



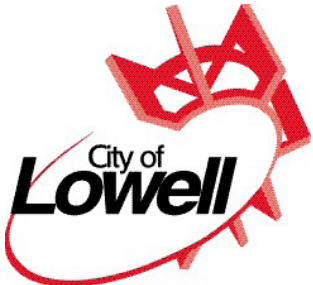
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Bruce Doll named Person of the Year by Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

by Bill Lee
contributing reporter

Each year the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce announces a Person of the Year who has contributed to the community in significant ways. The recipient needs to meet certain criteria as spelled out by the chamber: "Over time, the candidate has freely donated considerable time to the community, school district, church or humanity. This is over and above the demands of their regular profession."

The recipient also positively promotes the community, possesses new and innovative ideas that benefit the community and also makes the community a better place because of their efforts. The chamber itself does not choose the recipient; the last five winners of the award make that decision. The winner this year is Bruce Doll.

"I'm very humbled," said Bruce Doll of his award. "If you look at the past list, it's amazing to be included in that group of people. I have a passion for what I do with whatever I do."

Doll's passion since he was four years old has been photography. His pictures have been used by the chamber, the Ledger and many other organizations over the years. When you go to his website and view his pictures, it is clear that

he has a talent for capturing landscapes, people and events.

"Capturing those special moments whether it is a beautiful sunrise, an old barn, or a bride [and] groom's first kiss, makes me happy," he states on the site.

Doll, 64, moved to Michigan over two decades ago from Long Island, NY and he has called Lowell home ever since.

"We ended up buying some land out here near Fallasburg Park and built a small little chateau," said Doll. "Ever since we moved here, I felt like this is where I belong. I love the town. I love the people and I promote it as much as I can."

Even though he worked as a computer programmer for 31 years up until his retirement, his main love of photography has always been a part of his life as is his love of taking photos of Lowell and its people. He really enjoys living in the Lowell community and does his part to give back to it. He also hopes others will do the same.

"You have to have a passion for what you do," said Doll. "Find something in the community you are passionate about and do it. It's really that simple. There's so much out there that can be done."



Bruce Doll

Doll and other businesses in town will be honored for their contributions at a banquet sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Feb. 24 beginning at 6:30 pm with awards beginning at 7:30 pm. Call 616-897-9161 or visit discoverlowell.org for more information.

Chamber of Commerce's annual "Winter Gathering" awards banquet is Feb. 24



The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will present their annual awards during the "Winter Gathering of the Membership" dinner banquet. The event will take place at the Fairway of Kent County, 13955 Cascade Rd. SE, starting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Feb. 24. It will include a social hour, cash bar, "epic charcuterie," desserts and live music

from the Easy Idle Band. The award presentations will begin at approximately 7:30.

This year the Person of the Year award went to Bruce Doll. There is a separate story in this edition about Doll.

Past Persons of the Year include Chris Van Antwerp, King Doyle, Dr. Orville McKay, Ivan Blough, George and Dode Dey, Dr. Robert Reagan, Al Eckman, Ray Quada, Priscillia Lussmyer, Jim Maatman, Bob Pfaller, Jim Reagan, Marsha Wilcox, John Timpson, Dr. Donald Gerard, Dr. Roger LaWarre,

Bert Bleke, Judy Straub, Luanne Kaeb, Jim Doyle, Jim White, Kraig and Jody Haybarker, Ray and Barbara Zandstra, Marj Harding, Betty Yeiter, John Stencel, Dave and Jan Thompson, Joy Smith, Perry and Teresa Beachum, Noel Dean, Greg Canfield, Rick Seese, Mike Sprenger, Greg Pratt, Betsy Davidson, Carol Briggs, Mark and Theresa Mundt and Bob and Amanda Rogers.

Brick Awards go to businesses that made a significant "capital investment" in themselves during the past year by improving, remodeling or

rebuilding their facilities. This year, the Brick Award will go to RiverView Flats.

This year's other Chamber Awards went to Bieri Auto Body for the Business Appreciation Award, Wearforward for Most Promising New Business and the YMCA for Non-Profit Spotlight.

The "Winter Gathering of the Membership" is open to the public. Tickets are \$28 each or \$200 for a table of eight. To make reservations, call the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce at 616-897-9161 or register online at discoverlowell.org.

50¢



Lowell city council discusses sinkhole, rail trail project, more at Monday, Feb. 7 meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 7. The meeting lasted approximately one hour and 53 minutes, there were about a dozen people in attendance and there were three participants in public comment.

First up was Annette Ritzema, who appealed to the council for some assistance dealing with a sinkhole that was left in her Hudson St. yard by an AT&T work crew in 2018.

“My situation is in my yard, and it stems from the 2018 boring and [...] conduits,” Ritzema said. “I’m not a scientist, I don’t know what’s going on, all I know is I’m a taxpayer that worked 40-some years as an educator, that has a husband that’s sick, and I’m here to talk to you tonight because I am now face-to-face with AT&T. I’m, by all definitions, a little old lady. I’m a little old lady now, just going face-to-face with a large company, and I hope I’m not going alone, folks, because I hope part of the purpose of the Lowell [city council] is to protect the citizens.”

The next two public commenters were Michael Brown and Dave Hoffman, two politicians running for state offices in the November election. Speaking of politicians, the first agenda item of the meeting was a legislative update from Rep. Thomas Albert, who is running for state senate this fall.

“The federal government passed a really large infrastructure package last December,” Albert said. “We’re still getting guidance on that, but that goes into roads and different types of infrastructure as well, so we’re seeing if maybe we could incorporate a larger

infrastructure package, while at the same time starting to craft a budget for this upcoming fiscal year. [...] We have \$3.4 billion in the general fund that’s just sitting there, that’s available for one time. That is unprecedented. The question is, why is this so much? The biggest drivers of this are federal spending and inflation. If you think of it, when the federal government spends money, they have three different ways they can pay for it: they can take out debt, they can raise taxes or they can print money, which causes inflationary pressures, which is an inflation tax. So that’s why we’re seeing excess revenues. As people get more money, they’re spending more [and] seeing more sales tax come in. It’s driving up wages, which is causing more for income tax receipts. So there’s just a lot of pressures, so at the expense of the everyday Michigan worker, they have to make these payments and the state gets more revenue out of it.”

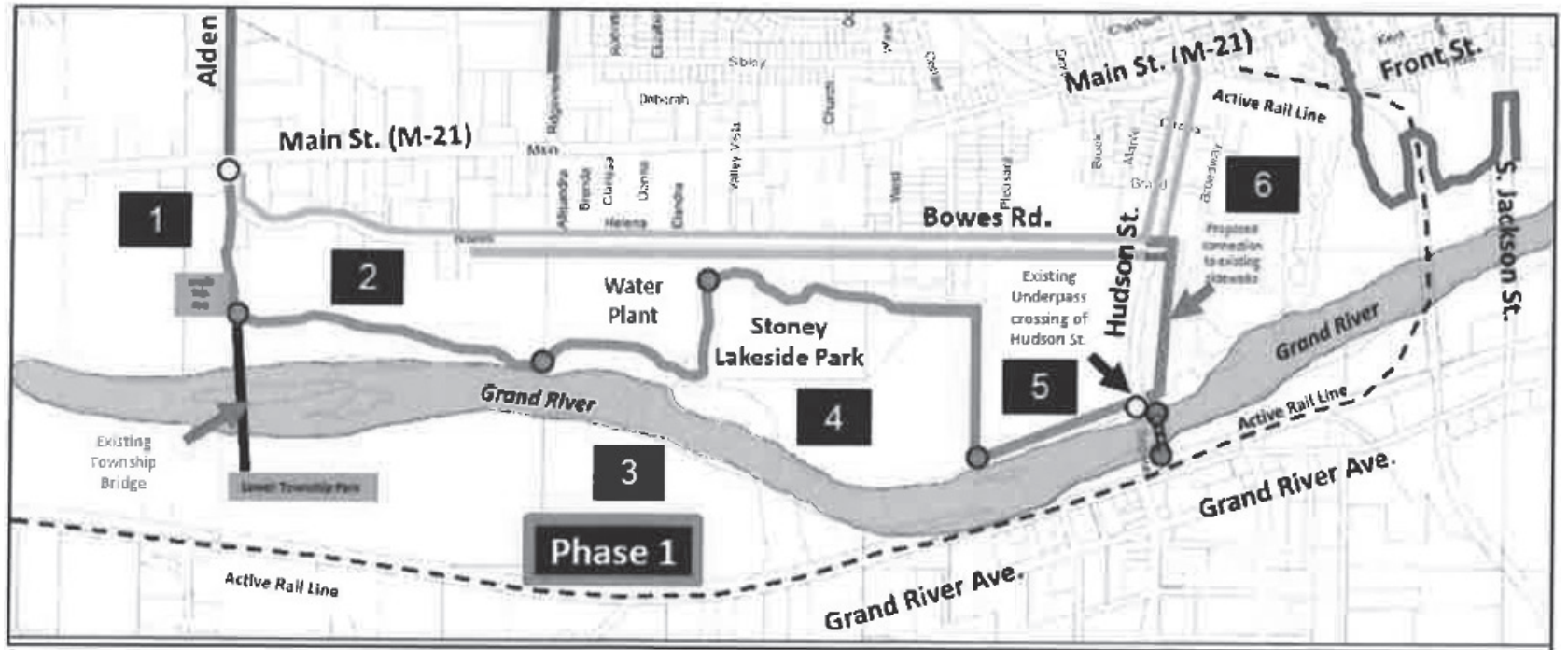
The council sat through an update about the past year

FUNDING

Current total estimates for Phases 1 + 2 total \$5,888,000. A total of \$5,461,000 has been committed to the project to date. LARA expects to receive another \$300,000 from MDNR for Phase 2. Allowing for inflation, the balance, \$127,000 will need to be raised for Phase 2, currently budgeted for FY 2025.

	Total
MDOT TAP	\$ 2,905,000
MDNR TRUST - CITY	\$ 300,000
MDNR TRUST - LARA	\$ 300,000
MDNR RTP - MDNR	\$ 300,000
City of Lowell	\$ 135,000
Lowell DDA	\$ 300,000
Lowell Township	\$ 116,000
Vergennes Township	\$ 5,000
Lowell Community Foundation	\$ 550,000
Meijer Foundation	\$ 750,000
Private Donations	\$ 100,000
Subtotal	\$ 5,761,000
Balance for Phase 2 - 2025	\$ 127,000
Total Phase 1 + Phase 2 Project	\$ 5,888,000
Phase 1	\$ 1,432,000
Phase 2	\$ 4,456,000
	\$ 5,888,000

Map of phase one of the trail project (below) and a breakdown of the project’s financing (above), extracted from a report prepared by engineer Dave Austin of Williams & Works.



of activities at the Lowell Area Historical Museum from director Lisa Plank, then a lengthy update about activities at the Kent Conservation District.

Dave Austin, engineer with Williams & Works, presented the council with updated information about the LARA trail project. Lowell represents the only gap in the otherwise

continuous 125-mile-long Fred Meijer River Valley Trail. When the Lowell portion is completed it will be the fifth longest rail trail in the United States.

“Trying to get the railroad’s permission to give that last section from Jackson St. to

City council, continued, page 3

the lowell ledger

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City council, continued

Montcalm Ave. is still taking longer than we thought," Austin said. "The DNR is in charge of that. And so rather than hold this project up for yet another year, we asked MDOT would it be okay to phase the project. So they reviewed it and they're going to allow us to do that and break the project into two phases. What that does is, that secures the grant, so that we don't lose it by delaying the project each year and it allows us to get something built sooner. Phase one is going to be built next year and it's going to go from the new township park, along the river through Stony Lakeside

Park, under Hudson St. at the fairgrounds, and then we're, in order to make that not a dead end temporarily, we're going to work with the city and extend that path back up to Bowes Rd. so that we've got, in the short term, a closed loop. In the meantime, design and easement acquisition will continue for what we'll call phase two, and that'll be the new bridge over the Grand River and then the trail out to Montcalm Ave. But because the negotiations or the ability to move the railroad is kind of out of our hands, we don't know when that's going to happen, although MDOT

has it programed for fiscal year 2025. [...] What we're hoping is that phase one will get done in 2023 and then by that time we will have had all the railroad permissions and maybe in 2024, certainly in 2025, and get phase two done."

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will take place at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 21.

To watch previous city council, board and commission meetings, look for the "City of Lowell" and "Lowell Light and Power" channels on YouTube or visit archive.org.



YouTube screenshot of the Monday, Feb. 7 Lowell city council meeting.

Program will clear the way for more families to receive money-saving weatherization services

More low-income Michigan families will be able to now take advantage of a program that provides free home weatherization to reduce energy costs by an average of \$283 per year.

The Michigan Department of Health and

Human Services has \$5 million available from the US Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program to pay for home repairs that are sometimes needed before weatherization services can be provided.

Many homes in a state of disrepair cannot take advantage of weatherization funds. Those situations would often lead to a deferral - where an otherwise eligible home would not receive weatherization repairs or services because the materials installed could be compromised.

"Weatherizing homes is a great way to

reduce energy costs for Michiganders and prevent low-income families from having to worry about affording their bills and staying warm and safe," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "Many families have suffered financial hardships due to the pandemic and have put off maintenance that needs to be addressed before their homes can be weatherized. I urge these families to take advantage of these new services that will lower their costs and keep them warm. We will continue finding ways to put Michiganders first and help them have the resources they need to thrive."

Gov. Whitmer has proclaimed February to be Keep Michigan Warm Month.

The MDHHS Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity administers the US

Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program, which benefits approximately 1,300 low-income families annually in Michigan. Community Action Agencies and non-profit organizations provide weatherization services at the local level.

Services funded by the pre-weatherization deferral dollars may include construction, reconstruction, improvement or repair of single-family and multi-family residential buildings to correct health and safety conditions as identified by the weatherization assistance program's energy audit. Typical housing conditions that can lead to deferrals include mold and moisture damage, knob and tube wiring issues, other electrical issues, grading issues, roof damage, structural issues, plumbing issues, pest issues, ventilation issues, asbestos issues and radon.

"MDHHS wants to help as many residents as possible weatherize their homes to save money and energy," said MDHHS director Elizabeth Hertel. "High

energy costs can cause families to fall behind on their utility bills or be forced to pay their energy bills with money that could otherwise be spent on nutritious food or other needs. No one should be ineligible for cost-saving weatherization assistance due to costly needed repairs."

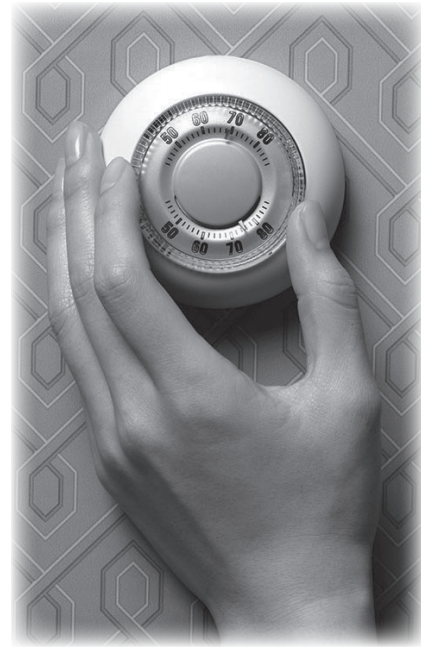
In a weatherization job, trained professionals known as energy auditors use computerized software and advanced diagnostic equipment such as blower doors and infrared cameras to create a comprehensive energy analysis of the home. This analysis determines the most cost-effective measures to install in each home. The energy auditor creates a customized work order so trained contractors and crew members can install the identified energy-efficient and health and safety measures.

These measures include items such as insulation, blower-door-guided air sealing of key leakage junctures, and installations such as lighting and water saving measures.

Health and safety issues such as elevated levels of carbon monoxide, moisture problems, mold, ventilation needs, and heating systems safety and efficiency are also addressed. There is growing evidence that the program provides benefits beyond energy savings. Improved indoor air quality and appropriate ventilation strategies lead to healthier living conditions in weatherized homes, which often lead to reduced asthma triggers and fewer doctor visits.

Anyone interested in applying for the Weatherization Assistance Program, even if they may have a reason for deferral, can contact their local provider. Eligibility is based on household income and home condition.

Training for those working in the Weatherization Assistance Program is provided by the Michigan Training and Education Center. For more information about the training, visit www.MichiganTEC.org.



County sheriff investigates fatal snowmobile crash in Bowne Township

Kent County sheriff deputies responded to a double snowmobile crash along Coldwater Ave SE south of 100th St in Bowne Township last week.

At 2:44 am on Thursday, Feb. 3, it was reported that a 39-year-old Alto man driving a snowmobile crashed into a tree, and a second snowmobile driven by a 31-year-old Middleville man also crashed.

The Alto man was pronounced dead at the scene and the

Middleville man was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Alcohol is believed to be a contributing factor in both crashes.



The Lowell Rotary Club

is accepting grant applications from local non-profit organizations seeking financial assistance with projects. Grant eligibility requirements and the grant application can be found at our website www.lowellrotary.org if you have any questions email us at info@lowellrotary.org. Applications must be received by March 9

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



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Whitmer budget proposal spends all the money

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's record-breaking \$74.1 billion spending plan for fiscal year 2023 recommends spending all of the \$14-\$15 billion in extra state and federal revenue the state currently has at its disposal on education, infrastructure, health care and other services.

Michigan is supposed to receive \$5 to \$6 billion from the president's infrastructure law over a series of years, so Wednesday's budget doesn't allocate all of that money.

However, everything on the balance sheet, with some minor exceptions, would go out the door, budget director

Chris Harkins said on Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Michigan's largest annual budget proposal in history is heavy on investing into cities, universities and electric vehicles, among other things. It's light on saving or paying down long-term debt. Its two tax cuts - the earned income tax credit expansion and the exempting retirement income from the income tax - would cost the state about \$400 million a year. Republican lawmakers want to see much more.

The plan is nearly 3 percent above the roughly \$72 billion Michigan government is slated to

spend this year. It looks to take advantage of soaring state revenue and a federal government that wants robust consumer spending to prevent a post-COVID economic slump.

More strikingly, it's a 34.5 percent jump from just five years ago when the budget was \$55 billion. In the lean years between FY '06 and FY '13, the state budget was in the \$40 billion range.

"It's time to make investments that are long overdue," Gov. Whitmer said during an afternoon press conference at Grand Ledge High School. Schools are receiving

\$2.3 billion in one-time funding. There's \$1.7 billion in federal and state money going into roads, bridges, broadband, pump stations and other infrastructure.

Another \$725 million is going into bonuses for "front-line workers," behavioral health workers and nursing direct care workers. That's outside the special bonuses for teachers and \$50 million for law enforcement and first responders.

"We got here in 2009 with a budget of \$48 billion. This is \$74 billion. All I got to say is 'Damn!'" interjected Senate Appropriations Committee chair Jim Stamas (R-Midland) during Wednesday's budget presentation.

After a couple decades of lean years, universities, colleges and local governments were thrilled to see the governor propose a 10 percent state funding increase for them, even if half of it would be one-time spending only.

Only 20 percent of the governor's spending plan comes from the discretionary general fund, but even at \$14.3 billion, it's well above the \$11.7 billion the state set aside for GF last year.

A 41 percent plurality of the budget proposal is federal spending and 23 percent is coming out of the School Aid Fund.

"There's virtually no attention to saving or paying down debt," said House Appropriations Committee chair Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) "What we have here is a good old-fashioned spending spree."

Democratic lawmakers gushed over the attention to investment in K-12 education and health care after years of budget cutting and disinvestment. Rep. Felicia Brabec (D-Pittsfield) said she remembers navigating years and years of cuts coming down from state government as a Washtenaw County commissioner. Wednesday's budget was a welcome change, she said.

"I literally sent the budget to our county administrator and chair of the board to say, 'Hey, look! I was very, very excited about it,'" Brabec said.

Twelve of the state's 18 departments saw proposed double-digit increases in funding. The Department of Natural Resources is proposed to see a 97 percent increase. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs would see 85.2 percent more.

Other items of note regarding the budget include:

Of the \$18.4 billion going into K-12 education, \$2.3 billion of it (12.5 percent) is one time funding. She is still using \$108.2 million

from the general fund and \$15.8 billion is coming from the School Aid Fund. That's up about 6 percent from last year's \$14.86 billion coming from the SAF and 25 percent more out of the general fund.

\$500 million for the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund to help lure big companies to make investments in Michigan.

\$325 million for a new psychiatric facility complex for the Hawthorn Center and Walter Reuther Hospital.

\$251.7 million for water infrastructure projects.

\$243.3 million to expand dental care coverage for more than 3 million Medicaid enrollees, a benefit that was taken away during the Great Recession.

\$175 million to create a single statewide case management system to better track and process court cases.

\$115 million to modernize the state's National Guard armories.

\$10 million to begin transitioning the state's 7,000 vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.

\$5 million for a new infrastructure office to coordinate all the federal money coming in the door and making sure the different levels of government are on the same page.

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State superintendent urges legislature to pass budget quickly

At the Tuesday, Feb. 8 Board of Education meeting, state superintendent Michael Rice urged the legislature to pass the governor's proposed school budget for fiscal year 2023 quickly.

"We know the legislature can act quickly when they want, we saw it in December," Rice said. "We will need them to act quickly on the budget for public schools."

State Board of Education member Tom McMillin disagreed with the state

superintendent.

McMillin claimed the classroom has become politicized and hostile to parents and until that has been addressed he didn't see why the budget should be passed quickly.

The board was going over its goal to provide adequate and equitable school funding. The presentation from the School Finance Research Collaborative was looking at the recommendations for funding for the budget

and the budget investments from the 2021-2022 school aid budget.

A big portion of the discussion also revolved around how Michigan schools could keep teachers in the classrooms and recruit more teachers to fill the gaps that have been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

State Board of Education member Ellen Cogen Lipton asked if local school districts had the infrastructure in place to be able to hire the needed teachers.

Rice said the local districts wouldn't know how much they would have to work with for teacher retention and hiring until the new school budget was set.

"The sooner the legislature acts, the sooner these individual school districts can react," Rice said.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's \$18.4 billion spending plan announced last Wednesday will cover \$9,235 per-student funding, a 5 percent jump over the current \$8,700 per-pupil allotment. The plan also calls for \$2.3 billion recruitment and retention effort for school employees.

LEGAL NOTICE

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PROBATE COURT
KENT COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE: 22-210765-DE

Estate of JAMES A. GRISWOLD. Date of birth: 3/20/1960.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

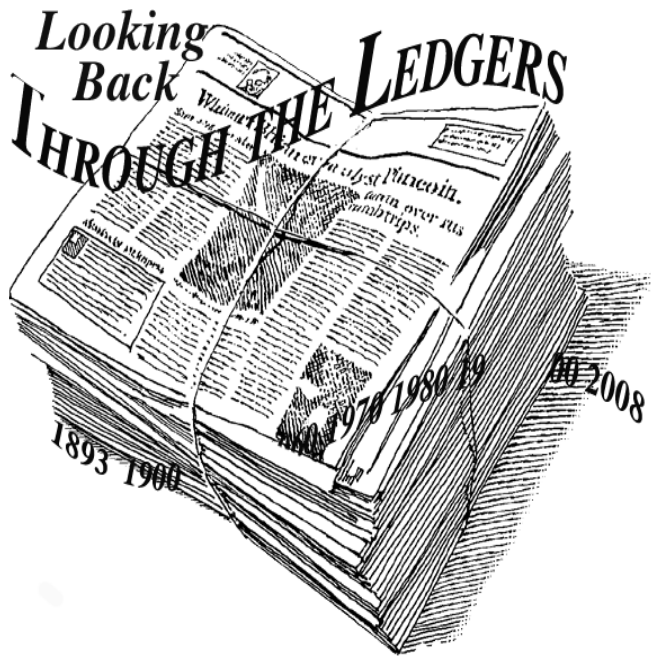
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James A. Griswold, died 2/7/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred

unless presented to Janet Griswold, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

2/10/2022
Melissa S. German (P-45103)
120 West Savidge Street
PO Box 301
Spring Lake, MI 49456
616-846-5850

Janet Griswold
3433 College Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger February 19, 1897

Thomas Donovan of Lowell started suit in the Circuit court this morning against John Hessler, administrator of the estate of W.C. Slayton and of Jane Donovan, and the other heirs of the father, Wm. Donovan. In his bill of complaint Mr. Donovan sets up the claim that he is one of the heirs mentioned in his father's will and that he has never received one of the \$2500 which his father bequeathed to him in 1877.

Our local buyers Bergin and McCarty are handling large quantities of beans and nearly a hundred persons are employed in cleaning, picking, carrying and shipping. In quite a number of houses, picking is done by all members of the family and the refuge derived therefrom is a blessing these hard times. Beans are brought here from beyond neighboring towns. One day last week McCarty bought 1700 bushels from one man.

Some time ago Ionia county invested \$1,000 in a tramp annex to the county jail and put "Weary Willie" on a ten-cent a day board, and thought they had solved the problem. Not so, however. From September 1 to February 12 390 of the traveling gentry were entertained, costing the county nearly \$1,400, 185 of the 390 having been run through the mill since January 1, '97. Since that day they have been numerous.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 23, 1922

The largest commercial fleet of airplanes in the world has just been completed, and is now employed by a French company, the Grand Express Aeriens, on the London-Paris-Lausanne airways. No fewer than 12 giant air expresses are in daily use on this company's service. Each machine has accommodation for 13 passengers, in addition to the pilot and mechanic.

Two Three Oaks women find one year of politics enough. They say they'd rather wash dishes than argue over paving contracts. Another proof that woman's place is in the home.

The proposal of a tax of one cent per gallon on gasoline to be used on road maintenance seems fair and reasonable. Under its operation those who use the roads would keep them up, and the heavier cars and trucks would be paving in proportion to the damage they do to the highways. The saddling of a great share of the enormous up-keep expense upon the man who happens to be toiling on the adjacent farms is nice for the fly-by-nighters, but bad for the farmer. Fair play injures no one. Let's distribute the burden.

75 years The Lowell Ledger February 20, 1947

World War II so far cost every individual in the United States a total of \$24,300 represented by his share of the public debt.

The Strand Theater is being redecorated throughout. The auditorium will have walls in two shades of blue with rose ceiling; the foyer will be done in four shades of rose and the lobby will be completely green. It is expected the work will be finished the latter part of this week.

Many people remember the "flu" epidemic which swept the world in 1918. Some of us remember the epidemic killed more people than the war itself. Influenza is apt to occur in epidemics because it makes a periodic return, in cycles of years, and spreads very quickly.

50 years The Lowell Ledger February 24, 1972

Lowell's City Council passed an ordinance Monday night that would establish the Lowell Housing Commission to plan and operate housing for low income citizens of the city. The five member commission, to be appointed by the City Manager Blaine Bacon will be solely responsible for the planning and operation of any senior citizen or low income family housing units built under the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Although the profits realized from the 1971 Lowell Showboat were marginal (\$1,042.32), the comeback over the heavy financial loss in 1970, brought renewed vigor into the setting for the 1972 show.

An Ionia County Circuit Court jury of nine women and three men deliberated several hours Friday night, before returning a verdict charging Dale L. Green, 28, with felonious assault.

25 years The Lowell Ledger February 19, 1997

With many roads to be paved and residents expressing interest in getting them paved, the Vergennes Township Board agreed to set up a citizens' road committee. The committee, to consist of five or six residents, would provide recommendations to the board regarding which roads in the township are in need of paving.

Students from the classrooms of Mrs. Kinnucan and Ms. VanBelois are providing Cherry Creek Elementary with a lot of popcorn from their service learning project, Popcorn Express. Popcorn Express, in cooperation with the PTO, has been selling popcorn for a quarter to the building teachers, administrators and fellow students every other Friday.

outdoors

positive changes

Dave Stegehuis

The hunting and fishing experience has changed significantly over the last half century. Sometimes change was good while other times not so good.

At one time, pheasants were common in southern Michigan. The birds were imported from China and thrived on marginal farmland that was left fallow. A young hunter with a single shot 20 gauge could have a productive day in the field even without a well-trained bird dog. Today it is rare to see a pheasant or hear a rooster cackle. The colorful birds flew slow and tasted great. I really miss them. At that time, there was no such thing as a wild turkey gobbling from the woods and fields of Michigan. Today eastern wild turkeys are abundant all across the state. The regal birds are easily accessible to most hunters and are unique creatures and exciting to hunt.

Lake trout were decimated by lamprey eels and there were never salmon in the Great Lakes. We now have fishable populations of salmon and lake trout.

Serious whitetail deer hunters took a long arduous trip to the Upper Peninsula to hunt. Now the southern lower peninsula holds a large population of deer including

plenty of trophy bucks. The herd is in close proximity to where most Michiganders live.

Game management is guided by scientific, economic, and cultural considerations. Game laws and regulations have been fine tuned to address local conditions. Habitat improvement and development are now standard management methods.

Fishing and hunting were once the domain of middle aged males. That group is getting older, and participation is dropping off enough to affect funding for conservation efforts. The last few years have seen a resurgence of participation in hunting and fishing activities. Younger people and women are picking up the slack. Teenage girls are holding their own in the big game hunting arena. These changes are good for people and necessary for effective wildlife conservation.

The "good old days" may be gone, but there is reason to be optimistic about the future of our natural resources. If enough of us pay attention and get involved with the land and wildlife, we can look forward to positive changes for the next generation.

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.

**Letters can be sent to emailed to
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Deadline is noon on Mondays**

HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH-WEST MICHIGAN MEDICINE

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
Bradley Ophoff, PA-C
Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

LHS January Students of Month

Lowell High School has announced that Rylee Nichols, 10th grade and Elijah Young, 10th grade, are the Lowell High School January Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student

Nichols and Young. The students receive a \$20 gift card and a certificate.

Nichols was nominated by Jeff McDonald and he writes, "Rylee is a fantastic student and young lady here at LHS. She cares about her work and cares about learning. When in class, Rylee is engaged and on task. In the event of an absence, she is doing what she needs to do on her own to make sure she's not getting behind. Rylee always seems to be in a good mood and



Elijah Young

treats others with respect. I really enjoy having her in class!"

Christian Davis nominated Young and he writes, "Elijah shows great effort in class despite it being rather difficult material. What is most impressive about Elijah is when he does not understand a concept he works hard to try and figure everything out. He asks great questions and is engaged in class. His peers respect him and feed off the energy he brings to class."



Rylee Nichols

must be nominated by a teacher. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for

Questions about Social Security that can help you plan your retirement

Social Security benefits are part of the retirement plan of almost every American worker. If you're among the many people covered under Social Security, you should know what your future benefit may be. These monthly payments are likely to be an important part of your retirement income.

We base your benefit payment on how much you earned during your working career. Higher lifetime earnings result in higher benefits. If there were some years you didn't work or had low earnings, your benefit amount may be lower than if you had worked steadily. Even if you never worked and did not pay Social Security taxes, you may be eligible for spouse's retirement benefits. You must be at least 62 years old, and your spouse must already be receiving retirement or disability benefits.

Our online retirement portal at www.ssa.gov/retirement is a great place to start mapping out your retirement plan. For example, have you considered:

- What is the right time for you to start receiving your retirement benefits?
- What documents you may need to provide SSA for your retirement

application?

- Which factors may affect your retirement benefits?

- What you should remember to do after you apply for retirement benefits?

You can use your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to get an instant estimate of your future retirement benefits. You can also see the effects of starting your retirement benefits at different ages.

You may also be wondering about:

- Benefits for a spouse or children.
- How work affects your benefits.
- If you will have to pay taxes on your benefits.
- Medicare.

You can learn more at www.ssa.gov/retirement. Please share this information with family and friends to help them prepare for their retirement.

- frozen shoulder

Frozen shoulder is also known as adhesive capsulitis. It is a condition in which the shoulder joint becomes increasingly painful with any motion. The joint then becomes stiff and range of motion becomes limited.

The shoulder joint is encased in a capsule of connective tissue. This capsule thickens and tightens around the joint, thus restricting motion.

It is more common in those over 40 years old and females. Any prolonged immobility or reduced mobility increases the risk of acquiring a frozen shoulder.

It is also more common in those with diabetes, Parkinson's disease and thyroid disease.

The diagnosis is often made by just a physical exam. X-rays are also typically ordered to rule out other possible problems.

Treatment typically consists of anti-inflammatories and physical therapy. Sometimes

cortisone injections are also used. In severe cases, patients are put under anesthesia and the doctor manipulates the joint to break up the tissue to achieve full range of motion.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of Daniel Husted Conservatorship File No. 21-210775-CA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his children, Shane Husted and Matthew Husted 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 March 4, 2022, at 9:00 A.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180

Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 Courtroom 9C and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: February 9, 2022

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 204-8332

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

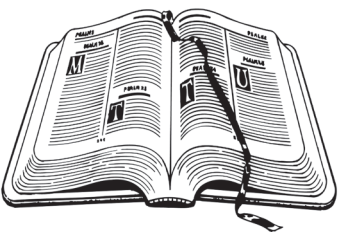
business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Hesch received salesperson of the month for January.

This award recognizes Hesch for his outstanding success and achievements.



area churches



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Pastor Alyssa Anten
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 6 PM

Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive
616-897-5906

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www.gslc.church

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
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Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

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

St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820

Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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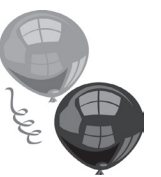
621 E. Main Street
897-5938

www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

WORSHIP

Traditional Service: 9 am
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



FEBRUARY 16

Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main, Karra Alexander.

FEBRUARY 17

Chris Hodges, Justin Stanford, Stephanie Ellison, Reatha Johnson, Lynda Horsley, Deb Tulecki.

FEBRUARY 18

Richard Claypool, Courtney Phillips, Missy Crandall Nikodemski.

FEBRUARY 19

Jerrica Foss, Bruce Baird, Betty Newhouse.

FEBRUARY 20

Mike Rivers, Gary Kemp, Barbara Carpenter, Sara Soyka, Madison Emelander, Nate Sloan.

FEBRUARY 21

Betsy Vezino, Ashton VanDerWarf, Kimberly Sterzick, Robin Martin, Luke Landman.

FEBRUARY 22

Kevin Gerard, Rob Tulecki, Julie Shaffer, Jessy Dale Abel, Krista Foster.

State superintendent says history might be uncomfortable for some, but it must be fully taught

Numerous public speakers urged the state Board of Education at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 8 to keep critical race theory out of the classroom, but state superintendent Mike Rice said he believes more history - not less - should be taught in the classroom.

Critical race theory is an over 40-year-old concept that looks to view US history through the lens of racism.

"We would do well to teach the full breadth of our history 12 months a year instead of one month a year," Rice said.

Rice talked about the banning of books, such as books by Langston

Hughes, Toni Morrison and the graphic novelist Art Spiegelman.

He did acknowledge that there are areas where some books should be placed, such as high school or middle school as opposed to elementary school.

In his report to the board, Rice explained that if teaching something made students uncomfortable, teaching the US Constitution would be among those documents.

"The US Constitution is the greatest document in US history, but imagine being told the teaching of it would

harm our children," Rice said.

An example he gave was that the Emancipation Proclamation did not abolish slavery, but it was the ratification of the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments that would eventually totally do away with slavery in the United States. He stated it wouldn't be until 100 years later that Blacks would be given the right to vote in the south because the civil rights movement fought for that right.

"That is history. That is Black history. That is US history and it has the right to be taught," Rice said.



Mike Rice

Police called to look into voting machine meddling in Roscommon



Jocelyn Benson

An unauthorized person allegedly got into a voting tabulator machine in Roscommon County and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson wants the attorney general and the Michigan State Police to look into it.

In addition to the investigation request, Benson also sent a letter to all of Michigan's 1,603 county, city and township clerks, thanking them for their tireless effort to protect election security and providing guidance on how to proceed if they

become aware of any incident in which an unauthorized third party has attempted to gain or has been given improper access to voting equipment. "Protecting the integrity and security of our elections, especially from those who use lies and misinformation to deceive Michigan voters, is a critical component of defending democracy in this moment," Benson said in a press release on Thursday, Feb. 10. "Michigan law is clear about the security threats that emerge when anyone gains unauthorized access to our election machines or technology, and I will have no tolerance for those who seek to illegally tamper with our voting equipment."

Contracts with voting system vendors and state law restricts access to voting equipment to qualified personnel.

Benson said her office received complaints that at least one unnamed third party gained access to tabulation machines and data drives in Richfield Township and the county, which could require the equipment be replaced at taxpayer expense.

Unauthorized access to machines is a breach of election security protocols and may have exposed the machines to vulnerabilities that render them unusable in future elections, she noted.

Benson's request follows on the heels of a report that former President Donald Trump's team asked Antrim County prosecutor James Rossiter for that county's voting machines.

In December 2020 a third party also accessed the Dominion vote tabulators in Antrim County following a court order, and then used the data it found to generate a report falsely claiming election fraud, Benson said.

The report was debunked by multiple election experts, but not before it was cited as the reason for the federal government to seize tabulation machines in a draft executive order of Trump.

2022 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

Lowell Charter Township
2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
Lowell, MI 49331

2022 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2022 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 9 a.m. =
Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**&
Thursday, March 15, 2022, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

The Board of Review will meet as many days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2022 assessments.

By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 14, 2022.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2022 are as follows:

Agricultura	40.48	1.2351
Commercial	45.17	1.1069
Residential	46.96	1.0647
Industrial	45.68	1.0945
Personal	50.00	1.0000

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

**Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale,
2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
616-897-7600**

Board of Review Members, Sandra Graham, Nancie Mathews & James Foerch.
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 22-210687-DE

Estate of MICHAEELEN A. CONROY, Deceased. Date of birth: 05/20/1987.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Michaeleen A. Conroy, died 10/28/2021.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be

forever barred unless presented to Timothy J. Conroy, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

02/11/2022

John T. Conroy (P43709)
410 Bridge Street, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-454-4119

Timothy J. Conroy
2324 Ridgefield Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-443-5866

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*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018



Lowellian Cynthia Hagedorn provides creative outlet with Care on Canvas



Langley Schillim

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Care on Canvas is a program that provides painting opportunities for people in West Michigan who are dealing with injuries, cancer and other challenging circumstances. Cynthia Hagedorn, an educator and

artist who lives in Lowell, founded the program about five years ago.

“I’ve worked with people in all kinds of situations,” Hagedorn said. “I work with kids, adults, people in various circumstances, and

they all create something to be proud of. At Mary Free Bed I’ve painted with quadriplegics who don’t have arms or legs, they paint with a brush in their mouth. I work with kids at Helen Devos Children’s Hospital and Make A Wish Foundation, and with various other people in the community. A woman who had breast cancer, a woman who had lost a child, a family that had lost a child - I worked amongst this group of people, they came into my studio and painted with me, we painted side-by-side. Some of them, I worked right with them right in the hospital, some of them came to my studio. I just want to give them an opportunity to express themselves and enjoy the experience of painting. It’s abstract, acrylic painting, and I have a process that I’ve been working with for years. They come into the studio one time and it usually takes about two or three hours. I have been doing this type of work as an educator for about 30 years, in and out of classrooms, producing workshops for kids and adults, so through the years

and experiences, I would say that’s where my love of working with people is, of giving them the experience of art through a process. I just learned through experience how to move people through to create a painting. Don’t expect to paint, like, a lighthouse, it’s not a step-by-step process, it’s more about expression and color, putting color on canvas and moving it around. There are some symbolic motions and meanings behind it. I always say there are no rules in art, there’s just techniques.”

The program has been so successful, one success story was recently featured in People Magazine.

“I laugh at that, because they cut my head off,” Hagedorn said. “Mary Free Bed sent it out, and I recognized Laney [Purdue, age 11, of Gaylord], the young woman that I painted with. I looked at it and I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, there it is!’ We were photographed together, but they cut my head off. It just sort of made me laugh, I’m in this national



Kellen Kruger from Zeeland.



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MacKale, McCoy and McGill McGuire.

publication and they cut my head off! I had painted with Laney for Care on Canvas. She was in a plane accident with her dad, two friends

and the pilot. They all died, including the two dogs with them, and she was the only survivor.”

For the past seven years, Hagedorn has led Leadership on Canvas, where she paints with community leaders like mayors and CEOs, who have their paintings exhibited during ArtPrize. Hagedorn said she observed a trend among the adults she works with that is not present among her more youthful students.

“I’ll have anywhere between eight and 12 participants every year, and it’s the mayor, CEOs, the college president and people

like that,” Hagedorn said. “We do this thing where we unveil the art at one of these private events, and they talk about their experiences. When I kicked off one of those, I told a story that had happened to me when I was in a classroom that morning with a bunch of kindergarteners. I said to the kindergarteners, ‘Who wants to paint?’ and of course every hand shot up and everyone was really excited. As I started this unveil with all the ‘rock stars’ in the room, there were like 80 people there, I said, ‘Who wants to paint?’ and it just went silent. I go, ‘Seriously? Doesn’t anybody want to paint right now?’ There were a couple of people who, like, kind of slowly put their hands up, but most were looking at their phones. I said, ‘I just wanted to demonstrate, how did we lose that? Because I was just with a bunch of kindergarteners, 30 of them, and every one of them were climbing on me because they wanted to be the one to paint.’ I really find it interesting that we lose that at certain points in our lives. You can talk to any kid, and they will all want to paint. The adults are the ones that will say they don’t have one artistic bone in their body or that they can’t draw a straight line. Most of them have never painted. I always say to them, ‘Come with an open mind and I’ll walk you through everything.’

Care on Canvas, continued, page 9



Bekah Skrycki

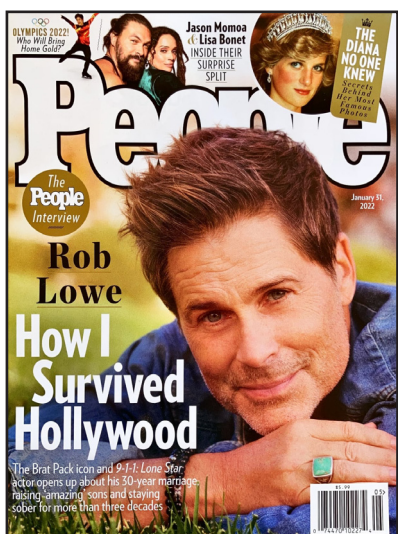
Care on Canvas, continued



Tegan Rose



Creative Outlet
Laney used paints to improve concentration (at DeVos Children's Hospital).



An in depth article about Care on Canvas, focusing on one participant named Laney Purdue, was featured in the Jan. 31, 2022 issue of "People Magazine" (left) Unfortunately, Hagedorn's head was cut off in the published article (above).

It's an expression of art. Oh my gosh, the stories. When they come in we talk about where they are in life and what they're going through, we talk about their favorite things, we talk about challenges and, before you know it, it's like two or three hours later and

they have this canvas that is representing where they are in that moment."

Care on Canvas will have an art show and marketplace at Grand Valley Artists, 2661 29th St. SE, Suite B (behind Schuler Books), on Sunday, June 12, from 3 until 6 pm.

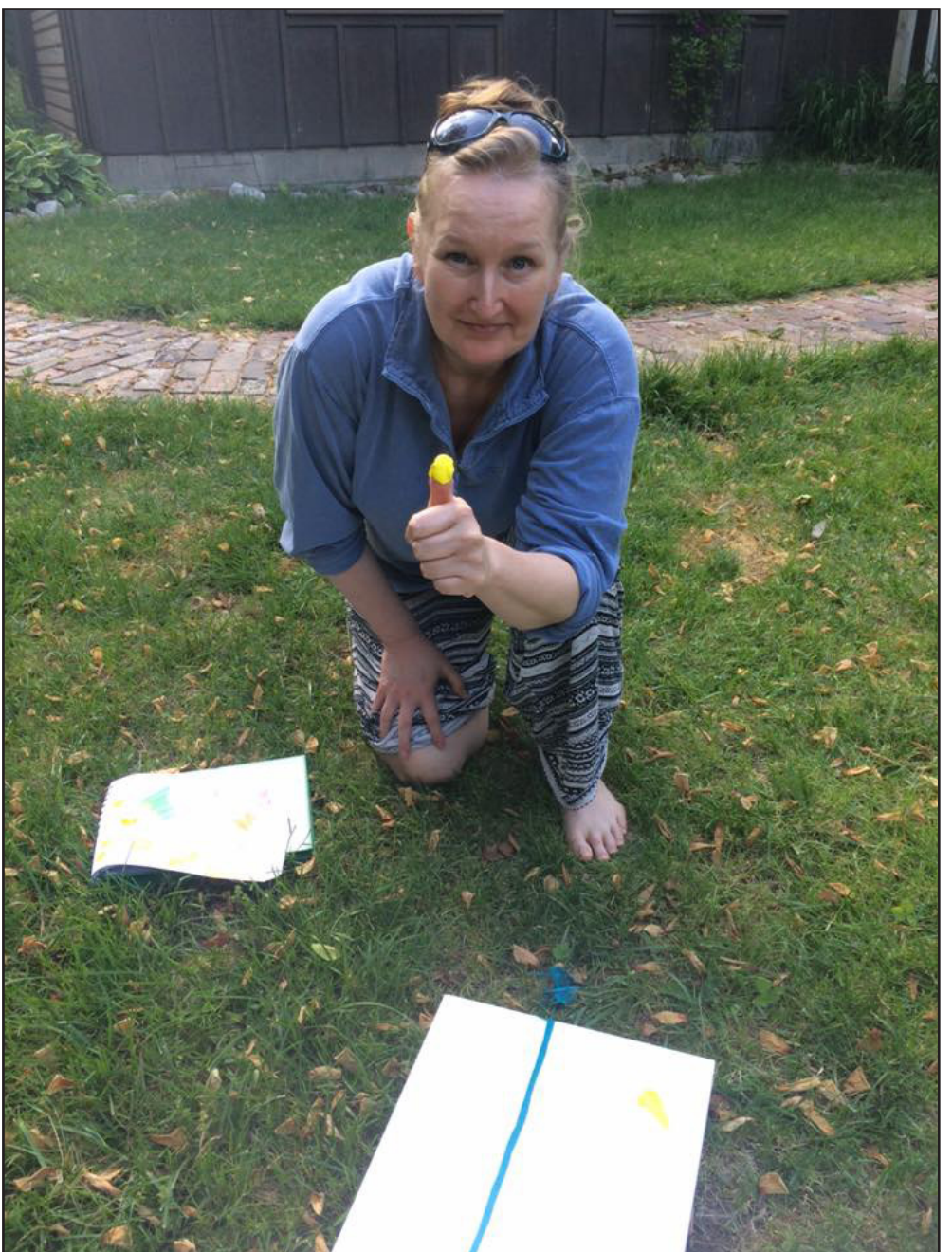
"We had an art show that

happened at New Holland Brewing Company in downtown Grand Rapids, and that was a huge success, so we decided to do it again," Hagedorn said. "I thought it was going to just be once, that we would try it once and see what it would look like, but then we did it again the following year. When I realized that I wanted to keep these kids and adults engaged in the arts, doing something and creating, and keeping up my relationship with them, that was when we decided to do the marketplace, and that was really successful. As we talked about it through the year, they came up with ideas that they were going to sell certain handmade pieces of art. It could be a six-year-old doing finger macramé necklaces, which is something that someone did, bath bombs or things of that nature, something that they would create. Typically it's the Care artist that does it, sometimes their family helps them. They can create whatever they want, and 100 percent of that money goes back to that particular artist. When someone walks into the show, they'll see all of the art, each one of the artists will have their own table, they will be able to sell whatever it is that they're selling and that money goes directly to that artist. To keep them engaged and inspired, and to make a few dollars for them can be pretty awesome! This year we've decided to combine both of them, the art show and the marketplace. The event is going to be on Sunday, June 12 at Grand Valley Artists, that's behind Schuler Books on 29th St. [in Grand Rapids], and the time will be from three to six."

For more information about Care on Canvas, look for their Facebook page or send a message to cynthiahagedorn@msn.com.



Julie Lensink (left) and Cynthia Hagedorn (right) after a painting session. "She is a rockstar," Hagedorn said.



"Beth V. with a yellow thumb, she now lives out east," Hagedorn said.



The Restless Viking

The World Less Traveled
With Chuck & Martha Hayden
www.restless-viking.com

~ Neebish Island - Islanders

by Martha Hayden

I have always enjoyed meeting people. Islanders in the Great Lakes have become my favorite individuals to get to know! Each of us are born with our personality and grow into it within the guidance of our surroundings. Islanders have the ability to develop to their full potential without societal constraints. They are passionate and dedicated with strong ties to their family history.

Neebish Island houses 63-89 year round residents who hold these traits and were a joy to get to know! Just as other island communities, Neebish holds a strong bond among the people. Without hesitation, each would jump at the opportunity to help their fellow residents. Join me in meeting some amazing people! I thoroughly enjoyed spending time on Neebish Island!

at the campground having ice cream. I can't wait to meet you!" The personal correspondence warmed my heart!

The Ferry Workers

The ferry workers often have to make several trips across the channel at their two hour scheduled intervals. (Except from January 15th – April 1st when they run a limited schedule.) In between each slotted time they go home, but there's no relaxation as the next scheduled trip is less than two hours away. I imagine that the routine would become tedious, yet the workers were cheerful and patient as we loaded and unloaded our Jeep and boat trailer.

Getting Lost (Only For A Moment)

After departing from the ferry we were on our way to the Neebish Island Resort and Campground, when we made a wrong



Island, which means 'where the water boils.' In 1903 the west side rapids was reduced by widening and deepening the "rock cut" allowing waterway traffic to flow more smoothly. To avoid another collision in the narrow passages, traffic is diverted to either side of Neebish Island.

Arriving At The Campground

As promised, Lori met us as we drove in. "Welcome to Neebish Island!" She walked over to our Jeep. "I'd like to take you on a tour tomorrow. What time works for you?" Lori bubbled with energy. It felt like we were coming home, but to a place that was entirely new.

Connie, The Camp Owner

Lori introduced us to Connie. It was clear that

barreled into the camp in a bright red Jeep. "I'm looking for a salad." he explained. "They directed me here." Connie squeezed her lips to the side, "Just a minute." She went into her own home. When she returned she carried a head of lettuce and two tomatoes. "Here you go. This is what I've got." She shrugged. He broke into a boyish grin. "Thanks!"

distance near Connie's back porch where the adults had congregated for conversation. "We're cold." They announced. "We're going by the fire. We'll put the stuff away tomorrow." With arms flapping toward the geese, the kids ran off. Connie simply chuckled to herself, shaking her head with a grin.

After Connie's husband passed, she and her two boys

Lori had marked all the important sites we'd see on our tour. What an amazing guide! She went above and beyond my expectation for an interview. Soon we were chatting like old friends.

"Little Neebish was settled first." Lori started the tour before we left the campground. She was a sage of all things Neebish! "There were 150 men running a sawmill there."



The U.S. Postal Service serves the Neebish Island community well.

Then the gentleman eyed the freezer case with ice cream. "May I have some... mint chocolate chip and Neebish Island fudge?" Connie packed scoops into to-go containers. He left a hefty tip on the counter. It made me smile to see him appreciate Connie.

The Lemonade Stand

The following day a lemonade stand appeared nearby our camp. Connie's grandkids had come to visit. I appreciated how she allowed the duo to create their own business. We deposited funds into the securely taped down "Coca Cola" cup as Chuck commented, "I guess they're on break." He nodded toward the sand hill where the kids were playing.

Around dinner time, back at the stand, the youngsters were

bought the campground. I believe her passion and love shine through as an honor to her husband. More recently, tragedy struck when one of her sons suddenly died of heart failure.

I can't begin to image the size of her grief, yet she continues to serve others. Connie has made a lasting impact on me and I will continue to think of her often as a model of how to live life.

Breakfast

DaViking is an early riser and enjoys cooking at camp. (What a BONUS for ME!) Each time he was preparing food, a visitor from a neighboring camper appeared. Bear was very polite and waited patiently for something to drop, which would happen frequently.

Our Tour of Neebish Island with Lori Miller

"There's still a little rivalry between Little Neebish and Neebish islanders." She added with a grin and a shake of her head.

Later, a Coast Guard ship housed engineers and workers when they were building the rock cut and the Soo Locks.

The devoted members of the Little Neebish Pioneer Association work to keep history alive with meetings and planning activities. Soon there will be a historical coloring book available.

Neebish History – The Short Version

Farming had been a way of life for decades on the island. In 2019 the last of the cattle were removed after 100 years of farming. There used to be two year-round stores, four schools and two churches. Now there's only Connie's store



Yes! The campground store has ice cream! Islanders make regular trips to the Neebish Island Resort for a treat.

Neebish Island Facebook Groups

Before we left on our journey to Neebish Island, I joined their local Facebook groups. Lori Miller, an islander, reached out to me in a private message welcoming us to the Neebish Island Historical Society, which she is a board member. Her husband, Ed, grew up on the island. In their retirement the couple moved to Neebish in 2013. From what I gathered, Lori was a born leader and has embraced the Neebish culture!

I immediately responded to Lori and requested an interview, if she had time to meet with us. As soon as I messaged our arrival date she replied, "I'll probably be

turn. The island is seven miles long and three miles wide. It had surprised us that we had 'gotten lost' but only for a few minutes.

Freighter Traffic

As we approached the resort and campground a freighter greeted us! Freighters travel northbound on the east side of Neebish Island and southbound on the west side.

The reason the shipping traffic was split had started when the Houghton (ship) collided with a barge on September 5, 1899 on the east side of the island. The accident clogged the shipping channel for many days. Something needed to be done to navigate the narrow channels around Neebish

Lori and Connie, the camp owner, had a special kinship as they shared a smile.

Connie looked up from her task and casually stated, "You can pick any site and make yourselves at home."

Connie has left a lasting impression on my heart! Her dedication to the campground and the islanders is one of complete servitude. Her tasks of caring for the cozy cabins and pristine campsites were often interrupted to scoop ice cream for waiting customers at the store.

The Only Store on Neebish Island

Connie's generosity repeatedly shined as she served guests and islanders alike at her store and the Neebish Island Resort.

That evening a man



These cabins are rented to families who make an annual trip as well as to newcomers. Connie organizes the schedule and cares for those at the Neebish Island Resort.

commenting on the money left in their chauffer. "It's five dollars. How do we split it up?" they pondered as the pair packed up their table and items on their grandma's golf cart. They drove the cart a short

Lori Miller arrived promptly at 10:00 am to take us on a tour. She graciously offered to drive as she knew her way around. We hopped into her orange Jeep. Lori had a gift bag and a plot map for us.

at the campground, no schools are left and only one church.

Communication

"This is where I come

Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestlers rule District Tournaments

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

When it comes to the individual high school wrestling tournament for any program the dream is to qualify all 14 kids to the state tournament. For most programs, this is a pipe dream. For Lowell, it's always the goal. The Red Arrow wrestling program took one more step toward that goal this year by qualifying all their wrestlers for the individual regional to be held this upcoming Saturday.

All 14 Lowell wrestlers placed fourth or above at last weekend's district tournament, securing their spot in the regional round.

District champions for LHS included Carter Cichocki, Jackson Blum, Ramsy Mutschler, James Link, Landon Miller, Carson Crace and Carter Blough. Tacho Gonzales, Nate Cleaver, Jared Boone, Owen Segorski and Landon Musgrave all placed as district runners-up. Easton Lyons (third) and Bryson VanderMeulen (fourth) rounded out the district wrestlers.

In the 140-pound weight class, Landon Miller knocked off teammate Jared Boone for the district championship. One of the unique aspects of the tournament is schools can put two wrestlers in one weight class if they feel that having an extra wrestler in that weight class instead of another would be beneficial to both wrestlers.

In the case of 140, Lowell's two wrestlers were the best two in the district and will again compete in regionals at 140 together. There have been rare cases where wrestlers from the same school meet in the state championship, a bittersweet reality when it happens for those programs as happened between Crace and Doak Dean last year.

In the team district, Lowell left little doubt, defeating Ionia 82-0 in the district semifinal and then host Greenville 58-8 in the district championship match. The wrestling program has won 27 consecutive district championships, their last loss in the district round



The Lowell wrestling team with their District Championship trophy. Photo courtesy of Matt Dood - Lowell Wrestling.

came in 1995 to Caledonia.

Upsets are rare in the district round and high-profile matchups generally tend to be held in the regional and state rounds, but one such upset did happen in Division 2 as No. 9 St. Joseph edged out their neighbor No. 5

Stevensville Lakeshore by a point to advance to the team regionals. The other ranked teams No. 1 Lowell, No. 2 Whitehall, No. 3 Goodrich, No. 4 Gaylord, No. 6 Monroe Jefferson, No. 7 Mason, No. 8 Middleville TK, and No. 10 Bay City John Glenn all advanced. Bay City John

Glenn is coached by former Lowell assistant coach Matt Bishop, who returned to his hometown to coach in 2019.

The Red Arrows advance to the team regional where they'll enter as a heavy favorite to advance. They'll face Sparta in the semifinal round before a

potential regional final with either Middleville TK or Forest Hills Central. Those matches took place on Wednesday at Middleville TK and results were not available in time for this week's Ledger printing.

- GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics team competes in Coldwater

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

It was a trip to the Michigan border on Saturday for the Lowell

gymnastics team. The Red Arrows took fifth place out of 21 teams competing at the Coldwater Invitational. Lowell A's fifth-place

finish came from a total score of 134.25. The Lowell B team also competed taking 10th place with a 130.8.

For Coldwater, the meet was a special one as it was their annual Stick It For a Cure gymnastics meet. Over \$12,000 was raised that will benefit the local oncology center at ProMedica Coldwater Regional Hospital.

The Lowell gymnastics team is back at it this Wednesday for their conference meet being held at Rockford High School.

Division 2 placers: vault - Julia Meier seventh, Alexis Clark seventh; bars - Ivy McDonald, ninth; beam - Ivy McDonald, second; floor - Greta Forward, ninth.

Division 1 placers: Marissa Wever placed third in vault and beam, fourth in bars, sixth in floor and third in all around.



Lowell gymnasts with A group at the Coldwater Invitational. Photo courtesy of Lowell Gymnastics.

- BOWLING

Boys bowling notch first win

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

After losing 29-1 to Forest Hills Central earlier this season, on paper the Rangers would've appeared to have the edge heading into last Wednesday's conference match against Lowell. The Red Arrows had other plans though, as they earned their first dual win of the season 19.5-10.5 against Forest Hills Central.

Caden Witten (203) and Lucas Sloma (211) bowled high games, all five starting bowlers earned points in the team win.

On the other lane, the lady bowlers continued

their dominance in OK White competition where they haven't lost for over a month. Last week Lowell avenged one of their two conference losses of the season by beating Byron Center 28-2. They also beat FHC 26-4. In the matchup with FHC, Amelia Wells (180) and Tatum Lawrence (183) were high scorers with all team members winning points in the victory.

Each team competes this week against Northview and Cedar Springs before their conference tournament on Saturday.

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

Go Red Arrows!

the lowell ledger

obituaries

EVERITT



Lawrence "Jerry" Everitt, age 94 of Lowell, passed away on February 13, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife, Isabelle; son, Mitch; sons-in-law, Lee Ogle, Jim Ogle; and six siblings. Jerry is survived his children, Larry (Vicki) Everitt, Jack (Mary) Everitt, Ron (Mary) Everitt, Serene Ogle, Sona Ogle, Dan (Jodi) Everitt, David (Kathy) Everitt; sister, Alice Withers; 18 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great great-granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews. Jerry was a proud veteran of the United States Navy, serving during WWII. He went on to work for General Motors, retiring after 28 years.



Jerry loved being outdoors and photographing nature. He had an appreciation for all music, especially the Beatles, his favorite being George Harrison. Visitation was held 6-8 PM, Tuesday, February 15, 2022, Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services were 2 PM, Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Roth-Gerst Chapel. Rev. Gary Dougherty of Faith Bible Church officiating. Military honors will be performed under the auspices of Kent County Veteran Honor Guard. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, 564 South Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.



MEIS

Russell "Russ" Meis, a lifelong resident of Lowell, MI, passed away February 6, 2022, at the age of 65 after a 2-year battle with lung cancer. Russ is survived by his wife, Kathy Meis; children, Jason Meis and his wife Trisha, Lisa Meis and Adam Meis; grandchildren, Logan, Audrey, Evelyn, and Noah. He was beloved by all who knew him. Private services were held by the family.



MORLOCK

Samuel "Sam" M. Morlock, age 72, of Lowell, passed away on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. He was born on October 17, 1949, in Reed City, to Milton and Dorothy (Leinwebber) Morlock. Sam married Betty R. Renfrow on June 14, 1975. Sam proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He worked as a setup mechanic for Amway until retirement. Sam enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening, planting trees and going to the casino as well as volunteering at the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and being a Victim Advocate Volunteer for the Kent County Sheriff's Department for several years. Survivors include his wife, Betty Morlock; daughter, Jamie (Ryan) Watrous; grandchildren, Tyler Morlock, Denver VanBeek, Kyle Myers and Zach Watrous; great-grandson, Kinsler Morlock; great-granddaughter, Silvia VanBeek; sister, Sue (Lance) Morlock; and special niece, Jacqueline Gray. He is preceded in death by his son, Steve M. Morlock; parents, Milton and Dorothy; sister, Linda Langworthy; and in-laws, Ralph and Arlene Renfro. Visitation will be held from 6 pm until 8 pm on Friday, February 18, 2022, at First Baptist Church, 2275 W. Main Street, Lowell. Visitation will continue at 10 am on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at the church with a Memorial Service being held at 11:00 am. Burial will take place at Oakgrove Cemetery in the spring. To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign Sam's online guest book, or to share a favorite memory, please visit: www.MichiganCremation.com. Cremation arrangements are entrusted to Michigan Cremation & Funeral Care, Grand Rapids, (616) 452-3006, honored providers of Veterans Funeral Care.



VAN STEE

Van Stee, Edward P. 9/1/1938 - 1/29/2022
Van Stee, Edward 83, passed away peacefully at Metro Hospital with his wife and family at his side on January 29, 2022. Pete was a lifelong resident of Michigan, a Lowell High School Graduate and he proudly served his Country in the US Army. He retired from Van's Pattern Shop in Grand Rapids after 38 years. Pete loved hunting, gardening, and spending time on his farm watching the wildlife with his beagle. He would sneak out of the house and get on his tractor or 4-wheeler with his dog following behind. He was also active in his church and loved the Lord and his church family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lynette, who took wonderful care of him while he was ill; his daughters, Shawn (David) Herbster and Stacey (Thomas) Bryant; his brother, James (Peg) Van Stee; sister, Joan Burger; and sister-in-law, Carol Van Stee; grandchildren, Quentin (Katrina) Herbster, Hannah (Logan) Swartzentruber, Isaiah, Chloe, and Naomi Herbster, Reanna, Aria, and Carissa Bryant; and many nieces and nephews that he loved very much. Pete was preceded in death by his son, Mark; his brothers, William (Bill) Van Stee and Jerry Van Stee; brother-in-laws, Tom Burger and David Klunder; and sister-in-law, Patricia Klunder. There will be a visitation on February 26, 2022 from 3 pm to 4 pm with the memorial service at 4 pm and a luncheon following the service at Alto Calvary Grace Brethren Church, 13700 84th Street, Alto, Michigan, 49302. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Pete can be made to the Alto Calvary Grace Brethren Church Missions Program where Pete enjoyed working on projects for their mission trips.



Defend against scammers who target your Social Security benefits

Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your money and personal information by exploiting your fears. The most effective way to defeat scammers is to know how to identify scams and to ignore suspicious calls and emails. One common tactic scammers use is posing as federal agents or other law enforcement. They may claim your Social Security number is linked to a crime. They may even threaten to arrest you if you do not comply with their instructions. Here are three things you should do:

- Hang up right away or do not reply to the email.
- Never give personal information or payment of any kind.
- Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov to immediately notify the law enforcement team in our Office of the Inspector General.

You should continue to remain vigilant of phone calls when someone says



there's a problem with your Social Security number or your benefits. If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing. There are a few ways you can identify a scam call or email. Remember that we will never:

- Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
- Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

If you do not have ongoing business with our agency, it is unlikely we will contact you. Again, if you get a suspicious call claiming to be from us or law enforcement about Social Security, you should hang up and report it right away to our Office of the Inspector General at oig.ssa.gov.

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 vantil@ssa.gov.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of
Lucinda Homrich
Guardianship
File No. 12-210488-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her brother, Allen Homrich and any 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 April 12, 2022, at 9:00 A.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 Courtroom 9C and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: February 7, 2022

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 690-7176

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

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USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks.

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REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

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.

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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TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$37 per year and \$5 per month... start losing weight TODAY

NOREEN K. MYERS, ATTORNEY AT LAW - Compassionate, experienced, effective legal representation. Specialties include: wills & trusts, work related injuries, employment discrimination. 307 E. Main, Lowell, 897-5460.



help wanted

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.

IMMEDIATE OPENING - Buyers Guide walking route carrier. Deliver approx. 250 papers weekly. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Will consider a 14-year-old with a commitment from a parent for help with pickup. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED - Multiple positions available for truck drivers. Must have Class A CDL & clear driving record. Departments include: flatbed, bulk & aggregate. Experience required. Progressive pay scale, bonuses & full benefits including health, 401k with match & life insurance. Dental & vision also available. Apply in person at Timpson Transport, 3175 Segwun Ave, Lowell, MI 49331. Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm, or email resume to: info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 616-897-5905

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. Feb, March & April Veterans Potluck at 2 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

found

CAT FOUND - 2/12 Scout Cabin: male, 1-2 yr old, grey above, white below. 616-897-6465.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like STEET, TIME, AREAS, PARTICULARS, EDGING, SEES, SCAGS, BALLAD, ILEAC, DAF, DDT, ED, RIMER, SNORKEL, SALINE.

Grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle solution.

Large grid of letters for a crossword puzzle solution.



Red Arrow

- SKI

SPORTS

Ski team celebrates seniors

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Senior night on the slopes of Cannonsburg ended up being a great night for the Lowell High School ski team. Lowell took on Division 1 Rockford, Division 2 Forest Hills Central and Northview last Wednesday at Cannonsburg Ski Area. The team celebrated their eight senior racers Kaylee Byrne, Preston Sobeck, Emma Schmidt, Cole Lillie, Is Schmidt, Delaney Kelley, Olivia Torline and Elise Charron. The eight seniors are the most seniors in Lowell High School ski history.

Both the Lowell boys and girls took second place in their

slalom and giant slalom (GS) races respectively.

Kaylee and Colton Byrne swept first places finishes all around, followed up by Sobeck taking second in both GS and slalom. Emma Schmidt had solid finishes with fourth in slalom and sixth in GS. Torline also had an eighth place finish in GS. On the men's side, Hunter Stepanovich took ninth in slalom and tenth in GS.

Outside of the school team, senior Kaylee Byrne qualified for Team Michigan's all-state team that will compete at the national level. The Eastern High School Alpine Championships will take place on March 3-6. Byrne will travel with 11 of the other top Michigan High School women's ski racers to Attitash, New Hampshire for the competition.



The Lowell ski team seniors. Photo courtesy of Coach Byrne.

Men's slalom: Colton Byrne - first, Preston Sobeck - second, Hunter Stepanovich - ninth, Cole Lillie - 11th, Jesus Bassy - 15th and Anders Melby - 18th.

Men's GS: Colton Byrne - first, Preston Sobeck - second, Hunter Stepanovich - 10th, Cole Lillie - 15th, Jesus Bassy - 19th, Sam Konyndyk - 20th.

Women's slalom: Kaylee

Byrne - first, Emma Schmidt - fourth, Is Schmidt - 15th, Delaney Kelley - 17th, Silvia Scuriatti - 21st.

Women's GS: Kaylee Byrne - first, Emma Schmidt - sixth, Olivia Torline -

eighth, Is Schmidt - 14th, Elise Charron - 22nd, Sophie Konyndyk - 27th.



Restless Viking, continued

to call the power company if we've lost electricity. Otherwise, we don't usually get a signal inland." Lori explained. Some islanders still live off the grid. They don't have electricity or indoor plumbing. However, for those who do use internet and cellular service, there are two spots on the island where one can be sure to receive signal.

In fact, later in our escapade, Lori spotted a car parked and a man in it. She needed to investigate to ensure he was alright. As we drove up closer she recognized him and introduced us. The gentleman was on the phone with his wife who was on the mainland camping. "I can get signal here, so I'm talking to my wife." He smiled relieving our worries.

We met a local man on the trail while walking. He introduced himself with a nod, "Bauman. I got the blue mailbox." I gathered that island life was a lot less complicated.

Anne and Steve Earle

Next, Lori drove us into a driveway leading to a log cabin right along

the shipping channel. We wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet so many locals if it hadn't been for Lori's outgoing thoughtfulness and time!

A man was fixing hinges on the door. He looked up and smiled. Lori called to him, "Steve, is Anne home?" Steve called to his wife who had to come through another door and walk around the house. Anne sat right down and started in on their family histories.

Steve's grandmother, Maude, was an original white settler on this property. Anne described the original house and the additions that had been made. His grandmother's story is one of independence and strength.

"Twenty-five years ago a passing freighter saw lightning strike and start a fire on the island." Anne's eyes widened. "You could hear sap boiling in the trees." Fire continues to be a vested threat on the island. With a troop of volunteer firefighters and two fire trucks, residents continue to be diligent in their fire prevention and awareness of possible hazards.

School

At one time, Neebish Island had four schools. There was a school for Native Americans, the Coast Guard education center, another one (Lori wasn't sure of the name) and the little stone school.

Ed, Lori's husband, had reminisced how the teacher had to be the bus driver, too. He picked up students in a VW van and then returned them home each day.

When the stone structure became unsafe in 1964, a new school was built. Now this building serves as a community center. In the past they have held Halloween and Christmas celebrations until 2006 when the gatherings ended. Now Ed, his sisters, Lori and others have worked to bring the magic back to the residents by organizing parties. (With the exception of last year 2019 due to the Covid virus.)

There's no longer a school on the island. The four school-aged children are either home schooled or attend a public school on the mainland.

The Church

Neebish Island Presbyterian Church



Lori Miller, a dedicated islander and board member of the Historical Society, greeted us warmly and brought us on a personal tour of the Neebish Island the following day.

will celebrate its 95th birthday next year. "All are welcome!! Friends from many denominations gather weekly throughout the summer to thank God for our many blessings and support each other." This quote is from May 20, 2017 on the Neebish Island Leaflet. (Facebook page)

Islander, Diane Laitinen, has organized visiting ministers. They come from a variety of denominations and lead

services each week during the pleasant-weather months.

The church bell is rung at the start of Sunday services and it operates as the island's "emergency signal." Its sound can be heard for miles.

Islanders' Giving Spirit

My heart has been filled with the love these Neebish Islanders have shown to us. Their ability to reach out and care for each other has

built a solid foundation of community. As time slides onward and new people move to the island, it will be fascinating to see the population transform. I imagine the new members will absorb the island culture of dedication to one another and fully developed personalities.

Resources:
The Neebish Island Resort
11550 16 1/2 Mile Rd, Barbeau,
MI 49710 Phone: (906) 632-2067
<https://glialliance.org/neebeish-island/>

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

LIBRARY LEARNING WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

LIBRARY LEARNING WORD SEARCH

BARCODE
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BINDING
BOOKS
BORROW
BROWSER
CALL NUMBER

CIRCULATION
CITATION
DATABASE
DICTIONARY
EDITION
FOLIO
HOLD

INDEX
JOURNAL
LIBRARIAN
MAGAZINES
REFERENCE
TEXT

Guess Who?

I am a singer born California on February 17, 1972. I wrote my first song when I was five years old, and met my first bandmate in school. My anti-war album won a Grammy and six other music awards.

Answer: *Billie Joe Armstrong*

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the library.

S R H C R A E E

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

Answer: *Research*

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		
11					12					13	14	15
16					17			18				
19				20	21			22	23			24
25						26					27	
28					29					30		
				31	32					33		
34	35	36	37					38				
39					40	41	42					
43				44					45	46	47	48
49			50					51	52			
53		54						55				
56		57				58				59		
60					61	62				63		
			64							65		

CLUES ACROSS

- Remain as is
- Functional
- News magazine
- Popular treat
- Area units
- Artificial intelligence
- Marten valued for its fur
- Forms of matter
- Home of the Dodgers
- Bordering
- Part of the eye
- It might be nervous
- Visualizes
- Crest of a hill
- Measures engine speed (abbr.)
- Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
- Not easily explained
- Song in short stanzas
- Detonations
- Intestinal
- EU cofounder Paul-Henri
- Balmy
- New Mexico mountain town
- Gobblers
- Insecticide
- Golf scores

CLUES DOWN

- Has its own altar
- "Pollock" actor Harris
- Being livable
- NHL play-by-play man
- "The Great Lakes State" (abbr.)
- Unpainted
- Swam underwater
- Native American people
- Containing salt
- Exam
- Small bone in middle ear
- Long, angry speech
- Move out of
- Male organ
- Two-toed sloth
- Making dirty
- Article
- Oil company
- Emits coherent radiation
- Amounts of time
- Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- Forbidden by law
- Drains away
- Not out
- Sea patrol (abbr.)
- Bird genus
- Gratuity
- ___ and feathers
- Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
- Hot beverage
- Pouch
- It followed the cassette
- Large northern deer
- Ones who offer formally
- Famed genie
- Bequeathed
- Skeletal muscle
- Atomic #56
- Silk garment
- They deliver the mail
- Equally
- Check
- Light-colored breed of hound
- Drug that soothes
- Railroads
- Most slick
- Jacket
- A radio band
- Hello
- His and ___
- Supporter
- Popular software suite (abbr.)
- Railway
- NY coastal region (abbr.)

Today: Wednesday, February 16

Wednesday, Feb. 16 is the 47th day of the year. There are still 318 days remaining in 2022.

Historic Events

1804: Stephen Decatur leads a raid to burn the pirate-held frigate USS Philadelphia during the First Barbary War.

1862: Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captures Fort Donelson, TN (near the Tennessee/Kentucky border) from the Confederate Army.

1881: The Canadian Pacific Railway is incorporated by act of parliament.

1918: The council of Lithuania unanimously adopts the Act of Independence, declaring Lithuania an independent state.

1923: Howard Carter unseals the burial chamber of Pharaoh Tutankhamun.

1937: Wallace H. Carothers receives a US patent for nylon.

1940: The German tanker Altmark is boarded by sailors from the British destroyer HMS Cossack and 299 British prisoners are freed.

1945: American forces land on Corregidor Island in the Philippines.

1945: The Alaska Equal Rights Act of 1945, the first anti-discrimination law in the US, is signed into law.

1959: Fidel Castro becomes leader of Cuba after dictator Fulgencio Batista was overthrown on Jan. 1.

1960: US Navy submarine USS Triton sets sail from New London, CT to begin

Operation Sandblast, the first submerged circumnavigation of the globe.

1961: NASA satellite Explorer 9 (S-56a) is launched on a mission to study the density and composition of the upper thermosphere and lower exosphere of Earth.

1962: Flooding in the coastal areas of West Germany kills 315 and destroys the homes of about 60,000 people.

1968: The first 911 emergency telephone system goes into service in Haleyville, AL.

1978: The first computer bulletin board system is created, CBBS in Chicago.

1985: Hezbollah is

founded.

1986: The first video game in the "Legend of Zelda" franchise is released in Japan on the Famicom console.

1996: An Amtrak train on its way to Chicago collides with a commuter train bound for Washington DC, killing 11 people.

2005: Following its ratification by Russia, the Kyoto Protocol comes into force. It was an international treaty that extended the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change requiring a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was subsequently renewed again but eventually allowed to expire on Dec. 31, 2020.

2005: The National Hockey League cancels its entire 2004-2005 season and playoffs due to a labor dispute.

2006: The last "MASH" (mobile army surgical hospital) unit is decommissioned by the US Army.

2013: A bomb blast at a market in Hazara Town, Pakistan kills more than 80 people and injures 190 others.

Birthdays

1903: Edgar Bergen, ventriloquist

1909: Hugh Beaumont, actor

1916: Bill Doggett, pianist, composer

1931: Otis Blackwell,

singer/songwriter, pianist

1935: Sonny Bono, singer/songwriter, politician

1941: Kim Jong-il, Supreme Leader of North Korea

1952: James Ingram, singer/songwriter

1954: Margaux Hemingway, model, actor

1957: LeVar Burton, actor, TV host

1958: Tracy "Ice-T" Marrow, rapper, actor

1959: John McEnroe, tennis player, sportscaster

1961: Andy Taylor, singer/songwriter, guitarist, Duran Duran

1964: Christopher Eccleston, actor

1972: Jerome Bettis, football player

1972: Sarah Clarke, actor

1982: Wasalu "Lupe Fiasco" Jaco, rapper

1989: Elizabeth Olsen, actor

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MI child care providers to receive over \$365M in grants

The Michigan Board of Education was presented a report regarding how \$1.4 billion of funding to support children, families and providers is being spent.

The state has awarded \$365,572,525 from the federal Child Care Stabilization Grant to 5,890 child-care providers from across Michigan.

The child care providers include group homes, family homes, tribal providers and child care centers.

According to the report, the grants are a way to deal with a growing wait list for child care in the state. The report stated there are 4,762 vacancies for full-time child care providers and 4,473 vacancies for part-time workers.

More than half of the grants were issued to 10 Michigan counties, including Clare, Genesee, Ingham, Isabella, Kent, Lake, Macomb, Mecosta, Oakland and Wayne. The report stated those counties represented the greatest need for child care in the state.

The next round for grant applications will be held in March 2022.