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Eco friendly shave



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50¢



2022 Kent County Youth Fair is in the books

The 2022 Kent County Youth Fair wrapped up on soggy note last Saturday, but there was still plenty of fun things to do and see last week.

The fair is a fun, family affair. From all the wonderful still exhibits on display to the hard work of showing animals to the live music and demonstrations and great rides and games for everyone in the family.

There was line dancing, Gelly Ball, a corn hole tournament, a mullet contest, a talent show, mini horse and draft horse pulls, antique tractor pull, dog agility show, lots of music and great food.

See more coverage with photos on pages 8 and 9.



Lowell Schools work around construction projects amidst new year beginning

By Michelle Smith
contributing writer

Lowell Area Schools Superintendent, Nate Fowler, gave an update on construction projects throughout the district at the Board of Education meeting Aug. 8.

All four elementary schools have projects

near completion. Alto Elementary wells have been dug and new boilers are installed. This is due to a boiler failure in December 2021. The school has been using bottled water since January.

Fowler said the first of three rounds of water

testing is complete. The new well will be active after successfully completing the third test. Communication regarding this will be sent to Alto Elementary families soon.

Work is near completion at Murray Lake Elementary, where a secure vestibule is being installed. The Busnell

Elementary parking lot and service drive repavement will be completed the week of Aug. 15. At Cherry Creek Elementary the new gymnasium floor has been installed, and the walls and ceilings have been repainted. Sound panelings have yet to be installed.

Lowell Middle School Principal, Abby Wiseman, presented an update and operations plan for the portions of the middle school that will be affected by the ongoing construction.

Wiseman said the school kitchen and health room are complete, as is the sixth grade wing, pending inspections. Sixth grade teachers will be able to access their new classrooms after the inspections.

The demolition of the old seventh and eighth-grade wing is nearing completion, and excavation has begun for underground utilities near Foreman Street.

Wiseman said the plan for lunch time is that students will be split into three groups by grade level, as usual, and the former sixth-grade science room

will serve as the cafeteria during construction. She said there is a concern that there may not be much room for student lines to get food, but there is the normal amount of seating available.

Wiseman said the main office will be housed in an open classroom at the entrance of the seventh-grade wing. She said the room is secure with a nearby locked vestibule. Other offices will be scattered throughout the building in different wings. One administrator will be located in each grade wing in empty classrooms or workrooms.

Parents will receive diagrams that will illustrate their drop-off and pick-up procedures. Buses will enter Foreman Street and exit on Suffolk Street.

There are many projects set to be completed at the middle school during the 2023-24 school year. Those include a STEAM/Computer lab, the cafeteria, a 300-seat auditorium, the main school office, the Foreman Street entrance parking lot and parent drop-off area, and locker and weight rooms.



The seventh and eighth grade wings of the Middle School, along with the front offices have been demolished.

The Adams Family Band and Natchez Trace conclude Lowell's concert series

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Lowell's Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, will finish up its concert series on Thursday, August 25 with two bands: The Adams Family Band and Natchez Trace.

The Adams Family Band calls Lowell their hometown, and therefore, are pretty excited to end this summer's concert series. "As always, we are excited

to play Lowell any chance we get," said the members of the group. "Lowell is our hometown and we have fond memories of concerts on the Showboat as kids. We all have had and performed music for over fifty years and we never tire of it."

The members of the band – Jerry Adams, Cindy Adams Knopf, Brian Adams, and Dale Kropf – are indeed a family affair with Jerry, his son Brian, his sister Cindy and his brother-in-law Dale all singing and

playing guitar. The audience should be prepared for many songs from the 50s and 60s, with a ton of vocal harmonies and many sing along and dance along hits. "We love to play and get a kick out of having the audience get involved, sing-along, smile and dance," said the band. You can learn more about them at their website www.theadamsfamilyband.com

Joining them that night will be Natchez Trace, an acoustic trio out of West Michigan known for playing



Natchez Trace will perform with The Adams Family Band on Showboat stage on August 25.



songs from the 60s and 70s.

Band members Ronn Burke, Steve Damstra, and Robin Spring are excited to play in Lowell but also share the stage with The Adams Family Band. "We are super excited to play Lowell Showboat," said Robin Spring. "We've been there before and know the caliber

of music they book, so we are delighted to be part of that mix. We are even more thrilled to join our good friends, the Adam's Family. They are hands down our favorite local band for their harmony excellence, song choice and friendship."

Natchez Trace is known for their three-part harmony

and classical acoustic guitar playing and love playing songs from bands such as The Mamas and Papas, Simon and Garfunkel, Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young, The Beatles, The Eagles and many others. You can learn more about the band on their website natcheztrace.us

The Adams Family Band will close out the 2022 Lowell Sizzlin' Summer concert series on Thursday, August 25.

Stay safe on the roads as Labor Day holiday nears

"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign encourages sober driving

The end of summer is traditionally marked by the Labor Day holiday and is a time for friends and families to enjoy pool parties, backyard barbecues and late-summer road trips. Sadly, the Labor Day holiday weekend is also one of the deadliest times of the year in terms of impaired-driving fatalities.

That is why through the remainder of August and the 2022 Labor Day holiday weekend, police departments, sheriff's offices and the Michigan State Police are encouraging motorists to celebrate safely and make smart driving decisions. During a three-week period, August 12 through September 5, there will be increased enforcement and additional

messaging about the dangers of driving impaired.

In 2021, nearly 45 percent of fatalities on Michigan roadways involved alcohol and/or drugs, according to the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.

Over the Labor Day holiday weekend periods from 2017 to 2021, there were 39 drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in Michigan. In those crashes, one-third of the

drivers killed were alcohol-impaired.

"The aim of the enforcement campaign is to drastically reduce deaths and serious injuries caused by impaired driving," said Katie Bower, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). "This should be a time for friends and family to enjoy the final days of summer. Impaired driving puts everyone at risk and is always unacceptable."

Officers will be on the lookout for motorists under the influence of drugs and alcohol throughout the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement period. In Michigan, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, although motorists can be arrested at any BAC level if an officer believes they are impaired.

Also, in Michigan during 2021:

There were 9,557 alcohol-involved crashes (with 357 alcohol-involved fatalities) and 2,999 drug-involved crashes (with 275 drug-involved fatalities).

One person was killed in an alcohol-involved crash every 24 hours and 32 minutes.

In all traffic crashes occurring over the Labor Day holiday period, 11 people died.

To increase awareness and encourage safe and sober driving, the OHSP is funding a statewide media campaign about the dangers of impaired driving. The OHSP has also produced a new commercial, titled "Impaired and You Know It."

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is supported with federal traffic safety funds provided by the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and coordinated by the OHSP.

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Lowell Schools final prep to kick off new year, no current Covid restrictions

By Michelle Smith
contributing writer

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education met for its regular meeting Aug. 8 at the Administrative Offices building.

Superintendent, Nate Fowler, and Lowell Middle School Principal, Abby Wiseman, presented an update on area school construction projects. While the Lowell Middle School is still partially under construction, several projects are expected to be complete before the school year begins Aug. 23.

The Board approved a \$58,000 expense to install outdoor security cameras at the four elementary schools. These cameras will provide coverage of the schools' main and rear entrances, as well as the playgrounds and parking lots.

Fowler said he is hoping the expense for the cameras will be covered under the state's safety and security improvement grant. If not, it will be

covered from excess funds from the current building projects. He said he has not yet seen a list of what the state considers allowable expenses.

Director of Human Resources, Dustin Cichocki, reported that the district has filled all of the teaching staff positions and most of the paraprofessional and custodian positions. He said he wants to create two security positions at the middle school whose purpose would be to help in the parking lots. This is due to possible confusion and congestion during pick-up and drop-off times in the midst of the current construction.

Cichocki said he is looking for ways to retain and attract bus drivers to the Lowell district. The full board met in closed session regarding this.

During the public comments, Stefanie Boone read a message she said she received from a Lowell

Middle School student regarding how gender identity issues are causing anger and confusion amongst the students. The student said she does not feel comfortable attending school because of the division between groups of students and what she feels is the lack of trusted adults.

"There should be a reaction to a child who clearly feels they have no one else to go to because they're not welcome to talk to some principals and counselors that are allowed to only make certain people feel welcome at school," Boone said.

"Please put some thought and energy into ways to make everyone feel welcome at school," she said.

Fowler thanked Boone for her comments and said he wants all students to feel welcome and that there are trusted adults in school to which students can bring their concerns.

"It's something that we continue to talk about and continue to stress, that idea that all are welcome."

Fowler said as the summer draws to a close, school staff members are doing a final push to get ready. He said with the exception of the sixth grade teachers whose classrooms are under construction, teachers are readying their classrooms, the offices are open, and grounds crews and custodians are at work.

"There's a lot of work that goes into starting the school year. I want to wish all of our students, parents, teachers, administrators, drivers, custodians, everybody, all the best these next two weeks," he said.

Fowler said the district has no current plans to add any Covid restrictions. He said indications from the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), plus trends that have happened in the past, show that students will most likely be able to stay full-time in their classrooms to learn.

"Students learn best when they're in school. We're going to continue to work toward keeping kids in school. Children, overall, have milder cases when they are infected, and vaccines are available for the families who want them. We're going to continue as a district to work to provide



clean air ventilation and make sure that we're doing what we can to make sure our students have safe learning environments."

Fowler said the KCHD mask order for K-6 students expired in January, and there is no indication that there will be any masking requirements. He said the KCHD has not yet released their guidelines regarding isolation for students or staff who test positive for Covid. He said he expects the guidelines to be released the week of Aug. 15.

"Our goal is to keep kids in school. We're going to try to work within those guidelines, work within the recommendation of the public health department. Keep kids in school, as well as keeping everybody else safe, and we're not contributing to the unnecessary spread of

infection," he said.

In the Board Communication section of the meeting, board member Pat Nugent said parents should bring up specific concerns and issues they have regarding their own children, to Fowler or their school principal, and not make only general, non-specific comments at the board meetings.

"We have systems in place, we have administrators. Contact them, act on things. Last year we had zero specific teaching and learning complaints made in any formal way to us," Nugent said.

"I get very frustrated by the general comments that are made at the board meetings, that to me, could be remedied very easily if done in a much more constructive way," he said.



Thank You!
Mark Anderson
Terra Verde Landscaping
 for purchasing my pig and lamb at the 2022 Kent County Youth Fair.
 ~ Claire Hildenbrand

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Book Corner

Finding Dorothy

(historical fiction)
By Elizabeth Letts

by Alison Yarger
contributing writer

With extensive research by Letts into the lives of L. Frank Baum and his wife Maud, not to mention Baum's writing of *The Wizard of Oz* and the movie, this book was positively fantastic. Written in terms and times anyone

could follow, the intriguing story, not just of author Baum and his series of *Oz* books but of the familial side to their lives, brought the reality of this fantastical series to light. While about a third of the story involved the history of the Baum family (Frank, Maud, and the children), another third

encompassed Maud's being on the movie set of *The Wizard of Oz*, dealing with the misogynistic tyrants who ran the movie industry, as well as taking Judy Garland under her wing.

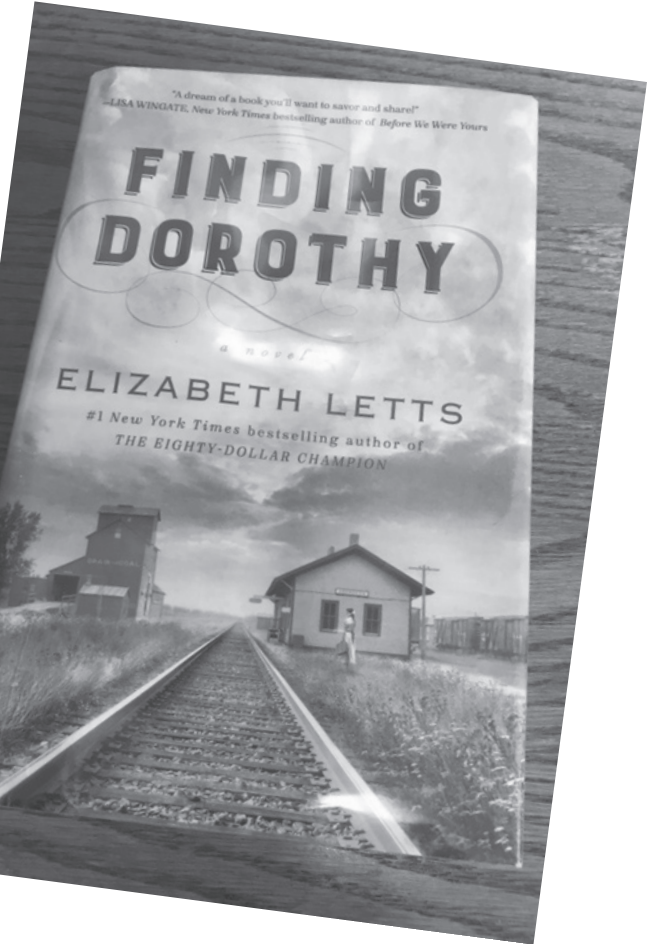
The life and activities of Matilda Gage, Maud's mother, who was a force to be reckoned with in late 1800s as she helped pen a Declaration of the Rights of Women, working to give females the right to vote, took another third of the story. Matilda's fierce autonomous spirit taught Maud independence, strength, and to fight for what you believed in. Maud's own life - the

unconventional childhood with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton as frequent visitors in her home; the hazing she suffered at Cornell; her near fatal bout with a fever; her work as a seamstress to help support their family; Maud's relationship with her family - all are based upon historical fact. Obviously, conversation in any historical work of fiction is just that.

Having heard so many stories in the past about the emotional and physical abuse heaped upon Garland, it was certainly disturbing to read that most of what I had heard was actually true. The pills, the dieting, the binding, the sexually motivated assaults on her at 16 - not to mention the physical abuse (hitting and slapping) inflicted upon her by studio executives and her own mother - all fed into that feeling of revulsion toward MGM.

I never knew that the movie was initially deemed "too long" because of Garland singing *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, which by the way was written by a cab driver. The song was initially cut to shorten the movie, only for Maud to demand of the studio execs that it be put back into the movie.

The stories of life in the late 1800s - the hard farming life in the new Dakota territories to childbirth before antibiotics



were invented and before a woman's anatomy was even fully understood, provided a constant source of information and interest. This was a gutsy, story about taking chances, trying to keep grounded in practicality while soaring in a world of dreams and chasing sparkly magic.

Well-written, heart warming, and inspiring, the book was full of secrets behind the movie. The story alternates between Maud's life growing up as the child of a famous suffragette, her marriage and the hard-scrabble family life to when, at age 77, she pushed her way into MGM to try

to protect her husband's legacy.

The timeless stories encompassed in the book seamlessly blend together. Once I finished the book, I decided I needed to yet again watch *The Wizard of Oz* - just to see if I would view it through a different lens, which of course, I did. Knowing what was going on behind the scenes certainly added to the intrigue of studying the movie, the set and the actors. This is a book I would suggest for anyone who is interested in Baum's writing, *The Wizard of Oz* or to simply understand the movie industry in the late 1930s. I'd give this 4.5 of 5 stars.

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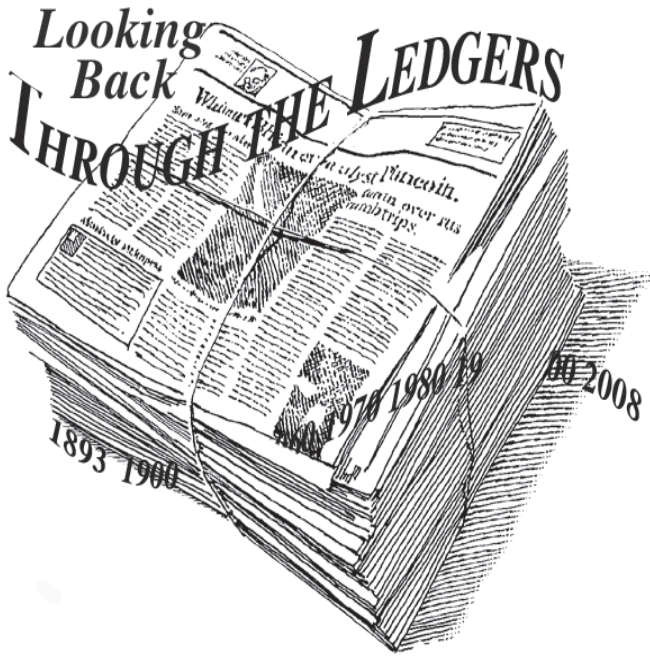
AUGUST SCHEDULE
Barbara Britton, *Lioness: Mahlah's Journey*, Aug. 5
Special episode *Wild Blueberry Festival*, Paradise, Aug. 16
Diane Burton, Aug. 17
Pat Kiyono, short story, Aug. 26
Kyle Brown, *Farmer Brown's Beekeeping Basics*, Aug. 26
Chris Stark, *Carnival Lights*, Aug. 31

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viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 19, 1897

The residence of Wm. Pulled was entered by burglars last Thursday evening. The burglars went to the refrigerator and help themselves to eatables. The residence of Harman Nash was also visited and the contents of the refrigerator sampled, but no other mischief was done. Frank T. King and wife were awakened by a noise at one of their windows, and their movements saved their larder from an attack by hungry visitors.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 24, 1922

The Farm Bureau picnic at Island Park, Lowell, last Thursday, was a success in point of attendance, attractions and interest despite the extreme heat of the day, the fair at Ionia and the pioneer picnic at Ada.

Lowell schools open at 9:00 am Tuesday, Sept. 5 (Eastern standard time - one hour fast).

Fire of an unknown origin destroyed the barn and its contents belonging to Mrs. Will Gregory. A new car, owned by Clarence Nicklin, who was spending the night there, was also burned.

Roy Gregory of Grand Rapids, was arrested two miles west of Lowell Saturday afternoon by Officer Bowes, charged with being drunk and having moonshine in his possession, and brought to Lowell and lodged in jail.

A fast driver wrecked a wheel on Donald Cameron's Ford touring car, while the latter was backing out of his parking place on Main Street.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 21, 1947

The electric storm Tuesday afternoon, that brought relief from the long dry spell that has badly damaged crops in this section, also brought plenty of grief to the Lowell Light and Power Plant.

The annual community picnic will be held on Thursday, Aug. 28 at Fallasburg Park, for the residents of Lowell and surrounding territory. The picnic is sponsored by the Lowell Board of Trade and there's always a large crowd on hand to compete in the various games and visit with friends and neighbors.

That new \$5 bounty on red fox provided by the Legislature will not become effective until October 11, the conservation department already is informing eager claimants.

Two break-ins were reported on Wednesday By Maxwell Carpenter and Harry Ames, who own cottages on the island at Murray Lake. Many articles of value were taken, including an outboard motor, radio, expensive fishing equipment and other articles.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life August 17, 1972

Attorney General Frank J. Kelley filed suit Monday in Kent County Circuit Court against the city of Lowell to stop the city's alleged pollution of the Flat River, Grand River and Lake Michigan. Kelley claimed the city discharges its treated sewage into the river and lake without adequate removal of phosphorus compounds.

Aside from the victories and defeats, probably the greatest tragedy in last week's Primary was the voter turnout itself. Only one out of five of Michigan's 4.5 million eligible voters turned out to vote in the election.

Gregory Lane, 6, of Lowell was the winner of the boy's bicycle at the Ionia Free Fair's Free Kiddie Grandstand Show. Gregory is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lane.

One of the first 18-year-olds from Lowell to be called for Jury duty in the Circuit Court, Grand Rapids, was Edwin Steffens Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Steffens of Lowell. Eddie has been serving during the July-August term, and according to the Circuit Court this is the first time 18-year-olds have been asked to serve.

The Lowell Saddlelites 4-H Horse Club members received A-grouping for cleanliness of horse and equipment. The club also received 11 Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion winners. Members also received 27 first-place ribbons, 13 second-place ribbons, 16 third-place ribbons seven fourth-place ribbons and eight fifth-place ribbons.

A cow owned by Allen and Bruce Baird has qualified for listing among the Dairy Herd Improvement Association's exclusive "Top Twenty" high producers for the month of July. The cows are ranked on the basis of mature equivalent butterfat production.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 20, 1997

The cause of the transformer explosion Tuesday afternoon at Lowell Light and Power was not known. What was known is the majority of the power company's 2,100 customers were left without electricity.

The United Parcel Service (UPS) and the teamsters unions announced Monday night that they had reached a settlement that answered to the concerns of the company's part-time help. With the UPS strike lasting two weeks, local businesses were forced to make adjustments and manage as best they can.

The 17th annual Alto Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6. Events include: pancake breakfast, a parade, arts and crafts booths, tug-of-war contest, volleyball, baseball, basketball and horseshoe tournaments, cow-chip bingo, pie and watermelons eating contests. Always a fun time for the whole family.

During a recent three-day/two-night campout, the boys and girls of the Leeping Lizards Camp Fire Club enjoyed learning skills for living in the outdoors. The members completed High Adventure and Trail Maker levels this year. In completing these levels, the members worked together making a temporary shelter using the terrain and nature to protect themselves from weather.

outdoors

backyard habitat

Dave Stegehuis

Habitat destruction is one of the greatest threats to wildlife. Construction of highways, malls, and housing developments require the removal of viable habitat which supports many plant and animal species.

Private conservation organizations and

government are working to protect and restore natural areas on land and water. The task is formidable because of the demand for food, energy, and space

Continued,
page 12

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At Your Local Library

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

All Aboard! Book Discussion

Thursday, August 18, 10:30- 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue. For adults 18+

Scrabble for Seniors

Friday, August 26, 1- 3 pm. Sit down and enjoy a word game, unplugged, with other fans. All ages and skill levels welcome! For adults 18+

Tiny Gardens Succulent Bar

Thursday, September 8, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Learn expert step-by-step instruction on creating and caring for your own tiny succulent garden. Limited space available; please plan to arrive 15 minutes early. For adults 18+

to the editor

Letter writer opinions are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this publication.

To the Editor:

This letter goes out to those from the LHS Class of 63' - the last class to graduate from the east side of the river - the last class to have just over 70 graduates.

Many of us are in our 78th year and our class has dwindled a bit losing members since the early 60s; to war, disease, age, and the machinations of life.

Are there plans to meet again, as we did 10 years ago to reminisce, offer hugs and good tidings, and to honor those who are unable to join us?

I am up in the U.P. but will do all I can from here to make this happen.

Our last gathering was wonderful; meeting under the old "bleachers" in the Chamber of Commerce dining room. Much has changed. But, we need to start planning now.

Let's start the conversation and planning so we can meet next summer to honor our class and everyone, who was and still is, so very important to us. You can reach me at 906-346-2259 or timhv@gmail.com

*Timothy VanderVeen,
Gwinn, MI*

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.

Address: 201 E. Main
Date Built: 1905
Owners when built: John & Christopher Bergin
1st business: Edelman & Nerreter Hardware

J. C. Scott operated "Scott Hardware" on this location from the early 1870s-1893. After he retired, he leased the building as a hardware store to R. B. Boylan Hardware, 1893-1905.

On April 11, 1905, fire broke out in Boylan's Hardware. It started in Boylan's wooden oil room, which resulted in a terrific explosion of gasoline and dynamite that destroyed this building and the five adjoining ones. The museum was recently given a cement



John Borgerson purchased this building in 1919 and opened a grocery store. Borgerson is behind the counter; his clerk, Clint Weeks, is in front. Wicker baby buggies, like this one, were made in Lowell in 1924 at the Ypsilanti Reed Co.

step with the name "Boylan" etched into it. It was found by the current owner of the home on Kent Street, which had previously been the Boylan residence. Was it retained as a memento of the store that burned?

On May 25, 1905, John and Chris Bergin (father and son) purchased the Main Street lot from the elderly J. C. Scott. Chris Bergin was the Village President. He was campaigning to get the block rebuilt. He put

his money where his mouth was and helped Lowell by rebuilding this building. The storefront has the name "Bergin" in the brick near the top.

By October, the Bergins had leased to Edelman & Nerreter Hardware. Edelman soon died so it became Stowell & Ford Hardware in 1908. From 1909 -1919, it was home to R. T. Ford's Hardware who advertised that he was in "the Old Hardware Corner."

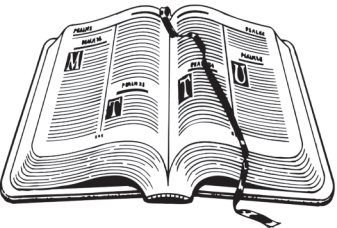
There were offices on the second floor over the hardware store, as follows: E. F. Doty, dentist, 1872-1877. J. Orton Edie, surgeon, physician, accoucheur (male midwife), 1873-1874, until he was



The 1905 fire.

Continued,
page 12

area churches



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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

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

St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance
WORSHIP
Traditional Service: 9 am
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



AUGUST 17
Brittany Essich, Jordan Harding.

Holloway, Andrea Bryant, Katelyn Kaczanowski.

AUGUST 18
Matthew D'Agostino, Sean Pawloski, Paul Reggie Owen, Paul R. Owen II, Matthew Milstead, Stan Milanowski.

AUGUST 21
Madelyn Pfaller, Charlene DeShane-Dalga, Joshua Hobla, Tom Barnes, Ethan Shindorf, Katelyn Videto, Emma Yeiter.

AUGUST 19
Peggy Idema, Joseph Thaler, Lois Boonstra, Braydon Brown, Brian DeBold, Daryl Chamberlain, Charley VanKeulen, Betty Wierenga.

AUGUST 22
Mike Blough, Shane Teelander.

AUGUST 20
Mattie Dalziel, B.J. Rittersdorf, Alexis

AUGUST 23
Kacy Anderson, Rhea Bundy Anes, Stephen Rhodes, Brandon Taylor, Ron Kennedy, Jesse Carr, Katie Peterson, Chad Peterson.

A more Earth friendly shave

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

Every little bit helps. Just remember that as you read my story about the pursuit of a way to shave my face every day, with minimal impact on the environment. Up until about nine or ten years ago, I would alternate my daily shaving method between disposable razors and an electric shaver. Of those two methods, the electric shaver is by far the more green option of the two, but I would always switch back to disposable razors because it gave me a much closer shave, in my opinion.

It wasn't that my facial hair is thick and prolific, but no matter how many times I ran the electric shaver over my face, by the afternoon my face felt stubbly. I would grow tired of that after a couple weeks or so and switch back to lathering up and using whatever set-up was popular in disposable razors. When I first started shaving on a daily basis, during the end of the Ford or beginning of the Carter administration, plastic razors had a single-razor

blade. Then after a while, they decided we needed two blades to get a really smooth shave. Nowadays, what are they up to in blade count? Five....seven....ten? Will my grandsons be confronted with a 12-blade razor? Whoops, sorry for chasing that rabbit.

Anyway, a decade ago while I was poking around the internet, I read an article by a guy who was making the case for less plastic in our everyday lives and he suggested returning to the old double-edge razor set-up. He talked about how plastic disposable razors sit in landfills for a very, very long time before they decompose. I think it was something like 200 years. Since my beard was not very thick, I could make a disposable razor last a week. Still, that amounted to 52 of those going into the dump every year. Multiply that by the millions of guys and gals who shave with them and we can fill up a stadium or two with them every year, right? It made me start to think about the subject.

Shortly, thereafter, one of those divine coincidences happened when I was in a bookstore and spotted a book about shaving. I grabbed it for two reasons. First, the subject of shaving was rolling around my brain pan. Secondly, my dad had never really showed me how to shave and the book had lots of pictures that explained shaving in detail to supplement the text. Well, the book advocated for two methods of shaving – either with a straight razor that you keep sharp with a leather strop or using a two-sided, single-edge stainless-steel razor, housed in a stainless steel-shaver that could be changed out when the blade got dull. The book also went into great detail about the comfort and great results that could be obtained by using a pre-shave oil and a post shave lotion to really get great results from the daily ritual.

I figured the Universe was speaking directly to me to quit with the plastic razors and go old-school. I paid attention and bought a stainless steel razor kit

for about \$50 or so. It had a brush, steel razor handle, and 20 razor blades. I went to the Art of Shaving store, when we used to have one, and bought some stuff to put on my face before, during and after I shaved. I must say that using high-quality shaving oil, cream, and after-shave lotion is very much worth the money. Also, the better quality shaving creams last a lot longer than the cheap stuff, so I would argue, that all things considered, it is not that much more expensive to use the good stuff.

Julie supported my effort by picking up Dandy Dan, a vintage method for holding my shaver, brush, and for keeping the used razor blades for recycling. On that last bit, Dandy Dan has a slot in the top of his head and the used blades slide right in.

Over the years, I have tweaked my eco-shaving a couple of times. My first brush for applying the shaving cream was the traditional badger hair because it was presented as the best. Since that time, I have made the switch to a synthetic badger brush for a couple of reasons and it works even better, in my opinion. My real badger brush shed hairs regularly but I have not experienced that with the synthetic.

I have also transitioned from shaving cream, delivered in a recyclable plastic tub, to using a shaving soap. Talk about value, the shaving soap provides the lube necessary for a close shave and lasts a very, very long time.

Just for the sake of discussion, we can suppose I have been "eco-shaving" for 10 years now. I change my razor blade once-a-week just like I used to toss out my plastic razor once-a-week. So that means, I have



Dandy Dan is a triple threat. Holds brush, razor, and used blades.



My current kit: Synthetic brush, shaving soap, and stainless steel razor.

520 razor blades in my used blade holder that can be re-cycled because they are steel. That means, I have put 520 less disposable plastic razors into the ground to sit for 200 or more years. One might shrug and figure that is no big deal.

What if 1,000 people did the same thing – then we are talking 520,000 plastic razors not clogging up the waste stream. If 100,000 of us across the country

did this, then we could keep Fifty Two Million of those plastic things out of the waste stream. Now that would be something worth writing about, right? Well, maybe this article might inspire a couple... three...seven people to eco-shave, who might inspire another 50 people, who might...and so on.

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

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Deborah Wilks, Agent
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GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
Synopsis of Minutes
July 25, 2022

Motions Approved:

1. Consent Judgement for lawsuit.
2. Sewer Overflow Appeal for 1/2 of expenses.
3. Resolution of Mileage rate update.
4. Resolution for property for inclusion in PA116.

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
Synopsis of Minutes
August 8, 2022

Motions Approved:

1. Budget amendments to regarding payroll taxes.
2. New Firefighter Rachel Hinds.
3. Purchase agreement for 12047 Old Belding RD.
4. Up to \$10,000 for the cost of inspections at 12047 Old Belding RD.
5. Resolution approving Township property tax rates for 2022.

2022 Kent County Youth Fair in pictures



Photo courtesy of Kent County Youth Fair facebook page



Photo courtesy of Kent County Youth Fair facebook page



Photo courtesy of Kent County Youth Fair facebook page

2022 Kent County Youth Fair in pictures



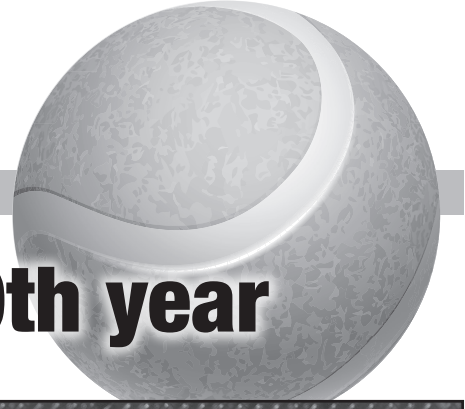
Photo courtesy of Kent County Youth Fair facebook page



Red Arrow

- TENNIS

SPORTS



Tennis enters season in Coach Phillips 10th year

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The first athletic event of the 2022-2023 school year kicked off on Monday as the Lowell varsity boys tennis team hosted Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg. This year will be a special one as it represents a milestone year for head coach, Chris Phillips, as his 10th year leading the program.

"We graduated a lot of players last year but we have some solid players returning. All of our singles lineup are players from the past few seasons and we have one doubles player that is returning."

Two of the hardest to replace from last year's team will be singles players, Ty Knottnerus and Winton Garrelts, who both graduated in 2022. Max Del Rosario and Patrick de Voest will be two seniors this year who have spent their entire high school career at the varsity level.

"Because we lost so many players last year, I'm looking forward to seeing

all the new additions play. They're excited about being on the team and they'll be a big help to the team," added Coach Phillips.

Lineups early in the tennis season are often fluid. The first few matches of the year allow for adjustments before the final flights are decided. In tennis there are four singles players and four doubles teams in a match, 12 players in total. Between these eight matchups, the team with the most points out of eight wins the duel.

One matchup to keep an eye on this year is Northview. The match with the Wildcats is scheduled for late September, just before regionals.

"We always look forward to the match with Northview. We always seem evenly matched with them and it's a good "measuring stick" of where we are," Phillips said.

Indeed, things have been close with Northview, with Lowell winning the last two matches narrowly, but the team's splitting with

2 wins, 2 losses, and 1 draw over the past five years.

This year, the program is facing something that they haven't dealt with in several years, a numbers problem.

"We have just enough for a varsity team, so there will be no JV team this year. I'm really bummed about this. We need players. Come out and play, it's fun. Even if you've never played, it's a fun team sport and one you can play for your whole life," Phillips said about the program numbers. This season will be the first time, since the early 2000's, Lowell has not had a JV team in boys tennis. In 2014, the team had just seven at the JV level, but bounced back with huge numbers in the following years. There are times grade levels just don't have a group of students who play the sport, but Phillips says other schools are dealing with similar issues.

"I was talking to a fellow coach the other day and he said he's in the



Patrick de Voest returns a ball in his #1 singles match.

same boat, they only have enough for a varsity team. He also said another school in their conference doesn't even have enough to have a varsity team. I'm not sure why the numbers are so low in the fall. The numbers are great in the spring for the girls season."

The mystery of the low numbers is even more muddled since there are

only four other options for boys sports in the fall (soccer, cross country, swim, and football). Similar activities, like pickleball, have experienced a boom in popularity with youth in the Lowell area as well.

Lowell faced Middleville TK and Lakewood this week. Results will be available in next week's Ledger.

"As always, our main goals are to have fun and improve. If the players do this, then I'm happy. Winning is further down the list. It's a very tough conference to play tennis in, so our main focus is on getting better and having fun while doing it," Coach Phillips concluded.

- GOLF

Lowell girls golf lands regional tournament host privilege

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

2014. 2017. 2018. 2021. Lowell's girls golf teams have had successful years over the past decade. These four years were among the top. This year the goal is to make it to the next level, the team state tournament. Those four years Lowell finished fourth at regionals, with the top three teams

advancing, and this year the team wants to take that final step and make it to team state finals. They'll have a little advantage this season, as their home course is where the regional tournament will be played.

"We are hosting regionals this year and the team has been very dedicated to reaching our

goal of getting to the State Finals this year," head coach, Josh Bruwer said.

The fact that Arrowhead Golf Course, Lowell's home course, is the regional site this season is a tremendous gift for the program. One comes with the prestige of being that host program and school. The second with the advantage

of practicing on the regional course and playing it almost daily during the season. The latter will be very helpful for Lowell in their pursuit of a top three finish at the regional.

"Our whole offseason has been geared to taking that big next step for our program. We've been very close in an extremely difficult region the last couple of years. We will see if we put in enough work this off-season to get us there," Bruwer added.

The team has the players to make a deep run this year. They return four senior starters; Rylee Jannenga, Stephanie Spinella, Sophie Flickinger, and Emma Jo McCormick. Sophomore state qualifier, Elle Sluss, will also be

an integral part of the lineup. Leah Krieger and Hannah Flickinger are key sophomore contributors on the team this year, as well.

"We have freshmen Elyse Veldman who has a bright future and is looking to make a big impact, as well as Ellery Ostrander, a junior who fought very hard to be a part of the team and is quickly developing into someone we can count on," Bruwer added.

The conference schedule will again be a challenge. Forest Hills Central, Forest Hills Northern, East Grand Rapids, and Grand Rapids Christian have dominated the high school golf world for years. The OK White has produced three state champions and two state runner-ups since 2017.

"Some very deep and talented teams are going to end up in the bottom half of the standings," Bruwer said.

This week, Lowell hosted Middleville Thornapple Kellogg, then played on Thursday in the 18-hole Kent County Classic at Quail Ridge.

"I am very proud of this group. They have worked very hard this off-season to better themselves. Not just this summer, but also over the winter. I could not ask to have a group of kids that have bought in like this group. I am excited to see if we pass the test of what this season has in store for us," Bruwer finished with.



Sophomore and returning State Qualifier, Elle Sluss, along with four senior teammates, will look to make a deep run in the golf post-season this year.

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

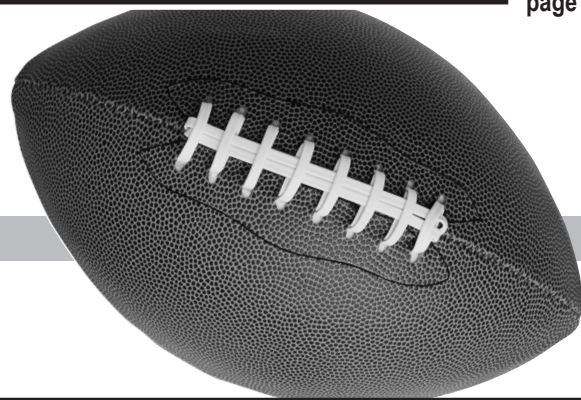
Go Red Arrows!

the lowell ledger

Red Arrow

FOOTBALL

SPORTS



Lowell football 2022 season preview

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Daily progress. That's what Lowell fourth-year head football coach, Jacob Henige, wants to see out of his team in the 2022 season.

The team has made three consecutive playoff appearances in Henige's three years at the helm. Last year, Lowell went 4-6 with one of the most challenging schedules in the state. MHSAA playoffs eliminated the six-win automatic qualifier rule to allow teams like Lowell to play difficult schedules without being required to hit the six-win threshold. It was a gauntlet last year, and Henige hopes that challenge will lead to more success this season.

This year, the OK White will remain as challenging as ever, but Lowell brings back a strong core of players and will look to challenge those teams at the top.

Some three-year starters returning for their senior season include: senior Ethan Krieger OLB/WR, Connor Lixie SS/WR, Carson Crace ILB/FB, Easton Rich OL/DL, and Ian George OL. Other key returns that will help lead the Red Arrows this year are seniors Aidan Fitzpatrick CB/WR, Gus McDonald DT/OL, Nolan Jannenga DE/TE, Dawson Huhn FS/WR, Kelton DeVito OL/DT, and junior Todd Parcheta K/P.

New additions to the roster that have stood out to the coaching staff include:

Junior Jackson Reisbig QB/SS. Reisbig, who played QB at the freshman and JV level, is likely to be the team's starting quarterback this season; senior Caleb Yomtoob CB/WR; junior Jacob Graham OL/DL; junior Kailen Stokely DL/OL; junior Kenny Kinyon OL/DT; junior TJ Hollern

ILB/FB and junior Robert Nichols ILB/FB

Here is the 2022 Lowell football schedule and a brief synopsis of the opponent:

August 26 - at Mattawan. The Red Arrows will start the season on the road at Mattawan; a school they've never faced before on the gridiron. The Wildcats out of the Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference were a playoff team last year, despite their 4-6 record. They lost to Jackson County Western, 15-0 in the first round. One of their wins came by forfeit.

September 1 - Home vs. Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg. When asked about the biggest game on the schedule, Coach Henige picked this one, which will be Lowell's Pink Arrow game this year. "It is more than a football game. It is a special event that brings our community together. It teaches life lessons to our student athletes," Henige added. The Trojans, out of the OK Gold, finished last season with a 3-6 record.

September 9 - at Greenville. Greenville enters the season winless since a 33-22 win over Ottawa Hills in 2019, and is on an 18-straight game losing streak. The good news for Greenville? They return their lone all-conference player from last year, and program numbers are up in the program, under second year coach Tom Hallock.

September 16 - Home vs. Byron Center. Last year the Bulldogs only returned one starter and still managed a 7-3 season. This year they return their three top rushers and starting quarterback, Hunter Schichtel. They'll again look to challenge at the top of the conference. Lowell lost 34-21 to Byron Center last season.



2022 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

GAME TIME: 7PM | #BERELENLESS | **HOMECOMING-7:30PM

• HOME • AWAY

8/25 AT MATTAWAN	M
9/1 vs Thornapple Kellogg	K
9/9 AT GREENVILLE	G
9/16 vs BYRON CENTER	B
9/23 vs FOREST HILLS NORTHERN	F
9/30 AT FOREST HILLS CENTRAL	F
10/7 AT GR CHRISTIAN	C
HC 10/14 vs EAST GRAND RAPIDS	E
10/21 vs NORTHVIEW	N

2022 Lowell varsity football schedule.

September 23 - Home vs. FHN (Youth Night). Last year, Lowell beat the Huskies in an 8-7 version of one of the stranger high school football games ever.

September 30 - at FHC. "The OK White will be a gauntlet. The conference is packed full of talented players and high quality coaching," Henige said of the conference schedule. The Rangers went 7-0 in-conference, had eight all-conference players, and won the conference championship last year. Only time will tell how good the Rangers will be this year. They graduated 31 players from last year's team, a difficult number even for FHC, who churns out athletes left and right to overcome. Lowell's JV team last year went 7-2 but lost decisively to the Rangers. They got a brutal playoff draw at 8-1, having to take on defending state

champions Mona Shores in a game they lost. The Rangers lose most of their all-conference playoffs but will look to reload.

October 7 - at GR Christian. Both teams will have something to prove this game. The Eagles enter the season on a 12-year playoff streak, but after giving up 79 points to Unity Christian in last year's playoff opener, GR Christian is looking forward to returning to the post-season. Of course, Unity Christian did break the Michigan record for most points in a single

season last year. Lowell lost a 21-20 heartbreaker to the Eagles last year and this game should have huge conference implications.

October 14 - Home vs. EGR (Homecoming). Last year, EGR missed the playoffs for just the third time in nearly 30 years and conventional wisdom would infer that the Pioneers won't be kept down for long. It was last year's 24-7 win that really vaulted Lowell into the playoffs last year. The Pioneers have a new head coach this season in Josh Shattuck out of Elkhart, Indiana.

October 21 - Home vs. Northview (Senior Night). If Lowell had a sister school, it would probably be Northview. The two suburb schools have an enrollment difference of four students at the high school level. The two schools have met 1,052 times across all competitions, with Lowell having a slight 52 percent win rate. Lowell is on a three-game win streak against the Wildcats, who went 4-5 last season under first-year coach, Ryan Oshnock.

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obituaries

Zaetsch

Marlene Zaetsch, age 72, of Imlay City, Michigan, Died unexpectedly on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at McLaren Macomb Hospital of Mt. Clemens, MI. Marlene Kay Fletcher was born April 5, 1950 in Flint, MI. She is the daughter of the late Clark and Ona (Denton) Fletcher. Marlene grew up on Lowell. She is a graduate of Lowell High School, Class of 1968. Marlene continued her education at Grand Valley State University and earned her Bachelor Degree in Teaching. She married Glenn Zaetsch on April 3, 1982 in Capac, Michigan. She was employed as a history and social studies teacher by Dryden Community Schools from 1973 - 2010. She was well-loved by many of her students and faculty staff. She was well-known for her government debate and quiz bowl teams. Marlene received "The Teacher of the Year" award for Lapeer County in 1988. Marlene is survived by her husband, Glenn Zaetsch; and her son, Kenneth (David Kyle) Zaetsch-Childers of Imlay City, MI. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clark and Ona Fletcher. The family will be available for visitation on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 from 12-4 pm at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home of Lowell, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell. Please be sure to sign our online register at www.muirbrothersfh.com to share condolences and memories with the Zaetsch family.



Outdoors, continued from page 5

by an expanding human population. As individuals, we can support these efforts by contributing time and money to conservation organizations and by voting and volunteering on the local, state, and federal level. We can also make a difference by managing property we control for the benefit of plants and animals. Depending on where we live, local ordinances, homeowner associations, and social pressure may limit our options.

Think habitat when making plans to mow, trim,

or plant on your property. Tall grass and weeds provide cover, insects, and seeds for birds. Pollinators welcome natural flowers and those that are planted for them. Monarch butterflies are in trouble for lack of milkweed to complete their life cycle. Establishing brush piles provide protection for small animals from predators and weather. Brush piles will eventually decompose, so debris can be continually added without having to cart it away or burn. Water is vital to wildlife survival, so provide an artificial source if

there is not a natural source available. Heated bird baths keep water available all winter.

Trees provide cover, food, and nesting places for birds and animals. They provide shade to lower the temperature around buildings and people. Dead trees harbor insects and nesting cavities. Trees also capture carbon emissions from the atmosphere. Cutting down trees should be done only after considering safety and environmental factors.

Providing food, water, cover, and places to raise young using sustainable practices could qualify your property as Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. You can then purchase a certification sign to post on the property. This might encourage others to realize what they can do to help wildlife.

We are not all in a position to do everything for wildlife, but we can do what is possible. Everything helps and it all adds up. Share the planet.

college news

Central Michigan University has announced spring 2022 Dean's List. To be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a semester grade point average of 3.5 - 3.99. Students who earn a perfect 4.00-grade point average for the semester, with at least 12 graded credit hours, are placed on the

President's List. Graded credit hours do not include CR/NC. The Dean's List is for undergraduate students only.

Local students who were recognized on the Dean's List: **Ada:** Elise Paige Marshall, Lucas Sherman, Jayden Elizabeth Bansall, Kailey Jean Idziak, Chali Tazi,

Sarah Abigail Chesner, Brooke Gillian Morley, Lauren Steel Wilkinson; **Alto:** Aurora Jayne Riley, Easton Dennis Brown, Elly Elizabeth Medendorp, Savannah Renee LeRoux; **Lowell:** Alexis R Cook, Carson Denise VanNoy, Bailey Anne Wolters, Luke Skinner, Asher Jadon Peters.

Local students recognized on the President's List: **Ada:** Lauren Ellen Hackerd; **Alto:** Kathryn Dell Lemon, Kendall Suzanne Krupiczewicz; **Lowell:** Samantha Deiss, Chase Edward Miller, Roman Charles Rozell, Chloe Elise Collings, Nora Jane Jannenga, Ivan J Reynolds, Colin Mathew VanderWarf.

William E Brennan, of Ada, has been named to the 2022 spring semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, the university announced today.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

Brennan is a junior at the Carlson School of Management.

About 7,700 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 13 and 14.

Local students are: **Ada:** Alexander Clegg, School of Med & Public Health, Doctor of Medicine, Medicine, and Hannah Kuhlmann, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Arts, Spanish; **Lowell:** Adam Newton, College of Engineering, Master of Engineering, Engineering, and Evan Simon, School of Business, Bachelor of Business Administration, Business: Management and Human Resources and Business: Marketing.

Ella Dougherty and Troy Saylor, both of Alto, are on the 2021-22 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Academic Honor Roll.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 22-211804-DE

In the matter of MARY ANN
BLACK, Deceased.

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including: the
missing and unknown
heirs whose address(es)
are unknown and whose
interest in the matter may
be barred or affected by
the following:

TAKE NOTICE: That
Catherine Wright was
appointed Personal
Representative of the
above deceased Estate on
8/9/2022.

08/11/2022

Meredith Curless (P78235)
410 Ottawa NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-458-3699

Catherine Wright
3334 Badger SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
616-291-7305

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE:
22-211804-DE

Estate of MARY ANN
BLACK. Date of birth:
4/11/1941

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, MARY ANN
BLACK, died 6/11/22.
Creditors of the decedent
are notified that all
claims against the estate
will be forever barred

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

August 11, 2022

Meredith Curless (P78235)
410 Bridge St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-458-3699

Catherine Wright
3334 Badger SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
616-291-7305

Continued from page 6

was appointed County
physician and moved to
Grand Rapids. A. B. Grant,
Surgeon, 1878-1885.
Rickert and Robertson,
dental surgeons, 1881.
Dr. White (not Frank E.
White), dentist, 1886. A.
Taft, dentist, 1888. A. E.
Campbell, dentist, 1899.
Dr. M. C. Greene, M.D.,
physician and surgeon,
had an office upstairs at
the time of the fire.

Borgerson Grocery
was here 1919 -1929. The

Borgersons lived in an
upstairs apartment during
the 1930s and leased the
store to Frank's 5 & 10
(1929) and to Atlantic &
Pacific (A&P) Grocery
(1930s). It was Lowell
Automotive- NAPA
from the late 40's until
1971 and Man's World
Hair Styling from 1972
to 1991. In 2002, it was
purchased by Gregory
Gilmore and has since
been the Flat River Grill.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with letters in black and white squares.

Grid of numbers from 1 to 9 in a 9x9 layout.

Vertical text containing puzzle solutions: O C R U I S I N G F D I P P B S V Y M C, K E E U N E V A R B H A R L W I K K W C, W T T L L Y O A C S U U G P T L E T H H, U A S C R W E P A T D S F R S K S I O D, L R S C O G X R O P F L L N A I N B E V, O E H V D P C M C B S R B G F T M F S U, F L D I X A O E G E O O E W E I S G, I E A P M B D G O T U H W R H N T M N K, N C N H I M A T L L F M C S S E C D F B, F C G L R B N A E F F H F I S X R C A R, P A E O L E H V H E A A V N W P G R C I, T B R I D P A C X N E E E D D R C G C D, M C B Y S R S H G L I C A L S E V P I G, H B P A D E A E R S I I S P A S M C D E, P V L L K U C E G L R R N H P S A B E I, W M O A S Y V U C B L R O W D W L V N L, G P R T G O O T A S G F H H F A P I T M, P B T E L G L G W H U V X A Y Y B F M F, A K A C U F U E L C M P C U R V E L U T, F P P T L D D M I V C B A W I B C K I R





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~ Baby ostriches

by Martha Hayden

I sat captivated by these ten, two-toed tiny creatures who would soon grow to be six to nine feet tall within a short span of three-four years. Hearing that the clutch of ostrich eggs had hatched at Alto's zoo, Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park, I was drawn like a magnet to see them. Nature is dazzling! There's so much to learn! This 80-acre zoo continues to grow and display curious specimens from all over our globe. What a magical moment it was for me to see ostrich fledglings in person! Later, I casually ran into Josh Baker, an enthusiastic and dedicated zoo keeper of the Boulder Ridge menagerie. Josh explained fascinating aspects of being a caregiver to a vast variety of wild animals.

puffed up their feathers. A talkative band of spectators approached and stopped at the barrier. These ostrich moms gave stern, evil-eyed looks to the chattering faction. As the people moved on, the ostriches relaxed their stance. Well, except for the father. . .

The father, noticing that I hadn't moved on down the path, marched right up to the edge and glared in my direction, as his children from three different mothers, traped along and pecked the ground. Ostriches live in herds with one dominant male leader. It's mainly for protection. Boy, this guy was intimidating and did his job well!

ten babies. Is that right?" I asked. He nodded. "That's all I've seen, but someone said there were twelve."

"I haven't seen the other two, because nobody can get too close or go in the cage from April – October." Josh Baker explained, "The females are alright, but the male will even come at big machinery." I shared how the father ostrich puffed up his feathers and gave me a glare as I observed his brood.

I mentioned how I admired the work it must take to care for the variety of animals. "We have two vets; a large-animal and a small-animal vet." Josh said. "After the vet

"Most of the animals are from domestic breeders." Josh shared when I asked about obtaining such a vast collection. "The owners here are real hands-on. They have a landscape business and do most of the work and plantings themselves." Josh gestured to the flowers and woodchips, (Dave and Dawn Hoekstra own Hoekstra Excavating).

crossed. But when he listed his younger siblings, I nodded recognizing their names.

Baby Animal Days!

I thanked Josh for graciously taking time out of his schedule to answer my questions. He said on Wednesday, July 20 – Sunday July 24 would be 'Baby Animal Days.'

"There's a new baby, even

Boulder Ridge

The zoo continues to expand. It's exciting each time I visit. The animals are active and content. They don't pace in their cages, as they have plenty of space and activities. A true testament is the fact that the ostriches felt comfortable to successfully nurture their own brood of fledglings, without human intervention.

"Most animals have come



Josh Baker bubbled with enthusiasm as he talked about caring for the animals.



The parental ostriches fluffed their feathers and squawked. From my perspective the father's plume reminded me of a burlesque show. "Nice legs, Sir"

Ostriches!

The overcast skies made for a cool, summer afternoon. The animals were all moving about their spacious habitats. I made my way over to the new walkway where I'd find the ostrich pen.

I sat down alongside the double fence to observe these enormous, flightless birds who were gathered at the back of the enclosure. The youngsters were assembled in a group. A preschooler grasping the bar next to me stated, "They look like they're at Bible School!" A silent smile curved my lips. As the mother ostriches separated from the brood, it appeared that the specific offspring followed their own mom. Fascinating! "Now they're all going home." the toddler surmised in narration.

As the fledglings explored closer to the front of the pen, where I sat, two mothers stood guard nearby and

Suddenly, there was a ruckus of squawking and bustling feathers. A few fledglings peeped right along with their parents. I looked toward their gaze and saw a rabbit scrambling back through the wired fence. I believe "Peter Rabbit" has learned a lesson about the residents of this estate.

I clicked a few more photos, then quietly took my leave. I walked about the park dazzled by the beautiful vistas, well-manicured spaces and the unusual animals. The new walkway provided a fascinating stroll. A distant bell rang from a small train ride, which was echoed by children's voices raised in excitement.

Josh Baker

As I passed under a giraffe being mindful to avoid his dripping drool, I saw a man with a "Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park" shirt. So, I commented on how amazing it was to see the infant ostriches. "I counted

visits, we always have more to do." He explained how the giraffes were prescribed some medicine. Unlike the camels, who will easily take their dosage, the giraffes are more fussy. So, Josh had to order a liquid version and mix it in with their food. However, the giraffes were aware of a change in their feed and wouldn't eat the grain. (They do get a lot of carrots and lettuce from patrons.) Now, the medication is added to their water, which they do drink. We agreed that animals are very smart and prefer their routine, not liking any changes.

"Is an engineer hired to design the various exhibits?" I inquired. "I love how the prairie dogs can watch the people!" Josh smiled, "Nope. It's all the owners. They came up with the idea for the prairie dog's pen. It has a deep foundation so they (prairie dogs) can't dig through." Josh went on, "They (Dave and Dawn Hoekstra) visit other zoos to get ideas. They were in San Diego recently."

"So how long have you been working here?" I inquired. "Seven years." Josh answered. "It's a family business and I married their daughter." A large grin escaped from Josh, revealing joy. Josh, who looked familiar, had attended Cherry Creek Elementary starting in fifth grade. I had taught second grade, so our paths hadn't

more rare than the ostriches, that will be revealed during the upcoming Baby Animal Days." Josh raised his brow with anticipation. After returning home, I took my curiosity to the internet. On July 16th, Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park's Facebook page announced the birth of a baby tapir, a rainforest mammal.

Sponsorships

Many of the enclosures have a plaque of sponsorship from an array of businesses. Josh said over 100,000 people visit their zoo each year. Business sponsorships are a win-win for the business and Boulder Ridge alike. Sponsorships vary in price depending on the size of the enclosure. Currently, there are opportunities for plaques along the brand new walkway.

There's so much to see at

through domestic breeders." Josh Baker explained, outside the giraffe enclosure. "Some of our animals have come from other zoos. Ginger," Josh gestured to the smaller female giraffe, "is 13 and came to us from a zoo."

"We don't want to be better, we want to be different." Josh stated with a smile. I am looking forward to my return to Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park! Hopefully, I'll see YOU during the Baby Animal Days from Wednesday, July 20 – Sunday, July 24!

Resources

Boulder Ridge Zoo 8313 Pratt Lake, Alto, MI 49302 (616) 868-6711

M Live Article by Laura Michels August 2011

San Diego Zoo Website "Newborn Ostriches Are A Milestone For Zoo" The Hindu February 2013

Safari Ostrich Farm



After purchasing a bag of treasure-laced gravel, one can "placer mine" by using this sluice to separate the gravel from gold and other minerals.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

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!

TRAFFIC SAFETY WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

TRAFFIC SAFETY WORD SEARCH

ACCELERATE
 ACCIDENT
 AIRBAG
 ASPHALT

AUTOMOBILE AVENUE BOULEVARD
 BRAKES BRIDGE CLOVERLEAF
 CRASH

CRUISING CURVE DANGER
 DEFENSIVE DENT EXHAUST
 EXPRESSWAY

FAST FUEL GEAR
 INTERCHANGE LICENSE PATROL

Guess Who?

I am a pop singer born in Arizona on August 15, 1989. My brothers and I made an appearance on the TV show Hannah Montana and won legions of fans. As a trio, we're quite popular. In 2011, I released a solo album.

Answer: Joe Jonas

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to traffic awareness.

R E M S E G

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

Answer: Merges

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28				29			30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38			39				40
	41				42			43		44			
		45					46		47		48		
49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

CLUES ACROSS

- Influential Swedish, Belgian clan
- Swiss river
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Like coagulated milk
- Lima is its capital
- Lying down
- Jai __, sport
- Egyptian statesman
- Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
- Renovated
- Chadic language
- 18-year period
- Beverage container
- Natural logarithm
- The "mecca" of basketball
- A way to darken
- Mackerels
- Actor Pitt
- Places to buy seafood
- True firs
- Neither
- Fencing sword
- Italian pastas
- Island nation close to the U.S.
- Begets
- Resembles a pouch
- __ student, learns healing

CLUES DOWN

- Mark left behind
- Cry weakly
- Ancient region in modern Syria
- Farewell
- Blue grass state
- Genus of mosquitoes
- S. Israeli city
- You can get stuck in one
- One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
- First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- Tigers legend Fielder
- Make more attractive

CLUES

- Horses
- Slight projection in typefaces
- Male parent
- Jack and Jill are two
- After B
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Missile with about 600-mile range
- Goddesses
- A day kids love
- Oily secretion
- One-tenth of a meter
- A father's male child
- One point east of southeast
- Silk garments
- Cool!
- The color of anger
- Trade profession
- It can get you around
- Mother-of-pearl
- Hurt
- Legendary slugger Hank
- Polio vaccine developer
- Incline from vertical
- Sea creature
- Actress Kate
- Affirmative votes
- Nothing
- Pie __ mode
- Expresses surprise

Aspen Jacobsen: LowellArts Artist of the Month

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

As the summer wanes and fall approaches, a nervous excitement also begins to fill the air for many young men and women about to start another year of high school or college. They will meet new teachers and classmates and maybe get ready to learn something new that will change their lives forever. The same goes for a new freshman at the University of Southern California, Aspen Jacobsen from the Detroit Metro Area. Only her experience will be slightly different, as she will also be playing her guitar and singing for the USC opening convocation, to start her school year.

This young, talented, confident, and gifted performer has been

impressing many people throughout the state of Michigan in the last few years and has been recognized as LowellArts Artist of the Month. Jacobsen was very excited to hear that she had been recognized by LowellArts. “Well, I felt very honored that they decided to pick me,” said Jacobsen. “There are so many amazing artists featured and I’m honored that they considered me, young as I am.”

The freshman in college has been performing, singing, and playing guitar for a long time and all of her experience has prepared her for this moment in her life.

It started when she was seven-years-old and her mom suggested that she try some theater, particularly musical theater. She auditioned for

The Sound of Music and got the part of Gretel. From that moment on, Jacobsen has been performing in one way or another – other musicals, opera, and a spot on the Detroit Opera House Children’s Choir for three years. As she got closer to her teens, she began to realize that although she enjoyed musical theater and opera, it didn’t seem to be her calling, so she learned to play guitar, write her own songs, and perform on her own. “I realized that musical theater and opera, no matter how much I loved it, I didn’t feel like it fit my voice and the message that I was, trying to make and who I was so I thought I’d start writing my own music,” said Jacobsen. “It started out as therapy more than anything. Just

pouring out my thoughts. Some people journal, some people go for a run, what I did was sat in my room and I wrote songs about mellow teenage dramas. The older I got, the more my songs turned into something more than just myself and my own experiences but to other people’s experiences, and to more controversial territory also.”

An important transition in her life was when she left her local public school after her sophomore year and decided to finish her last two years at Interlochen Arts Academy in Traverse City. It was a life-changing decision. “It shaped what I really wanted to do musically and it was nice to meet a lot of students my age who were creative like me,” said Jacobsen. “I always felt

different at my other high school. I couldn’t find my people and at Interlochen I found my people. Collaborating with other artists, other songwriters, classical musicians, I learned a lot from everyone around me; plus, it was an international school so I learned a lot culturally. It was a really interesting time.”

As a listener, there are several musicians that come to mind when hearing Jacobsen - Jewel, Sara Bareilles, and Lisa Loeb are a few, but Jacobsen has found her own influences, her own way. She admits that she didn’t have any particular influences in her young life except for musical theater and her dad’s FM radio playing classic rock songs. Once she started playing more, that’s when she began to find the music that resonated with her - James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Carole King, Patsy Kline, and Aretha Franklin, among

first time in Nashville. “I think Interlochen helped me mature a lot - being away from home and going through a new environment and also learning from people at musical festivals,” said Jacobsen. “I’d sit down and jam with them and all these older folks would tell me about their experiences. They treated me like an equal and let me come and jam with them. I would say, I stopped thinking about just myself and started thinking about what I wanted from the world. And the older I got, I realized that it wasn’t all sunshine. There was sadness and horrible things that were going on. When I first realized that, I was shocked and disturbed.”

Her new album - not yet titled (she has two titles in mind) - will be coming out in October and her songs will show this new level of musical and lyrical maturity, a change from her previous album. As she experiences more of life, her music seems



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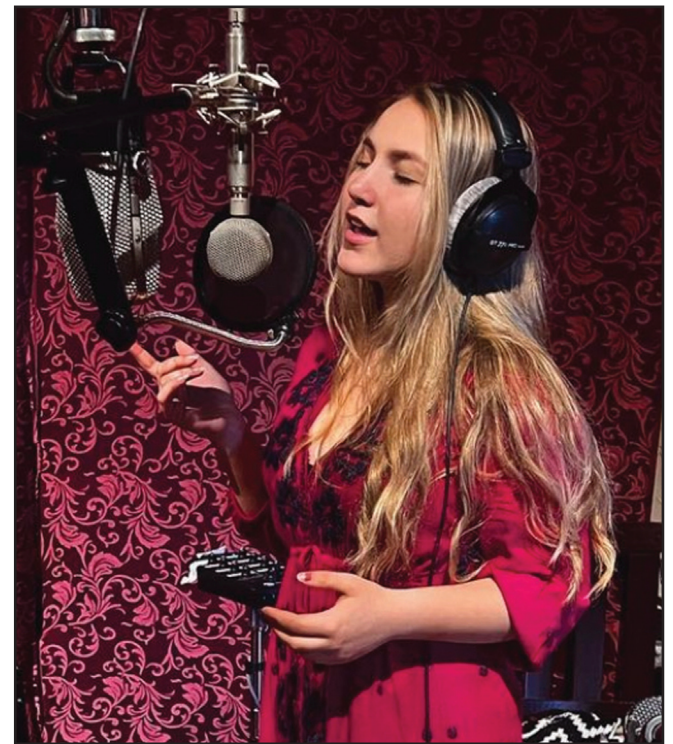
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others. How many freshmen in college do you know who enjoy singers and musicians who had their heyday almost 50 years ago? Not many.

That maturity for music, and deep level thinking, has formed Jacobsen’s unique singing/playing style, profound lyrics, and overall confidence as a performer. Over a year ago, while she was recording in Nashville, she decided to jump on stage with her guitar during a musical open-mic night session (you can find the performance on Youtube). The stage had been set with a number of session musicians who jam with whoever decides to play. Jacobsen began to play and immediately her energy, presence and confidence flowed out of her, surprising the audience and the musicians with her talent. Again, let’s remember that she was 17 at the time, and it was her

to evolve with her. Now that her life has taken another big turn as she begins her schooling at USC, she expects and invites all that comes with it. “At USC I am hoping to become a more well-rounded musician,” said Jacobsen. “I’ll be taking a drum class. I’ll be learning to play all different types of music. Also, I think USC is a place to network in LA with other musicians. There is a folk scene there, so I am hoping to become a part of that and maybe open for some artists and getting my name out. The more people I meet, maybe I can start headlining shows. I would also love to collaborate with other musicians. I did that at Interlochen and I really enjoyed that, not just being front and center all the time. It is very exciting.”

You can learn more about Aspen Jacobsen and her music at aspenjacobsen.com