

Longtime High School PA announcer to retire

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Anthony “Tony” Stencel, affectionately known as the “Voice of the Lowell Red Arrows” has made his final announcement at Lowell High School, as he announced his retirement from public address announcing last week.

“I am grateful to Tom Starr for allowing me to announce high school sports starting in 1990, as well as to the fans who filled the stands each and every year. I enjoyed announcing many sports. Football, softball, basketball and track & field. It was always great to see how many Lowell followers would show up for games,” Stencel said following the announcement.

The public addresser position first came about at LHS on September 23, 1938. Lowell played Greenville in the opening football game, winning 6-0 at Recreation Park. Lowell High School Athletic director Ray Avery utilized a loudspeaker, and did a play-by-play of the game to a crowd of 600 people.

Of course, the position has evolved significantly since then. Behind the scenes there is a lot more to announcing than meets



Tony Stencel calling a game with son-in-law Shad Propst serving as spotter behind, and Dale Minier running the scoreboard in the background. Minier passed away in 2015 and worked side by side with Stencel for many years. (Ledger Stock Photo - Karen Jack)

the eye. Announcers have to make sure pronunciations are correct, especially for the home side, as well as being prepared with an outline and script for gameday activities.

That’s not even counting handling the sound system where the National

Anthem is played and during basketball games, music before the game and at halftime would be played. PA announcers also have to be quick to act if anything goes wrong, whether that is a weather delay, sound system malfunction, or knowing what to say if an

emergency arises, the PA announcer’s job is critical to game day operations.

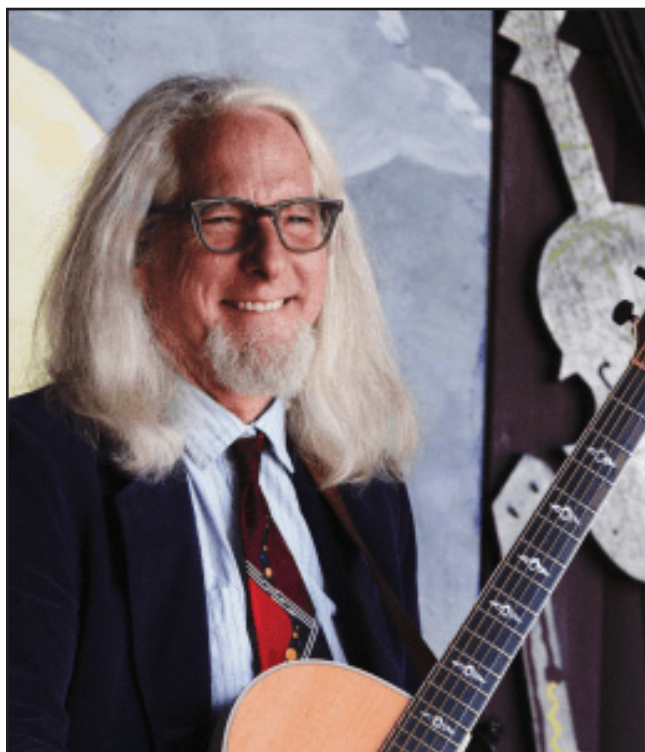
“Lots of paperwork. It took special work to get ready. Knowing and understanding the team names, calling schools to get the correct pronunciation of players, and talking with

coaches and officials before the games,” added Stencel.

A Farmington Hills native, living in the Lowell area since 1972, Stencel’s years in the press box can be characterized by a full house. The press box was

Announcer, continued, page 2

Heywood Banks to perform April 30 at The Old Theatre



by Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

Heywood Banks is a treasure from Michigan that many, if not most, would place on par with the Petoskey Stone or Faygo pop. The multi-talented sage has gained national recognition as a cult hero with a fan base that may, or may not, rival that of The Rock. Search YouTube and you can build a collection of over 150 songs from the prolific Mr. Banks who admits to having written “hundreds more” in the years spent perfecting his craft before the existence of YouTube. (Which begs the question, did anything really happen if there is no

Photo courtesy of Crystal Giordani.

Heywood, continued, page 3

LowellArts presents The Cemetery Club

LowellArts Theater presents *The Cemetery Club* by Ivan Menchell, a comedy/drama about three widowed best friends sharing the struggles and joys of love, loss and acceptance.

Three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands’ graves. Ida is sweet tempered and ready to begin a new life; Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun; and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene. He meets the widows while visiting his wife’s grave. Doris and Lucille squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida. They are guilt-stricken when this

nearly breaks Ida’s heart.

Martha Hayden as Ida, Sandy Kirchinger as Lucille, Deb Canfield as Doris, Ken Parrish as Sam, and Joanne Bailey-Boorsma as Mildred. Directed by Sue Bradford and Assistant Directed/ Stage Managed by Teresa Goldner.

Performances are: Friday, April 29 at 7 pm, Saturday, April 30 at 7 pm, Sunday, May 1 at 2 pm, Friday, May 6 at 7 pm, Saturday, May 7 at 7 pm and Sunday, May 8 at 2 pm. All performances will be held at the LowellArts Gallery, 223 W Main St, Lowell. General Admission tickets are: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. More info at www.lowellartsmi.org/the-cemetery-club.

Spring Fling



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Ripple opens downtown



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aerobic cannabis



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EV charging stations upgraded

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Lowell High School sports



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The third annual Spring Fling

by Emma Palova
contributing writer

The third annual Spring Fling in celebrated a very cool spring in beautiful downtown Lowell. Showboat VI was open for touring and a chance to get a specialty cookie and your postcard stamped to win one of four shopping bags full of Lowell town goodies.

A total of 36 businesses participated in Spring Fling and the Cookie Adventure on Saturday from noon to 5 pm.

The shopping shindig was a huge success in 2020, and continued this year instead of the spring Girls Night Out (GNO).

"It has always been less busy than the one in the fall," said Liz Baker,

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director.

The next GNO will be held on Oct. 13. Mark your calendars.

"We sold a lot cookies during the first Spring Fling," said Baker.

The Cookie Adventure passport was sponsored this year by realtor Teresa

Hoffman of Midwest Properties at the Showboat. People had their passports stamped at 10 different stops for a specialty cookie. Some of the cookie stops included Showboat VI, Tap House Boutique, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, along with others.

More photos on page 9



Martha Davis of Tap House Bo was on the Cookie Adventure.

Announcer, continued

always a welcome place for Stencel's family and friends who would often help him with his duties.

"I had plenty of help, my son-in-law Shad Propst, married to my daughter Trisha. My sons Tim and Aaron after they graduated. The last few years I was joined by my grandson Nathan Propst. For JV and freshman games, parents of the players helped too. They all served as spotters, telling me who did what during the plays," Stencel added.

Outside of the helping team, Stencel was greatly enjoyed by his coworkers in the press box keeping a fun, professional atmosphere. When Stencel was behind the microphone it was

all business, keeping a fair and unbiased voice during the PA announcing. During breaks in the action, he led the press box crew by keeping things light and fun.

The MHSAA also goes by this principle, noting that the public address announcer's job is "to inform the fans in attendance and to help set an educational atmosphere for the game." Stencel, a passionate Lowell supporter, always maintained this professionalism on the microphone through over 30 years.

Over the years Lowell won conference championships and state championships, experienced highs and lows, but overall the former

heavily outweighed the latter.

Stecel looks back on his time at LHS with fond memories. One of those includes the many Pink Arrow games he announced. "It was wonderful to see what Noel Dean did to bring our community together, bringing awareness of cancer through a football game," Stecel said of Pink Arrow.

Those games always brought emotion, from the honoree ceremony to the fireworks at the end. Tony was always ready to call whatever was happening with his support team at his back.

City council rejects ordinance amendment restricting marijuana facilities east of Flat River

by Emma Palova
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council rejected an ordinance that would restrict marijuana facilities east of the Flat River on a four to one vote on Monday night based on residential argument.

It was the consensus of the majority of council members that the existing facilities on the west side of town are surrounded by residential areas as well, and as such had to meet 23 to 30 requirements including fencing and parking.

"They do not affect me," said councilwoman Leah Groves. "Residential is not enough for me."

The other six to seven already approved marijuana facilities including the newest one Iconic west of

town on West Street and Meds Cafe are all in the vicinity of residential areas and have complied with all the necessary requirements.

"Marijuana stores are more regulated than Roll Away," said councilmember Cliff Yankovich. "They have more hoops to jump through."

The property under discussion was Roll Away Fun Center located at 805 E. Main Street.

Planning commissioner Bruce Parker said that Iconic went through three different meetings to protect residential areas.

"When we first met three years ago, we wanted to shield residential areas as much as possible," Parker said. "There is no residential property close to Iconic. We

asked for cameras and left turn only. Lume had to put up fences."

However, the majority of the council members maintained that the existing ordinance has upheld everything pertaining to marijuana facilities.

"Roll Away drew the biggest crowd," said Yankovich.

"This area isn't any closer than any other residential area," said mayor Mike DeVore.

The driving force behind the proposed restrictions was the closure of a child care facility at the Lowell United Methodist Church. When the child care facility was in operation, the 1,000 foot isolation radius required for daycare facilities served to prohibit

adult-use marijuana establishments on two of the three commercial properties located on East Main Street, east of downtown. The closure of daycare made the parcels eligible for adult-use marijuana establishments.

In other business: The city council discussed push-button signals at crosswalks in town to make the downtown more pedestrian-friendly.

"We had to argue to keep the speed limit at 25 mph," said Yankovich. "MDOT is not easy to work with."

Also under discussion was the sewer main in downtown as presented by Greg Canfield.

"We have no record that the city maintained that line," said manager Mike Burns.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following two amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance.

1. To add Section 4.47 to permit and regulate a shared driveway serving only two parcels. The proposed amendment requires each parcel to comply with the minimum lot area and road frontage requirements of the zoning district in which the parcels are located. In addition, a shared driveway must be a minimum of 20 feet wide and a maintenance and access agreement is also required.
2. An amendment to delete Section 4.22 which regulates outdoor events. This language must be removed to avoid conflicting with Township Ordinance 02-2022, the Lowell Charter Township Outdoor Event Ordinance recently adopted by the Township Board.

The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

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

The amendments may also be viewed on the Township web site at www.lowelltwp.org five days before the public hearing date.

Greg Forde, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

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Heywood, continued

documentation on the Web?) In spite of all of this, Heywood Banks will NOT be running for President.

On the bright side – he is coming to Lowell. He will be offering up his unique brand of comedy in song at The Old Theater on Saturday April 30th at 8:00 pm.

We were granted an interview with Mr. Banks after employing a combination of threats, bribes and outright begging directed at his mysterious gatekeeper and bodyguard: one Stuart Mitchell. The interview provided almost as many laughs as can be realized watching Banks perform. To prep, this reporter spent a good deal of time on YouTube being entertained by the wit and insight Heywood expresses in song. There is seemingly no object or subject he cannot

mine for comedy – kitchen appliances, overlooked internal organs, summer time and a Christmas Carol centered around five hobos.

“My writing style is part inspiration, part perspiration, and part desperation,” Banks claimed. “I wanted to be a folk singer, but there was a lot of unemployment involved. A folk singer is someone with a \$4,000 instrument driving a \$3,000 car on the way to a \$150 gig. I have a wife and two children who like to eat and have electricity.”

Banks recognized at an early age that he was not going to gain any recognition from athletic endeavors. He humbly describes himself as “being less than beautiful” so he could not skate by on his good looks and excelling at school work did not seem to provide much of a future either.”

“I did get a lot of laughs in the seventh grade in Mr. Cameron’s class,” Banks recalled. Mr. Cameron was apparently not as amused as his students and offered Banks a regular gig at the principal’s office. And thus the seeds for a long and illustrious career were planted.

The scope of subjects that have provided grist for his comedy mill are vast and seemingly endless. However, Heywood is proud of the fact that his shows are “mostly G rated” and he steers completely clear of political comedy.

“Come to my show to have a good time,” Banks said. “People generally feel much better after one. I have had many people thank me lately saying, ‘I really needed a laugh.’”

David and Lisa Reed are the new owners of The Old

Theater and to say that David is looking forward to hosting Banks is an understatement. He has been a fan for decades.

“I have never seen him in person,” David Reed commented. “We are really looking forward to bringing Heywood to Lowell.”

Tickets for the April 30th show will not only get you a night of family friendly belly laughs, but the Reeds are also using the event to raise money to help them restore the former Strand Theater. Talk about a win-win situation. You can purchase tickets online at www.TheOldTheater.com. The prices will go up the day of the show, so buy them early and save some money.

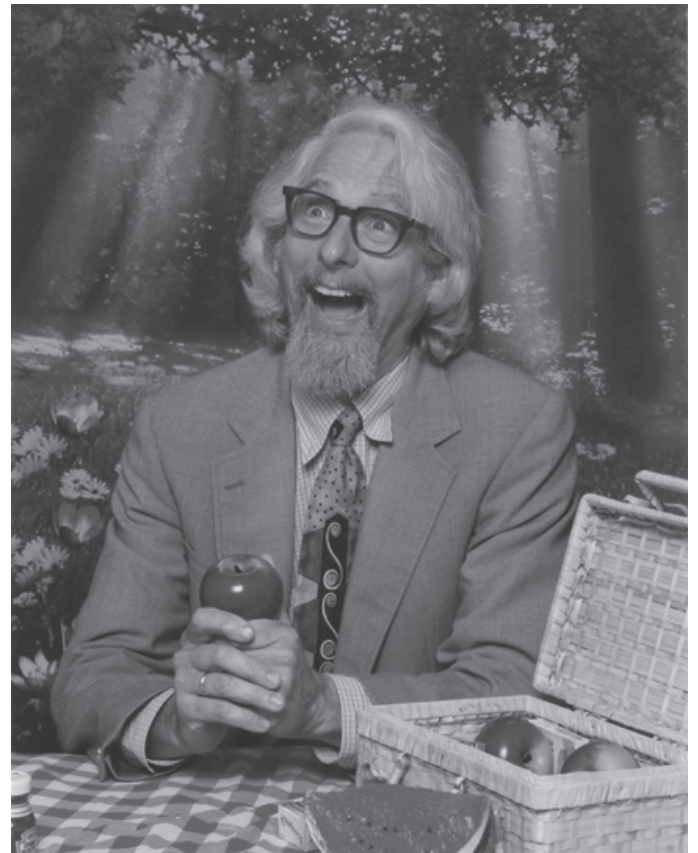


Photo courtesy of Heywoodbanks.com

Sandra Effert to perform at the Showboat on May 22

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Sandra Effert, a musician who lives in Grand Rapids, has a pretty busy schedule these days. She is not only a mother, but she also takes classes toward her computer science degree, works as a

music teacher, and writes, composes and records her own music. In the past, she has had a lot more time to pursue her music career and perform as much as possible. But the pandemic changed her outlook on her life. “I stepped back from performing mostly,” said

Sandra Effert. “I’m a single mom and before Covid hit, I had been teaching and gigging all the time. It was really hard. I didn’t get to see him (her son) much. When Covid hit I reorganized my priorities and decided to keep teaching music and making music but not really pursuing the touring aspect of it.”

Fortunately for the City of Lowell, she has made one exception this spring. Effert has agreed to be one of three headliners for a concert by the Showboat on May 22. Cliff Yankovich, Lowell resident and organizer of the concert, had seen her perform in the past and convinced her to be a part of the concert, which will also include Patty Pershaya and the Mayhops and Ryne Clarke. “Cliff reached out and asked me if I could do the show,” said Effert. “It

sounded like a cool show. He knows me through Patty. We are roommates and we’ve sang together many times, backing each other up. He’s been her fan for a long time and then came across my music. He has been an awesome supporter.”

Effert’s music is piano heavy and lyric-strong and has a similar sound to musicians Regina Spektor and Ingrid Michaelson. Effert released an album in 2019 called “River Rocks” and she has been featured on eightWest and performed at notable venues including Founders Brewing Company and The Intersection for the 2020 Jammie Awards. Other musicians who have influenced her are Queen, Adele, Taylor Swift, and Billie Eilish. Originally from South Carolina, she moved to Michigan in 2014 and started performing in 2016.

She credits her parents with getting her involved in music. “I have been playing piano since I was five years old,” said Effert. “My parents sat me down and said I had to pick an instrument to play and my dad played piano so it was the only instrument I knew. I was classically trained for about ten years and didn’t love the sheet music aspect of it and learning just classical music, and when I was 14 I had a teacher who taught me how to play popular music and how to

cover songs and eventually how to write my own songs and that was a big game changer for me.”

From there she would perform during 15-minute breaks for other musicians at clubs and hotels and then also at her high school talent shows. She went to college for audio engineering so that she could record her own music and then when she moved to Michigan, she did the open mic

Effert, continued, page 5



Photo courtesy of Sandra Effert.

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Downtown electric vehicle charging stations upgraded

submitted by Lowell Light & Power

Lowell Light & Power was in the forefront of technology in 2017 when Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations were installed. With growth in the EV community and advances in technology, it was time to proceed with a second generation of chargers.

Working together for the community, in alignment with Downtown Development Authority's mission to serve downtown, the City of Lowell, the DDA, LL&P and Flat River

Electric collaborated to upgrade the two electric vehicle charging stations in downtown Lowell; making downtown Lowell a destination to EV drivers.

In early 2022, the DDA voted to take over control of the two charging stations and authorized the purchase of the upgraded stations. Lowell Light & Power and the City of Lowell evaluated the purchase and coordinated the efforts to get the new chargers installed. Flat River Electric helped bring this project to fruition by becoming

certified for installation of ChargePoint charging stations. This enabled the use of a local contractor for the installation.

ChargePoint is one of the largest networks of electric vehicle charging stations in the US, including a map of stations throughout the state of Michigan. EV drivers will be able to locate our town on the ChargePoint map and save us as a favorite charging destination. ChargePoint's app will provide EV drivers with additional information, including how much it



Lowell Light and Power team members (L to R) Jaramie Wilson, Steven Rickert, Steve Shade, Zac Walker, Matthew Schuitema and Mark Droog, Mike Lott of Flat River Electric.

costs to charge, how many charging spots are available, photos of where the stations are, as well as tips from other drivers.

Global EV sales increased greatly in both volume and market share in 2021, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency, who works with countries around the world to shape energy policies for a secure and sustainable future. "It's expected that EV sales in the U.S.

will grow from around 500,000 vehicles in 2021 to over 4 million in 2030," according to visualcapitalist.com.

The new charging stations were installed on Monday, April 11. Prior to the upgrade, Lowell's charging stations could only charge one vehicle at a time, while the new chargers are dual port chargers, allowing two vehicles to charge at the same time. That means four vehicles can charge simultaneously. Charging times range due to battery size, whether the battery is empty or just needs to

be "topped up," the car's charging capacity and even the weather.

With a charging station on both sides of the Flat River, EV drivers can easily enjoy the walkability of Lowell's downtown area. "These chargers put Lowell

on the map for EV drivers. This will play a major role in attracting people from outside of our community to come visit Lowell. They can charge their vehicle while they eat and shop in our great downtown area," said city manager, Mike Burns.



General Manager Charlie West, Distribution/Transmission Manager, Ryan Teachworth of Lowell Light & Power and Mike Burns, city manager of City of Lowell.

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125 years ago Lowell Ledger April 23, 1897

This edition of the Lowell Ledger is missing.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 27, 1922

Little Robert Leary, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vern M. Leary, of 1577 Plainfield Ave., Grand Rapids, lost his left arm in an accident which occurred at the home of his uncle, Ralph Kinyon, of Caledonia, where he was caught in the cog wheels of an electric pumping system, and his arm drawn in and mangled to the shoulder.

President Harding officially started the 1922 baseball season at American League park in Washington by tossing out the first ball to Pitcher George Mogridge in the game between the Nationals and Yankees.

Hundreds have been rendered homeless and thousands of square miles inundated by floods resulting from unprecedented rains in a dozen states. No heavy loss of life was reported, says a Chicago dispatch. The storm swept Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and parts of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

75 years The Lowell Ledger April 24, 1947

"Parking on Lowell streets is improving but there is still room for more improvement," Peter Speerstra told business men at Monday night's council meeting. "Parking on the Main street by business men and their employees is on the decrease and fine cooperation has been obtained from most everyone."

All local service on the Lowell exchange of the Michigan Bell Telephone company was resumed on Tuesday morning of this week with the staff of twelve operators on duty of their own accord. However, no long distance calls can be accepted except in cases of real emergency.

Since V-J Day, according to VA reports, the number of its hospitals has jumped from \$7 to 126, or 29 percent, the number of its available beds from 78,944 to 100,541, or 27 percent, and the number of applications for hospital and domiciliary care has risen from 32,500 to 73,500, or 126 percent.

50 years The Lowell Ledger April 27, 1972

Lowell Police are investigating a larceny of money at the Raymond Herzog residence. Herzog reported April 22, that \$24 was taken from his wife's purse while it was in the car. The money has not been recovered, and the complaint remains open.

How much does a Plymouth Gold Duster filled with Pepsi, and eight WGRD disc jockeys' weight? 5,266 pounds? Sixteen-year-old Carol Smith guessed that amount and won the WGRD Heavy Wheels Contest!

The senior citizens of Lowell will openly discuss the possibilities of a Drop-in Center at a special meeting in the Lowell Methodist Church. Unique features of the program would be a "meal on wheels, for shut-ins," activities for all senior citizens, and things to occupy idle moments. The program will be ignited by the Lowell Community Center. All senior citizens are invited.

25 years The Lowell Ledger April 23, 1997

With the addition of the Eschenbach electronic magnifier, the Harold and Mildred Englehardt Library is now equipped with leading visionary technology. The closed circuit magnification equipment will allow patrons with vision impairment to magnify pictures and photos up to 70 percent.

Gordon Hubenet has his own Lowell historical library neatly bottled away in his home. His accumulated knowledge of the history of Lowell has been authored through his collection of bottles. "The history behind the bottles fascinates me," Hubenet explained. "The bottles have brought the history alive for me."

Lowell Township officials have approved one of their most expensive road improvement work orders, but will have only half of the problem solved. The township was hit with a work order of almost \$300,000 from the Kent County Road Commission for the paving of a one-mile stretch on Pratt Lake Avenue.



Effert, continued

scene in Grand Rapids and began to meet other musicians which got her more gigs at other venues. One of the musicians she met in Grand Rapids was Patty PerShayla. They did some singing together and got along so well, they decided to be roommates. The partnership has had many advantages, especially when they need some advice on the music they are working on. "There have been a couple of times when I've been writing a song and I just can't get the transition from a bridge to a chorus, and I'll ask her to listen to it and she'll add the perfect thing," said Effert. "It's just nice to have that so close by. We have completely opposite writing styles but I think that actually helps us complement each other when we're stuck."

Balance has been an important part of Effert's life and admits that it is not easy trying to juggle all the balls in the air. "It's not what I thought it would be when I was a teenager deciding to do music," said Effert. "The balance of it is intricate but what I've noticed is when I play music more often, it

makes me more focused in my life, it's made my mood better, it makes me to be able to tackle more mundane tasks easier. I'm teaching piano and voice too and that helps keep music in my life."

She has made sure not to push herself too much, so she'll record singles instead of taking on whole albums. "I just released a single," said Effert. "I like the no pressure of a single release instead of a whole album and touring it. Also, I'm always writing and will keep writing and if I think there is one song that will really do well being out in the world, I'll kind of release them as I go. I do have an idea for an album. When that happens, I don't know."

And performing live? Well, that has been put on the backburner for now... unless you live in Lowell! Her one and only show that she has scheduled for the summer will be on May 22 at the Showboat, along with Patty PerShayla and the Mayhops and Ryne Clarke. To find out more about Sandra Effert's music, you can visit her website at sandraeffert.com

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



At Your Local Library

Englehardt (Lowell) Branch of Kent District Library, 200 N. Monroe St., 616-784-2007, kdl.org. Library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, noon - 8 pm; Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 9:30 am - 5 pm.

Toddler Time Tuesdays (through April 26) from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Nurture your toddler's love of books through music, movement and stories while helping to develop their language, motor and social skills.

Family Story Time, Thursdays (through April 28) from 10-11 am. Read and sing together as a family. Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills.

Mahjongg, Fridays from 1-3 pm. American Mahjongg, a game of skill, strategy and calculation. All skill levels welcome.

Night Owls book discussion, May 4 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Fun, informal discussions of great books. May's book, *Save Me the Plums* by Ruth Reichl.

Open Craft Lab, May 7, 1-3 pm. Try something new or bring in your own project! This month, creating a personal "command center" using cookie sheets. For adults 18+.

Bookworms book discussion, May 10, 10-11 am. Fun, informal discussions of great books. May's book, *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.

Tea Tasting with Pour-d Tea Bar, May 11 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Tea is a mystery in a cup. Unravel the stories and history inside the teapot. Taste the five categories of tea. Learn how it's grown, processed and flavored. Explore its deep cultural influence, from Royal British tea parties. Registration opens April 11 at 12:00 am for adults 18+.

ABCs of Lowell history

The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced in 2020 as a way to share some of the many fascinating stories from Lowell's past. It was initiated in part by the pandemic shutdown which led the Museum to seek alternative ways to share local history with the community. The series will continue with a fourth round of the alphabet.

X Marks the Spot! Recreation Park Part Two

Perhaps the most festive time ever seen at Recreation Park was the Lowell Centennial Celebration in 1931. The celebration was staged mainly at the park. Publicity described Recreation Park as 'one of our outstanding possessions.' Additional bleacher seating was added. The park was alive with fundraising events before the celebration, including an amateur boxing contest. The three day Centennial Celebration began with an ox roast under the supervision of L.W. Rutherford, serving over 4,000 people. Throughout the celebration former Governor Chase S. Osborn, then Governor Wilber M. Brucker, and the Hon. Carl E. Mapes, Congressman, all made speeches from Recreation Park. The logistics alone for the arrival of Governor Brucker took a team of people to plan and execute. The Governor arrived in an airplane, landing in a field west of town that had been cleared for the landing. Lowell did not have an airport at this time. From there he was escorted by



Scenes from Recreation Park at the Centennial.

automobile right to the stage at Recreation Park for his speech.

The grand crowning of the Centennial Queen, Miss Emma Kropf, several band concerts, balloon ascension and parachute drop, baseball games, dancing, a racing matinee and various contests were all conducted at Recreation Park. The big parade, called "the finest arranged and conducted parades ever held in Western Michigan" ended with an estimated 30,000 people all making their way to Recreation Park. Carnival rides and food vendors were all part of the celebration.

In 1934, Lowell's Recreation Park hosted the first 4-H Fair, which turned into the Kent County Youth Fair that we know today. Much later, in 1961, Keats K. Vining explained that the West Michigan Fair had folded in the late 1920's and

Kent County 4-H clubs had no place to exhibit their livestock and other club work. Newspaper man R.J. Jeffries took him on a tour of Recreation Park. There was an empty horse barn from when horse races were run at Lowell. With assistance from the Lowell Council, Rotary Club and Board of Trade, a fair was started on a small scale and built into today's Youth Fair.

Recreation Park as a whole continued to be used for multiple uses and was the center of social events for the village. Baseball games, picnics and general public use continued. Harvest picnics and events included Halloween frolics with games, lunch and a costume parade. The Board of Trade worked with the common council in the project for a tourist camp at Recreation Park. This came to fruition in 1936.

Later, the park even hosted archery tournaments.

Then, football and Coach Burch came to Recreation Park. Countless games have been played at Recreation Park over the years. To many, Recreation Park, football and Coach Burch are all synonyms.

The 1940's were an exciting time for Recreation Park. Dr. S.S. Lee had left nearly \$70,000 to the city stating it was, "to be used in any way the village council may see fit for the general benefit of the village; and I would suggest that a part of the same of said revenue be used for the gradual improvement of Recreation Park." The earnings from the funds paid for the building of the Foreman Building at Recreation

ABC's, continued, next page

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area churches



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APRIL 21
Roxann Roth, Connie Phillips, Ian Newhouse, Daniel Titcombe.

APRIL 22
Mallorie VanDerWarf, Tim Hill, Mackenzie Hacker.

APRIL 24
Gary Goff, Trevor Foss, Nichole Hoag, Don Shaffer, Logan Propst.

APRIL 25
Bonnie Weststrate.

APRIL 26
Marsha Ray, Casey Brown, Bonnie Baird, Audrey Bailey, Jonathan Christiansen, Brad Brzezniak.



R'AIR Cannabis offers eco-friendly grown aeroponic cannabis

by Emma Palova
contributing writer

R'AIR cannabis is a step above hydroponics aeroponic cannabis, the only growing plant in Michigan completely soilless with roots misted in water nutrients using 98 percent of recycled water.

"We're all about being eco-friendly," said Lexi Areeda, manager of Lowell R'AIR dispensary located at 2264 W. Main Street with a large display room. "We are a women-led, vertically integrated company."

Different products are displayed in glass cases based on the type of product such as the flower itself, then various tinctures and supplements.

For the novice consumer, a consultation is recommended before usage. There are six ways to consume cannabis: smoking, vaporizers, edibles, topicals cream, supplements and concentrates for experienced users.

Using the common advice, "Start low, go slow," Areeda recommends orange

Daquiri which gives mild energy balanced with citrus aromas.

The R'AIR store opened in Lowell last fall after opening locations in Muskegon, Big Rapids, Bay City and an opening is planned in Kalamazoo.

"It's been amazing," said Areeda. "The community has been very receptive."

According to Areeda, the different cannabis stores in Lowell don't compete among themselves.

"We are looking for partnerships," she said. "We buy each other's products."

The choice of community for locating R'AIR stores depends on the municipality's licensing requirements and a number of other factors.

"We give back to the



Manager Lexi Areeda inside the display salesroom at R'AIR in Lowell.



Orange Daiquiri.



RAIR tinctures.

community," Areeda said. "We sponsor Sizzlin' Concerts, give back to various sports teams and volunteer at Gilda's."

R'AIR growing plant in Jackson, MI uses cutting-edge aeroponic technology paired with cultivation experience to bridge the

gap between commercial and small-batch cannabis flower. The aeroponic growing system ensures that every harvest yields safe and reliable cannabis. For more info go to: <https://www.rairco.com/>

ABC's, continued

This building was used for 4-H exhibitions, stock sales and indoor ice skating. It was named and dedicated to the memory of Ernest C. Foreman, "North America's foremost poultry man". As the park was undergoing improvements as provided in Dr. Lee's will, it was suggested that Lowell should build a museum at Recreation Park for old relics in order to save them for posterity. In the giving spirit, C.H. Runciman donated material for an arena in the Park. It was first used for the Wild West Rodeo.

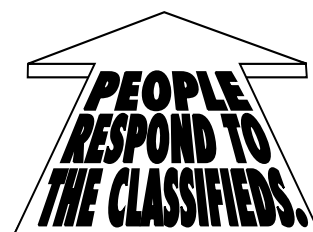
The 1960's brought the King Memorial Pool and tennis courts. In 1964 the tennis courts, track area, baseball diamonds and football fields were all deeded to the Lowell area Schools so they could make capital improvements. The agreement contained a reversion clause and the land has since returned to the city. In 1961 and then again in 1970, the high school graduation commencement exercises were held outside at Recreation Park.

The recent past has been rough for

Recreation Park. The pool closed permanently, the grandstands were destroyed in a storm and the Lowell schools built their own sports facilities. Today the fair is working on its own new grounds and facilities, and will leave Recreation Park.

Today we look towards the future of Recreation Park. It still has every potential to once again be

a gem, "one of our most prized possessions," a center of social activity, right here on this 30 acre spot in the heart of Lowell.



AUCTION

Kendall Tobias Auctioneer
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Sat., April 23, 2022 at 10:00 am.
Kent County Youth Fairgrounds, 225 S. Hudson St., Lowell

Antiques & Collectibles: China cabinet, dresser, trunk, bearhide rug w/head, lg. animal figurines, Asian/African/Native American art, antler, ox-yoke, boars head, beautiful animal skins, tools, toy cars/tractors, Salem jukebox, dishes, MORE! John Deere 214 garden tractor, ALSO tools, fishing items, MORE! Household Items.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider an application from Tip Top Gravel Company to renew its Mineral Mining Permit and Special Land Use Permit in order to continue a mining operation on its property. The proposed mining area consists of 13.76 acres. The current permits were granted in 2018 for a five-year period and will expire on May 15, 2022 unless they are renewed by the Planning Commission.

Location: 9805 East Fulton Street being Permanent Parcel number 41-20-06-300-005. The site is located on the north side of East Fulton Street abutting the west side of the Consumers Energy right of way.

The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

A site plan and other materials pertaining to the proposed mining operation are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

The materials may also be viewed on the Township web site at www.lowelltpw.org five days before the public hearing date.

Greg Forde, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

Ripple's Craft Food and Drink with intention pay homage to Yucatan

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Nestled on the west bank of the Flat River in downtown Lowell, the new Ripple restaurant pays homage to the food and culture of the Yucatan with staple dishes such as “cochinita pibil.”

“We’re not an authentic Mexican restaurant,” said owner Matt Parrott of Cannon Township.

And the colorful logo which depicts the sun, water, sand, and land, with the tagline “Craft Food and

Drink made respectfully with intention and purpose” reflects Ripple’s mission to bring the relaxing atmosphere from the Yucatan to Lowell.

“We’re not a fast-food restaurant,” Parrott said. “We’re intentionally trying to pay respect to the culture and recipes. We spend as much free time as we can in Yucatan.”

Whether you order tortilla chips with three salsas of your choice or a specialty dish from the Yucatan, Parrott and the staff make

sure that each order gets the same attention to detail.

“We’re not just spooning food onto the plate,” he said. “Everything is made from scratch.”

Ripple uses raw yellow or blue corn tortillas that are hand-pressed and cooked to order or fully prepared flour tortillas from El Milagro Inc. in Grand Rapids.

“I put my own spin on recipes and change things up a little bit,” Parrott said.

He likes to poke taco jokes at large chains such as with his MCDGT Taco aka



Owner Matt Parrott inside Ripple on the river and dam in downtown Lowell.



At Ripple on the river and dam, a relaxed atmosphere is enhanced with light décor and plenty of windows.

Street, and Riverside that can seat 96 with a total room for 154. A beautiful painting by artist Kristina Hutton graces one of the walls giving the restaurant a tropical feeling, a surfboard decorates the board with drinks, and light white furniture compliments the interior décor.

“We’re giving people space not to sit on top of each other,” Parrott said.

A large red sign on the back wall is a souvenir from the old Springgrove Variety that occupied the prime location before, and an old cooler provides chilled beverages against a fine display of spirits on wooden shelves.

Much like in the case of food, Ripple uses everything natural without additives including Mexican tequila Lunazul

for house Margaritas.

“Every product we use is recyclable or made from ocean recyclables,” Parrott said. “We’re hoping to make a ripple with the small things we do to influence others to want to make an impact socially and environmentally.”

Thus, the name Ripple aims to start a ripple of change in all aspects of the restaurant business, while paying tribute to the river that it sits on. But, “Ripple” is also Parrott’s favorite song by The Grateful Dead.

Lowell came as a natural choice after driving through and enjoying Saturday markets on Main for both Parrott and his wife Nicki who works as a family nurse practitioner in Saranac. They have already been on the lookout for the perfect spot for the restaurant since

Parrott was ready for a change from his Standard Pizza Co. catering business of 11 years.

“We liked Ability Weavers,” he said. “We thought this would be a cool spot to try it out. We like to be in communities that are progressive. We’d like to create a place where everyone feels welcome.”

They sponsored Pride Fest before opening the restaurant on March 22, 2022.

Parrott started out with a food truck for Vander Mill Brewery & Cideries in Spring Lake after majoring in horticulture and landscape design. But companies after 9/11 weren’t hiring designers, so he focused his attention on cooking. Vander Mill was being sold to another company and Parrott needed a new challenge.

“I enjoyed cooking,” he said. “It all came together at once.”

And Parrott challenges everyone to try new things that Ripple has to offer and appreciate the Yucatan cuisine with its aromatics and staples such as achiote paste that is made from annatto powder from the achiote tree. Its bright red seeds give the ingredient a beautiful red color. The pork is marinated with achiote and roasted overnight in banana leaves.

“It gets the bright red color from the seeds,” Parrott said.

It is served with habanero hot sauce on tacos with carrots and purple onion. Phibil gets its name from “pib” which was an earth oven in Mayan cuisine. The

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 7:00 PM. The subject of the hearing will be:

Proposed Drive-Thru Scooter’s Coffee Shop at 2531 W. Main Street

An application has been submitted by Krisandra Lippert for a drive-thru Scooter’s Coffee shop at 2531 W. Main Street (PPN 41-20-03-301-030). The applicant is seeking to rezone the parcel from I, General Industrial to C3, General Business.

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

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



Respectfully,
Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk

Mac Darn Good Taco which is basically a big Mac on a taco.

“I like to have fun with it,” Parrott said. “We’re serving food and drinks, why not have fun with it.”

The relaxing atmosphere of the new restaurant in town consists of spacious seating with large windows facing the river, Main



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Ripple, continued, page 12

More Spring Fling photos



Pictured right: Shoppers on Main Street during Spring Fling.



Pictured left: Kona Ice of Lowell with Kim Martin on Main Street.



Realtor Teresa Hoffman sponsored this year's Cookie Adventure and was stationed at the Showboat.



Theresa Stokely of Pampered Chef at Riverwalk Plaza inside the chamber office.



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Red Arrow

~ TRACK & FIELD

SPORTS

Track & field season preview

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

New spring sport facilities mean that Bob Perry Field is home to the Lowell track & field team this spring, and no other spring sport.

The good news for the team is they'll have plenty of opportunities to enjoy home advantage throughout the season, and there's excitement in the air with the program.

"We have about a half dozen athletes that I can see

running at the state meet in June," said head coach Paul Judd of his team prospects.

"All of our kids can run, jump, and throw; but many of them need to learn to do so with greater intensity. A successful meet for the Arrows will be if the other team knew they were in a fight. I like to think that we just keep "winding" up the intensity during a meet which is the key to getting the win in many of our dual meets. I think that both of the teams can finish in the

top two in the conference and would love to help the boys snag the elusive OK White Championship. We always coach for May which is the championship portion of our season."

A highlight on the

his athleticism. In addition to Josh we return a host of distance runners led by All Conference runners Cole Weston and Sawyer Fowler who both should continue to climb the record board. We are deep in the distance

Sawyer Fowler and Cole Weston in competition last week.



calendar every year is the Kathy Talus Memorial track meet, being held this Saturday at Bob Perry Field. "It pays tribute to both a great coach and the legacy of the program. I had the pleasure of having a daughter run for Kathy for one year so making sure this meet is a good one is important," Judd said.

Both teams return plenty of talent as they look to make a push for conference championships this season.

"On the boys' side we return All State hurdler Joshua Rau with similar expectations as last year. We will probably expand what Josh runs in hopes that we can take advantage of

area as they are supported by Jackson Fowler, Benjamin Bromley and Levi Mills. Ramsey Ponchaud had a great indoor season and should push the 13 foot mark in the pole vault which would put him ahead of the mark his dad (George Ponchaud) set in 1992. In the throws we bring back Keegan Cater and Isaac Graham in the discus which should bring some consistent points to the table. Brenden Wittenbach and Noah Van Laan also come back to bring points in the sprints, hurdles and jumps.

"On the girls side, we are looking to replace a lot of points to graduation and are looking to our distance

crew to help get that done. All-state runner Annika Sandman should continue to lower her school records while we look forward to sisters Keira and Katrina to get into the mid 2:20's in the 800m and also to support a couple of relay teams. Jadan Sanders and Jeselyn Spaulding will anchor the sprint crew specializing in the 400m and relays respectively. In addition to running relays Spaulding also is part of a returning throws crew comprised of Kaylee Byrne and Liberty Cook. Emily German will lead the hurdle crew."

In addition to returners, Lowell will have a few new faces on the team this season.

"We are excited to get a few sprinters from the football team in Aidan Fitzpatrick and Xavier

Young. Our sprint relays got better on day one with their speed and work ethic. I am also excited to see how our throws change with the addition of Kelton DeVito who looks like your prototypical shot put thrower. On the girls side the incoming freshman class is loaded with some good athletes. We anticipate Leah Krieger (jumps, Hurdles, relays), Hannah Flickinger (PV, jumps, sprints, relays), and Isabel German (sprints, pole vault, relays) will put some serious points in the bucket this season. The class reminds me of the incoming class that just graduated which is saying a lot. In addition we are looking forward to seeing a healthy Aubriegh Oswald get some throws in this season."



Kaylee Byrne tosses the shot put last week in the season opener against Byron Center and Grand Rapids Christian.

~ TENNIS

Girls tennis beats East Kentwood

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Unfortunately for members of Lowell spring sports teams, they're just not catching any breaks with the weather. Events are being played, but it is bitterly cold out for April. Temperatures in the 30's and 40's met spring athletes this week causing some postponements, however many events still went on.

One of those events was the girls varsity tennis match as they beat East Kentwood in a non-conference dual. Lowell swept the doubles flights while picking up wins in three of four singles flights. The dual was closer than the 7-1 scoreline suggested with three flights coming away with three-set wins.

At number one singles, Brooke Knottnerus won 6-1, 6-1. Lexi Royer, Lowell's

number two singles player, won a three-setter 4-6, 6-1, 12-10. Number three singles Delaney Kelley won 6-1, 6-3. Winners for Lowell at number one doubles was the team of Brynn Jackson and Olivia Torline 6-1, 6-4. Ella Todd and Kaylee Royer won 6-0, 6-3 at two doubles. In another three set match, Sedona Bonter and Olivia Berg picked up a win 6-1, 1-6, 10-4. Amelia Wells and Emma Boston rounded out the day with a 6-3, 6-7 (3), 10-5 three set victory.

Earlier in the week Lowell fell to Jenison 6-2. The Lowell quad scheduled for Saturday was canceled due to cold weather.

The Red Arrows (2-1) have a busy week this week with matches against Grand Rapids Christian, Cedar Springs, Forest Hills Central and Lakewood.

~ SOCCER

Soccer picks up first win of season

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Lowell improved to 33-0 all-time against Greenville in girls soccer by winning their first conference game of the season 7-0 on Wednesday.

Sophomore Ashley Powell recorded her first goal of the season to give Lowell a 1-0 lead at Greenville's soccer stadium. In a rainy, windy, mildly warm night, Lowell sophomore goalkeeper Aubree Lee recorded the shutout as the offense put six more goals into the net after 80 minutes of play.

Captain Emily Ake had two goals to lead the Red Arrows. Senior defender Maddison Borrelli had three assists and a goal of her own. Alyse Miles had one goal and one assist while Lilly Kooistra added a goal. Junior defender Leah Davison recorded an assist.

In the Friday night game, Lowell traveled to Cedar Springs to take on the Red Hawks. The Red Arrows took an early lead 1-0 after freshman midfielder, Gracy Hamilton, assisted senior forward, and captain, Lilly Kooistra who buried a goal in the right corner of the net. With 29 minutes to play, Cedar Springs equalized with a direct free kick that went into the bottom left corner of the net. With eight minutes to play, Cedar Springs scored the gamewinner off a long shot as a result of a corner that was redirected in. Despite the loss, sophomore goalie Lee impressed, tallying 14 saves.

The Red Arrows host Northview then head to Grand Rapids Christian and Grandville for a busy slate of games this week.

~ GOLF

De Voest leads in season opener

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Firing a top-ten round in program history is a pretty good way to start out the season. That's what Patrick de Voest did on Friday for the Lowell varsity boys golf team.

De Voest's 75 paced the Red Arrows in their season opening 18-hole tournament hosted by Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg. That round was tied for one of the top-10 rounds in program history, tying his score at Bedford Valley last year. Others with 75 in the LHS record books include Isaac Brenner, Chad Dunn and Brandon Poll. Golf rounds were one of the most tricky for LHS officials to compile, but over 1500 rounds since the 1960's are currently recorded in LHS records.

The score was good for second place in the field of

139 golfers.

Yankee Springs is a course where golfers are able to go low, but early spring conditions both on the course and the weather, don't often produce low scoring conditions.

Lowell was able to bring both an A and a B team to the event. Lowell's A team finished seventh place while Lowell's B team placed 18th. Playing for A team was Patrick de Voest, Cam Sluss, Drew Veldman, Ty Knottnerus, Adam Swanson and Nicholas Lothian. On the B side was Trevor Mead, Ben Gavin, Alex Binns, Colton Ritchie, Aiden Dial and Daniel Mitchell.

Other rounds for Lowell A included Veldman (85), Sluss (90), Knottnerus (98), Mead (100), and Swanson (102). The team has a home jamboree at Arrowhead this Wednesday, weather permitting.

Red Arrow

~ BASEBALL

SPORTS

Baseball wins Northview series

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

OK White baseball is here and this week Lowell took on Northview in a three-game series with a Thursday home doubleheader before

playing the Wildcats in a deciding third game on Friday.

Northview struck first winning 2-1 in the first of the doubleheader games behind a nine strikeout game by their pitching staff.

Aidan McWayne allowed just four hits and two runs pitching for Lowell over the entirety of the game's seven innings, with three strikeouts. Morgan North, Nolan Jannenga, Zach Hayes and Eric Bryce all had one hit.

In game two, Lowell got their bats going in a 6-2 win, silencing a noisy Northview dugout. Loud dugouts are commonplace in high school baseball and softball, whether it is supportive or trying to get in the opponent's head. A three-run second inning

highlighted by Peyton Teachworth's solo home run helped get Lowell off to a strong start. Teachworth was also the winning pitcher after giving up zero runs through the first four and a third innings and eight strikeouts.

In the series finals, Lowell built up a five-run lead and held off a surging Wildcats offense in the seventh inning to take the series win in a 5-4 victory.

Lowell led by four runs going into the last half of the seventh before Northview pulled three back. Carter



Peyton Teachworth pitching during game two of the series.



Coach Miller meets with the infield during a timeout.

Melnik recorded the save while Kyler Spike got the win on the mound.

Hayes each had two hits in the win.

At 4-2 on the season, the Red Arrows take on Grand Rapids Christian and the Kenowa Hills Invitational this week.

The Red Arrows jumped out to a lead on a Nolan Jannenga RBI single. Jackson Carlise and Zach

~ TRACK & FIELD

Arrows edge GR Christian, fall shy of Byron Center

submitted by Paul Judd
Track Coach

The Lowell boys track team started their 2022 campaign by getting in an old fashioned scrap with GR Christian and Byron Center where both meets were decided by seven points. In the track world that is basically a four-point swing, which means a lot when many of the races were separated by less than a second.

Everyone competed hard and we saw 15 AQ (auto qualifier for varsity letter) marks met, a 3200m time that moves to No. 4 on the Lowell High School record board and some amazing

races by both newbies and veterans alike. The only thing missing was a double victory.

Lowell travels to Caledonia on Saturday for the Soderman Relays.

Team Scores: Lowell 71, GRC 65 and Byron Center 72, Lowell 65.

Placing overall in the double dual for the Arrows were: first place finishers: Levi Mills 400m, 52.99, personal record (PR); Sawyer Fowler 3200m, 10:03.58 (PR, No. 4 LHS record board); Josh Rau 110MHH, 15.58 and 300MH, 42.33; Keegan Cater discus, 125-04; Noah

VanLaan high jump, 5-06 and 3200m relay team of S. Fowler, J. Fowler, Weston, Bromley, 8:35.02.

Second place finishers were: Kaden Northup 400m, 54.12 (PR); Sawyer Fowler 800m, 2:06.64;

Cole Weston 1600m, 4:44.17; Chris Wigger 300mH, 44.15; Isaac Graham discus, 118-07; Ramsey Ponchaud pole vault, 10-06.

Third place finishers for the Red Arrows were: Keegan Cater 800m, 2:11.58; Cole Weston 3200m, 10:19.43; Ramsey Ponchaud 300mH, 44.53; Josh Rau shot put, 40-03.25.

Lady Arrows defeat Byron Center but fall short to Christian

submitted by Paul Judd
Track Coach

The Lady Arrows started their spring OK White campaign by earning a split with Byron Center and Grand Rapids Christian. This was the first meet of the season and it offered many surprises as two school records fell and a couple of Arrows made their way on to the record board.

Annika Sandman picked up where she left off in the fall by setting a record in both the 1600m

and the 3200m record with times of 5:07 and 11:09 respectively which lowered each by eight seconds.

Newcomers Aubrieh Oswald hit 36-05.75 in the shot put which moves her to No. 4 all-time and Isabel German hit 9-0 in the pole vault which puts her with a cast of others at no. 9.

In addition to those marks, we saw 13 AQ (automatic qualifier for varsity letter) marks hit earning them their varsity letter.

Team Scores were:

Lowell 86, Byron Center 51 and GR Christian 82, Lowell 55.

Taking firsts overall in the double dual for the Arrows were: Jadan Sanders 400m with a time of 1:04.68 and in the long jump with a distance of 14-07.50; Annika Sandman 800m with a time of 2:31.43 and the 3200m in 11:09.93; Aubrieh Oswald spot put with a throw of 36-05.75; Isabel German pole vault, 9-00.00; 800m relay team of Spaulding, Sayer, Krieger, Flickinger with a

Softball takes two of three from Northview

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Like their baseball counterparts, the Lowell softball team took on Northview on the diamond this week and emerged with a series win. The Red Arrows won all three games against the Wildcats.

Thursday, Lowell had a home doubleheader. In game one a five-run fifth inning and an eye-popping 14 strikeouts pitching from Macy Huver helped get the job done in an 11-8 win. Huver has committed to play for Grand Rapids Community College starting next year.

In game two Lowell came from behind with another offensive outburst in the fifth inning, this one was three runs and gave Lowell a 7-5 lead which they hung onto for the win. Kamie Venema and Megan Lillie pitched seven combined innings for Lowell, with Lillie recording eight strikeouts.

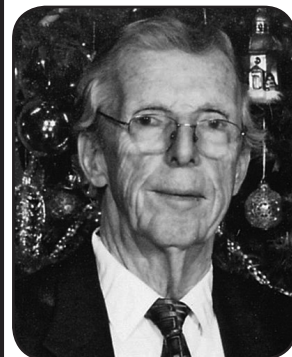
In the series finale, Lowell took a 2-0 lead on a Lillie RBI double in the first inning. Lowell tacked onto their lead in the second and third innings on a Sammie Hayes RBI and runs by Huver and Alyssa Woern. In the fourth inning,

Lowell continued with the hot bats scoring two more runs on a double by Venema. Leading 7-0, Lowell held on as Northview rallied in the last three innings to make it 7-5. Lillie got the win pitching five innings with four strikeouts. Venema's two RBIs led the way.

Over the weekend Lowell dropped a pair of games to Traverse City West 18-12, and East Kentwood 15-5. Lowell is 3-3 on the season.

ATTENTION MEDICAL STUDENTS

If you are a Lowell High School graduate and have been accepted into or are already attending a college or university which grants a medical degree (M.D. or D.O.), you are eligible to receive a scholarship grant from the Dr. Donald G. Gerard M.D. Honary Scholarship Fund.



If you qualify, please call Vicky Pratt at LHS, 616-987-2913.

You may also email her at vpratt@lowellschools.com

Applications are due by June 1, 2022

time of 1:56.57.

Second place finishers were: Annika Sandman 1600m in 5:07.97; Liberty Cook discus with a toss of 92-10, a personal record; Emily German, 100H in 18.96; Leah Krieger 300H in 52.37; Jadan Sanders pole vault, 8-06.00; Kailyn Gustin long jump, 14-00.00.

Third place finishers were: Jamara Harper 400m, 1:09.13 and long jump, 13-09.50; Kaylee Byrne shot put, 29-10.75.

The Arrows will have a day off before they travel to Caledonia for the Soderman relays on Saturday.

obituaries

HOBBS

Howard E. Hobbs, age 89, of Alto, passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by loved ones, Friday, January 21, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Leona; siblings, Elaine, Charles, Eleanor, Eloise, Evelyn. Survived by his wife of 60 years Helen M. Hobbs; children, Christine (Jeff) Sanches, Jay Hobbs, Carolyn (Brent) Hobbs Kreiger; five grandchildren and four great grandchildren; sister, Estelle (Harvey) Stark. Howard owned and operated service stations throughout his life. He spent the majority of his career operating Cascade Hills Shell in Grand Rapids, MI. An avid outdoorsman, Howard spent time hunting in Montana, fishing in Canada, and hunted locally with beagles most of his life. Howard enjoyed playing both fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball for many years, playing the position of pitcher. Howard and Helen enjoyed traveling the country in their 5th wheel, golfing, bowling, and playing Euchre with friends. Howard served our country as an Army veteran of the Korean War. He was a 53 year member of the American Legion Post 528. Howard was active in the Alto Lions Club civic organization and a beloved member of the surrounding community. Interment with Military Honors, 1 PM, May 4, 2022, at Merriman Cemetery, Alto, followed by a gathering of family and friends at Alto American Legion to celebrate Howard's life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Howard's name to the American Legion Charities at mylegion.org.



KEHOE

The Lord came for Thomas John Kehoe, age 79, on Monday, January 17, 2022. (Tom's sister's birthday). He was born December 15, 1942, in Lowell. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy Seabees. He is survived by his two sons; Bob (Nancy), Scott (Jaklin); grandson, Robert (Bear); three-step daughters, Paula, Shelly (Tom), Liz, and their children; niece, Linda (Karry); nephews, Mike (Tina), Steve (Wayland); cousins; and his special friend of 35 years, Sherry. He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas Leo Kehoe (when Tom was 10 years old); mother, Lillian; step-father, Vern Sturgis; sister, Rose (Martin) Hilger; brother, William (Jean) Aldrich; and the mother of his children, Nancy D. Kehoe. Funeral services will be held 1PM, Saturday, April 30, 2022, Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331, with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Ken Ford of Alton Bible Church officiating. Interment Alton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Michigan Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505



Ripple, continued

ancient Maya discovered and mastered the technique of preparing food buried in a hole in the grounds.

The dish is served to celebrate the "Day of the Dead" in Mexico from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. and on other holidays.

"It's extremely important to celebrate the culture with food and drinks," he said. "We are targeting the everyday crowd."

After getting their footing in, Ripple is planning to offer extended hours in the summer and possible outdoor seating.

"We are bringing the river inside for right now," he said.

Extensive renovation work went into the building including new large windows, new floor joists, a new stage for bands, and a new lobby area. Ripple sits right next to Main Street Inn

which provides convenient accommodations downtown.

"My hopes are to build a sense of community," he said, "where the bartender remembers your name. We have a people over profit mindset."

Ideally, Parrott would like to look at places similar to Lowell once he achieves the level of success that will allow him to open up more locations.

The restaurant is looking for help. Currently, the restaurant employs 14.

"We don't want to overwork people," he said. "We want them to take care of their overall health."

Go to FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/RippleLowell/> For hours go to: www.ripplemi.com

Plan for your future during financial literacy month

Financial Literacy Month is focused on educating people about the importance of planning for a secure financial future. Every April, we like to remind you that Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan. We have online tools to help you understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial future.

You should periodically review your *Social Security*

Statement using your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Your *Statement* is an easy-to-read summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

Our Plan for Retirement tool in your personal *my Social Security* account allows you to check various benefit estimate scenarios. You can compare the effect

different future earnings and retirement benefit start dates have on your future benefit amount.

Please let friends and family know they can take steps to improve their financial knowledge by signing in

to their secure *my Social Security*

account. If they don't have an account, they can easily create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

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



CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 7:00 PM. The subject of the hearing will be:

Proposed Temporary Outdoor Storage, 300 Bowes Road

An application has been submitted by Aaron Prymula on behalf of West Michigan Auto Xchange utilize 300 Bowes Road, Lowell MI, 49331 (PPN 41-20-11-201-008) for temporary outdoor storage at the Lowell Fairgrounds located at 300 Bowes Road. The applicant is seeking to host a used vehicle sales event from Tuesday, June 21, 2022, through Thursday, June 30, 2022.

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

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



Respectfully,
Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk

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Anita, Dave, Patrick, Collin & Alex Roth;
Gretchen, Paul, Adam & Shanice Jones



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GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
April 11, 2022

Motions Approved

1. Sewer extension agreement with contingencies.
2. Resolution 2022-012
3. 2022-2023 Fee Schedule

Celebrate Earth Day 2022 every day

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Fifth graders from Alto Elementary visited the Wittenbach Wege Center (WWC)- Agriscience and Environmental Education last Friday to work on student plots in the center's community garden; they explored the trails and learned about nature and ecology.

The Spring Nature Study, a four-week series, begins next Friday, on Earth Day with a class "Earth Day, Every Day," "The Wonder of Water," "Pollinators & Seeds" and runs through May 13 with "Growing a Garden." Topics will be adjusted to the weather. The class is \$25 for the 4-week series and runs from 10 am. to 12:30 pm.

"We take a trip down memory lane and incorporate some of our favorite nature games from their younger years," said WWC director Courtney Cheers. "Stewardship is always an important part of our study trips and these muscles were waking up our vegetable garden beds and pruning back our pollinator strips getting ready for the new growing season."

This week the WWC staff

will celebrate Earth Day at the WWC with various earth-friendly stewardship projects throughout the grounds. The public is invited to join.

The WWC consists of 141 acres with five miles of trails and serves as an outdoor classroom for Lowell Area Schools, and the greater community.

The first Earth Day was celebrated in the spring of

1970 when it was created by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson as a way to force the environmental issue onto the national agenda, and led by young activist Denis Hayes. Twenty million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and in December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to address environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



May Peace Prevail on Earth sign by the Wittenbach Wege Center expresses the global movement for environmental protection on Earth Day and every day originating in the political movement of the 1970s.



Fifth graders from Alto Elementary worked on student plots in the community garden at WWC and explored the trails last Friday led by Courtney Cheers.

reaching out to hundreds of millions of people, Earth Day 2000 built both global and local conversations, leveraging the power of the Internet to organize activists around the world, while also featuring a drum chain that traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa. Hundreds of thousands of people also gathered on the National Mall in Washington, DC for a First

Amendment Rally.

Over the decades, EARTHDAY.ORG has brought hundreds of millions of people into the environmental movement, creating opportunities for civic engagement and volunteerism in 193 countries. Earth Day engages more than 1 billion people every year and has become a major stepping stone along the pathway

of engagement around the protection of the planet.

Today, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national, and local policy changes.

BISSELL Pet Foundation "Empty the Shelters" Spring Event

Shelters across the country are in crisis with overcrowding and other major obstacles, prompting a national call for adoption. BISSELL Pet Foundation is aiming to "Empty the Shelters" by sponsoring reduced adoption fees of \$25 from May 2-8, 2022. More than 275 shelters in 45 states and Canada will participate in this lifesaving event to place deserving pets in loving homes.

BISSELL Pet Foundation is hosting its spring "Empty the Shelter" adoption event May 2 - 8, 2022, an effort that has helped more than 83,055 pets find homes in shelters

throughout the country. During each nationwide event, BISSELL Pet Foundation sponsors reduced adoption fees for \$25 or less. The "Empty the Shelters" event will be hosted in more than 275 shelters in 45 states. Note - not every shelter is participating for the full event. Potential adopters are encouraged to visit the "Empty the Shelters" website to find the nearest participating shelter and confirm their adoption day details.

"Shelters across the country are over capacity, and highly adoptable pets are at risk as we face one of the largest crises in recent years," said Cathy Bissell, Founder of BISSELL Pet Foundation. "BISSELL Pet Foundation is calling on people to visit their community shelters during

'Empty the Shelters' to save a life through adoption. Without you, there is no tomorrow for these deserving pets."

BISSELL Pet Foundation was founded in 2011 by Cathy Bissell.

"Empty the Shelters" has helped 83,055 pets find homes across the country and in Canada since its inception in 2016.

"Empty the Shelters" provides reduced adoption fees at shelters, typically ranging from \$0 to \$25 per animal adoption.

Our nation's shelters are facing an overcrowding crisis. Please consider fostering or donating if you unable to add a pet to your family.

Visit www.BISSELLPetFoundation.org/Empty-The-Shelters for more information.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, and business and labor leaders.

In 1990, Hayes organized another major campaign for the planet. Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage.

Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide.

As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. With 5,000 environmental groups in a record 184 countries



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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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| | | | | 8 | | 6 | | 7 |
| | | 1 | | 6 | | | 3 | |
| | | 4 | | | | 1 | | |

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION

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

- TOOLS
- HARD WORKING
- ENERGY
- SERVICE
- CALLOUT
- GLOVES
- ELECTRICITY
- BOOTS
- DISTRIBUTION
- EFFICIENT
- ETHICAL
- LIGHTS
- LINEWORKER
- COMMUNITY
- KILOWATT
- SQUIRREL
- RELIABLE
- HARD HAT
- SAFETY
- METER
- TREES
- CLIMB
- HOOKS

Guess Who?

I am a rapper born in Texas on April 22, 1990. Before fame I lived abroad with my parents doing missionary work. I am known for my spitfire lyrics, and my music dates back to the early 2000s. I've also been in a few films in recent years.

Answer: Machine Gun Kelly

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Lyme disease.

I K H G N I

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Answer: Hiking

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| 48 | | | | | | | | | | | 49 | | | | |
| 50 | | | | | | | | | | | 51 | | | | |

CLUES ACROSS

1. A woman of refinement
7. Body part
10. One who imitates
12. Tropical Asian starlings
13. A type of delivery
14. W. Australian capital
15. Many wombs
16. Wings
17. Expression of amusement
18. Brews
19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
21. Mild expression
22. Solitary
27. Distance to top
28. The rebirth of a soul in a new body
33. Police who investigate police (abbr.)
34. Begrudged
36. Popular sports league
37. Autonomous republic of Russia
38. Double-headed drum
39. Type of light bulb
40. Czech River
41. Male servants (Span.)

CLUES DOWN

44. Previously
45. Minor
48. Metrical foot
49. Days that follow Mondays
50. Small European viper
51. News shows have one
1. Inspiration
2. Resembling wings
3. Form of Persian
4. Consumed
5. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
6. Sea eagle
7. Jaguarundis
8. Poker stake
9. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
10. South American nation
11. A colorless, odorless gas
12. Disturbance
14. Artist's tool
17. Polish peninsula
18. Ottoman military leaders
20. Bird-like dinosaur
23. Drinking glass

24. Central Florida city
25. One's mother
26. To do it is human
29. Atomic #10
30. Used to write
31. The branch of medicine concerned with the ear
32. Adversaries
35. Have already done
36. One of conspicuous wealth
38. It flies over sporting events
40. Geological times
41. Net
42. Musical phrase
43. Chadic dialect
44. Private Internet Access (abbr.)
45. Lizard genus
46. Woman of the church
47. Having ten

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