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June artist



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School Sports



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Riverwalk festivities kick off Thursday, July 7

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

The community's favorite event of the year, Lowell's Riverwalk Festival, starts on Thursday, July 7 with Grilling and Chilling on Avery Street, Moose Bingo behind the library, and self-guided history tours along Riverwalk and historic Main Street. The Insiders present the premiere, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers Experience, on the Summer Concerts stage at 7 pm.

Enjoy the vendor booths set up along the beautiful Riverwalk for the Flea on the Flat River show starting on Friday, July 8 at 5 pm. Buy your Duck Raffle tickets for \$2 each, three for \$5, or ten for \$10, for a chance to win \$1,500 in cash prizes.

"The outdoor venue provides a hometown

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Riverwalk Festival 2022 kicks off on Thursday evening with Grilling and Chilling.

Backwater Cafe's closure last week plays out on Facebook

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

A drama that lasted a few days played out completely on Facebook starting on Monday, June 13 when Backwater Cafe employees found out from social media, that they had no jobs to go to.

"The brazen videos on Lowell MI Community Chatter are a total slap in the face for us," said former employee Shannon

Lee Wilcox. "Jeff hasn't responded to any of my attempts to contact him, in person and on the phone. I was shocked. He never said a word to me. We were in the same pool tournament on Sunday."

According to Wilcox, owner Jeff Altoft and former manager Jodi Kennedy, had a verbal agreement that Kennedy was going to buy and take over the café since October of 2019.

Approximately six weeks ago, Altoft took away Kennedy's managerial duties and her pay, according to Wilcox.

"It was weird." He was acting strange. Then we heard rumors about Jeff selling the lot next to Backwater two weeks

Continued,
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Backwater Cafe closed down last week.

High gas prices won't impact city services in Lowell

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

With high gas prices above \$5 a gallon, some may wonder if this will have an impact on the city services in the greater Lowell area.

The Lowell Police Department has one hybrid vehicle with a significant reduction in fuel.

"We are in the process of purchasing a second hybrid patrol vehicle," said city manager, Mike Burns.

The Water Department has also purchased a hybrid vehicle.

"As we update our fleet, we are reviewing where possible to purchase electric/hybrid vehicles," said Burns. "I don't see the need to make any service cuts."

In the worst-case scenario, the city will hold off on some budgeted capital purchases that

might be of less priority to accommodate fuel costs.

"We will continue to pay attention to it," he said. "We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes we deem necessary."

Residents of the city of Lowell will continue to receive core services at the normal level. The city does not receive any assistance from the state or federal governments to deal with the high gas prices.

"We are suffering through this like everyone else," Burns said. "However, we don't have any intention of diminishing services to our residents because of it."

The current gas prices in Lowell, as of Monday, June 20th, were \$5.17 a gallon.

Continued from page 1

ago," she said. "I never in a million years thought he would have done this to us without giving us an opportunity at the table to put out an offer."

Wilcox and Kennedy were going to be partners in their dream venture-- Jodi's & Shannon's Backwater Café.

"We were going to carry on the same name," she said.

The café shut down for the first remodel in December 2019 when employees, significant others, and customers pitched in with time, energy and materials.

"Our customers were doing labor there," she said. "Everybody was vested in Backwater, so it was successful and ready to go. But then Covid happened."

When the restaurant re-opened in June of 2021, Kennedy was given a little bit more control over the menu and the hours, according to Wilcox.

"We were trying to make it a successful comeback," she said. "The

early days initially were successful. We got a lot of business right off the bat."

Then the restaurant slowed down a bit.

"The restaurant business is ebb and flow," she said. "We slowed down which is normal in the restaurant business. Like any normal business, we had our good weeks and bad weeks."

After the re-opening in June, the restaurant accepted cash only to cut overhead costs.

"Most people in town thought Jodi had already owned it," Wilcox said. "We thought that we would work out the details of the sale or lease to own. We were open to whatever deal he was willing to give us."

After the story aired on WZZM last week, according to Wilcox, Altoft allowed the employees to gather their property, get their paychecks and severance pay.

"I gave him back my \$50," she said. "Fifty bucks is not enough to pay off the betrayal. We put in hours and hours for the remodel."

Wilcox was able to

bring home her security cameras with memory cards. By studying the memory cards, she wants to be able to clear up certain issues that emerged during the closure and weeks prior to it.

"It wasn't our fault that the restaurant failed," she said.

Wilcox would like to prove false accusations of employees stealing from the café.

"I want to prove that we're not thieves," she said.

But Wilcox and Kennedy want to open a restaurant somewhere else.

"We haven't made any decisions yet," she said. "It's been a very difficult week for everybody at the Backwater," she said. "We're all reeling from this happening. We were going to be the golden girls."

The two had plans for outdoor seating, a small garden to carry out the concept of "from garden to kitchen. We had plans me and my best friend. We were going to grow old together."

Longtime cook Theresa Wall found out from Facebook on Monday, June

13 after she had everything ready to go for Wednesday orders at the café.

"It was a hard day for me," she said. "I was devastated when I saw the post. I had no idea what was going on. I found out about it all on rumor."

She too picked up her last check on Tuesday at 3 pm.

"We remodeled that place out of our own pockets," Wall said.

Wall has been a dedicated employee for 10 years standing behind the grill from wee morning hours until afternoon. According to Wall, Altoft changed the locks on Sunday.

"It's heartbreaking," she said. "My life was at Backwater. All our customers were our family. Everybody is devastated, our lives are over."

Wall said the place was hopping after last year's re-opening in June, and it was never in the red.

"We were never slow," she said. "I had non-stop orders. I can't believe the level of betrayal."

Kennedy declined to comment.

Altoft said he started thinking about closing the

restaurant a few months ago.

"Since Covid, we haven't been able to break even with all the price increases," he said.

He accepted cash only to cut \$600 a month to have a credit card machine.

"I was on the phone Monday with an employee, but the story broke a little faster than I thought it would. I wish it would have worked out differently," he said.

Altoft said he wanted to work out a deal that Backwater would operate as Backwater Café in the morning, and a Mexican restaurant in the afternoon.

On the issue of a verbal agreement with Kennedy, Altoft said:

"I told her I would let her take over if she proved to me that she could make money."

However, according to Altoft due to the shorter operating post-covid hours, the restaurant was running in the red.

"I took her management duties away," he said. "I didn't want to be in the restaurant business anymore and I shut it down."

In regards to employees putting labor and money into

the remodel, Altoft said they only freshened up the inside in December of 2019 while he took care of the exterior, the equipment, and the bathrooms.

The restaurant opened in 1992, and Altoft took complete control of the business in 2009.

Referring to Wilcox and Kennedy, Altoft said they were like daughters to him, but things soured pretty quickly.

"I wish it would have happened differently but I made a mistake that it slipped out," he said. "I wouldn't have sold it to them at this point in time. I would have sold it a year ago."

According to Altoft, Kennedy and Wilcox didn't come to him with any proposals.

"I made a decision to shut it down," he said. "I worked at places that closed."

He said he changed the locks on Sunday after doing the till. "I wasn't happy with the till and changed the locks," he said. "I was protecting my building."

Altoft said he leased the building on Sunday.

FROM opens registration for back-to-school backpack program

With summer in full swing, FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries) is excited to announce the return of their back-to-school backpack program.

The backpack distribution allows students to start the school year on the right foot by providing them with a backpack of school supplies specific to their school and grade. To qualify for the program, families must live within the Lowell Area School District, or have

an expressed need. The program is available for students from preschool to high school seniors.

The distribution will take place on Aug. 11 from 9 - 11 am and 5 - 7 pm.

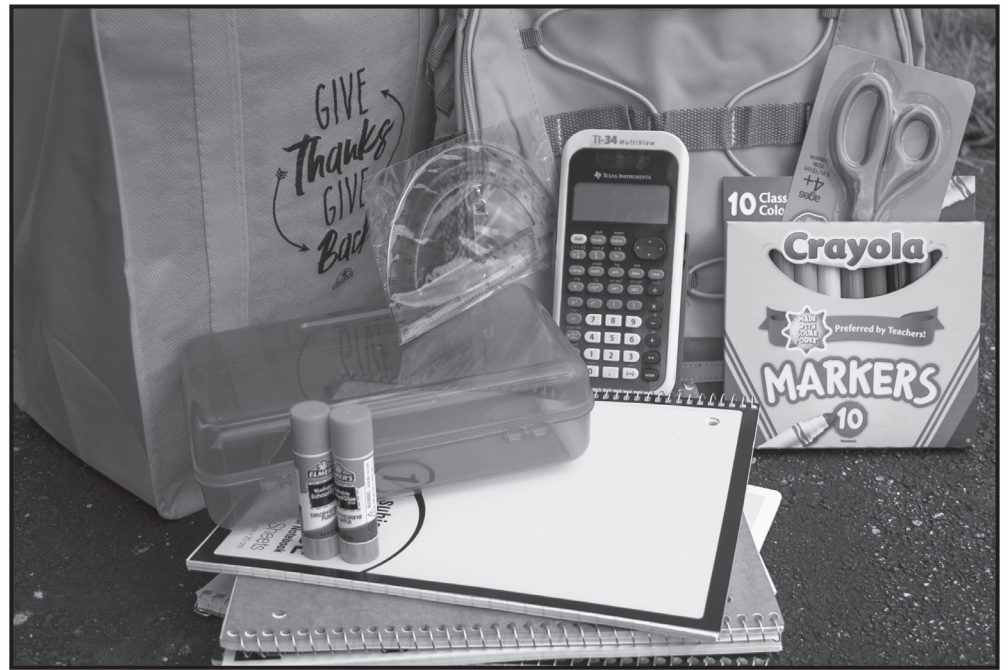
"Getting new school supplies and backpacks is an exciting part of starting the school year. There's something special about getting all your supplies and packing your backpack before the first day of school," said Monica Light, FROM Program Manager.

"We are excited that FROM can help provide that experience to the students in our community."

Pre-registration is required to participate in the backpack distribution. Registration is open from now until July 31. Visit FROM's website at <https://www.fromlowell.org/backpack-registration/> to join the program.

"Providing students with school supplies helps them have a great, successful school year," Light said.

If you would like to support the Backpack Distribution program, FROM is always looking for backpacks for elementary, middle and high school students, and



all school supplies.

About FROM: FROM is a human services nonprofit in Lowell, Mich.

FROM offers more than a dozen programs, for families and individuals in need, that focus in the area of Healthy Food Options, Family Support, Housing and Connection to Resources. Each year, Flat River Outreach Ministries serves more than 600 families

and individuals living in the Lowell Area School District, who make 300% of the poverty line or less – or have an expressed need.

the lowell
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Lowell School Board meets, looks toward new school year

By Michelle Smith
contributing writer

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education met for its regular meeting June 13 at the Administrative Offices building.

Much of the meeting dealt with preparations for the 2022-2023 school year, with routine renewals of contracts with the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Michigan Association of School Board and the teacher's union. Also,

two new parent advisors for special education were appointed.

Superintendent, Nate Fowler, reported Lowell Schools is no longer operating under the Michigan Health and Human Services or the Kent County Health Department recommendations, regarding Covid-19, and are returning to normal routines and traditions.

During the public comments section of the meeting, Dusty Hawk

addressed the superintendent and the board directly, claiming threats that were made on social media and in the classrooms toward Lowell students, as well as expressing his frustration at the lack of action regarding these threats.

Hawk declined to comment further after the meeting.

Fowler responded to the public comments later:

"Our school board appreciates the attendance and participation at school

board meetings by members of our community."

Fowler also expressed concern for students' safety following the May 31 killings at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. He said he is listening to Lowell community members about their concerns regarding school safety.

"Our hearts break for that community, break for those families who are impacted by that shooting. Since then, we have gotten a lot of feedback and

suggestions, concerns from parents, understandably so, from the community regarding Uvalde.

Fowler said relationships amongst the students and with teachers and staff is one of the ways to help prevent violence in schools.

"Relationships - relationships with students, making sure all students have a feeling of belonging. Also our relationship with law enforcement and other first responders," he said.

"We're just going to continue to prepare and make sure we are making ourselves and our schools as safe as possible. Unfortunately, part of reality for students today is that we train for how to respond in that event."

Fowler said the schools will be communicating with families more, regarding school security, before the beginning of the school year.

Grand Rapids Chorus to perform at the Showboat June 30

By Bill Lee
contributing writer

Lowell's Sizzlin' Summer Concerts presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will feature the Grand Rapids Chorus of Sweet Adelines on Thursday, June 30 at The Showboat at 7 pm. The large group of singers plan to perform a mix of songs from a variety of genres, including modern showtunes, vintage boogie-woogie, barbershop tunes, along with plenty of patriotic songs. Denise VanDyken, Master Director of the Grand Rapids Chorus of Sweet Adelines, is very excited for the Lowell performance. "I'm thrilled that we've been invited to participate in the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer

Concert series," said VanDyken. "The chorus is very excited too. We love sharing the gift of joyous harmony with the Greater Grand Rapids community and are proud to be a part of perpetuating the long, proud history of the Lowell Showboat!"

The group has been busy this year with performances in Michigan and beyond. "We have enjoyed a wonderful whirlwind of musical activities in the past year!" said VanDyken. "We had the honor of representing Michigan at the 80th Pearl Harbor Commemoration in Hawaii last December. In May, we were very happy to participate successfully in a five-state regional competition. In June, we



had a wonderful time performing on the Calder Stage at the Grand Rapids Arts Festival. At the end of August, we'll be delighted to sing at the WKTV Dream

Wheels show as part of the 28th Street Metro Cruise. We'll wind up the year with a series of holiday performances at venues throughout the Greater

Grand Rapids area." The Grand Rapids Chorus has over 60 members of all ages. They regularly practice, socialize, and perform together. They have

a proud history and have been entertaining audiences for more than 70 years in the Grand Rapids area. For more information about the group, please go to their website at grsa.net

college news

Cedarville University student Blake Mead of Lowell, majoring in Cyber Operations, was named to the Dean's List at Cedarville University for spring 2022. This recognition requires the

student to obtain a 3.5 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Jason Blunt, of Alto, and Olivia Peter, of Lowell, were named to the Dean's

Honor List at Cedarville University for spring 2022. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Continued, page 12

Card Shower in Honor of
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JUNE 30
Grand Rapids Sweet Adelines
Great Lakes Chorus




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outdoors

camping Michigan

Dave Stegehuis

People camp for a variety of reasons. It is a way to travel around and see the local sights and attractions. Festivals and fairs occur around the state all summer. Something is always going on somewhere. Families and friends take the opportunity to get together on common ground. Others use a campground as a headquarters for accessing A.T.V. trails, lakes and streams for fishing, hunting land, and other outdoor recreation activities. You may notice that Michigan

state parks are almost always located on water. Then, some folks simply enjoy the camping experience for what it is.

Camping can be done on different levels. A huge diesel motor home pulled into the site next to our travel trailer this afternoon. On the other side of the big coach is a two-person tent and a plugged in E.V. To each his or her own.

Campsites can be rustic without water or electricity. Most managed campgrounds have on site electricity. City

and county parks often supply a mixture of on-site electricity, water, and sewer service. State parks typically have electricity on site with available shower and restroom facilities plus a central dump station for wastewater. Private campgrounds usually have electricity, water, and sewer hook-up on the site as well as laundry facilities and a game room for the kids.

Camping is not for everyone. Like anything else today, it can be expensive. Although state and federal forest campgrounds cost very little, they are usually rustic and present more of a challenge for the novice camper. During

holiday periods popular campgrounds can become somewhat crowded. Reservations are necessary to secure a site. Camping equipment of any kind requires a certain amount of knowledge to effectively manage its use. Specific procedures are followed when setting up a tent or travel trailer. Weather is always a major factor

affecting the camping experience, and one must be prepared to deal with different conditions.

Folks without camping experience should find a way to try it out before making a major commitment of vacation time or money. Camp with experienced friends or relatives or rent equipment before buying.

Camping affords a great way to get out and take advantage of the many recreational opportunities in Michigan. Check it out. The experience could create a shift in your family's lifestyle.

Lowell Women's Club Board of Directors announced



The Lowell Women's Club, established in 1928, is pleased to introduce their 2022-2023 Board of Directors and Lori Ingraham as their new president as they begin their 94th year of service to the Lowell community.

Pictured, left to right: President Elect Kim Hofman, Kathy Horsch, Karen Waid, treasurer Jackie Tousley, June Dilly, president Lori Ingraham, Barb Mulnix, secretary Leah Vredenburg, past president Chris Parks, and student coordinator Ellen Lietzke.

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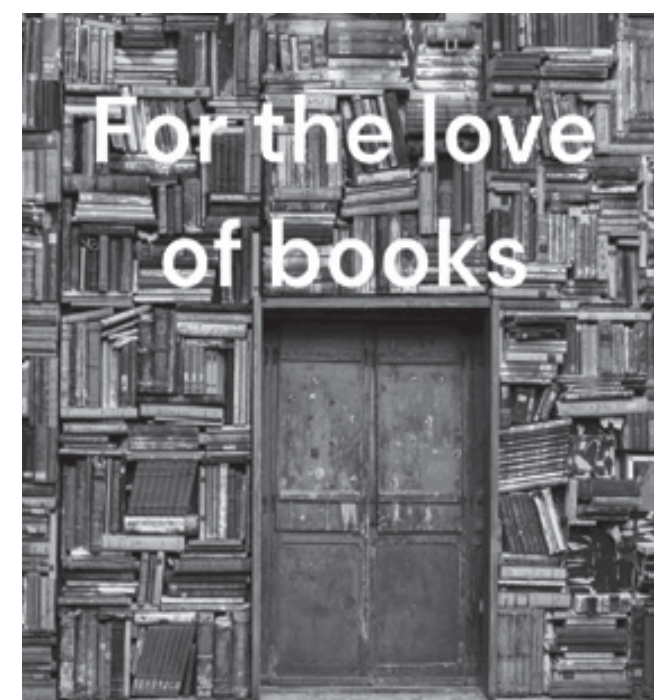
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JUNE SCHEDULE

- Jon Stott, Summers at the Lake, June 2
- Mark Loeb, special guest Palmer Park Art Fair, June 3
- Kris Gair, The Beautiful Moment, June 3
- Nikki Mitchell, Nightshade Forest, June 22
- Deborah Frontiera, Superior Tapestry, June 22
- Jean Davis & Ingar Rudholm, special episode about Lakeshore Art Festival, June 23
- Victor Volkman, U.P. Reader, June 24

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100 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 29, 1922

Henry G. Tenchinck, age 48 a farmer living at Ada, is at Butterworth hospital seriously injured as the result of a fall from a load of hay he was hauling to Grand Rapids. His neck is broken and he is suffering from a fractured shoulder and internal injuries. Following the accident he was taken to the Blodgett Memorial Hospital, but the X-ray machine was out of order; then he was taken to the Butterworth hospital for examination.

Patrons of the library, kindly return books to Public Library, corner Hudson and Main. No charge will be made if returned before personal notice is issued.

Roscoe Pattengill, of Ionia, was arrested by the Marshal and lodged in jail on a drunk and disorderly charge. Then came John Stiar, of Saranac, who had been about town with Pattengill, and by his threatening actions and words caused the officer to arrest him also. This was accomplished after a struggle in which the officer fired two revolver shots at the ground to stop Stiar's escape, the latter's discovery under a rear building and a final scuffle, in which the Marshal used his "billy."

Quite a little excitement in McCords last Wednesday morning, when it was found that the garage was broken into during the night and seven tires, eight inner tubes, and \$158 in cash was stolen. An empty car was seen late at night at the side of the road, near where the tracks led through the wheat to the garage. Perhaps it would be a wise plan to take the license number of cars thus seen as they might prove valuable later.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 26, 1947

Frank F. Coons, who has been a member of the Board of Education of Lowell Graded School District No. 1 for the past 21 years, announces that he will not be a candidate for re-election. For the past 20 years, Mr. Coons has served as secretary of the Board - a remarkable record.

According to program chairman, C.H Runciman, the Showboat will present the most expensive and biggest show ever offered Western Michigan. One of the outstanding problems in connection with this year's show is the need for good endman jokes. As a result, the Showboat is offering a special Western Michigan contest to secure new gags. Free tickets will be offered to the first 100 people sending jokes suitable for the endmen.

Residents of this area will be interested to know that through the efforts of Lowell Lodge No. 809, Loyal Order of Moose, a free blood bank has been established for the use of any person living in Lowell, Ada, Alto, Saranac or surrounding territory.

No definite clues have developed regarding the whereabouts of Newton Grimwood, proprietor of the Lowell Creamery, who dropped from sight 14 days ago following an injury suffered when a loose brick from the creamery wall fell on his head. It is thought that he is a victim of amnesia and it is sincerely hoped by all that he will soon be found and returned to his wife and children.

James Culbertson, who resides on the Coles farm, was injured last week when his horse ran away. He was taken to the Ionia hospital. His daughter, Mrs. Lillian Herman, of Colorado Springs, has arrived to assist in his care.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 29, 1972

Lowell Police, working on a tip from a citizen, apprehended two escapees from the Ionia Reformatory Tuesday evening. Clarence Montague and Raymond Kims were found hiding in some bushes behind a garage on West Main Street. A tracking dog from the Ionia State Police post in Ionia was called to the scene and aided in the apprehension.

Ground was broken Sunday afternoon for the new middle school building to be erected on Foreman Road - the completed date being in August of 1973.

Jerry L. Wabeke, 34, joined the administration staff of Lowell Area School this week as assistant high school principal.

Lowell Moose remains undefeated as they beat Stephanie Lounge 8 to 1 in softball action last week. Harvey Eickhoff limited Stephanie's to just two hits.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 25, 1997

The 10th annual YMCA Hoops Three-On-Three basketball tournament posted 56 teams with over 220 players. This was the third year the tournament was run by the Lowell YMCA. Andy Johnson, YMCA director expects that the revenues raised for youth programs will be anywhere from \$3,000 - \$4,000.

The Lowell Area Education Foundation recognized the five individuals who were first to be placed on the 400 left tribute tree. The purpose of the tree is to remind the community of the importance of education and to provide a means of recognizing individuals for their contributions to Lowell Schools, their community and their families. This year's recipients were Marsha Wilcox, Chris Burch, Ruth Thurtell, Robert Reagan, Carol Reagan and Amanda K. Tichelaar.

to the editor

Be Sensible and Don't Panic

Dear Editor,

There are approximately 616,000 firearm deer hunters in Michigan. Some of those hunters have enjoyed the sport since the 1950s. I would dare to say that probably not one of those legal hunters have robbed or illegally shot a person in all those years. They were probably trained by a family member or good friend on how to be safe and responsible with a firearm. It has been suggested that guns should be taken in to authorities to be tagged and inspected every couple of years. There are several million legal gun owners in the United States that I am sure would be very reluctant to go through that process. The 2nd Amendment of the Constitution was penned to protect families from wildlife and those that would do harm or threaten the freedom of our people. It has served that purpose very well for 235 years.

Countless firearm laws exist on the books in the state of Michigan: a convicted felon cannot be

in possession of a firearm in Michigan, a permit to purchase and a background check is required to purchase a handgun, you must be 18 years or older to purchase a firearm, several hours of training and a test is required to acquire a Carry Concealed Weapon license, a semi-automatic deer rifle is not allowed more than 5 shells. These and several more laws are in the books.

Making new laws that are redundant and place an undue burden on law abiding citizens are not an answer or quick fix. Problems began with the capability of firearms to carry large capacity magazines of ammunition and a disturbed mental illness by a few individuals. It appears that those individuals apparently had some contact with other people before those atrocious acts; a friend, a parent, grandparent, sibling or social media. Those contacts had the potential to expose a deep

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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
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Deadline is noon on Mondays



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Alto Branch, 6071 Linfield Ave SE. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

Scrabble for Seniors,

Fridays from 1-3 pm. Sit down and enjoy a word game, unplugged, with other fans. All ages and skill levels welcome!

Universe of Stories & Music

Thurs., June 23, 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Interactive stories combine with beautiful music to offer full audience participation and hands-on fun with musical instruments from many parts of the world.

Craft & Create

Thurs., June 23, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Create together! Features a new craft each time for you to make and take home. Ages 18+

Family Story Time

Mondays 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Read and sing together as a family. Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills. Ages 0-5.

Swordsmanship

Thurs., June 28, 4-5 pm. Join the Swordsmanship Museum and Academy as their experienced instructors teach teens the fundamentals of historical swordsmanship. These techniques come directly from the translations of surviving Medieval and Renaissance manuals of swordsmanship; from a time when skills with a sword meant life or death! Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins and you may save one seat for a friend. For ages 11-17.

Ruff Readers

Tues., June 28, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. This unique read-aloud program in partnership with West Michigan Therapy Dogs, Inc. pairs kids with a trained therapy dog and their handler. Kids read their favorite book and the pooches curl up, listen and enjoy. Arrive 15 minutes early to sign in and secure a time slot. First come, first served. For ages 5-10.

Super Cool Spy School

Tues., July 5, 12 - 8 pm. Grab your trench coat and magnifying glass — it's time to solve a mystery and sharpen up on your sleuthing skills at the library! See if you can crack the code and solve the case. For ages 5-10.

ABCs of Lowell history

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is introducing a new weekly series. Each week we will explore the history one of the buildings in the downtown Historic District.

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Builder: Morgan Lyon
1st business: J. Q. Look Drugs

Morgan Lyon acquired the land and built the four storefront Lyon building after the fire of 1882 destroyed the Franklin Hotel here. This is the westernmost store of the Lyon Block.

J. Q. Look Drugs was the first business in this building from 1883-1888.

John Quincy Look was the much older half-brother of Dexter G. Look. Dexter worked as a clerk for his brother for four years. Shortly after J. Q. Look moved to the Lyon Block on the northside of Main Street, Dexter Look began a career as a druggist at 214 W. Main on the southside. In 1888, J. Q. Look retired and Willard Winegar bought his building and business. It was W. S. Winegar Drugs until 1924 when Winegar took on a Junior partner and the business name became Winegar and Hartman. Hartman had previously worked for him as a clerk for 16 years. From 1930 to 1955, the business was W. C. Hartman Drugs. Hartman Drugs also sold



W. S. Winegar owned the drugstore here from 1888 until 1924.

schoolbooks, pens, pencils, paper, and other school supplies. He carried both new and used books. "The schoolbooks were laid out by grade level so you knew what was needed before school started," as remembered by William Wood. "One year I bought an Algebra textbook for \$6.00 and hardly used it because the Algebra teacher quit. Mr. Hartman only

offered 50c for returning it. I was so mad that I kept it." From 1955 to 1973 Hazel's Hat Shop was here. "Hazel whistled while she worked. She stocked baby clothes, lingerie and maternity clothes in her store. Most women wore dusters when pregnant. Hazel stocked real maternity dresses," remembered Nancy Wood.

That Special Place, operated by Dolores Dey and Shirley Richmond from 1974-1984, specialized in infant and children's clothing. Other businesses here included: Straw Basket Collections; Richard Heath, Lawyer; Shorebird Gallery and Gifts; Glass House Designs and Ability Weavers.

Continued from page 5

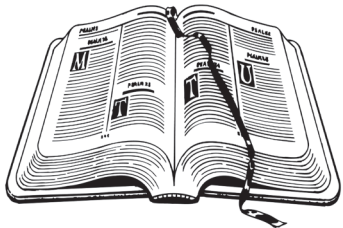
concern to harm someone. I realize people don't act on that knowledge for fear of retaliation or loss of a friendship. The major news media blatantly attack gun ownership as the ultimate cause and banning all guns as a solution and cure all. Success would be better served if they would focus

their attention on getting people to come forth if they are aware of a concern they have of an individual's intentions. A contact with law enforcement, or an anonymous phone call to alert appointed people for a follow-up on the concern, would be a positive step. Ammunition clips that

hold over 10 rounds could be regulated, bump stocks outlawed, fully automatic weapons outlawed. Take a sensible, not a panic approach to a serious problem.

Steve Hartley
Lowell

area churches



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

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

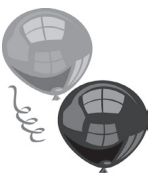
St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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897-7168 • www.fbc Lowell.org
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Pastor 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**

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org
Pastor Alyssa Anten
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 6 PM
Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive
616-897-5906

happy birthday



JUNE 22
Michael Korte, Byron Pat Brenk, Jim Francis I, Ken Stager III.

JUNE 23
Jane Rogers, Brinna Manszewski, Katy Fetterhoff, Quinton Wingarter.

JUNE 24
Saralyn Vezino, Gay Pfaller, Ramee Guild, Fred Fyan, Roger Barr.

JUNE 25
Ann Wittenbach, Kim Raines, Angela Lonero, Judy Taylor.

JUNE 26
Cathy Acker, Dwane Cavanaugh, Pat Roth, Hunter Jamieson, David Scott, J.R. Alstine, Elliot Peel.

JUNE 27
Dylan Schneider, Aaron Kroemer.

JUNE 28
Brian Doyle.



State Workforce Board calls for more mental health resources

The Michigan Workforce Development Board is calling for more mental health supports in the workplace and the creation of local Sixty by 30 goals across the state to build lasting resiliency for employees and to accelerate the state's economic growth and prosperity for all Michiganders.

The mental health resolution, approved Monday, would prioritize strategies for improving the ability of businesses to support the mental health and wellbeing of employees, and calls for the State of Michigan and Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

(LEO) to act on the recently released recommendations from Gov. Whitmer's Mental Health Workgroup, including:

Identifying the workplace challenges and opportunities that exist within specific industry clusters;

Identifying evidence-based practices from across the country;

Creating resources, including data and information, that the state could provide to businesses in support of improving workplace environments' ability to foster good mental health;

Tracking progress on improving mental health in the workplace;

Developing policies that will help businesses provide adequate mental health support, including through the State's procurement or grant process; and

Partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services when appropriate to maximize impact.

"If we want to see continued economic growth while attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, employers need to make sure their employees know their mental health and wellbeing are a priority," said Cindy Pasky, Michigan Workforce Development Board Chair

and CEO of Strategic Staffing Solutions. "By prioritizing and investing in mental health support in the workplace, employers win big – they'll see lower turnover rates, higher retention and higher productivity."

The Workforce Development Board also approved a Sixty by 30 resolution to support the creation of local, county, or regional goals around the state, to be set by diverse sets of stakeholders, convened independently or with the support of the Office of Sixty by 30 within LEO. The adoption of local goals will enable:

Local stakeholders to align their own strategic goals to the local goal;

Greater alignment of resources in the education, training, and employment systems toward a unified aim;

New resources to be identified and deployed in pursuit of that goal; and

New, cross-sector solutions for expanding the talent pipeline, reducing barriers to education and training, and helping Michigan citizens to successfully complete degrees and certificates.

"Creating new local and regional Sixty by 30 goals across Michigan will foster cross-sector solutions for expanding our state's

talent pipeline and aligning resources to reduce barriers to education and training," said Jeff Donofrio, Michigan Workforce Development Board Vice Chair and Business Leaders for Michigan President and CEO. "This will help more Michigan residents complete degrees and certificates, providing them the opportunity to earn wages that support their families and achieve more prosperity."

Michigan's businesses are in line to similarly benefit from the continued focus on mental health in the workplace, as they will be able to retain talent and reduce the turnover rate with a happier workforce that is pleased with a healthy workplace atmosphere more effectively.

"These challenges span all businesses of all sizes," said Dave Meador, Michigan Workforce Development Board Member. "By addressing barriers to success in the workplace, such as mental health challenges, childcare, transportation

and the need for education and skills training, we can help set our workforce up for future success, and both resolutions are key steps toward doing so. Large companies are actively addressing these issues today, and we will continue working hard to find the resources to help medium and small businesses who really need help supporting their employees."

The Michigan Workforce Development Board is responsible for the development and continuous improvement of the workforce development system in Michigan. The Board acts as an advisory body and assists the Governor with the development, implementation and modification of Michigan's four-year state plan pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, as well as advancing the Governor's Sixty by 30 goal. The board committees are focused on work in the areas of barrier removal, job matching, policy and talent cultivation.

LWC Scholarship student members



The Lowell Women's Club is pleased to announce their 2021-2022 Scholarship Student Members. Pictured, left to right: Elyse Bosscher, Kelsey Stephens, Hanna DeVries, Emily Struckmeyer, Sammy Bennett, Karen Waid, the presenter; Jen Coviac (standing in for her daughter Maddie Coviac), January Basinger, Lexi Hofmann, Rosie Goodwin, Ellen Lietzke, student coordinator; and Karla Byrne (standing in for her daughter Kaylee Byrne).

Coviac and Byrne were both taking their AP biology exams at the time of the LWC meeting.



NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

A public accuracy test of the voting equipment to be used in the August 2, 2022 Primary Election will be held on Wednesday June 29, 2022 at 10 am at the Vergennes Township offices located 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell, MI 49331

Shantell Ford
Vergennes Township Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance regarding wall sign requirements. The proposed amendments would provide definitions and general requirements pertaining to such signs located in the Commercial Zoning District.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI. 49331

Any person is welcome to attend the meeting and offer comments regarding this request. Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI. 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Materials pertaining to this request may also be viewed on the Township web site at www.lowelltpw.org five days before the meeting.

Greg Forde, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission



BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLANNING COMMISSION

On Tuesday, July 12, 2022, the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hear public comments about the following request. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, concerning the following:

1. 7968 SNOW AVENUE SE SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT AMENDMENT

Mr. & Mrs. Justin Heyboer of 7968 Snow Avenue SE (Wildwood Family Farms) has applied for a Special Land Use Permit, seeking permission to amend the site plan for the special land use, which was issued by the Township granting a wedding and outdoor event space under Section 7.04(h), in 2014. This application will be processed as a Special Land Use Permit Amendment per Section 14.07, which permits amendments to existing permits via special land use review and approval from the Bowne Township Planning Commission upon the notice of a public hearing. The parcel number for the referenced address for this application is 41-24-18-100-009.

The application and plans are available for review, and written comments will be received until 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.

Bradley S. Kotrba, AICP
Township Planning Consultant
(616) 988-3526

Water is life — we cannot take it for granted

by Cliff Yankovich
contributing reporter

Michigan truly is a water wonderland. As residents of a state surrounded by twenty percent of all the available freshwater on the entire planet, we might take water for granted. Yes, our little mitten-shaped portion of the globe gives us access to one fifth of the fresh water available to the world. Let that sink in, will you?

Julie and I recently took a work vacation trip to Las Vegas to attend a jewelry show. We stayed some extra days so that I could check, a visit to the Hoover Dam, off my bucket list (more on that later). For most of the daylight hours during our six days out west, the temperatures were triple digits — the highest was 111 degrees. Sure, it is a “dry

heat” compared to Michigan with the humidity levels at 10 to 15 per cent. However, 111 still feels like walking around in an oven and the decided lack of humidity, read WATER, is the subject I want to address here.

In case you are unaware, many parts of the Western US have been experiencing draught conditions over the last few years. The fight over water, in areas of California that produce a huge percentage of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts that the entire nation consumes, is getting very ugly and will be getting uglier. The Great Salt Lake in Utah has shrunk by two-thirds from the level it was at in the 1980s. You might be tempted to ask: Who cares? Well, Salt Lake City is home to almost 75 percent of the

population of the entire state of Utah. I just read an article that explained, scientists are concerned that one terrible result of the massive evaporation of the Great Salt Lake is that Salt Lake City could begin to experience toxic dust clouds from the arsenic on the lake bed that is being exposed. So, the answer is that the 1,192,000 people who live in Metro Salt Lake City should be very concerned.

The Hoover Dam is considered one of the modern wonders of the world. By placing a dam on the mighty Colorado River at just the right place in Black Canyon, with its perfect combination of bed rock strength and narrowness, it seemed at the time to be the perfect



This is a sign at the boat launch of the last open marina on Lake Mead.

win situation, right? Well, it was indeed eight decades ago. Things are looking very grim in 2022.

On my visit to Las Vegas I learned how the population has blossomed (ballooned?) to over two million people. The lights of the Vegas strip are surrounded by the lights of homes and businesses that spread out to all corners of the valley and made this small town resident slack-jawed at the twinkling beauty after dark.

The very technological miracle that allows the neon circus of the Vegas Strip, as well as the twinkle from hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses, has brought about its own approaching demise.

As you can see from the picture, the level of Lake Mead behind the Hoover Dam is falling like a stone. We spoke to a Ranger at one of the Visitor Centers on the Federal Land that surrounds the dam. She grew up there and told us how there used to be five large marinas with thousands of boats. That number has been reduced

to one marina, and she said, they have to move their docks every two to three weeks because the level of the lake is dropping so fast.

Speaking of the parks, State and National, that surround Vegas, there are signs everywhere in them warning visitors of the importance of staying hydrated. This is not for sport, just to stay alive and healthy. I found this out first hand on our third day there. For some reason, I neglected the constant sipping of water that I was diligent about for the first couple days. Between the trade show and wandering around, Julie and I walked 13 miles that day. By late afternoon, I thought I was coming down with something; then it hit me, as I drank 16 ounces of ice tea in record time, that I had neglected to keep fluids flowing into my body. When it is 108 degrees with low humidity, sweat does not drip down your face; it evaporates as soon as it shows up!

While the importance of water is emphasized at every possible place in the surrounding desert, a perusal of Vegas gives the impression that there is more than enough water for everything. The Bellagio Resort is a prime example. The famous fountains sit in a man-made lake that holds 22 million gallons of water in its eight and a half acre boundaries. Sounds cool, yeah? Well that same lake loses an estimated 12 million gallons a year to evaporation. Mandalay Bay has 1.6 million gallons of water just for the shark tank. The Venetian has over a quarter million gallons flowing, and evaporating, from a system of canals that are in and outside the resort in which you can ride a gondola. Can you say “swimming pools”? Every resort has at least one huge

pool and many of them have several. Fountains abound all over the strip — inside and outside.

Don't get me wrong — I love pools, swimming, and lakes with all my heart. Lake Michigan is my Happy Place. However, the situation in Vegas reminds me of the story of Emperor Nero, who supposedly was happy to jam away on his violin while his city burned to the ground. During my Vegas visit, I saw no evidence of any effort to conserve the most fundamental element to human life. We can live a lot longer without food than water. Our bodies are 60 percent water.

So, who cares how much water is used/wasted in Vegas and the rest of the West? Well, for starters, the two million people out there better start caring. While we were there, a news story popped up on my phone about how the leaders in the states who get water from Lake Mead are trying to decide how to begin water rationing because there seems to be no end in sight for the dry conditions.

People blew a gasket at the suggestion they wear a mask for public health; can you imagine the reaction when they get notified they will have to let their lawn and flowers die, shorten their shower time, and stop washing the car?

If you think none of that has any effect on Michigan, hold on. How are you going to feel when Nevada, et al, want to build a giant pipeline to get some of our fresh water? Are we going to want to share with open arms and hearts?

All of us need to wake up and smell the water. We need to take care of this most fundamental element. Don't waste it, don't pollute it, and do not take it for granted.



This is Lake Mead right behind the Hoover Dam. You can see how the level has dropped.

answer to providing water to the dry areas of Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, California, and even a part of Mexico. As a bonus, the dam provides enough electricity for 1.3 million people. Sounds like a win-



CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 22-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AS ESTABLISHED IN APPENDIX A, “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL TO REZONE 2531 WEST MAIN STREET FROM I INDUSTRIAL TO C-3 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 22-03 amending the City of Lowell Zoning Ordinance Map to rezone 2531 West Main Street from I Industrial to C-3 General Business District.

A copy of Ordinance No. 22-03 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street in the City during regular business hours of the City.

Ordinance No. 22-03 is effective 10 days after this publication.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk

LowellArts Artist of the Month: Samuel Nalangira

By Bill Lee
contributing writer

When Sam Nalangira was young and beginning to play music in Uganda, he daydreamed about having a big band with many musicians, singers, and dancers. The native Ugandan, and now resident of South Haven, has never forgotten that dream. “When I was six years old, I could listen to things and bang things and start dancing and then I started drumming,” said Samuel Nalangira. “When I turned eight, I started to do some serious performing. I would have conversations with my friends, telling them, ‘You know what guys? One day I want to have the biggest band when I grow up.’”

Even though he is older now, and has traveled the globe playing his unique brand of world music to thousands of people, the

dream has not been fulfilled quite yet. But he is getting closer. Since moving permanently to South Haven from Uganda almost four years ago, he has been making a living and making connections with people by playing and teaching music. One of the connections he is excited about is with Lowell, as he was recently named LowellArts Artist of the Month, and he is thankful for the recognition. “I was very excited and it is a great opportunity for people to know me more and make more connections,” said Nalangira. “It’s like when someone gives you land with a house on it with no charge.”

It’s this unique perspective to life and music that make Nalangira worth listening to. The first instrument he played as a child was the adungu, which

is a traditional Ugandan string instrument. From there he learned how to play other types of the adungu but wanted to try other instruments so he learned how to play the drums, other string instruments, and even created some on his own. Presently, when you go to his one man show or his trio with percussionist Carolyn Koebel and bassist Nathan Durham, he makes sure to play different instruments because he knows if it is hard for him to play the same sound over and over again, it is probably hard for the audience too. “I always wanted to be challenged,” said Nalangira. “I don’t know why. I look to do something new. Trying new sounds and asking how to play it. It’s fun to play different sounds, and also, it makes you be flexible whereby, if one instrument gets broken, I don’t feel disappointed because I have another instrument to cover that.”

Nalangira is especially proud of the music he presents during his live concerts because he feeds off his audience, which causes him to change the type of music he will play. He is a bit of an improviser. “People will get all types of sounds when they come to my show,” said Nalangira. “Some people just want to listen to the music and then there are some people who just want to dance. And sometimes it depends on the audience. For me when I take the stage, I look out at the audience and think, ‘This audience is not going to want to dance,’ so I keep it calm and slow. If I see the audience is hyped, then they are ready to dance.”

His transition from living, working, and playing in Uganda to trying to do the same in the United



States has not been an easy one. While in Uganda, at one point he was playing in five bands, teaching at five schools, and making a decent living financially. So starting over in the United States was a tough decision, and choosing where he would live was also difficult. Let’s face it, moving to a new place is always an adjustment, but moving to another country? It has been a life changing experience for Nalangira. He thought about New York City but decided it was too big and he seriously considered Boston because of the strong Ugandan population. In the end, he chose South Haven, Michigan for many reasons, but probably the biggest was the small and accepting community, one that would appreciate his unique brand of musicianship.

He had toured in Michigan a couple of times before making the permanent move. When he was ready, he made some calls and many people were receptive to him coming to South Haven, and he found a

place to live with assistance from residents. They helped bring him to schools to do music workshops for the children. His new support system in South Haven not only made him feel comfortable, but it allowed him to be more creative with his time, as well. “They showed me a lot of love,” said Nalangira. “I started performing and started producing my album and had so much support from the community.” When he first arrived to South Haven, he owned only three instruments. Now he has ten and he has created some of his own.

As a teacher, he also likes to improvise by connecting students to what they personally love about music. “Even when I’m teaching drums, I try to see what the students want and put them down that road,” said Nalangira. “I try to teach them to love something before they learn it. Because we come here to be happy and show emotions or come to change.”

It has taken almost four years, but Nalangira seems to be hitting his stride with performing many shows but also as a teacher. When he speaks about his future, his thick accent exudes vitality, gratitude, and determination. And most of all, his dream as an eight-year-old is still alive and well, and his goals are still within his reach. “I see myself having a music school in Africa and a non-profit organization for those on the street (to teach) a talent with music. If you give a person talent, no one can steal it from you,” said Nalangira. “Also, I see myself having a big band of ten people – people singing, people on instruments, and people dancing. I want to have the best African band.” There is no doubt in his mind that this will happen. For more information about Nalangira and his summer touring schedule, you can visit his Facebook page or at www.samuelnalangira.com.

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The Restless Viking

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

~ Sequoia trees in Michigan

by Martha Hayden

The sun was shining warmly on September 30, 2021. "What do you want to do for your birthday?" DaViking (Chuck) asked. "Yeah", Noah, our nineteen year old, added. "I have taken the day off from work. What do you want to do?" I smiled. "Let's go see the Sequoia trees in Manistee!" We headed northwest to see Sequoia trees in Manistee as I was turning 53!

The two and half hour drive sped right along. Under my direction, Chuck (DaViking) pulled up to a home. There'd been a

Michigan.

Another couple pulled up and got out of their car. "We're looking for a Giant Sequoia tree," the man said with a southern drawl. "We are here to see the Sequoia tree, too," I replied as I searched for a clue as to the mysterious tree's location.

Steve and Denise have been avid appreciators of trees. They'd even taken a tree climbing class in Dawson, Georgia where one learns to move among the treetops using ascension



it's over here!" I followed her voice. Chuck and Noah, along with Steve, charged ahead, up the hill and through a closed gate. (I surmised that the park was closed, but I knew we'd all be respectful.) So I worked my way around the gate and found the group.

There it was. The Giant Sequoia. We all stood in awe. I looked up and clicked the view.

I stepped back to try to get the whole tree in the

survived. Several other unique trees have been planted on the property: Ginko, Horse Chestnut, Cypress, Redwood and a famously large Sycamore Maple. The lake provides some insulation. It's warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. The lakeshore

General Sherman. It stands at 275 feet tall. The tree is 2,100 years old. That means it was growing when Jesus was on the Earth. Only two other trees have longer life spans. They are the bristlecone pines and the Alerce trees.

The Arboretum History

Magazine.

The arboretum facts all fit together when I realized that J. Sterling Morton had been the United States Secretary of Agriculture from 1893-1897 under Grover Cleveland. His family had founded the Morton Salt Company.



This is a salt well in Manistee, Michigan.

climate has allowed for the arboretum to thrive.

Edward and Gertrude Gray donated this property in 1980. It's known as the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary and Arboretum. The home serves as a Bed and Breakfast. This would be a beautiful venue for a small wedding.

Sequoia Facts

The bark of the Sequoia can be up to three feet thick, which helps make

J. Sterling Morton's grandson, Joy, had purchased part of the salt business, Elkins Wheeler and Company, based in Chicago in 1879. A few years later, in 1886, he and his brother, Mark, purchased more of the company and renamed it Joy Morton and Company.

The brothers made the acquaintance of Charles Reitz, a lumberman from Manistee, Michigan.

Morton's family carried on his legacy of cherishing trees by developing this arboretum in Manistee, Michigan.

This day-trip was fulfilling! Noah and Chuck had taken time from their schedule and treated me to a picnic lunch on Lake Michigan. Finding the Giant Sequoia was satisfying. I didn't know I could be interested in the salt industry, but it was

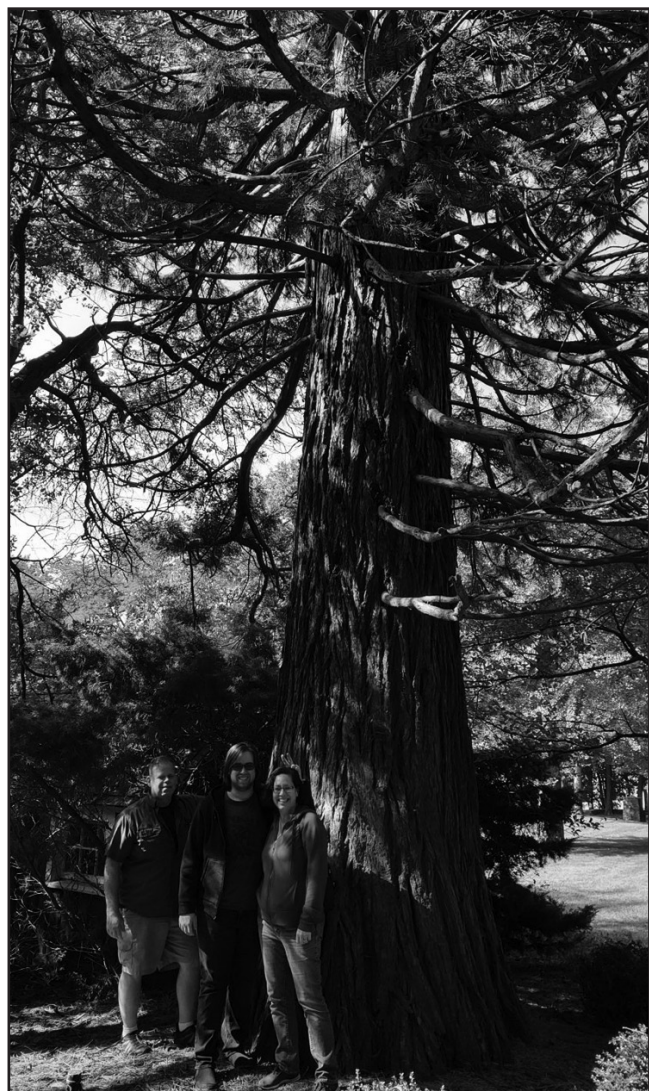


The sturdy branches seemed to continue endlessly upward!

sign by their driveway, "Arboretum." I figured we'd arrived. I wondered about this home and why there was an arboretum here on the shores of Lake

ropes with carabiners. They were up north for a family wedding and heard about the Giant Sequoia. Their enthusiasm was charming!

Diane called out, "I think



Sequoiadendron giganteum.



This estate home was built from 1936-1938. The Morton family invested in this land and helped to plant over seventy unusual trees on their property.

picture. I stepped back further. Then, even further. It just wasn't far enough. There was a hundred foot cliff dropping to the shore of Lake Michigan, so I decided to snap the photo from where I was.

The sign informed us that six Sequoia seedlings had been planted here in 1949 by Gertrude and Edward Gray. Three Sequoias have

Sequoias fire resistant. Every two decades Sequoias reproduce. Their remarkably small-sized pine cones require fire to open and release the quarter inch seeds.

Sequoias can grow heartily in zones 6-9, but most grow along the western side of the Sierra Nevada mountains in California.

The largest tree in the world is a Sequoia named

Charles had developed a way to retrieve salt from underground in the northern Lake Michigan area. This was an ingenious resource for Joy and Mark Morton!

A decade later, in 1909, the Chicago based company was registered as "Morton Salt." By 1910, the logo of the little girl carrying an umbrella was finalized as part of the advertising campaign for Housekeeping

amazing to see the salt well still in operation today. Keep looking for unique places and individuals as you travel! Enjoy making memories with the people you love!

Resources:

Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary and Arboretum 2890 Lake Shore Road, Manistee, Michigan (517) 580-7364. www.blog.tentree.com

Red Arrow

- HISTORY OF

SPORTS

Red Arrow history - The Athletic Association

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

It's the fall of 1900. William McKinley was President of the United States, the Qing Dynasty still ruled China, and a pound of bacon would've cost you 14 cents. In 1900, the boys of Lowell High School wanted to play sports, and for the first time in the school's nearly quarter of a century holding classes, they would get that opportunity.

Prior to 1900, sports in Lowell were not formally organized at the youth level in the area. Club baseball amongst area businesses was common, and often, well attended. The youth of the school held very informal get-togethers to play popular sports at the time, but nothing at an organized level, nor representing the high school.

High school sports had its origins back in 1852, when Massachusetts began compulsory education for youths. This law would lay the groundwork for the beginning of high school sports. Robert Pruter, one of the pioneers in the field of historical research on the subject, notes that organized school sports started in

boarding schools on the east coast, then cities picked up on them and spread west over time. The 1890's saw a boom in high school sports, often led by student-run organizations organizing semi-formal competition with neighboring schools. Institutions slowly took over the control of sports, and it wasn't until the 1920's where state organizations began to form. The MHSAA recognizes state championships back into the 20's, often considered one of the golden ages in American sport at all levels.

Lowell followed the national trend, including the student push for athletics, though being in a rural area, about a few years behind. The September 20, 1900 Lowell Ledger notes the following. "The boys of the High School have completed the organization of their Athletic association. Mr. Collar is president; Mr. McCarty, vice-president; Mr. Bergin, secretary; and Mr. Hill, treasurer. Football is practiced regularly."

Three of these individuals were likely football players, as they had a direct role in the creation of the association and played football that year: Carl

Bergin (junior), Clarence Collar (junior), and Dean McCarty (eighth grade). Though not explicitly stated, it is likely the student organization persisted for several years before school administration took over the oversight of athletics, particularly to help integrate physical education in schools, another national trend at the time.

The same paper states under the school news section: "The boys were deservedly proud of their baseball victory over Grattan. The prospects for a good nine next spring are very bright."

This statement is the first such acknowledgement of a sport at Lowell high school, and that victory over Grattan is the first known athletic result in the school's history.

Though never explicitly stated, one can conclude that formal sports at the high school level did not exist until the creation of the student athletic association, given both the first mention of a high school baseball team in the Ledger, Lowell football starting competition in the month after, and school colors were not chosen until later that fall.



The 1900 Lowell football photo is particularly famous, both for its longevity, but also the caption and quality. Note Dean McCarty, Carl Bergin, and Clarence Collar's appearance, who helped kickstart organized sports at LHS. Back row, left to right, are: Frank Ayers, Tom Davidson, Carl Bergin, Harry Fuller, Joe Kelly, J.P. Thomas, superintendent, Kess Fisher; middle row: Clarence Collar, Henry Needham, Arthur White, Charles Bergin; front row: Guy Morgan, Dean McCarty, Dwell Langworthy.

Lowell clay target team competes in state skeet and sporting clay competition

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

In the first of the state shoots, Lowell's scholastic clay target team competed at the Detroit Gun Club the weekend of June 10.

During Friday's senior skeet competition, Lowell was led by Carra Couturier who shot a 94.

Tyler Well (81) and Joseph Korcek (72) also competed. Alanna Wester's 81 placed Lowell in the junior varsity division.

In Saturday's senior sporting clays, Couturier's 86 led LHS. For junior varsity, Rylei Weller led the team with a 76. As a team,

Lowell placed third among high schools.

Sunday was the final day of competition and in the rookie, and intermediate state shoot, Lowell got an impressive 95 from Jacob Johnson, good for second place overall. Isaac Johnson led Lowell with an 80 in the sporting clays competition that day.

Lowell will compete at the state trap shoot this weekend in Mason.

Lowell grad wins volleyball national championship

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

On Saturday in Florida, one former Red Arrow graduate, and her club volleyball team, hoisted an AAU national championship trophy. Lowell 2022 graduate, Emily Struckmeyer, and her club volleyball team, ended a five-month schedule with a win.

The 49th AAU Junior National Volleyball

Championships, held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, had more than 100,000 attendees over two weeks, ending with the cumulative championship matches across each age group. In the oldest age group, 18U, Struckmeyer's club, Far Out Volleyball, Black won the tournament with the finals held at ESPN's Wide World of Sports. Far Out

is a club based in Grand Rapids.

In the finals, they defeated Sports Performance Volleyball 18U out of Aurora, IL.

The team has six division one volleyball players on the team, including Struckmeyer and Lakewood's Maradith O'Gorman. Struckmeyer will be playing volleyball at Charleston Southern next year.



Emily Struckmeyer (far right) with Fellow Far Out Volleyball seniors.

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obituaries

AYERS

Gina Marie Ayers, age 46 of Lowell, passed away on June 14, 2022. She was preceded in death by her mother, Diana Ayers. Gina is survived by her father, Benjamin Ayers; brothers, Jesse, Ben Jr., and Kevin; uncle, Denny (Penny) Allen; great-aunt, Joann Laper; and many friends. A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Interment Graceland Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be directed to Lowell Pink Arrow Pride, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



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HOWARD

Jim Howard, age 79 of Lowell has passed away on June 14, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, Curley and Bea Howard; and son, Steve. He is survived by his daughter, LuAnn Palcowski; grandchildren, Hailey Duram, Morgan Duram; great-grandchildren, Vernon Oaks III, Jocelyn Oaks; and sister, Bonnie Balcerzak. Jim worked at Amway for 30 years. He enjoyed walking, riding bicycles, swimming, and writing. Private services were held by the family.



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RICH

July 22, 1931 – April 20, 2022

Margaret Loree Rich, age 90, of Lighthouse Point, FL, passed away peacefully and went to be with the Lord and finally able to join her husband, Larry. She is survived by her two younger sisters (Leola and Joyce) and their families, also her three children; Kirk (Sue), Craig (Sandy), Val (Jay), her daughter-in-law (Marlene), 9 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son. Born at home in rural Lowell, MI, she is the daughter of the late Frank and Vena Ruegseger. She graduated from Lowell High School, attended Michigan State University, married her high school sweetheart, began a family quickly, worked for Fideler Publishing Co. Transitioned to Grand Valley State University as an Executive Secretary for the V. President, and then became involved in their Amway business for the next 45 years, becoming highly successful. They traveled extensively. They had a home in FL and also MI and loved life. They were very involved with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and would be with them as much as possible. Her Memorial Service will be held at Alton Bible Church, Lincoln Lake Road, Lowell, MI on Sunday, July 3, 2022 at 3pm. Reception to follow. The family wishes to thank everyone for their words of comfort during this difficult time. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.forestlawnnorth.com.



...

**Sadly enough,
the most painful
goodbyes are the
ones that are left
unsaid and never
explained.**

~ Jonathan Harnisch, *Freak*

Continued from page 3

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www.cnaads.com *Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018



In the summer of 1936, a curly topped 10-year-old gal sauntered northbound up dirty Lafayette Street with her older sister Fay and older brother Jack leading the way. The sun shone upon them, and the day was hot, yet they smiled the whole way because they knew that relief was just a few blocks north. The swimmin' hole.

Zoa Speerstra, lifelong Lowell resident, passed away today.

Zoa, named after her maternal grandmother Zoa Zahm, was a child of the great depression and survivor of World War II. As a child living on South Lafayette Street, with the river as her back yard and the now ancient high school as her front, Zoa lazed away the heady days of her youth afloat in the Flat River.



Imagine a family in those difficult days she lived, with a lovely sister Fay, brother Jack and youngest of the Green family, Douglas, soon to arrive. Mother Pearl (Zahm / Green) and Father Earl facing the depravity of the depression and all the trials brought with it.

In the summer of 1936, few in Lowell Michigan could have dreamed of the mayhem yet to face them as the mad man Hitler schemed to lay his insanity upon his neighbors.

Zoa was an excellent student, a voracious reader, and possibly the "prettiest gal in town".

The years clicked by and the '30s became the '40s, and in her early teens Zoa became completely enamored (lightning struck) with a young man from Vergennes Township, Richard Speerstra.

In 1940, the story goes, jobs were still hard to find in Lowell,

Michigan, but the war in Europe was winding up fast and Earl received word that good jobs could be had at the Continental factory in Muskegon. It was not a difficult decision to make the move toward a steady income for the family.

Of course, youthful exuberance won out and Zoa stayed with Grandma Zahm in Lowell in order to "finish up her schooling" (I'm sure Dick Speerstra had a part in that decision).

The Germans continued to hammer away in Europe until Roosevelt threw the States, and Lowell, Michigan headlong into World War II. Dick, at 18, volunteered when Japan struck Hawaii and Zoa moved to work in a war production plant in Muskegon as well.

Of course, there were daily letters from the Pacific, but the family was thunder struck when the USS Brownson DD518 was sunk off Cape Gloucester in the South Pacific, along with 108 crew members. Crawling from the forward emergency generator room many decks below, Dick Speerstra swam for his life and within a month found himself teaching classes at Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

I guess you know that we won the war. I was conceived in May 1945. A part of the celebration I suppose. My brother Thomas came along a few years later and back to the Flat River we came.

Dad was a journeyman electrician and found work quite easily in that field. Zoa was good with words and numbers and could take "shorthand" lickity split. Between the two, our income may have approached \$5,000 annually.

Dick became an outstanding beekeeper and tended his hives diligently from Vergennes Street as Zoa did her part as secretary and office manager first at Superior Furniture on Main Street then Root Lowell, Mfg., then Superior again in later years.

There were gardens to plant and kids to train and always bills to pay. A few glorious trips to the UP, a couple of trips off to Europe with Fay, and the war and depression become distant memories. And so, for 96 years Zoa lived and thrived nearly always within about 50 yards of the Flat River and loved her small hometown of Lowell, her friends and family.

There will never be another quite like her.....though her six great grandkids are beginning to show a lot of character.

Jason Blunt, of Alto, graduated from Cedarville University in spring 2022 with an undergraduate degree in History.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,715 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation, and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and high student engagement ranking. For more information about Cedarville University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Elise Smith of Alto, MI was among the more than 5,500 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa named to the dean's list for the 2022 spring semester.

Smith is a first year student in Iowa's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is majoring in Radiation Sciences Interest.

Dean's list status was earned by 714 first-year undergraduates during the 2022 spring semester at Iowa, only 1,268 second-year students, only 1,559 third-year students, and only

2,045 fourth-year students.

This spring, more than 5,100 University of Iowa undergraduate, graduate, and professional students earned their degrees. These Hawkeyes have engaged, excelled, and stretched to reach their goals -- despite a pandemic.

Emily Johnson of Alto, was among the students conferred their degrees. Johnson was a student in the College of Education whose program of study was English Education. The degree awarded was a Bachelor of Arts.

A total of 11,224 students enrolled during spring semester 2022 at The University of Alabama were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

Local students are: of Alto: Justin Heaton and Kevin Thomasma; of Lowell: Derek Mohr.

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ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We have a widows luncheon on the last Friday of each month. Starts promptly at 1 pm. All are welcome. Questions on location, call Elaine 616-856-8022 or Jenn at 616-490-9970.

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Grid of puzzle solutions with words like RANCES, REMORSE, APPROPRIATED, etc.

Grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle.

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



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Why do some purposely hurt themselves

This is an important topic that needs more awareness, but it may be too difficult for some to read. If you think this article may cause you emotional pain or trigger traumatic memories, you may not want to continue reading.

You may have heard about people purposely hurting themselves. It's often called self-injury, self-harm, or self-mutilation. The official term is non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI). NSSI is when someone purposely and repeatedly hurts themselves but doesn't intend suicide.

Those that have not been exposed to this type of behavior struggle to understand it and often believe the person is suicidal because sometimes the injuries can be bloody or even disfiguring. Those who self-injure are not typically looking to end their life, but life-threatening injuries have been known to happen, some even leading to their unintended death. While NSSI is most often seen in adolescents and teens, it can occur in adults.

Why Do People Self-Injure?

Many say self-injury is their way of coping with emotional pain/hurt and intense feelings. They often say the pain from self-injury brings them a sense of calm

from the intense emotions that at times they can't seem to shut off or control. The physical pain distracts them from these overwhelming intense emotions. While they may feel temporary relief, after self-harming, the person often experiences feelings of guilt or shame and the same emotions that lead to their self-injury return. So, this temporary fix becomes a vicious cycle of pain emotional and physical pain.

People that self-injure typically don't know how to deal with emotional pain in a healthy way. They have poor coping skills and difficulty regulating, managing, understanding, or expressing emotions. Those that self-injure often say they have intense feelings of worthlessness, loneliness, self-hatred, confused sexuality, and/or may feel like an outcast or rejected by others. They may also have intense feelings of anxiety, panic, and anger. Having a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder, depression, panic/anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and eating disorders increase the risk for self-harming behaviors.

Types of Self-Injury

The most often seen types of self-injury include:

- Skin cutting
- Skin burning
- Head banging
- Hitting or punching
- Other types of self-injury may include:
- Excessive scratching of the skin often to the point of drawing blood
- Piercing the skin with sharp objects
- Inserting objects under the skin
- Drinking something harmful (bleach, chemicals, detergent etc.)
- Purposely breaking bones
- Inserting objects into body openings
- Excessive rubbing of the skin to create a burn
- Most that self-injure tend to have more than one method of self-harm. They self-injure in private and it's often done in a ritual manner.

Skin burning
Head banging
Hitting or punching
Other types of self-injury may include:

Excessive scratching of the skin often to the point of drawing blood

Piercing the skin with sharp objects

Inserting objects under the skin

Drinking something harmful (bleach, chemicals, detergent etc.)

Purposely breaking bones

Inserting objects into body openings

Excessive rubbing of the skin to create a burn

Most that self-injure tend to have more than one method of self-harm. They self-injure in private and it's often done in a ritual manner.

The areas most targeted are the arms, legs and front of the torso. However, any area of the body may be self-injured.

Possible Signs of Self-Injury

These below signs may be due to other factors but they are often seen in those that self-injure.

Scars, often seen in patterns

Fresh cuts, scratches, bite marks, other wounds or bruises

Having sharp objects on their person or near to them

Wearing long sleeves or long pants, even when the weather is hot

Frequent claims of accidents causing the injuries

Emotional and behavioral instability. Outbursts of

anger, panic, unpredictable and impulsive behaviors.

Struggles with interpersonal relationships and few, if any, friends

Statements of feeling helpless, worthless, or hopeless

Drug or alcohol use/abuse

Any injury that has the potential to cause serious harm or be life-threatening, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately if you are seriously injured or feel you may seriously injure yourself.

If you are having suicidal or self-harming thoughts but are not in an immediate life-threatening crisis:

Call a suicide hotline. In the U.S., call the National Suicide Prevention

Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) or use their webchat on suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat.

Seek help from your school nurse or counselor, teacher, doctor, or other health care or mental health provider.

Reach out to a close friend or loved one.

Contact a spiritual leader or someone else in your faith community.

Self-injury is too big an issue to ignore or to deal with alone and it could lead to serious permanent injuries or possible death. You are not alone and help is available by reaching out to a mental health professional. I hope you find this information helpful but as always, it's not intended to diagnose or treat.

MVAA's first Women Veterans Conference attracts 144 veterans

Women veterans from across Michigan gathered in downtown Lansing June 10-11 to learn about advocacy and resources, create new connections and share their testimonies.

The MVAA Women Veterans Conference successfully brought together women veterans from all walks of life with a goal of raising awareness of their contributions and sacrifices and improving women veteran services.

Erika Hoover, MVAA's women veterans and special populations coordinator, was the driving force behind the first-ever conference. She encouraged women veterans to start identifying as veterans and to take their new connections into their everyday lives.

"It's so important to tell our stories. It's so important to connect to our identities. We put that away for too long," said Hoover, a Navy veteran. "I encourage you to meet up and go create your own spaces in your own communities. Create something out of this."

The conference included keynote addresses, breakout sessions and about 30 vendors offering resources and services to help women veterans thrive in all facets of their lives. The MVAA's Veteran Resource Service Center (1-800-MICH-VET) was there to connect women veterans to the benefits and resources they earned for their service.

MVAA Director, Zaneta Adams, encouraged

participants to work together in their communities to further women veteran causes, boost women veteran membership in veteran organizations and get the word out about the strength and resiliency of women veterans.

"Women veterans are over 43,000 strong in Michigan. We're over 2 million strong and rising across the country. We are not small. And we are mighty," said Adams, an Army veteran.

"Whatever you've been called to do, whatever your experience is, whatever your testimony, whatever you've gone through, that is something that can help someone else out, so use that," she added. "We have to take the information to the communities where we live and carry that message and change the tide. It's going to take all of us."

One of the conference presenters, Lansing

consultant Lisa Fisher, asked of the women veterans, what is your superpower? The answers came pouring out: Handling pressure. Empathy. Communication. Organization. Compassion. Analyzation. Resiliency. Leadership.

Women often forget their gifts and talents, Fisher said. They let society's limiting beliefs get in their heads and hold them back.

"Don't let those naysayers write your story," Fisher told the group. "Write your own story."

Call 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838) or visit [michigan.gov/MVAA/women-veterans](https://www.michigan.gov/MVAA/women-veterans) to learn more about women veteran services and resources. You can also join the Military Sisterhood Initiative to connect with fellow women veterans in your area at <https://www.challengeamerica.com/msi>.

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

Level: Advanced

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!

ROSES WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

ROSES WORD SEARCH

ALBA
 ANTIQUE
 BLOOMS
 BOURBON

CENTIFOLIA
 CLIMBING
 DAMASK
 FLORIBUNDA
 GALLICA
 GRANDIFLORA
 GROUNDCOVER

HISTORIC
 HYBRID TEA
 LANDSCAPE
 MINIATURE
 MODERN
 OLD
 PETITE

POLYANTHA
 RAMBLING
 ROSES
 SHOWY
 SHRUB
 WILD

Guess Who?

I am an R&B singer born in Alabama on June 20, 1949. I founded several R&B groups and also played tennis on scholarship before making it big. In addition to my own hits, I co-wrote a song that raised money for Africa.

Answer: Lionel Richie

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to roses.

U B E T U O Q

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

Answer: Bouquet

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				

CLUES ACROSS

- Half-conscious states
- Unnatural
- Deep regret
- Rogue
- Took without permission
- An alternative
- After B
- Partner to "flowed"
- The best day of the week (abbr.)
- Helps you hear
- Egyptian river
- Lake __, one of the Great
- Make free from bacteria
- Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- Sanctuaries in Greek temples
- Most unclothed
- NJ senator Booker
- Tibetan lake
- Desecrate something sacred
- John __, English educator 1467-1519
- Obtains in return for labor
- Views

CLUES DOWN

- Rugged cliff
- Not quiet
- Body part
- Newt
- German city
- A way to save money
- NBC's Roker
- Dire Straits frontman
- Actress Lathan
- Most meager
- Poems
- Companions
- The skill to do something
- Where golf games begin
- Untethered
- Print errors
- The sport of engaging in contests of speed
- Ones to look up to
- Stringed instrument
- Gives whippings
- Type of tie
- Make more concentrated
- Die
- Part of a winter hat
- Young men's club
- Bathrooms need it
- U.S. president
- American novelist
- Take into custody
- Hurts
- Type of gibbon
- American actor Lukas
- Partner to cheese
- Some are covert
- Political action committee
- To and __
- Atomic #28

Continued from page 1

atmosphere for vendors, entertainers, and festival-goers,” Liz Baker, Lowell Area Chamber director said.

Among these booths, you will find artists, artisans, crafters, pickers, makers, and boutique owners showcasing their wares, along with commercial and non-profit vendors. Take in the street entertainers, the Englehardt Used Book Sale in front of the library and inside, and Moose Bingo.

“Come hungry to get in on the grilling and chilling on Avery Street,” said Baker.

The Riverwalk stage will provide the backdrop for Sea Cruisers, bringing the best sounds of classic rock & roll oldies from the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

Saturday, July 9 is loaded with a full day of activities. The day starts at 8 am with the Lowell Cruise-In and Run the Riverwalk 5K Run/Walk.

Riverwalk Rumble, the classic cars, will take their cars to Main Street at 1:45 pm from their registration place on Avery Street. Non-registered cars & motorcycles can join in

as well by arriving at the Lowell United Methodist Parking lot at 1:30 pm. This event takes the place of the traditional parade.

Kayak Fun, sponsored by Bill & Paul’s Sporthaus, is back this year after taking a couple of years off. Bring your water vessel and enter Bill & Paul’s Sporthaus kayak/SUP/canoe race at 10 am.

“This gives those that just want to try out a kayak a chance to have some fun on the Flat River,” said Baker.

Enjoy the expanded Kidz Zone, featuring a



special appearance by Batman & Friends, kids scavenger hunt, book sale, Ducky Derby, Flea on the Flat River show, Grilling, and Chilling, and much more.

New this year is the UMH-West Blood Drive with Versiti Blood Center of Michigan. Blood levels are reaching critical levels and the only way we rebuild it is together. There are 54 slots to fill, and everyone that donates will receive a T-shirt. Appointments

preferred. You can register by visiting www.riverwalkfestival.org using a QR Code or clicking on the link.

A community worship service from 7 pm to 8:15 pm will be held at the Riverwalk Stage and the grand finale – the Laurels of Kent Fireworks at 10:15 pm will round out the last day of the festival.

The Riverwalk Festival is the chamber’s signature event that raises funds to support the operational

budget. It raises around \$30,000.

“We, of course, are wishing for Chamber of Commerce weather; sunshine, 80 degrees, and no humidity,” said Baker. “We also are hoping that more people will get out and visit the festival and all our businesses throughout the community. Lowell has so much to offer, see and taste.”

For the complete schedule, go to www.riverwalkfestival.org



Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!

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Call or email the Lowell Ledger Crew!

Phone: 616-897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

CITY OF LOWELL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PURCHASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF CITY OF LOWELL OWNED PROPERTY

The City of Lowell is seeking proposals for the purchase and development of a City-owned parcel of property consisting of approximately 0.10 acres with an approximately 1,800 square foot building (commonly called the Line Shack Building) located at 115 Riverside Drive in the City, finding it not necessary for the operation of the utility. This RFP is not an offer to enter into a contract. This RFP may not contain all matters upon which agreement must be reached.

Any proposal for the purchase of the property must include a plan for development of the property. A restaurant, retail complex, or residential development has been identified as the desired use of the property; however, the City is willing to consider other uses. The property was recently rezoned from Public Facility to C-2 Central Business District.

A responsive proposal shall include the offered purchase price (the City is required to sell the property at its fair market value), identification of development partners and development team, identification of similar projects developer has developed, the proposed use or uses and related approximate square footages, a drawing or sketch of the proposed development, estimated total investment and job creation, any economic development incentives being requested and an estimated timeline for completion of the development. **Based on a fair market value appraisal, the City of Lowell has set a minimum offer amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).**

If selected, prior to the purchase of the property, the developer, will be required to enter into a purchase and development agreement with the City to include but not be limited to, provisions related to submission of plans and specifications for review and acceptance by City, the details of any economic development incentives requested, development milestones, and performance requirements including financing. The transfer of property shall be by way of quitclaim deed, as-is, and subject to all easement or other encumbrances.

It will be the responsibility of the proposer to become familiar with the property including zoning requirements and to review environmental studies related to the property which are available for review at City Hall.

Sealed proposals marked “FORMER LINE SHACK REDEVELOPMENT RFP – CITY OF LOWELL” must be received by the City Clerk on or before 11:00 a.m., local time, on Monday July 11, 2022, at the City of Lowell, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI 49331 in the City.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal at its sole discretion, waive any irregularities, and may negotiate the terms of purchase with one or more proposers. The selected proposal must be considered by the City Council.

Any bidder submitting a proposal hereto certifies that it is not an Iran linked business as that term is defined by the Iran Economic Sanctions Act, Act 517 of 2012 and that it and its subcontractors shall not discriminate against an employee or applicant for employment with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or a matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, or marital status or because of a disability that is unrelated to the individual’s ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position.

Any questions regarding this request should be addressed to Michael Burns, City Manager at 616-897-8457.



Michael Burns
City Manager