgrades, new lighting and ceiling tiles. Cherry Creek had a new security vestibule installed.

Sharing the vision,
continued page 12

We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

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 Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

- cerumen impaction

Cerumen impaction (ear wax impaction) is when ear wax builds up enough to cause symptoms. Normally, ear wax helps to protect the insides of the ears and prevents injury or infection. But having too much ear wax can cause symptoms such as pain and trouble hearing. Sometimes having a narrow ear canal can contribute to impaction, along with use of hearing aids, ear plugs, etc. Using q-tips, fingers, or objects such as bobby pins to clean the ears at home can also contribute to impaction and can even cause injury to the ear. Some people also just make more wax than others. As we age, our wax often becomes harder and thicker, making it easier to become impacted.

It's not recommended to use ear candling or other instruments at home to prevent injury. It can be treated by your primary care provider if it is causing pain or difficulty hearing, but it isn't necessarily recommended to treat if it is not causing issues. Sometimes ear drops are recommended to use over the counter to soften the wax first. In the office, irrigation is often used by flushing warm water around the wax to push it out of the canal. Sometimes, other tools are needed to grab and remove the wax as well. These simple procedures are typically very well tolerated with immediate improvement of hearing when the wax is removed.

ABCs of Lowell history

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

M is for Lowell's own Monuments Man

The Monuments Men were a group of men and women from thirteen nations with expertise as museum directors, curators, art scholars and educators, artists, architects and archivists. The Monuments Men job description was to save priceless works of art which had been part of Europe's cultural heritage for generations.

The Americans joined with a team called the "American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments." This team was headed by United States Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts and was termed the 'Roberts Commission.' They specifically worked to identify and return works of art plundered by the Germans.

Lowell's own member was Dale Vinton Ford, born in 1919 to Roye and Laura Andrews Ford. He attended the Bennett one room school and then Lowell High School, graduating in 1937. He developed a love for furniture design and graduated first in his class from Kendall School



Monuments men recovering art.

of Design in Grand Rapids. Following his degree in architecture from the University of Michigan, Ford returned to Kendall as an instructor and assistant to the school's President in 1940. By the time of his enlistment in 1942, he had risen to the post of Head of the Furniture Department at Kendall.

After his enlistment in September of 1942, he was commissioned as a Strategic Camouflage Officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in early 1943. He served primarily in North Africa but was also deployed to Brazil, Corsica, France, Germany and Austria. In Algiers, Ford was at the center of a 1943 counter-intelligence project designed to trick the Germans into believing the Allied landings would take place at Calais rather

than Normandy. Ford's architectural experience was essential to the detailed design and construction of the plot's central stratagem.

The first restitution out of Heilbronn contained seventy-three cases of stained glass from Strasbourg Cathedral in France, which had been removed for safekeeping before the war and subsequently looted by the Nazis. Direct orders from General Dwight D. Eisenhower made the carefully orchestrated return of this important cultural treasure a first priority as a gesture of good faith between the United States and France. The five-truck convoy arranged to ferry the windows home departed Heilbronn in mid-September 1945. Upon the windows' reinstallation, the people of Strasbourg celebrated in the streets, for their colorful treasures had returned home intact. Ford was cited by the Roberts Commission for his part in this return.

In addition, Lt .Ford and his staff found the entire library of Heidelberg University, a gold eighteenth century communion cup from the middle Baden region, French art, masterpieces by Rubens and Cranach, a self-portrait by Rembrandt, and fourteenth and fifteenth century Madonnas.

Ford described this assignment as "the greatest lost and found operation the world has ever known, involving multi-billions of dollars".

Following this, in 1946, he was appointed Chief Monuments and Fine Arts Officer for Wurttenburg, Germany. He had the opportunity to teach the German authorities how the United States viewed German owned cultural objects. "It has never been our policy to look upon cultural and historical objects as prizes of war.

ABCs continued next page

In Loving Memory of my Husband John Schneider

It's been a year since you went to Heaven and thinking of you with love and hoping that time will help soften my sadness, and leaving only beautiful memories that will last forever in my heart.

Miss you so much - your loving wife Shirlee

area churches

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 897-7060
 Pastor Ryan Landt
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
 Website: calvarylowell.org
 Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
 Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays7 PM
 Barrier-Free

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 10305 Bluewater Highway
 (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
Sunday Services - 10:30 am
 www.gslc.church
 Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

St. Mary Catholic Church
 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
 Website: www.stmarylowell.com
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 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
 Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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 Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries
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LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

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 Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday

JANUARY 12
 Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber, Mike Vezino.

JANUARY 13
 Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford, Emma Seddon.

JANUARY 14
 Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.

JANUARY 15
 Dennis Burns.

JANUARY 16
 Alex Stuckey.

JANUARY 17
 Kevin Rasch, Joe Potter.

JANUARY 18
 Shelby Weston.

Pfizer vaccine recommendations updated to fight COVID-19

Following FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approval, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is urging all eligible Michiganders ages 12 and up to get the Pfizer booster vaccine if they have received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. Currently, Pfizer is the only authorized vaccine for anyone age 5 through 18.

In addition, the booster is recommended to be taken five months after the primary series instead of six months. This shortens the time for a booster from six months to five.

Children ages 5 to 11 who have moderately to severely weakened immune systems are encouraged to get an additional dose of the Pfizer vaccine 28 days after completion of their primary series.

As previously recommended, Michiganders with

moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This additional dose is intended to improve the response of people who are immunocompromised to their initial vaccine series.

“Vaccines are the way out of the pandemic, and we can further protect children ages 12 and up from COVID-19, which continues to surge in our state,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Keeping our children safe includes getting them vaccinated and boosted, and this in turn will help keep them out of the hospital and alleviate the stress on our health care system. Getting vaccinated is the safest way to face COVID-19

and prevent severe illness and death. As data evolves, new recommendations are expected and we are optimistic to have more information available to fight COVID-19. We urge all Michiganders ages 5 and up to get vaccinated, and Michiganders ages 12 and up to receive their booster as soon as they’re eligible.”

The COVID-19 Pfizer booster dose may be given with other vaccines, including the flu vaccine, at the same time.

Michiganders should bring their COVID-19 vaccine card or immunization record with them when getting their booster dose, which are available at any vaccine provider. Downloadable immunization records are accessible free of charge at the Michigan Immunization Portal. Visit Michigan.gov/MiImmsportal and upload a valid government issued photo ID such as a driver’s

license, state ID or passport. If you do not have records in the portal, contact your health care provider or local health department.

To date more than 6.3 million Michiganders aged 5 and up have gotten at least their first dose of one of the three safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines. Michiganders are still in need of the extra protection provided by booster doses, including residents of long-term care facilities where outbreaks can spread quickly and extra protection is strongly recommended.

To schedule a primary or booster dose of the COVID vaccine, visit vaccines.gov.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine.

For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/coronavirus.

ABCs continued

We do not believe such actions are morally correct or acceptable. Our task is to correct the policy which has used objects of pure cultural nature as part of war indemnity.”

Later that year, while still in Germany he accepted the position of President of Kendall School of Design and returned home. Later he became Chief of Design for both the John Widdicomb Company and the William A. Berkeley Furniture Company. In 1963 he established his own furniture design and consultation business, Dale Ford Design Associates.

He continued serving his country and fellow veterans by working as design consultant with the United Veterans Council during the planning stages of the World War II Memorial in Veterans' Memorial Park. He worked with Fred Ruppel in designing the eagle on the center pylon.

Not only did Dale Ford save the art of Europe, he worked to save art in his home state. He served on the Board of Trustees of the

Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Kent County Council of Historic Preservation and the Heritage Hill Association.



Dale Ford

Because of all of his accomplishments, he was named a lifetime honorary member of the Kendall School of Design Board of Directors and was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award by the school.

When he passed away in 1979, he was buried in the Alton Cemetery. The Dale V. Ford Memorial of Kendall School of Design was the recipient of many expressions of affection and respect.

Sharing the Vision, continued

Alto Elementary updates include: updated office to include a new security vestibule, additional early elementary classrooms, new heating and cooling systems and enclosing classrooms that had been previously open to the media center. Construction continues at the middle school with the new two-story addition opening to students in January, updated heating and cooling systems, updating and renovating classrooms that have been retained. At the high school technology was upgraded as each classroom had a new classroom projector installed. Improvements have been made to the baseball and softball fields, the tennis courts have been renovated, and a new synthetic turf field with stadium seating and a

concessions and bathroom area have been completed.

All recently completed and current construction projects have been done without a millage increase. That only tells part of the story. The Board of Education has always been fiscally conservative, typically finding ways to pay for things as we go. A good example was the sinking fund that was approved in 2017. Lowell Area Schools has looked for opportunities to lower interest payments and generate savings for taxpayers in the district. Since 2005 the district has completed several rounds of bond refinancing that have resulted in cumulative savings for the taxpayers in the districts that total \$9,715,563. The bonds being refinanced are primarily

related to bond collections that funded construction and renovation projects. The bond refinancing and resulting savings allow the district to continue their plan of maintaining and providing high quality learning environments for students across the district.

Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. No matter what challenges lie ahead for our district in 2022, our school

board members will continue to govern to improve student achievement and provide exceptional education for all our community’s children.

The individuals serving on the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education are:

- Brian Krajewski, President
- Laurie Kuna, Vice-President
- Gary Blough, Treasurer
- Pat Nugent, Secretary
- Tom Kaywood, Trustee
- Dan Stephens, Trustee
- Jessica Curtis, Trustee

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of George Jones Guardianship File No. 22-210555-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his children: Angela Jones, Annette Jones, Leonard Jones, Tyrone Jones, Fred Jones, Michael Jones, and any other unknown children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on February 22,

2022, at 9:00 A.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: January 6, 2022

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 260-4525

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

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LMS continued

of the columns need to be finished,” Fowler said. “They’ll finish the flooring on the stairs to the second

with whiteboards, TV screens, projectors and other equipment. These rooms are designed for students

going to be refurbished, so they’ll be in a temporary space for the duration of the school year.

“Right now, during the day, the only way to get into the building is to get buzzed in by the main office on Foreman,” Fowler said. “Next school year that will take place here [at a new entrance]. Then, in the 2023-24 school year, once the new office is finished, it will be back to that Foreman entrance. That will be the main entrance and we’ll have kind of a temporary office in an empty classroom.”

Fowler seemed most excited by the school’s new science labs, and the teachers and students also seemed pleased by it.

“The windows in the science labs open so you can turn it into one big classroom,” Fowler said. “Teachers and kids will go back and forth when they’re working on a project. It’s just continuing that idea of collaboration.”

“It’s wonderful,” said LMS science teacher Burt Breuker. “We have a great view with a lot of natural sunlight, I can change my lighting, I can project anything I want on the wall and we’ve got plenty of space to work. We’ll introduce



The project was paid for with a bond passed by Lowell voters in 2019.

floor over spring break, but right now that’s another one of those finishing touches.”

“The old media center is being converted to a common area, and then all of the core academic classrooms are being renovated so it’ll be semi open and all the rooms will have access to that common area,” Fowler said. “The space is flexible for

to work on small group projects, have meetings and so forth.

“The idea is we have different conference rooms where students will be able to come and work on projects, work collaboratively,” Fowler said. “All of the conference rooms have whiteboards and they’re wired so they



Exterior views of the new two story addition to Lowell Middle School.

meetings, student projects and different activities. The idea is to not necessarily have it be a quiet space where kids are reading all the time. That’s part of it, but it’s also to present more opportunities for kids.”

“We have new orchestra rooms,” Fowler said. “About 25 years ago, people might recognize it as the old wrestling room. But these new orchestra rooms are actually the old hallway going back to the sixth grade plus the old wrestling room. We went back up to the original ceiling, put in some soundproofing and created a new orchestra room right there.”

In addition to classrooms, there are also small rooms

have the opportunity to use technology too. Part of the idea is to make it kind of how it looks in industry, so it’s also some career preparation stuff. It’s a place for staff and students to collaborate, to work together, to brainstorm ideas, to mimic the the workplace as much as possible.”

“The art room has been renovated,” Fowler said. “The floor is a concrete slab that they polished, and these tables have been in the room for a long time - they just refinished them - and they still work and look great. They have character.”

Next year, visitors to the middle school will not enter at the customary door on Foreman. The offices are

a topic with all the glass windows open and actually teach it as one classroom. And once we get our projects going, then we’ll let the kids work in either classroom with their projects and be able to spread out with other students and be able to talk and work with other students. It’s very much a cooperative atmosphere that we absolutely love. I get a chance to work with my partner directly. So it’s perfect and we absolutely love it.”

In addition to all this, there is now an ADA-compliant, unisex bathroom on the main floor, and there are plans underway for a new auditorium and STEM classrooms.



This old hallway will be demolished.

“We have a restroom going to be enclosed so that it downstairs here, a single stall restroom, and the idea is there’s enough space

going to be enclosed so that it will be an actual auditorium, and a new kitchen is being constructed. Additionally,

excited about what that space is going to be down the road.”

There will be some



Some areas are still under construction.

in there that if a student had accessibility needs, there is enough room for a wheelchair or something like that,” Fowler said. “Next year, the auditorium space is

the old shop room will be getting renovated as part of the last phase, and the idea is to still keep that as a hands-on area for STEM curriculum. We are really

changes to the parking lot and to how students are dropped off and picked up over the next couple years.

“In the fall of 2023, so in two school years, there will be improved parent and staff parking and parent drop-off,” Fowler said. “Last summer the parking lot was kind of split up, and so there’s a great big loop that comes through and right now it’s where we’re doing parent drop-off and parent pick-up at the end of the day. Eventually, this will be for the buses, and the parents entrance will be off of Foreman and there will also be a look that comes in off of Suffolk, so parents can come in from two different directions to do the drop-off and hopefully that will move things along pretty quickly.”



The newly-designed media center is not a traditional school library where you have to be quiet, it’s a “collaborative learning environment.”

More photos on next page

LMS, continued



Next year, this will be the door where visitors enter.



The new orchestra room.



There are small rooms full of technology for students to use for projects, presentations and so forth.



This will be the site of a new auditorium.



The new science labs at Lowell Middle School.



The newly-refurbished art room.



Other than a few finishing touches, this area is basically finished.

Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Gymnastics season kicks off at Rockford

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

One of the teams starting the season after the winter break, the Lowell Red Arrows gymnastics season started the 2021-2022 campaign with the Rockford Flip-Flop Invitational on Saturday.

The Red Arrows are looking to build off 2020-2021, where the team scored a second-place finish in conference, the team's highest on record. Lowell graduated four seniors from that team; Kathryn Hock, Kira Jungblut, Aubri Lemke and Marlie McDonald. LHS returns four of their five individual state qualifiers from last

season: Alexis Clark, Greta Forward, Ivy McDonald and Marissa Wever who will feature for the team this year after competing at individual state last year, where Ivy McDonald placed third on the beam.

This year's Rockford Invitational, where the state meet is located, had tough competition to start off the season with Lowell placing fifth as a team. In the D2 bars for the Red Arrows, Clark placed 10th with an 8.3. Teammate Ivy McDonald placed fifth with an 8.7. McDonald also placed third on beam with a 9.175, a 9.2 and fifth place on floor, and a sd in the all-

around with a 35.8.

In the D1 all-around fifth place Wever 35.025 which included a fourth place 8.775 on the vault, third place 8.575 on the bars.

Other team members include Hayli Allchin, Ella Curtis, Daniela Dujat, Hannah Flickinger, Haley Haywood, Krista Jungblut, Leah Krieger, Brena Lacey, Julia Meier and Claire O'Boyle. The Red Arrows are home this weekend for the Lowell Invitational, starting at 10 am on Saturday.



Ivy McDonald placed second in all-around for Lowell gymnastics who started their season at he Rockford Invitational. (Photo - Lowell High School Gymnastics).



GET A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON LHS SPORTS

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Coach Beute awarded Distinguished Service Award

Coach Sue Beute was recently named the Karen Page Distinguished Service Award winner for 2021 by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association (MHSTeCA). Coach Beute has been coaching JV Tennis at Lowell High School for 24 years and has over 40+ years of devoted time to coaching student-athletes.

Coach Beute starting coaching JV girls tennis when Lowell High School started a girls JV team under Hall of Fame coach Bonnie Wall. She has dedicated many hours introducing players to the game of tennis and teaching tennis basics at the high school and summer youth programs. Coach Beute has attended many workshops over the years and works hard at learning new strategies and techniques. She began running tournaments at LHS years ago when, before that, LHS was not offering tournaments for the JV program.

Now in her 70's, Coach Beute has taught countless

players over the years from how to hold the racquet and keep score, to how to hit a spin serve and doubles strategy. She now even teaches the kids of players that she has coached in the past. In the fall of 2018, the school was having a hard time finding a JV coach for the boys program and Coach Beute stepped in to fill the void. She has coached the JV boys for the past four seasons now.

An exact wins and loss record for the JV teams is unknown, and though the wins would number in the hundreds, Coach Beute is more concerned with teaching players how to play the game and how to show great sportsmanship and positive attitudes on and off the court. Coach Chris Phillips, Varsity



Sue Beute

Tennis Coach at LHS, nominated Coach Beute for the honor, saying "Having worked with Sue for many years now, I can say without a doubt that she is deserving of this honor for all her dedication and hard work to the sport of tennis."

Coach Beute will be honored at the MHSTeCA Banquet on January 28 in Holland.

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

Go Red Arrows!

the lowell **ledger**

Red Arrow

BASKETBALL

SPORTS



Red hot Red Arrows fall to Arbor Prep

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

The only thing that could stop the Lady Arrows recently? It wasn't Theryn Hallock and the Forest Hills Central Rangers, Prep Girls Hoops number four ranked player in the state. No, it was Michigan's top-ranked team in the MHSAA Michigan Power Ratings (MPR) across all divisions and one of the favorites for Miss Basketball this year. This past weekend, Lowell varsity girls basketball suffered their first loss of the year dropping to 5-1.

It was Lowell's first matchup in any sport against Ypsilanti Arbor Prep, a charter school formed in 2011. The school is one of such free public charter schools that are becoming more common, especially on the east side of the state.

Ypsilanti became a hotbed of conversation within the Michigan basketball community over the last several

years. Current University of Memphis basketball player Emoni Bates started his high school career at Ypsilanti Lincoln. Sometimes compared to LeBron James coming out of high school, he received an incredible amount of attention, leading Lincoln to a state championship as a freshman, winning Gatorade Player of the Year as a sophomore, then controversially finishing out his high school playing career at Ypsi Prep Academy. Ypsi Prep Academy was created by Bates' father as a workaround to the MHSAA's 300 mile rule, which prohibits schools from playing teams over 300 miles outside of Michigan. Few Lowell schools play out of state, but wrestling does attend tournaments in Indiana and Ohio generally about once per year, adhering to such rules to compete against strong out of state competition.

With that note, Ypsilanti

Arbor Prep is miles from what Ypsi Prep Academy was, despite the similarity in names. What Arbor Prep does have is a very good basketball team, despite their size. Enrollment at Arbor Prep sits at 319, near a quarter of the size of LHS.

Lowell fell to the Gators of Ypsilanti Arbor Prep by a score of 68-49 at the Cornerstone Showcase hosted by Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids. The showcase which the Lowell boys team has previously competed in includes some of the top talent in the state, including teams like Portland, winners of 20 state games.

LHS jumped out to an early lead and trailed 29-26 into halftime before the Gators went on a big run in the third quarter to ice the game. Lowell was led in scoring by Braxcynn Baker who scored 25 points. Lexi Howell added 8 points in.

The Gators, led by Miss Basketball candidate



The Lowell girls basketball team posing for a photo during their media day in Grand Rapids.

and Texas A&M commit Mya Petticord, who scored 36 in the win, improved their record to 6-0 on the season. Lowell fell to 5-1.

The Red Arrows

night. In that game, Baker again shined as she scored 31 points. Piper Risdon added 19 and Emma Bruwer had 7 points in the victory.

Boys basketball comes close again

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

It was another close game for the boys basketball team, but they found themselves at the wrong end of the scoreboard against Mona Shores in their first game of 2022.

The Sailors scored the first seven points of the game and never trailed in the victory as the Red Arrows comeback came up

short in the non-conference contest. Dawson Douma, Ethan Krieger, Gage Snarski, Drew Veldman and Caleb Siebert made the starting five for the Red Arrows in their first game back from the winter break.

Mona Shores led 33-25 at the half and extended that lead to 50-27 late in the third quarter. Lowell broke up the 17-2 run

with a CJ Steinebach lead which would begin a run that would nearly fuel an improbable comeback which coincided with Mona Shores relaxing their full-court press.

Snarski hit a three at the end of the third quarter to make it a 15-point deficit. The Red Arrows brought it to single digits with Steinebach's 21st point of

the night on a three, then followed by Veldman layup to make it a 61-52 deficit. Siebert came up with a steal and a layup on the ensuing position to trim the Sailor lead down to just seven, but that would be as close as Lowell would get with only two points scored between the teams in the closing minutes with Mona Shores winning 63-54.

Against Forest Hills Central last Friday Lowell fell by a score of 65-31. The Rangers, coached by former Lowell coach Kyle Carhart, are 5-1 on the year and expected to be one of the stronger teams in the OK White. Northview, ranked 3rd in the state across all divisions, will be the biggest challenge in the conference this season.

The Red Arrows will battle Byron Center in a battle of 0-6 teams this Tuesday, before hosting Northview on Friday.



CJ Steinebach scored 21 as his hot shooting led Lowell back from a 23-point deficit to keep it close with Mona Shores.

Red Arrow Fall
SPORTS SCHEDULES
Can be viewed on LAS
website page - under athletics
www.lowellschools.com

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obituaries

GREEN

Donald Lee Green, age 63 of Lowell, has unexpectedly gone to be with the Lord on January 3, 2022. Don was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Lucille Green; fathers-in-law, Roger Conner and Ronald Wells. He is survived by his wife, Lynn (Conner) Green;



children, Robin (Dave) Morehouse, Brian (Erica) Green, Rebecca (James) Jaskowiak, Kimberly Green, Hannah (Garrett) Race, Jennifer Green; grandchildren, Carter, Makenna, and Jackson Morehouse, Conner, Rhett, and Charlotte Green, Payton, Emma, and Ezra Jaskowiak,

Alden and Jensen Race; mother-in-law, Geraldine Conner; siblings, Bill (Sue) Green, Jo (Scott) Meyers, Doug (Wendy) Green; aunts, Judy Grutter, Sally Grutter; and many dearly loved nieces and nephews. Don graduated from Lowell High School in 1976. He then worked for Amway for 25 years. Don was involved in the Lowell City Council for 15 years, and the Parks Commission for over 20 years. Not to mention a member of the Jaycees, Lowell Showboat Board, Planning Commission, and an Alpha Women's Center board member. His hobbies included art, model planes, fishing, camping, road trips, recreational league softball, golf leagues, coaching, and being an umpire. Don enjoyed teaching art and model building. He spent time teaching Sunday school and was a part of the choir, and Church of Lowell Prayer Group throughout his 31 years as a member of the First Baptist Church of Lowell. Visitation was held on Friday, January 7, from 5-8 PM at First Baptist Church of Lowell, 2275 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. Services were held on Saturday, January 8, at 2 PM at First Baptist Church of Lowell, with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Jon Pickens officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Alpha Family Center, 519 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331 or to the family to help with expenses.



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WEEKS

Shirley Ann Weeks walked happily into heaven on December 12, 2021. From her birth, May 19, 1935, Shirley's foot caused her many problems that she always faced with a positive and cheerful outlook. She made friends in every place that she lived. She loved the Lord, which helped her through some very difficult times. She was very good at artwork and sewing by hand. She loved to sing. She sang in the Caledonia School Chorus and in her church choir. She was very fond of Elvis. She loved her horse, June, and her first dog, Skippy, along with the other dachshunds she had. She was preceded in death by her sons, Allen Weeks and Noah Weeks. She



is survived by her brother, Jim (Norma) Peterson; grandson, Jacob Weeks and family; ex-husband, Duane Weeks; brother-in-law, Roger (Marcia) Weeks; sisters-in-law, Beverly Overbeek, Shirley Weeks Nester; many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A memorial will take place at a later date.

JOHNSON

Brooke Carter Johnson, 67 of Denver, Colorado passed away unexpectedly on January 4, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip and Janet Johnson of Lowell. He is survived by his daughter, Skylinn and her fiancé, Liam Fugit; brother, Blake (Rosalie); along with Blake's stepchildren, grandchildren, and aunt, Karin Hollway. Friends of Brooke are planning to float from Whites Bridge to Fallasburg at 10 am on July 3, 2022. More information to follow.



THOMAS

Darrell W. Thomas, age 75, of Lowell, went to be with his Savior on December 14, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Diane Thomas; children, Brenda Thomas-Bergy, Brett (Karen) Thomas, Tate (Melissa) Thomas; 17 grandchildren, including three great-grandchildren; stepfathers, Ralph VanderHeide and Donald Snider; siblings, Cheryl (Jerry) Smith, Tim (Sharon) Thomas, Larry (Brenda) Thomas; several



nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law, Ellen Bader, Donna (Denny) Johnston, Roxanne (Jay) McCreadie; brother-in-law, Dale Hancock; and his fur babies, Pumpkin, Spice, and Zoe. Darrell graduated from Godwin Heights class of 1964. Darrell enjoyed playing handball, racquet ball, fishing, hunting, speedboats, sports cars, and a good game of golf. He loved most of all, time spent with his family and friends. Please join us for a celebration of life to remember Darrell Wayne Thomas, proud owner of Vanguard Fire and Security, LLC, from 2 pm - 5 pm on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at Noto's Old World Italian Dining, 6600 28th St., Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Memorial contributions may be made to, Paws With A Cause, 4646 S. Division, Wayland, MI 49348, or Spectrum Health Hospice, 750 Fuller Ave NE-MC 164, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



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NORDBERG

Brent Nordberg, age 53 from Saranac, passed away when Covid/Covid Pneumonia claimed him as another victim. He was preceded in death by his father, Dean Nordberg. He is survived by his mother, Judith Nordberg of Saranac; children, Ashly Nordberg of Saranac, Nicholas (Monique) Nordberg of Akron, Ohio; sister, Lynnea Nordberg of Grand Rapids; grandchildren, Raylan Schuff, Harlyn Nordberg, Barrett Nordberg; step-grandson, Vincent Lucas; many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Brent graduated from Ionia High School and was



currently employed by Lowell Area Schools. He was also the production manager at RIFF Media LLC and host/DJ of an online radio program under his online name, Helli. Brent was an avid gamer with many online friends all over the country as well as an avid Red Wings fan. He also liked to challenge friends and relatives in Words with Friends and was pretty good at it. He was a bass player in several local bands in his past and he loved his music. By Brent's own wishes, he has been cremated and no service will be held.



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BENNETT

Carol A. Bennett, age 83 of Grand Rapids, passed away on December 23, 2021. She was preceded in death by her son, Brian Bennett; parents, LeRoy and Freda Hasbrouck; brothers, Raymond, Eugene (Norma), Carl; and sister, Janice (Jerry) Maurer. Carol is survived by her children, Lea Ann (Tony) Erhardt, Kim (Frank) Hughes, Jenny Bennett (Brian's wife); grandchildren, Britton, Heather Macomber, Dereck Blackall, Anthony Erhardt, Brad and Haley Bennett; great-grandchildren, Harmony, Alden; sister, Sandra (Calvin) Murdock; sisters-in-law, Beverly Hasbrouck, Joy Hasbrouck; and many nieces and nephews.



Carol worked at Fabricators, CATV Radio, managed American Discount, and Felpausch Store in the deli. She enjoyed crafting, reading, and loved family gatherings and being with her family and friends. Services will be held at 11 AM January 15, 2022, at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 2560 Lake Michigan Dr., Grand Rapids MI 49534. Rev. Kathy Bartels officiating. Interment Prairie River Cemetery, Centerville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook St. SE #300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



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- Food.
- Medical and dental expenses.
- Personal care items.
- Clothing.
- Rehabilitation expenses (if you have a disability).

If you need help managing your benefits, tell a Social Security representative that there is someone you want to be your representative payee. Your representative payee should be someone you trust and see often, and who clearly understands your needs. Social service agencies, nursing homes, or other organizations are also qualified to be a representative payee. Ask them to contact us.

You can write to us within 60 days of being assigned a representative payee if you don't agree that you need one or if you want a different representative payee.

We also offer an option, called, Advance Designation, which allows you to designate now someone to be your representative payee in the future. In the event you can no longer make your own financial decisions, you and your family will have peace of mind knowing that someone you trust may be appointed to manage your benefits for you.

You can submit your advance designation request when you apply for benefits or after you are already receiving benefits. You may do so through your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount or by calling and speaking to a Social Security representative.

You can find more information at www.ssa.gov/payee.

Vonda Van Til is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vontil@ssa.gov.

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Grid of puzzle solutions with letters filled in.

Grid of numbers for a puzzle solution.

Large grid of letters with some words highlighted in grey.

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~ Mackinac Island - Island Life

by Martha Hayden

I have always visited Mackinac in the summer when Main Street is teeming with horses, carriages, bikes and many, many people. Main Street felt as if we'd found a supernatural museum. The roadway was so peaceful and serene.

What's it like to live on this small island year round?

Margaret Doud, the Mayor of Mackinac Island said, "It's like being mayor to two completely different cities. There are approximately five hundred year-round residents, however, there can be up to 1.2 million tourists during the summer months." The community is a close-knit and family-oriented faction. The bands of people in the summer steel this focus. Few know the interlaced, woven structure that lies

peninsula. Islanders line up their Christmas trees across the ice to mark a snowmobile path. Unfortunately, the lake didn't freeze this year so there wasn't an ice bridge from British Landing to the mainland.

With only a thin layer of ice in parts of the lake, the ferry was still running. We purchased tickets and were on our way. Islanders demonstrated their true kinship aboard the vessel. Everyone nodded, called each other by name and chatted while being masked and socially distanced. We walked around the wheeled supply carts in the hull and mounted the stairs to the padded benches in the heated cabin.

Weather permitting, one can take a flight to the

Island as "Turtle Island." (Mackinac means turtle.) From a distance the island resembles a turtle shape.

After getting settled in our suite at The Pontiac Lodge, we strolled to Doud's Market on Main Street to pick up provisions. Doud's Market is open year round from 7:30 am – 7:00 pm.

Andrew Doud, a fifth generation islander and owner of Doud's market, said, "There's a camaraderie that exists here, I think it doesn't exist in other places." It's a unique community with a multigenerational factor and a somewhat secluded atmosphere.



Doud's Market is the oldest grocery store in the United States. It opened in 1884. 7200 Main Street.

behind the fudge shops and the striking scenery. Da Viking and I wanted to look behind the curtain of Mackinac Island life.

Mackinac Island is east of the Mackinac Bridge which connects the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan. The island boasts the only Michigan highway that has never had a single car accident. It's simple. No cars are allowed on the island. (except for a snowplow and emergency vehicles)

M-185 encircles the eight mile perimeter of the island. In the summer it is ringed with bunches of bicycles and in the winter the whirl of an occasional snowmobile breaks the snow-laden silence.

Most years the lake freezes between Mackinac Island and the town of St. Ignace in the upper

island for \$35.00 round trip with Great Lakes Air. This is an eight minute flight from St. Ignace to the island airport. However, if there are low clouds or fog, a flight becomes impossible. Residents understand that supplies may be delayed for weeks at a time during the winter.

Why is Mackinac called "Turtle Island?"

The Native Tribes (Anishnaabek, which encompasses Odawa, Ojibway, Potawatomi) tell the story of how Mackinac Island was the first land on Earth. The legend tells how a turtle allowed several animals to try to put soil on his back creating a place for the animals to rest. Finally a muskrat was able to accomplish the task. People today refer to Mackinac

Trish laughed, "Everyone's related here." Her eyes smiled. "Now there's 'locals' and then there's 'islanders.'" Trish explained. "I moved here at 18 years old. I left for awhile and now I've moved back, but I will never be considered a 'local.'" Only those born and raised on the island earn that title.

Another customer, Brandon, piped in, "We all see the same people each day and know each other." It's a friendly place to work and live.

Transportation can be an issue. Andrew Doud explained, "There's a thing called island life and I think patience is a part of that. Then you double down and you're on horse time." He chuckled.

Robert McGreevy, who drove the plow until his retirement in November 2020, was the 'custodian of

the island.' His job was to construct clear paths for the emergency vehicles while leaving enough snow on the roads for the snowmobiles. He said his focus is on the airport as planes often become the only method of transportation during the winter season.

Chuck, Da Viking, and I rented fat wheel bikes from Jim at Mackinac Wheels. Chuck asked, "Are you an islander or a local?"

Donated items are auctioned to raise money for their medical facility as well as their school. The island community pulls together to help each other and always makes it fun!

Meredith and her husband moved into the recently constructed condo complex four years ago. (It's located NE of The Grand Hotel.) I asked how she brought home their groceries. "In the summer

Snow covered landmarks rest peacefully, waiting for the droves of people who clamor on their land in the warmer months.

How do residents cope with the quiet hardships of living on Mackinac Island?

This multigenerational community holds a substantial bond. They are a straightforward, no-nonsense society. It takes a lot of grit and flexibility to live on a secluded island.



Main Street, Mackinac Island January 2021. Snowmobiles are the main modes of transportation during the winter months. There's also walking, biking and dray horse drawn delivery carts.

"It's complicated." Jim responded with a sigh. His dad was born and raised on the island which makes his dad an official 'local.' Jim left for a short period but within four years Jim will have lived on the island as long as his dad. However, some would argue as to Jim's status as a local.

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are relaxing ways to circumvent the island.

Brian Bailey from the Chippewa Hotel said, "Mackinac Island is a unique place. There's no place like it in the world."

Heather, who runs May's fudge shop, also works at the Mackinac Island School. Holding multiple positions of responsibility is typical for residents in this small community. She is a fifth generation candy maker and hopes to pass on this tradition to her children.

Marty Patay, the recreation director, responded to the often asked question, "What do you do on the island all winter?" Islanders stick together and create fun. "There's ice skating on Tuesdays and hockey on Thursdays. We have archery, workout classes, ballroom dancing." Patay happily listed in a video interview in 2018.

In early December the island families gather for the Christmas Bazaar and potluck.

we use a wagon. In the winter, I can call the police, giving them two hours advance notice, and they'll give me a ride."

Is there a school on Mackinac Island?

Yes, there's a year round school on the island. The Kindergarten through twelfth grade school is a marvel of small town support. It closely resembles the one room schoolhouse model with older students assisting the younger in split grade-level classrooms. Learning flourishes in this environment.

In 2017 they had a total of 64 students enrolled. Ten of these kids were on the award winning, world-class robotics team. The group was invited to St. Louis to participate in the world competition. They placed in the top 2%. Watch for an upcoming article about the Mackinac Island school.

What about the high lights around the island in the winter?

They embrace this lifestyle with zest and practicality. Unlike the "fudgies," they call the tourists, who come over to indulge themselves.

I have to admit. On Saturday, as I watched the ferry pulled away heading back to the mainland, I felt a tightening in my chest. There's no ferry service on Sundays. With no ice bridge and a low ceiling which makes flying impossible, I grew claustrophobic. I suppose I fit into the category of a "fudgie," a tourist, one who ranks as entitled and selfish. The 'locals' and 'islanders' hold a special place of admiration in my new awareness of year-round life on Mackinac Island.

Resources:
WWTV / WWUP Corey Adkins January 10, 2018
"A Tale of Two Islands: Mackinac Island in the Off Season" MLive March 2018
www.mict.com/history



Mackinac Island residents make-do, adapt and overcome, especially in the winter. Mackinac Plumbing and Heating makes regular service calls without concern for the weather conditions.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

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!

GET ORGANIZED WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

WINTER SCENES WORD SEARCH

ASSIGNMENTS CATEGORIZE

DESK DONATE

LABEL MESS

CHORES

DRAWERS

ORGANIZE

GET ORGANIZED WORD SEARCH

CLEAN

FILING

PROFESSIONAL

CLOSET

GARAGE

RECYCLE

COORDINATE

GARBAGE

SHELVING

ALPHABETIZE

CULL

HOUSEHOLD

SORT

SYSTEM

Guess Who?

I am a rapper born in Miami on January 15, 1981. I was once on the wrong side of the law, but I got my act together thanks to music, gaining fame for my 2009 album.

Answer: Pitbull

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to getting organized.

L E I S F

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Files

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13		14			15				
16					17		18		19				
20						21			22				
				23		24			25				
26	27	28	29				30						
31							32						
33								34	35	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43				
		44	45				46						
	47						48						
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

- Requests
- Calendar month
- Invests in little enterprises
- Bird sound
- S. American plant cultivated for tubers
- Car
- Bullfighter
- Hill (Celtic)
- Strong criticism
- Detector
- When you hope to get there
- Having the skill to do something
- Legendary MLB broadcaster
- Vulcanite
- C. Asian mountain range
- In a way, healed
- Midway between east and southeast
- Small appendages of insects
- ___ Greene, "Bonanza" actor
- A place to bathe
- Postal worker accessory
- Classical music
- A way of wrecking
- Terminator

- You eat three a day
- Pointed end of a pen
- NATO official (abbr.)
- Genus of clams
- Boxing's "G.O.A.T."
- A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
- Covered thinly with gold paint
- Bachelor of Laws
- Red fluorescent dye
- Engineering group
- Female sibling
- Adjacent

CLUES DOWN

- What a thespian does
- Footwear
- Adjust spacing between
- Witnesses
- Who shows excessive fondness
- Distinct form of a plant
- National capital
- Hunting expedition
- Related to medulla oblongata
- European country
- Cola
- Excluded from use or mention
- Speak
- Bloodshot
- Make better
- Keyboard key
- Type of degree
- Paddle
- Peacock network
- Not young
- Baseball stat
- One's grandmother
- Breakfast food
- Bathroom features
- Disease-causing bacterium
- NY ballplayer
- Got up
- Prophet
- Part of the mouth
- Unnatural
- Acronym for brain science study
- Three are famous
- Languages spoken in Patagonia
- Freedom from difficulty
- Widely used OS
- Many people pay it

WordView, Art Inspiring Art in LowellArts gallery

WordView, Art Inspiring Art is a juried competition of visual and literary artwork. The results of that competition will be on view in the LowellArts gallery from Saturday, Jan. 8 until Saturday, Feb. 19.

Artists 14 years old or older were invited to submit original works consisting of both visual and textual components. Artwork could be created by an individual artist or by artists and writers in collaboration.

Throughout the months of August, September and October, there were opportunities for artists, both visual and literary, to attend a series of workshops and/or discussions exploring the practice of collaboration between the

visual and literary arts. The culmination of the series is this exhibition.

The goal of the WordView series was to connect artists and audiences through visual and performing arts, promote artist collaboration across genres, inspire collaborative artistic and literary projects and showcase artists and writers.

The competition was juried by Phillip Sterling and Gary Eldridge.

Sterling is Professor Emeritus at Ferris State University. He is the author of two books of fiction, two full-length collections of poetry and five chapbook-length series of poems,

and he is also the editor of two anthologies. Among his awards are a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, two Senior Fulbright

Lectureships and a PEN Syndicated Fiction Award. Sterling has served as artist-in-residence for both Isle Royale National Park and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. He lives in Lowell Township.

Eldridge has worked as an illustrator since his

graduation from Kendall College of Art & Design in 1974. He established his illustration studio in West Michigan, where his unique combination of printmaking

and dimensional object constructions attracted the attention of artists' agents in both New York City and Seattle. For more than 20 years, Eldridge received assignments, both nationally and internationally, from clients such as Prudential Investments,

Harza Engineering of Chicago, Eli Lilly and Co., The LA Times, Forbes Magazine, Ernst and Young, University of Miami School of Medicine,

UCLA Medical School, CEO Magazine, United States Federal Reserve, Washingtonian Magazine, Rutgers University, GE Capital, National Geographic Magazine and AT&T. He has won recognition for both his illustrations and his fine art,

including awards from the Dimensional Illustrators in NYC and the Los Angeles Society of Illustrators. In 2001 he was a member of the New York Society of

Illustrators' 9/11 Memorial Exhibition: Prevailing Human Spirit, a fundraiser for NYC First Responders. Gary has also served as chairperson of LowellArts Board of Directors and as co-chair of the "Moving To Main" campaign. He lives and maintains his studio in Lowell.

WordView is made possible in part by a grant from the Michigan Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is presented in partnership with the International Society of Experimental Artists and the Poetry Society of Michigan.

The gallery will be open each Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am until 6 pm and every Sunday from noon until 5 pm. All individuals are requested to wear a mask inside of the LowellArts building, regardless of vaccination status.

There will be an event called "Exploring the WordView Exhibition" on Sunday, Jan. 23 from 3 pm until 4:30 pm. Space is limited, so early registration is required.

This event will feature the work of some of the artists and writers in the exhibition. The jurors will lead a walk-through of the exhibition and comment on the work on display. A group of writers in the show will share readings of their poetry and other artists will share some of their process in creating the work that is in the show. The event's hosts are Phillip Sterling and Gary Eldridge.

The closing reception for WordView will be from 2 to 4 pm on Sunday, Feb. 20. Short introductions will be made of the artists and writers represented in the exhibition and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 616-897-8545, send a message to info@lowellartsmi.org or visit lowellartsmi.org/wordview



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