

LHS Class of 1972 celebrates 50th reunion



The Lowell High School class of 1972 celebrated their 50th high school reunion on the new Showboat, this past Saturday. Everyone who attended, posed for a photo.

Front 1st Row: Carolyn Wingeier Cavanaugh, Dan Pierce, Patty Curtis Herblet, Denise Kropf, Liz Bacon-Ross, Mike Marron, Carolyn Kyser Manion

2nd Row: Mark DeForest, Dr. Alan Graham, Kraig Haybarker, Elaine Stormzard-Gregerson, Pat Herblet, Sally Doyle Zarafonetis, Margaret Marshall Howey, Karen Alexander Ford, Nancy Ellis Roth, Jerry Smoes, Joni Shade-Fairbrother, Curt Griffith

3rd Row: Jim Perkins, Jim Bovee, Carol Wolf-Ayers, Barbara Froese Gillman, Dan Hill, Nancy Roth Moore, Keith Feldman, Ron Anderson, John Brower, Rick Wilcox, Karen Reagan Myers, Joanne Kyser Black, Donna Boone Brown

4th Row: Doug Ford, Rev. Jerry Batterbee, Mark Ritzema, Sharon Bauer Ellison

5th Row: Kevin Kennedy, Dale Hanson, Merrijo Hackstedt Richard, Kristi Sparks-Blough, Ed Steffens, Deb Kempker Collins, Georgy Bailey Armstrong, Marsha Beach, Bonnie Lee-Roudabush, Dan DeHaan, Dawn Condon Phillips

6th Row: Kevin Hoag, Lorri Gabrion, Deb DeVries-Kopriza, Cindy Bigelow Boyce, Dr. Rick Siegle, Mack Truax, Rex Wheat

7th Row: Daryl Anderson, Ron Kryger, Perry Beachum, Dave Wisner, Joe Rinard

Other classmates with us: Paul Klifman, Arlene Flanagan, Jan Jackson, Julie Rutherford, Debbie Topp Burrows



page 6

Into Paradise



page 9

Movie Review



page 8

Lowell Area Schools Sports



page 10, 11 & 16

Lowell city shoots down CopperRock proposal for tall building on line shack property

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Listening to intensive public input, the Lowell City Council has voted down the proposal for a four-story building by CopperRock Construction on a 3:2 vote.

In a meeting that lasted close to two hours, the public, at large, spoke out against the modified downscaled proposal to construct a four-story building, a combination of 12 one-bedroom units,

commercial on the lower level and a rooftop deck. "The rooftop deck will be a part of the first level," said project manager, Matt Hall. "It will be really cool. It will have a historic look to it and it's a great project for the community."

Topping all the public concerns was the issue of parking, already tight in the city on the west side of the river. The city calculated that there are 147 parking spaces within 400 feet of the proposed building, with the majority in the municipal lot closest to the building.

Resident Perry Beachum questioned if the city was going to waive the overnight parking ordinance. He also voiced his concerns over parking during winter, when the city needs to clear the snow at night from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. "You can't park in the

streets in winter," he said. "There are only four parking spots available overnight."

Beachum also spoke as the chairperson of Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) and that the sale of the line shack will have no effect on the rates. "We can't own or sell property," he said. "Lowell Light & Power has no use for that property."

Council member, Cliff Yankovich, wanted clarification from CopperRock on whether any city money will be involved. CopperRock stated they would be pursuing economic incentives that would incorporate the city.

Sharon Ellison spoke about the city's master plan and the fact that the project doesn't fit in with it. "You're missing the mark," she said. "It would be a shame to see a building that tall. It's not aesthetically pleasing. Greg Canfield has done work that

fits in with the master plan. The number one reason why people move here is the small-town character."

Bruce Parker, who is also the chair of the planning commission, questioned the use of the line shack sale money for \$100,000 or for \$150,000. "How much does that equate for rate holders?" he said.

LL&P general manager, Charlie West, said the sale would support cash reserves and would not have any impact on rates either way. "The funds would not go to rates," he said. LL&P has 3,100 customers; the sale equation per customer in the case of \$100,000 is \$32 and in the case of \$150,000 it would be \$48 per customer.

However, on the other hand, some business owners like Nicole Lindenmuth

City council, continued page 3



Tonia North owner of North Star Antiques.

50¢



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Michiganders 50+ will be key in determining who wins in November

AARP Michigan released additional key findings from their 2022 election survey highlighting additional data on the gubernatorial and federal races along with issues related to long-term care and insights into women voters.

According to the survey, significant majorities of Michigan voters, age 50 and up, say they would be more likely to support a candidate for Congress who supports protecting Medicare (88%) and Social Security (87%) from cuts and supported

allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices (84%). The data indicates these opinions are widely held among Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

Additionally, majorities of voters 50+ from each party say long-term care for seniors will be important to their vote in November. Women voters 50+, overwhelmingly echoed that priority (93%). For the gubernatorial race, Michigan 50+ voters and women 50+ voters are more likely to support a candidate

who favors increasing homecare funding for seniors (79% and 83%) and nursing home reforms (76% and 81%).

“Health care, Social Security benefits, prescription drug prices and long-term care are clearly top of mind for voters in our state over the age of 50,” said AARP Michigan State Director, Paula D. Cunningham. “These voters are the state’s largest voting bloc, making up 60% of the electorate. With every election, they consistently show up to vote and make

a key difference in election outcomes. Candidates should take notice of the issues that matter to them and make them a priority.”

The newly released survey data also includes nuanced insights into women 50+ voters and the issues that could impact voting trends. Women 50+ make up a significant share of the 2022 electorate in Michigan, accounting for 32% of likely voters overall, and 53% of likely voters age 50+. The survey found:

Majority of women say the country is headed in the wrong direction, that the economy is not working well for them, and they are worried about their personal financial situation

As gas prices around the country are lowering, concern for food prices is the top inflation worry, followed by health care & prescription drugs and gas prices. Democratic women 50+ put health care costs as their top-inflation concern, but every other group, rates food as the top worry.

Voters 50+ are tied on the generic Congressional ballot at 46/46, but there are large differences by gender: women 50+ favor the Democratic candidate

by 11-points, but men 50+ back the Republican by 12. Democratic women 50+ are more united behind their party’s candidate (91% definitely vote for Democratic candidate) than Republican women are (82% definitely vote for Republican candidate).

Women 50+ rate abortion and inflation as the top-two voting issues in their vote for Congress, and when pushed to choose one over the other, they are evenly divided, primarily along party lines, on whether inflation or overturning Roe will be more important to their vote for Congress. Men 50+ say inflation will be more important by 25-points.

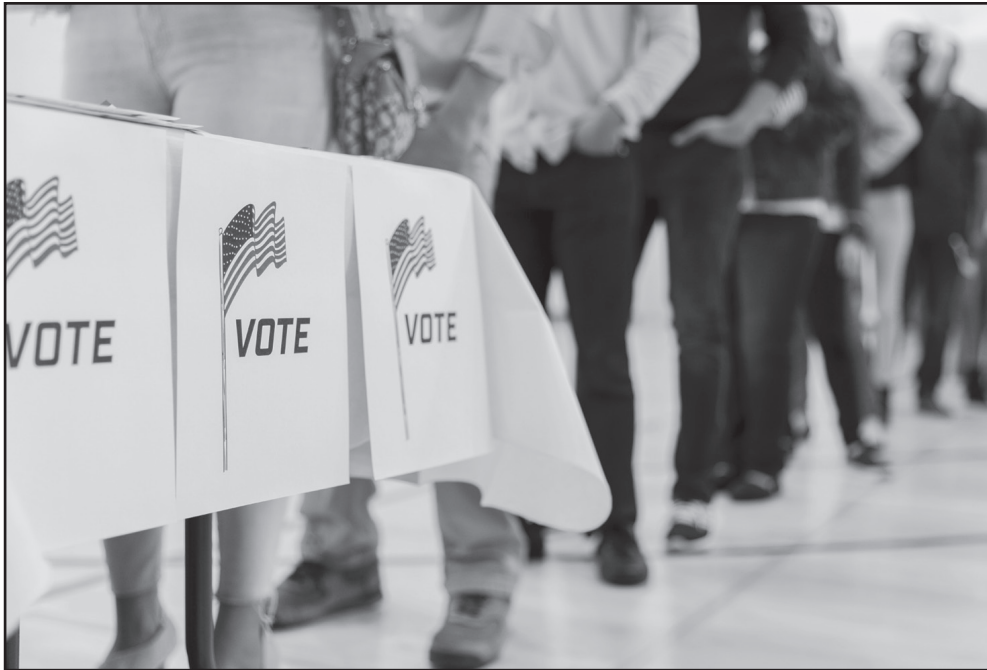
AARP commissioned the bipartisan polling team of Fabrizio Ward & Impact Research to conduct a survey. The firms interviewed 1,365 likely Michigan voters, which includes a statewide representative sample of 500 likely voters, with an oversample of 550 likely voters, age 50 and older, and an additional oversample of 315 Black likely voters age 50 and older, between August 8-14, 2022. The interviews were conducted

via landline (30%), cellphone (35%), and SMS-to-web (35%). The margin of sampling error for the 500 statewide sample is ±4.4%; for the 850 total sample of voters 50+ is ±3.4%; for the 400 total sample of Black voters 50+ is ±4.9%.

Survey results can be found at www.aarp.org/mi.

Visit 50+ Voters May Tip Scales in Midterm Election for AARP Michigan’s initial news release from 8/18/22, which includes data on Michigan’s gubernatorial race. For more information on how, when and where to vote in Michigan, visit aarp.org/MIvotes.

AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation’s largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org.



Michigan drivers to benefit from increased competition in auto insurance

More than 50 auto insurance companies are choosing to do business in Michigan since changes to the state’s auto no-fault insurance were passed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers and the governor signed them into law in 2019.

The Insurance Alliance of Michigan has said the number of new businesses

in the state creates greater competition to drive down costs.

This follows news of the latest rankings out of Insure.com finding Michigan’s auto insurance rates continue to decline after being the highest in the nation for years. Last year, Michigan was ranked no. 2. Now Michigan ranks no. 4 behind Florida, Louisiana and

Delaware. The decline in the cost of Michigan’s auto insurance, as compared to other states, is attributed to the 2019 bi-partisan auto no fault reform.

“Since the implementation of the reasonable medical fee schedule as part of the 2019 bipartisan auto no-fault reforms, we’ve seen steady

growth in the number of auto insurance companies wanting to conduct business in Michigan,” said IAM Executive Director, Erin McDonough. “In addition to the largest refund in history with the \$400 per-vehicle checks, Michigan drivers can put more money back into their pockets by shopping around. This

is another example of how bipartisan auto no-fault reforms are working and should be allowed to continue to work.”

Additional benefits to the 2019 bipartisan auto no-fault reforms include:

More than 202,000 Michigan drivers without prior coverage have purchased auto insurance since reforms took effect on July 2, 2020, according to IAM member company data. Of those, 83,238 were Michigan drivers who didn’t have car insurance for three years or more.

Fee reductions by the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association in 2020 and 2021 totaled more than \$1 billion per year. Combined with the \$400 per-vehicle

refunds, there has been \$5 billion-plus in estimated savings. This doesn’t take into account savings drivers may see by choosing different levels of Personal Injury Protection (PIP). Under the bipartisan auto no-fault reforms, insurance companies were required to reduce statewide average PIP medical premiums for eight years, which has contributed to the savings, according to the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services.

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City council, continued

of Bettie's Pages, spoke about the need for affordable housing. "We have an amazing downtown," she said. "This wouldn't make any detriment." CopperRock representatives assured that the proposed height of the building is 40 feet. "It fits in with all the ordinances," Greg Taylor of CopperRock said.

Other residents questioned how would the tall building impact the fire department and its equipment.

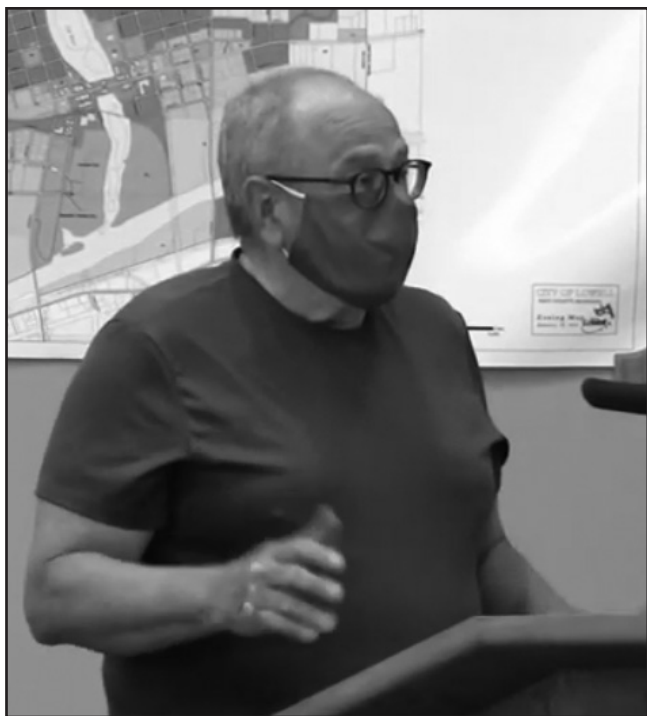
Most business owners

brought up the issue of emptying the dumpsters and snow removal. "I live above our business," she said. "There are two dumpsters now. How many dumpsters does it take for 12 units? How will they maneuver with the parking spots taken?"

The snow takes up the northwest corner of the parking lot for a couple of weeks before it gets moved. "It will be interesting how the city will plow," she said. "High-density housing is not appropriate for that sliver of land. We



Lowell City Council at the August 15 meeting.



Perry Beachum

on the west side of the river questioned the lingering parking issue, as well as the council's decision to accept the lower offer in their third attempt to sell the line shack building.

"Lowell is only so big and parking is an issue," a resident said. "I am tired of people coming in, overstepping and expecting to use things. I've never met Greg Canfield, but I see the things he's done and he knows what to do with that small piece of land."

Beryl Bartkus, the owner of Ability Weavers,

need diversity, but could we make it into something else?" Beryl argued that the same people who will be living in the new building, may visit her store three times a year. "Why don't you put something there that can be used by the entire community and make it accessible?"

Eric Bartkus said that green space is important. Moreover, the tall building would create an echo for the concerts on the Riverwalk. If CopperRock obtains Brownfields and TIFF grants, Eric questioned how

many tax dollars will the school lose. "Twelve people will visit my store once a year," he said. "Do you know what you're voting on and how much city money is needed?"

Since CopperRock modified and downscaled their plans from six stories, both Beryl and Eric questioned if they would be allowed to do the same thing. "I'd like to change my design too," Eric said. "There are no windows on the north and the south side

story. "It would fall within the exceptions to the ordinance," planner Andy Moore said.

Yankovich explained his previous vote in favor of the project due to the long-term benefits for the city. "Twelve to 14 units will be all Lowell Light & Power customers," he said. "We've altered the height and ended up with the Showboat taller than it was and the world didn't come to an end."

CopperRock contended

that by going vertical they can provide affordable housing with an old historic feel. "We love this town. We want local presence here." CopperRock assured that the state of Michigan reimburses the schools for every grant dollar, so the project would have zero impact on schools.

Resident Melinda Cosgrove was concerned about the impact of increased traffic on the already bad roads. "Our taxes our higher than in East Grand Rapids and our roads are garbage," she said. "We're not Caledonia or Rockford."

Hall of CopperRock said they would manage the proposed building like professionals. "Hopefully we've offered good stuff and our organization is the right one," he said.

On the city council side, mayor pro-tem Marty Chambers said all the proposals take anywhere from 10 to 15 parking spots, and that he may be adding to the parking stress with his expansion. "Tax dollars is a long-term revenue source," he said. "Parking is horrible on that side."

In response to accusations of not being transparent, all the city council members defended

their transparency. Chambers said he would like to have a public hearing on this and wait a few weeks rather than vote on the resolution.

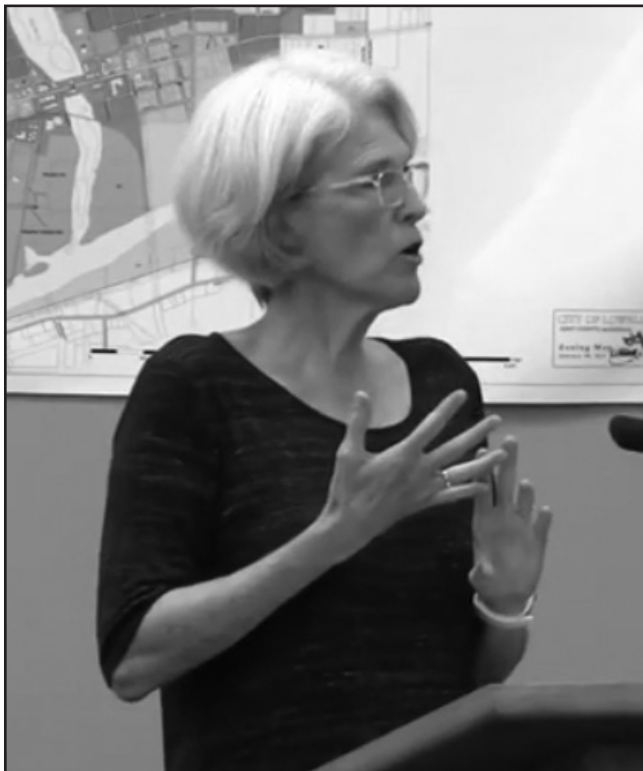
"It's not a hush-hush project," said councilwoman Leah Groves. "We've done all the right stuff. I am comfortable that CopperRock could make it into what Lowell is about. I love that the community is involved."

Mayor Mike DeVore said the meeting notices were published and everything was discussed in open meetings. "We are accessible," he said. "We let the resolution sit for two weeks."

Yankovich said the city does everything that Lansing requires of them, even if they don't. "Everything is according to the law set out by Lansing," he said. "I am flip flop on this. The people have spoken."

The city council will meet on Tuesday, Sep. 6 to discuss their options for the sale of the line shack building located at 115 Riverside.

In other business, the city council approved the re-districting of the social district to include the new restaurant Savor Mexicana.



Beryl Bartkus

of the building. Is this part of the DDA? Is it rental or apartments?"

Tonia North, the owner of North Star Antiques, said CopperRock's statement about creating a problem and then finding a solution didn't instill any confidence in her. "I am not against CopperRock or for them," she said. "Our customers are not going to come from Lowell. We bring people into town. Two meetings are not enough to understand what we're dealing with on everyday bases."

However, CopperRock rep. said they've walked the talk by proposing fewer units with fewer parking spots. Having the rooftop would not create another



Sharon Ellison

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Book Corner

Shoot the Moon (fiction)

By Billie Letts

by Alison Yarger
contributing writer

Over the past few weeks, other than a couple of “new” books, I have resorted to reading books that were published in the late 1990s and early 2000s. I once again read *Drowning Ruth*, by Elizabeth Berg, which I had forgotten how well written and mystifying it was. Some others I have recently reread are *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch,

While I Was Gone, by Sue Miller, *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Marquez and *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, by David Wroblewski. It does my heart and soul well at times to re-examine some of the books I truly enjoyed; and often times, the 20 year time difference definitely changes one’s perspective on these stories.

So in the same vein, I

decided to read *Shoot the Moon* another time. While I vaguely remembered the mystery, reading it as a 71 year old rather than a 54 year old obviously gave me an altered perspective, especially on the characters.

In 1972, DeClare, Oklahoma was consumed by the terrifying murder of Gaylene Harjo and the disappearance of her baby, Nicky Jack. When the child’s pajama bottoms were found on the banks of Willow Creek, everyone feared Nicky Jack was dead, although his body was never found.

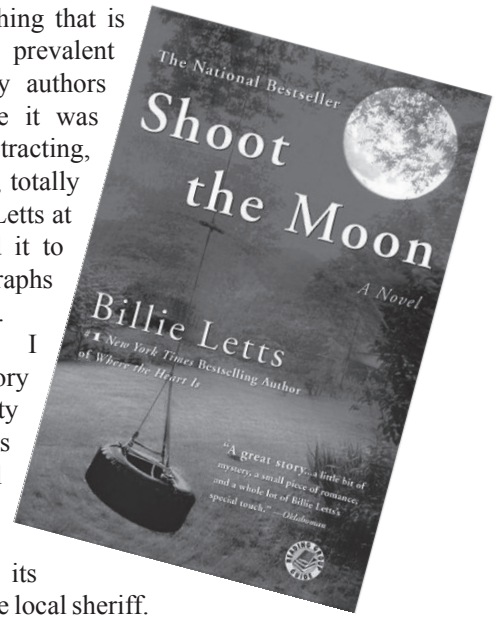
Nearly 30 years later, Nicky Jack mysteriously returns to DeClare, and

his sudden reappearance stuns the people of this small town, stirring up long buried emotions and memories. But what he discovers among the people who remember the night he vanished is far more than he, or anyone bargained for. Piece by piece, what emerges is a story of dashed hopes, desperate love and a shocking act with repercussions that cry out for justice and redemption.

While Letts obviously wears her politics on her sleeve and projects them onto characters in the book, it was done without

hatred, something that is unfortunately prevalent with so many authors today. While it was somewhat distracting, and of course, totally unnecessary, Letts at least confined it to several paragraphs in one chapter.

Sadly, I think the story lacked veracity and was stereotypical and predictable, especially in its portrayal of the local sheriff.



outdoors

wilderness

Dave Stegehuis

Dust would billow up as the occasional car rumbled down the dirt road that ran by the front of our house. Sometimes we would walk a three-mile loop on connecting roads without encountering a vehicle. That was over fifty years ago. Today, the paved and lined road often produces a steady flow of relatively high-speed traffic. The once wooded and pastured landscape has been replaced by rows of houses. Urban sprawl has caught up with us.

Most of us live our daily lives in urban and suburban areas. We spend days and weeks surrounded by people, traffic, buildings,

and noise. We become acclimated to this condition and become comfortable in this environment. There are advantages to this lifestyle, which is a result of economic circumstances.

The good news is that we have access to places that provide natural settings with plants, animals, forests, fresh water, and solitude. Many of these places are small islands of nature surrounded by urban development, which provides quick and easy access for those seeking a retreat from a crowded, busy life. Then there are larger parks and recreation areas with room to roam about in larger slices of nature. For a broader perspective and expanded opportunities to relate to nature, our state has millions of acres of state and federal land open to the public.

Sometimes, it seems like the world is being swallowed up by encroaching civilization; that the days of vast stretches of undisturbed land are gone. Then, a recent float plane ride, flying low over northern boreal forest land, revealed vast regions of uninhabited forests separated by lakes and rivers with no names. Probably few, if any, people have walked this ground. There is still a lot of the earth that has not been significantly changed by man.

We have the opportunity and responsibility to protect natural spaces and wilderness for future generations so they can experience the peace and solitude of nature. It is a good feeling to know there are places where wildlife can live out their lives without human intrusion in a chaotic world.

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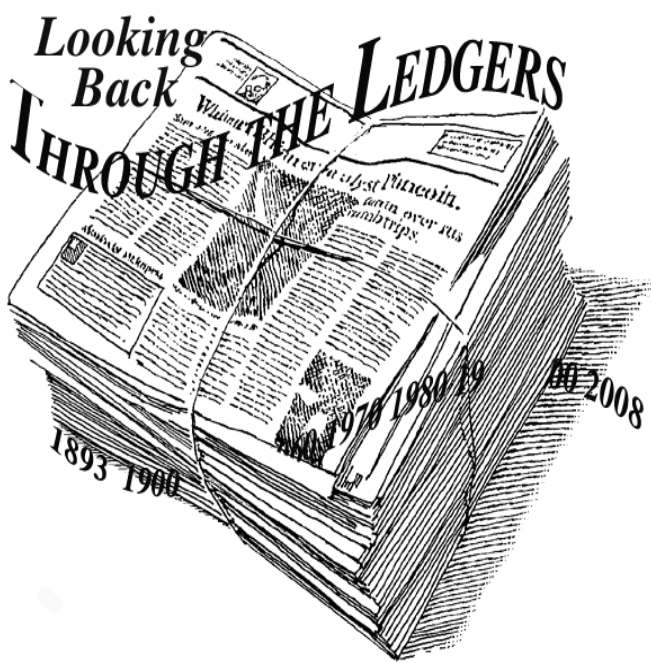
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AUGUST SCHEDULE

Barbara Britton, *Lioness: Mahlah's Journey*, Aug. 5
Special episode *Wild Blueberry Festival, Paradise*, Aug. 16
Diane Burton, *Rescuing Mara's Father*, Aug. 31
Franklin Wilson, *Hearts of Fire* series, Aug. 31

Sponsored by Doc Chavent, The Lowell Ledger,
Barbara Britton

viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 2, 1897

At a meeting of Lowell business men, held at the Council rooms this week, the project of damming Flat river near its mouth, so as to afford boating privileges around Island park - as has been proposed by the Ledger on several occasions - came up for discussion and drew forth much favorable comment.

The Kent County Agricultural society's annual fair will open September 20 and continue four days. All wishing to make entries for speed premiums, call Dr. I. B. Malcolm's office for entry blanks and programs.

Will M. Chapman and wife spent Saturday and Sunday with Lowell friends. Will has parted with his big whiskers and looks like another man, but he is the same old boy, just the same.

The Michigan Cutter and Buggy company are unable to handle all the work they are getting out with the room they have in the Lowell furniture company's east building, and are preparing the upper part of the west building by putting in benches for extra help, which they will have to employ to do bench work.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 7, 1922

A jury in justice court declared Roy A. Gregory guilty of driving an automobile while intoxicated and he was sentenced to serve 30 days in jail. Gregory admitted in court he had taken one drink from a gallon jug of moonshine, which was found in his car. Witnesses testified he had been driving a wobbly course and ran into a ditch near Ada. After he had been helped to get his car back on the road, he proceeded to Lowell, where he again ran into a ditch, according to testimony given.

Hollis Andrews, a Lowell man, has been forwarded a reward of \$50 by Supt. A.A. Carroll. The money was sent by the chief of police of Fort Wayne as the result of Andrews' action in recovering an automobile stolen in Indiana.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 4, 1947

The two assailants who attacked Deputy Frank Stephens of Lowell on August 9, Fred Lewis, 54, of Edmore and Robert C. Underhill, 23, of Lansing, were each given one to two-year sentences, to be served at Southern Michigan prison. Stephens was attacked by the two men while attempting to question them about damaging a parked car in Lowell,. Stephens was hit

on the head and kicked before he could even question the men.

The roof of the hanger at the Lowell airport was blown off during the windstorm last Saturday morning. Damage was estimated at \$1,000. No insurance.

Mrs. Lois Wakefield accompanied her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bates of Goldwater, on a trip to Sault Ste. Marie; her first experience of living in a trailer house. Said it was nice, but she liked her home best.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life August 31, 1972

A car parked at the site of the new Lowell Middle School on Foreman Road, Thursday night around 11 o'clock, with its trunk open, aroused the suspicion of one citizen and a prompt call to the Lowell Police Department, led to the arrest of a former Lowell man and two juvenile runaways from Mason, Michigan. The trio was placed under arrest of stealing gasoline from a truck parked at the sites, and a subsequent search of the vehicle, produced several ounces of marijuana.

The National Safety Council Safe Driver Award was awarded to five employees of the Lowell Post Office this week. The following names and award years given were as follows: Jack Fonger, 11-year award; Paul Kerekes, 10-year award; William Daswon, 10-year award; Bernard Kropf, 6-year award and Rick Fonger, 1-year award.

Cynthia (Cindy) Ball of Lowell is preparing for her return to Western Michigan University, plus her entry into the state-wide Michigan Snowmobile Queen's contest. She was first runner-up in the Miss Lowell Showboat contest this past summer.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 3, 1997

Damages, estimated between \$5,000 and \$7,500, have been inflicted on seven area businesses, as

the result of a two-week window shooting spree within the city of Lowell.

The City of Lowell has asked its city attorney, Richard Wendt, to prepare a zoning ordinance amending regulating the location and density of adult entertainment businesses.

David Roth, son of Ken and Georgie Roth of Lowell, earned a Youth National Championship, Reserve Championship, Top Ten in Stock Seat Equitation and Western Pleasure at the fifth annual Youth Nationals Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show, held July 20-26 in Oklahoma City.

A high number of participants in Lowell High School sports normal can be found in football, soccer, track and wrestling. In 1997, there is a new kid on the block - Lowell girls' tennis. There were 40 girls on the tennis roster.

to the editor

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

To the Editor:

It's high school football season in Lowell!

Seventy-five years ago, in Fall 1947, the newly-named LHS "Red Arrows" ran onto the brightly lit football field at Recreation Park, cheered by hundreds of students, parents and townfolks alike.

Their gridiron traditions were moving in both old and new directions.

The school color had always been red since the earliest days, although mostly a dark or maroon red.

There was no agreed-upon mascot or nickname: sometimes just the Reds, Maroons, Big Reds, Red Demons, Redbirds, or Red Devils. Finally, the name was settled, honoring the U.S. Army's famed 32nd Infantry "Red Arrow" Division, with its many Michigan recruits. Even now, the "Red Arrows" name is unique, held by no other American high school.

With its own municipal power-generating plant, Lowell was one of the first in Michigan to play high school football at night. Opposing football players in the 1920's, like my uncle

Ed Smith from Caledonia, eagerly anticipated playing at Lowell "under the lights."

The grass field at Recreation Park (later named Burch Field), on the west bank of the Flat River near its mouth, had remarkable natural drainage via an underlying gravel base. So although the field often flooded in springtime when river levels rose, the Fall games were contested on firm natural turf.

Those early Lowell football teams often won, sometimes lost, but always competed energetically. They occasionally claimed coveted championships, especially in the early 1930's under legendary football coach Ron Finch, who later earned fame as a college coach at Central Michigan.

As always, Lowell community support for the "boys in red" remained strong throughout. In the new Grand Valley League, coach 'Chris' Burch led champion teams in 1937 and 1945. However, it was my kindergarten class from that

Continued, page 14

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. We have a 700-word limit.

**Letters can be sent to emailed to
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
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.

Tiny Gardens Succulent Bar

Thurs., Sept. 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+

Scrabble for Seniors

Fri., Sept. 9 from 1-3 pm. Sit down and enjoy a word game, unplugged, with other fans. For 18+ and skill levels welcome!

Storytime

Mondays 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Nurture your child's love of books and build early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, music and movement. For ages 0-5 with parent or guardian.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Sat, Sept. 17, 9:30 am - 1 pm. There will be bargains galore at the Friends of the Library's used book sale.

...

I never feel more alone than when I'm trying to put sunscreen on my back.

~Jimmy Kimmel

Happy 17th Birthday



Austin Hayden Eickhoff

August 31, 2022

Love,
Mom, Dad & Steven



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: 205 E. Main
Date Built: 1905
Building Name: Negonce
First business: Marks Ruben Dry Goods

The original brick block was built in 1881. The Dry Goods store of Chester G. Stone operated here until he was forced out of business by the Panic of 1893. After that, J. B. Nicholson Dry Goods was here until the Fire of 1905.

The Negonce Building, containing four storefronts, 203-209 E. Main, was built in 1905. "Marks Ruben, to whose persistent energy, the success of the entire enterprise is largely due, will have a double store on his own." He opened his Dry Goods business in



Gary Laux, behind the counter, purchased the Lowell Cut Rate Market building from Myron Henry, and the business from Marion Leestma, in 1965. He had worked in a Butcher Shop as a Meat Cutter, during and after high school, for six years and had also served in the U.S. Army.

both 205 and 207 E. Main. A "Bad Calamity was Averted" in 1907 when fire was discovered on a dry goods table near the coal stove and was put out with

only smoke damage to the goods. J. Howard Payne Dry Goods was successor to Marks Ruben in 1909.

In 1912, it was home to R. T. Ford Hardware; his tin

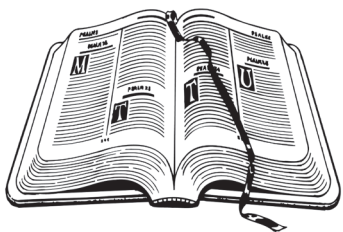
shop was on the 2nd floor. Then in 1933, the Price-Rite Hardware of C. W. Cook and A. F. Armstrong began at this location.

Thompson's Sanitary Market (meats), owned by Butch (Germain) Thompson was here, 1940s-1952. Next it was home to Herm's Sanitary Market (1952-1959), owned by Herm Scholten and then Bob's Sanitary Market. Gary Laux bought Lowell Cut Rate Market in 1965. He renamed the business "Gary's Country Meats" in 1980. It continues as a meat market, operated by Gary's son, Aaron Laux.



Berwyn Kloosterman and Allen Bennett standing in front of Thompson's Sanitary Market in 1948.

area churches



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LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

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1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Website: calvarylowell.org
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Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays7 PM
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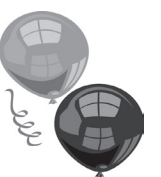
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happy birthday



AUGUST 31
Amy Vezino, Scott Wolfe, Morgan Nelson.

Smith, Ron Merriman, Theresa Engle, Ethan Riddle.

SEPTEMBER 1
Jerry Bellah, Todd Mahalic, Chuck Myers, Ron Utley.

SEPTEMBER 5
Barb Vezino, Kohlton Scott Clouser, Nicole Bellah.

SEPTEMBER 2
Eric Elzina, Whitey Tubergen, Virginia Conner, John Stevens, Bryant Sloan-Johnson, Callie Dorsey.

SEPTEMBER 6
Brian Haan, Mitch Mercer.

SEPTEMBER 3
Bailey Allen, Fay Johnson, Carlene Bottrall.



SEPTEMBER 4
Ashlie Hathaway, Mark

Guest Column

Second Time Around

By Bill Lee

A Thank You letter to Toni Basil

I love my 3.5 year old daughter, Beatrice. Love her to death. The only issue I have with her is that she won't let me, or anyone, listen to music – in the car, at home, anywhere without yelling, "I don't want to hear any music!!" until you have to turn it off. I'm not sure where she got this little quirk in her system, as I love listening to music and her grandparents love listening and playing it. It is a difficult way to go through your life, not listening to music especially when you love it. In the beginning, I just put up with it and went without. Some months later, I thought to myself, "Hey, I can't let her control my life!", so I found subtle ways of getting her to listen to a few songs without complaint. First, she allowed

us to play the songs from the Disney mov Frozen. It was my way of planting the seed and working my way up to my music. So for a couple of months, we only listened to "Let it Go" and "Do You Want to Build a Snowman." I listened so much that I learned them by heart and began to add interpretive dance moves to help me get through the songs. If I knew how to use Youtube, I might be an international star by now.

Then came the day, while we were giving her a bath, I came up with the idea of pitching her a new song: Bobby Darin's "Splish Splash." She was intrigued. The next day, I played it and she allowed it to happen, so over the weeks I began to use little tricks to add to my playlist. Slowly, I added

Bobby Day's "Rockin' Robin" (her uncle's name), The Four Seasons "Big Girls Don't Cry" (for when she cried), Nirvana's "Polly" (replacing "Polly" with "Beatrice wants a cracker"), and the Beatles "Dear Prudence" (replacing Prudence with Beatrice). The last song on the playlist was the most important for many reasons. Toni Basil's (Hey) "Mickey" has proven to save my wife and me a few hours of pain and aggravation. "Hey Bea, did you know there is a song about Mickey Mouse?" She was sold pretty quickly. Little did I know how important this song would become in my life.

Little known fact: Toni Basil was nearly 40-years-old when the (Hey) "Mickey" song/music video came out in 1981. You probably remember it: Basil in her cheerleader uniform, leading other cheerleaders in a number of dances while she sang the upbeat song. Looking back at it, the song/video probably didn't smash the film budget, but the video made its point and

became a hit. I enjoyed it. Little did Toni Basil know that her song would help our daughter go to sleep in the car over 40 years later.

We discovered this gold mine on the way back from Lake Michigan last summer. Beatrice, who almost never sleeps in the car no matter how long we travel, was in tirade-mode in the back seat and no cajoling or bribery would stop her. To take you into the funhouse, Bea was berating her stuffed Mickey Mouse doll until he was just a shell of a mouse. She had placed a Covid mask over his nose and criticized him. "Mickey, take off your mask!" Next she yelled at him, "Look out the window Mickey! I said look out the window!" Poor Mickey. Next, she started on my wife, who was in the front seat. "Mommy, put your hair up," she said over and over. My wife looked at me and I nodded, as if to say, please put your hair up. She capitulated. Next, I was on the list. "Daddy, take your glasses off." I explained to her that I needed them for driving. She was unrelenting

and continued berating me, and I felt trapped, no place to turn to. And then, an idea hit me, one that could benefit me, my wife, Beatrice, and even poor shell-shocked Mickey Mouse. "Bea, maybe you and Mickey Mouse would like to hear the 'Hey Mickey' song?" A pause. "You want to hear the 'Hey Mickey' song?" Her continued silence gave me a window and I whispered to my wife in desperation, "Find the song on my phone, stat." My wife grabbed my phone and put the song through the speakers in the car. The thundering drums started and then Toni Basil came in and started chanting "Oh Mickey, you're so fine, you're so fine, you're on my mind, hey Mickey." My daughter was still. Even better yet, she was quiet. The magic potion had worked for a moment. When the song finished, there was a silence in the car. What next? Then, the little dictator uttered only one word: "Again." And so we played it again, and again and again and again until around 15 'Hey Micekeys' later, Bea had fallen asleep. A miracle!

Recently we traveled five hours away to Ohio. On the way there, she did not nap (again) and had a few tantrums, but we made it with only a few scars. On the way home about halfway back, the little dictator revealed herself again, this time repetitively asking, "When are we going to get home" over and over. Toddlers have no concept of time. Two hours means nothing to them. We were running out of options until we remembered "Hey Mickey." A few Hey Micekeys in and she was asleep. Eight-and-a-half Hey Micekeys later she was awake. At four minutes a pop, that's 34 minutes of pure bliss for me and my wife.

I have continued to try to add songs to my very small playlist. Recently, out of nowhere, Beatrice accepted Third Eye Blind's "How's it going to Be(a)?" Get it? It worked. So now I have a playlist of about eight songs that I can sometimes play in the house, the car, etc. None though are as important at Toni Basil's song. Thank you Toni.



Live the Life You Want

With Melissa Spino, MA, LPC, CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy, LLC

Most Googled relationship questions

While thinking about a relationship topic for this weeks' article, I googled the most searched relationship questions and there were quite a few. The top 3 questions for Michigan were "How to kiss", "When to text back", and "Does she love me?" The no. 1 googled question in the US was "How to Kiss". I chose a couple of questions out of this top ten list to answer.

Question: What does a healthy relationship look like?

This question didn't surprise me since much of what we learn and consider norms as an adult comes from our core family when we are young. If someone struggles with certain aspects of relationships, they may wonder why and search out an answer. Some had mostly healthy family relationships and some didn't. Below is a list of a few healthy relationship traits.

In a healthy relationship:

You feel good about yourself & your partner brings out your best. You don't feel scared, anxious, sad, insecure, less than,

or like there is something wrong with you.

Your partner treats you with respect. They respect your personal boundaries, ideas/beliefs (even when not the same as theirs') and don't try to control, manipulate, gaslight, or threaten and vice versa.

There is a balance of give and take. You share responsibilities and are both flexible enough so each of your needs are met.

Independence is encouraged and supported. You both have individual friends, hobbies, and life goals separate from one

another. You each support one another's needs, wants, and feelings as equal to your own.

You are interdependent. You enjoy being together and not just when you want to be intimate. You like and love each other and want to do things together. You have some mutual goals, interests, and friends.

You can both share thoughts and feelings respectfully. You can both be honest while feeling secure and safe while doing so. When there is disagreement you can talk it out in a healthy way, negotiate, and come to a mutual agreement/decision. Unhealthy partnerships have a cycle of conflict that never gets resolved.

Question: How can I build trust in a relationship?

Healthy communication plays a key role in building or rebuilding trust. Talk

honestly, respectfully, and openly. Below are some suggestions for establishing or rebuilding trust.

Show respect. Being disrespectful, personal attacks, gaslighting, being dishonest, belittling your partner are all damaging and ruins trust. When you treat your partner disrespectfully it damages your connection and will eventually result in resentment and distrust.

Be clear by saying what you truly mean and mean what you say. Don't make promises you won't keep. Be honest about your feelings because hiding feelings or details of a situation will result in your partner no longer trusting what you say.

Trust yourself and your feelings.

If conflict or disagreements happen, "fight fair." This means, communicate from a place of respect, no personal

attacks (name calling etc.), no blaming, or bringing up past issues. Focus on the present issue. Don't try to prove you are "right" and listen, with the goal of understanding your partners point of view.

Be open emotionally. Building trust means you need to open yourself up to the risk of being hurt. Trust begins when you can rely on your partner, share your deepest fears, and know your partner will be there to emotionally support you, if needed.

Give your partner the benefit of the doubt. If your partner has not breached your trust in the past, then believe their intentions are

honest even when there is uncertainty or doubt about the situation. Assume your partner has good intentions. If your partner disappoints you, it may just be a misunderstanding or a simple mistake. Get answers about the situation before blaming them.

Take responsibility for your actions. Don't fall back on statements such as "You make me feel" or "it's your fault this happened". You are responsible for your feelings, behaviors, reactions, actions etc.

I hope you found this article helpful. This article is not meant to treat or diagnose. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

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Bullet Train is fast, furious, and quite funny

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Okay... how to describe *Bullet Train*... Let's see... if *Kill Bill 1*, *Snatch*, and *Usual Suspects* all had a baby (I know, I know, realistically three movies can't possibly have a baby), then that baby would be named *Bullet Train*, and his cousin would be *Deadpool*. If you haven't seen those aforementioned movies, please check your personal streaming service and see them as soon as possible – unless you don't like gratuitous violence, then only watch *Snatch* and *Usual Suspects*. Basically, *Bullet Train*, starring Brad Pitt, contains the hyperbolic violence of *Kill Bill 1* and *Deadpool*, but also has the English crime comedy elements of *Snatch* and the whodunnit flashback mystery of *Usual Suspects*. Directed by David Leitch (also Brad Pitt's stunt double in five films and director of *Deadpool 2*) and

based on a Japanese novel *Maria Beetle*, *Bullet Train* is a highly-entertaining thrill ride that will make you gasp, second-guess yourself, and flat-out laugh.

The story takes place in Japan and opens with a young Japanese boy on a life-supporting ventilator in a hospital with his father and grandfather at his bedside. We later find out that the boy was mysteriously pushed off a building and is somehow connected to a Japanese crime syndicate. In the second scene, we are introduced to Pitt's character, who is walking through the streets of Tokyo, while a Japanese version of "Staying Alive", by the Bee Gees, plays in the background. Pitt's character, a recently unretired hitman, is speaking with his handler through his ear pods. She informs him that his new code name is Ladybug, thinking it will change what

he calls a "string of bad luck." His misinterpretation of his own "luck" is a theme throughout the movie because it is clear to the audience that, in fact, Ladybug is very lucky.

Ladybug's handler, Maria, voiced by Sandra Bullock, has a seemingly easy task for him in this current job: find a particular silver briefcase on the bullet train and return it to her. She directs him to a locker in the train station to gather the proper materials for the job and assures him he will need a gun. Ladybug, with his new-found Buddhist Zen approach to life (although he still doesn't know what that even means), decides against bringing a firearm, a decision he will regret later (or does he?). Unbeknownst to Ladybug, there are several other assassins on the train, also very interested in the silver briefcase. And to top it off, the briefcase belongs to the biggest crime boss in Japan, The White Death, a traitorous Russian who embodies all that is evil. Ladybug will have encounters with them all. Let the games begin!

Enter two charming but deadly English brothers, code names Tangerine and Lemon, played fantastically by Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Bryan Tyree Henry. Known as "The Twins," even though one is white and one is black, these hitmen are infamously known for huge jobs, including many references to their work in Bolivia and Johannesburg. We see them, along with their hostage, on the train, facing each other, arguing

in a quirky English way about two things: Lemon's deep interest in the symbolic meanings of the 'Thomas the Train' characters, and how many people they killed on their last job – was it 16 or 17? We find out in a few flashbacks, similar to the techniques used in the movie, the *Usual Suspects*.

As the train begins its journey, Ladybug confronts his first assassin, The Wolf, a member of the Mexican cartel who believes Ladybug is responsible for the death of all of his friends and family at his wedding. From there, he has separate encounters with The Hornet and The Prince (wonderfully played by Joey King), both wanting the silver briefcase for their respective reasons. All of these confrontations have incredibly creative and highly-choreographed fight scenes within the small confines of the moving train. The best scenes come between Ladybug and Lemon, and later, Ladybug and Tangerine -- both are perfect examples that best describe the uniqueness of *Bullet Train*. In the first encounter, Ladybug and Lemon have a violent fight on the quiet car of the train and both characters take that very seriously. In between head smashes and punches, an older woman passenger on the train shooshes them several times, each time Ladybug and Lemon quiet down immediately, like school children making a ruckus in the library. The effect is quite funny. Later in the film, Ladybug's first encounter with Tangerine

is equally humorous, yet violent.

These scenes symbolize how *Bullet Train* sets itself apart from other movies of its kind, like the ones previously mentioned. In a lot of ways, *Bullet Train* is a comedy because through all the violence, gore, and death lies humor. We care for the characters, but if they do die, well, they met their maker in a very entertaining way. Also, out of nowhere come cameo appearances by Channing Tatum and Ryan Reynolds that add another layer of humor to the film.

If there is any criticism to *Bullet Train*, it would probably be the multitude of flashbacks it takes to put the sometimes, confusing storyline together. There is a lot going on in this movie, maybe too much. Even so, there are many good things in *Bullet Train* – acting, fight-choreography, writing (shout-out to screenplay by Zak Olkewicz), and humor – that you can't help but look past the bad things.

And tying it all together is Brad Pitt. Does Pitt do anything that isn't great? Okay you might have an argument for *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* and *Meet Joe Black*, but it seems that most of what he's done turns to gold. The same goes for his acting in *Bullet Train*. Pitt's whimsical, yet deadly characterization of Ladybug, the Zen-seeking

killer just trying to deliver a briefcase, is perfect. Pitt keeps the movie casual and funny, even with the ridiculous amount of violence and destruction that seems to find him no matter his attempts to escape it. He combines the fighting moves of Bruce Lee and the haphazard pratfalls of Chevy Chase – not an easy task for an actor. Like



his character, Ladybug, Pitt has more than luck working by his side; he has experience, professionalism, and a seemingly laid-back approach that makes what he does look easy. Overall, what I like about *Bullet Train* is - that it doesn't pretend to be anything other than what it is: a fun and entertaining movie that will surprise you at every turn. I recommend *Bullet Train* to anyone looking for a great action comedy who is fine with gratuitous violence. 4 and a half out of 5 popcorn kernels.



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Children who have been abused or neglected will get support they deserve

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has received good news from the federal government about funding administered under the Victims of Crime Act – the same act that provides funding for Michigan's Children's Advocacy Centers that support children affected by physical and sexual abuse.

An anticipated reduction in federal funds will not materialize and MDHHS has made the decision to ensure that all Children's Advocacy Centers, currently funded with federal Victims of Crime Act dollars, will be funded at the same or greater levels next fiscal year.

Total funding for next fiscal year will be approximately \$12 million.

"This funding is going to maintain or enhance the level of services that we

provide to 10,000 children across Michigan," said Julie Bird, director of Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan. "I want to thank the state and everyone who has worked on our behalf for their support — we look forward to building an even stronger partnership with the state, as we work together to support children affected by physical and sexual abuse."

Children's Advocacy Centers offer a variety of services to children who are victims of abuse or neglect – including providing a comforting setting for children to be interviewed about abuse by people who understand trauma.

"Supporting our children who have been the victims of physical abuse or neglect is one of the most important things we do at MDHHS," said

Director, Elizabeth Hertel. "Children's Advocacy Centers play an invaluable role in helping kids who are dealing with profound trauma."

Based on previous communication with federal partners, MDHHS's Division of Victim Services was anticipating a significant decrease in federal funding. To provide partners at local Children's Advocacy Centers with information as soon as possible, the department notified them of anticipated reductions in their funding for next fiscal year. When the department received official notification from the federal government Thursday, however, MDHHS learned that the anticipated reductions would not be realized.

Into Paradise and Grand Marais

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

With Labor Day weekend upon us, a trip may be in your plans. Michigan's Upper Peninsula has become a hot spot again for all nature lovers and adventure seekers. Not that it has ever ceased to be, just a little forgotten paradise far up north, out of reach, because of high gas prices that have now dipped down under \$4.

The little town of Paradise on M-123, known as the gateway to Tahquamenon Falls, is a five-hour drive from Lowell, some 60 miles from Mackinac Bridge. But what it's best known for are wild blueberries and the celebration of their harvest

Banjo Jim Foerch.

Accommodations are scarce in this remote area, in the big woods of the Tahquamenon State Falls Park - five motels and six different cabin sites, all along Whitefish Bay. The views are priceless, stretching across Lake Superior all the way to Isle Parisienne, already in Canada. The sunrises are the best here, thus the name of the colorful Sunrise Cabins, north of Paradise. The beaches of Whitefish Bay, and its bottom, are sandy and the waters are warm and shallow, unlike Lake Superior, which is cold and rocky.

I lucked out and got us a cabin at Cloud Nine Cottages sometime in May. The cabin

We took the Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route which is the entire 62-mile loop of M-123 north of M-28 in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

The route extends from Eckerman Corners on M-28, north through Paradise and the Tahquamenon Falls State Park, and south through the Village of Newberry to the intersection of M-123 and M-28.

We stopped in Newberry for a very important task, and that back at home seems normal and routine. Not in the Upper Peninsula. On the east side of the Upper Peninsula, there are only two cities where you can get your groceries, Sault Ste. Marie and Newberry, other than an expensive assortment at gas stations. We had trouble finding the only I.G.A. grocery store, far and wide, because of its remodel. The store was well-stocked, better than the stores downstate, as the Yoopers call Lower Peninsula. It carried everything for campers and regulars. Plus, the icing on the cake: whitefish, the UP beers, and maps of country roads and trails. Yes, there are small craft breweries in the UP, and we were just about to visit one in Grand Marais. The Ojibwa Indians located their villages here, known as "Gitche-Che-Be-To-Bic" or Great Pond. From the four corners of Seney, we took M77 to Grand Marais, and somewhere along the way, we crossed the Sucker River.

It was a hot summer day and the dunes to the left of au Sable Point looked more like mountains. But the real treasure was the town, reminiscent of a New England village on the sea, with a small marina and fishing boats.

Dunes Saloon aka Lake Superior Brewing Co., with



Blue Water Ramblers

its blue façade, was easy to find. It was the last building on Lake Avenue before the sidewalk continues to Agate Beach and the dunes. We sat outside, and I ordered a pale ale and the best whitefish sandwich in my life. Upon entering the saloon, I took in the entire atmosphere of novelist, James Harrison's favorite watering hole.

Then came a storm, UP style; a downpour lasting about 10 minutes, enough to soak you from head to toe. When it stopped raining, we walked to the Pickle Barrel Museum, which was built in 1926 by the Pioneer Cooperative Company of Chicago, for William Donahey, creator of the famous Teenie Weenie children's characters. Drawn for the Chicago Tribune, the Teenie Weenie strip was syndicated to newspapers across the U.S. and to countries around the world. Irving Hill, a Grand Marais businessman, moved it into town from the north shore of Sable Lake. It was restored by the Grand Marais Historical Society into a museum, showcasing the Donaheys' work, and it



Pickle Barrel Museum

is open to the public.

Tourism remains the bread and butter for this remote town that was once called the most prosperous small town in the Peninsula by the Mining Journal. However, it is well connected by county road H58 and

trails to both; Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore to the west and the mouth of the Two Hearted River to the east and onto Tahquamenon. The North Country Trail runs from Muskallonge Lake State Park to Tahquamenon Falls State Park.

To be continued.



Grand Marais, Dunes Saloon

in mid-August, with the Wild Blueberry Festival right on Lake Superior.

I put this tiny, unincorporated community on my book-tour map for the first time in 2019, before Covid hit. Then came a two-year hiatus, due to the festival being canceled. I was overjoyed when I got an invite early this year to the festival. The cost to enter the festival, as a vendor, is only \$90, which is very reasonable for a three-day festival of fun, entertainment, and music by Blue Water Ramblers with

was within walking distance of the community center in Paradise, which also serves as the township hall and the festival venue.

We came one day ahead of the start of the festival so we could travel to places less known. Grand Marais came with the best recommendation of all, from a part-time Yooper author, Jon Stott. In his book, Summers on the Lake, chapter 6 Day Tripper, Stott recommends this destination on M77 that dead ends at Lake Superior.



Sunrise on Whitefish Bay

Red Arrow

- CROSS COUNTRY

SPORTS

Ladies take first and fifth in action last week

The Lowell girls cross country team worked on running as a pack and came away with the Green Division first-place plaque at the Baker's Wood Invite, hosted by Hesperia. The Baker's Woods course is considered one of, if not, the toughest course in the lower peninsula.

Leading the Arrows was senior Annika Sandman, who took medalist honors, running at 20:31. Katrina and Keira Sandman came in third and fourth, running 22:59 and 23:04, respectively. Rounding out the varsity were Claire O'Boyle in sixth (24:17), Evie Deur in seventh (25:02), Megan Lillie in ninth (25:55) and Audrey Latchaw in tenth (27:07).

Also grabbing medals for Lowell were freshmen Calli Rottier and Veronica Tapia, who did great hitting the Hesperia hills for the first time.

The Lady Arrows capped off a full week of work, with a fifth-place

finish against some of the best teams in the state, at the Benzie Central Pete Moss Invitational on Saturday.

OK White foe GR Christian won the meet, besting the defending Division 1 state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer, by 3 points. Lowell had three medalists in the meet, as the Sandman sisters all nabbed hardware on the day. Annika took fourth place in 18:38, Katrina took 24th in 20:37, and Keira finished 31st in 21:15. Freshman Evie Deur was the fourth Arrow across the line, taking 40th in 21:43, and Claire O'Boyle completed the scoring taking 49th in 22:04.

Lowell starts OK White competition September 7 at Gainey Field.

Girls Cross Country - Q&A with Coach Paul Judd

Who are your key returning runners this season?

"The top five (Annika Sandman, Katrina Sandman,

Keira Sandman, Claire O'Boyle, Megan Lillie) are all returning so I guess we would call them all key to our 2022 success. Leading the way will be the Sandman sisters, who should be in contention for All-Conference recognition. Annika and Katrina both qualified for State last year, with Annika earning All-State honors."

Who are some new additions to the roster you're most looking forward to seeing run?

"I have watched Evie Deur race the past three years in Middle School and know that she will crack the top five in numerous meets if she stays engaged. Audrey Latchaw shows promise and will improve over the season, as she is raw from a mechanics standpoint, but should grow nicely into the varsity lineup."

What's the one event on the schedule you're most

looking forward to?

"We always say we coach for late October and November, so it would be the OK White Conference meet, as well as the MHSAA Regional meet. If those go well, then we will get one more meet at Michigan International Speedway (State Meet)."

What are some of your goals for the team this season?

"We accomplished one this past week at the Portage Early Bird Invite, as we wanted to compete, work with teammates, take what the course gave us, and lastly, run with courage. We saw many of these virtues on the course. I think this team is good enough to grab a couple of invite wins in the season but the big ones are top three finishes at the conference and regional meets."

Any Closing Thoughts?
"The girls would add certain times to the above



Lowell harriers after their win at the Baker's Wood Invite, hosted by Hesperia. Photo courtesy of Lowell XC facebook page.

goals. I know that Annika wants to break the 18:00 minute mark, and both Katrina and Keira want to be in the low 19's. I have times that I will challenge all the girls to hit and many will look at me like I am

crazy. I love imagining that "one magic race" where it all comes together and the craziness becomes real. I think many of these girls will do this if they work hard.

Lowell boys cross country begins season

The Lowell boys cross country team began their season on Fri., August 19, at the Early Bird Portage Invite.

The Red Arrows placed eighth in the race with 269 points. Leading the Arrows was Ben Bromley, 41st, with a time of 17:49, followed by Levi Mills, 44th, 17:52. Braylon Iakiri hit the line in 62nd place at 18:28, while Dannion Simmet and Rhys Sandman completed the score with places of 68th

and 78th and times of 18:35 and 18:54. Rounding out the varsity lineup were Mason Saylor, 83rd, 18:57 and Cooper Byrne, 108th, 19:42.

On Saturday the boys team ran one of the most challenging cross country courses in the state and came away with a first place finish in the Hesperia Invite at Baker Woods Course.

Lowell took first place with 25 points followed by Grandville Calvin Christian, 48 points and Grant with 65

points. Fourteen Arrows medaled in the race. Ben Bromley was the first Arrow in third place, 19:21, followed by Dannion Simmet, fourth, 20:17, Levi Mills, fifth, 20:19, Rhys Sandman, sixth, 20:21 and Mason Saylor, seventh, 20:36. Rounding out the varsity team were Cooper Byrne, ninth, 20:57 and Braylon Iakiri, tenth, 20:59.

Earning medals, as well, in the Top 25 were Antonio Casarez, 11th,

21:02, Brayden Hekman, 13th, 22:37, Jacob Morrell, 14th, 22:39, Wyatt Remur, 18th, 24:03, Paul Fowler, 19th, 24:05, Seth Cross, 21st, 24:24, and Zach Boehr, 23rd, 24:41.

Cross country Q&A with boys head coach Clay VanderWarf

Who are your key returning runners this season?

"Ben Bromley and Levi Mills were on the team that qualified for the State Finals last year so we'll be looking to them to have an impact on the new team this year. Dannion Simmet, Braylon Iakiri and Rhys Sandman have been putting in some miles over the summer so we're looking to see them contribute as well."

Who are some new additions to the roster you're most looking forward to seeing run?

"We have a couple of freshmen, Mason Saylor and Cooper Byrne, who have also been working hard in the summer. They had a successful cross country camp and will most likely be contributing members of the varsity team."

What's the one event on the schedule you're most looking forward to?

"We always look forward to the week on the Hesperia and Pete Moss Benzie Central Invite. It's an interesting week where you go from one of the toughest courses in the state (Hesperia) to one of the fastest (Pete Moss). It's a good confidence booster for the runners when they run Benzie because most of the courses we run during the season are fairly flat, with the obvious exception of ours."

What are some of your goals for the team this season?

"We are a younger team this year so one of our goals is to establish a strong work ethic during the season, from practices to the races themselves. We want to focus on being a competitive team in the conference and at invitationals. I would also like to see them enjoy the sport itself because it's one that you can take with you after your time in high school. Recently, we had a former runner who competed in a 50K trail run

and another who is getting ready to run a marathon."

Tell me about cross country courses for those not familiar. Are some courses more hilly, easier to run, etc.

"Cross Country Courses are 5 kilometers long, 3.1 miles, and can be different types. Hesperia's course is known for being up and down rolling hills for two loops. Most courses tend to be flat; Benzie, Allendale, West Ottawa, Riverside, while some others can have some gentle hills and/or punchers, as I like to call them, such as Lowell and Gainey, and MIS. Obviously, most runners tend to gravitate to the flatter courses, but we also tell our runners, everyone is running the same course for that meet, so we don't make it an issue. Since I ran in the late 80s/early 90s, I'm partial to traditional courses that have some hills in them; Johnson Park, Fallasburg, Pando. I joke with the runners that if they always want a flat course, they can run track in the spring."

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Red Arrow

- TENNIS

SPORTS

Tennis continues good start in non-conference

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

A tie and two wins were the result of last week's boys tennis schedule. After a 6-2 win over Middleville TK to start the season and an 8-0 win over Lakewood, Lowell took on Cedar Springs, Grand Ledge, and Hastings last week.

In the dual against Cedar Springs, Lowell and the Red Hawks opted not to play #3 doubles and #4 doubles. The remainder of the flights were split evenly in a 3-3 draw. Gavin Stewart won his match at #3 singles 6-2, 6-4. Cam Sluss won at #4 singles 6-3,

6-0. Rounding out the wins for Lowell were Max and Anderson Stoner, winning at #1 doubles 6-4, 6-3.

All flights won against Hastings, including wins by forfeit at #3 and #4 doubles. Stewart, Sluss, Patrick de Voest, and Noah LaMore all won their singles matches only losing one game each across their two sets. Jacob and Josiah Kissinger won 6-3, 6-0 at #1 doubles, while Max Stoner and Reid Eldred won 6-0, 6-0 at #2 doubles.

Lowell edged out Grand Ledge in the final match of the week despite a default at #4 singles. De

Voest, Stewart, and Sluss all won their singles matches. The team of Jacob and Josiah Kissinger won at #1 doubles and Max Stoner and Reid Eldred won at #2 doubles.

Sluss and Stewart, so far, are undefeated on the season with a 5-0 record. The Red Arrows are 4-0-1 with matches against Reeths-Puffer and Zeeland West this week. The full schedule can be found at redarrowsports.com



Noah LaMore plays at #2 Singles for the varsity tennis team.

- FOOTBALL

Season opening win - football vaults past Mattawan

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Week one of the high school football season; 'Expect the unexpected' is the mantra. High school athletics isn't a science. There's no formula that shows what is going to happen. There's hundreds of variables, and at the end of the day, you're not sure what the result is going to be but it's going to be fun finding out.

That concept, coupled with the fact Lowell and Mattawan have never met on the gridiron and are separated by 80 miles, well it was, in fact, a fun night. Lowell's offense came roaring out of the gates, scoring 48 points, their highest output since 2020, in a win over the Wildcats.

The two team's could not have been more different. On one side, you had Lowell; they are going to run it down your defense's throat, use run fakes, and wear you out. The Red Arrows did exactly that, gaining 355 rushing yards on the ground on 61 attempts, 5 rushing touchdowns, and an impressive 5.8 yards per carry. On the other side, you

had Mattawan; an athletic team that was able to utilize big gains and athleticism to hit the home run touchdown over your head.

The big play got Mattawan off to the start they wanted, on a 43-yard touchdown pass to take a 7-0 lead. Following a Lowell touchdown run, the Wildcats responded with an 80-yard touchdown run to regain the lead. Tacho Gonzales, who had 112 rushing yards on the night, and quarterback Jackson Reisbig, each scored in the first quarter, answering Mattawan's big plays to tie the game at 14 apiece. We can only hope that announcers figure out how to pronounce Tacho's name as the season goes on, which is "Tah-cho" not "Tah-co", as it's likely we'll be hearing his name plenty this season.

Lowell's passing game got the job done when it needed to, as Reisbig went 5 for 6 passing with 55 passing yards and two touchdowns. One of those touchdowns came with the game tied 14-14, as Reisbig found Marshall VanWagner for an 8-yard touchdown

reception. At 21-14, Lowell never looked back.

"We're going to enjoy this game tonight because that's a playoff-caliber team right there," Lowell football head coach Jacob Henige said. "They were in the playoffs last year and return a lot of players and are a very good team. We're just going to celebrate this tonight and then turn the page. It's a big game next week with the Pink Arrow, so we have to be ready to go, starting tomorrow morning," Henige told reporters after the game.

Out of halftime, Lowell led 28-21 and scored 20 unanswered to take control of the game. A Gonzales 20-yard run, Reisbig 14-yard touchdown pass to Connor Lixie, and a Reisbig 14-

yard touchdown run closed the scoring. Todd Parcheta, also playing for the soccer team, went 6 for 7 on extra point attempts.

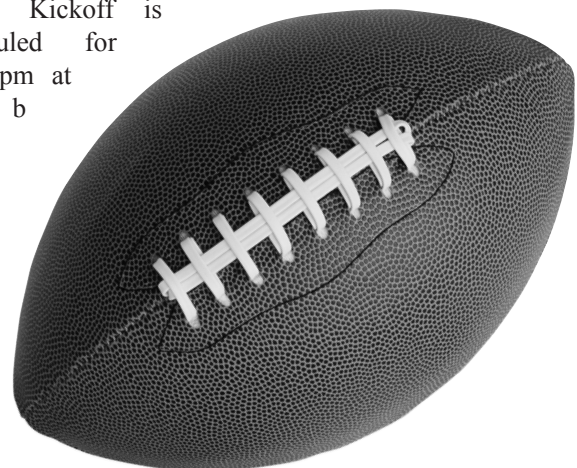
"Both sides of the ball, we controlled the line of scrimmage, which was the difference in the game," Henige told the Ledger after the game. "We won all three phases (special teams, defense, and offense). When your defense creates turnovers and your special teams plays well, the percentage of having great field position/scoring increases. It was a great team effort."

On the defensive side, Lowell was led by Lixie, who had four tackles and an interception. Ethan Krieger had five tackles and two sacks, while Caleb

Yomtoob had three tackles and an interception of his own. Carson Crace playing both ways had 52 rushing yards on offense and six tackles on defense.

The Red Arrows are in action on Thursday, at home against Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg, in the 15th annual Pink Arrow game. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 pm at B o b

Perry Field. Pink Arrow shirts are still being sold, up through game day. Cost is \$20 and the shirts are your ticket into the game.



WRWW Sportscasting Schedule

Thurs., 9/1 at 7 pm
Football: Lowell vs. Thornapple-Kellogg

Wed., 9/7 at 6 pm
Volleyball: Lowell vs Lakewood

Fri., 9/9 at 7 pm
Football: Lowell vs Greenville

Fri., 9/16 at 7 pm
Football: Lowell vs Byron Center

Tues., 9/20 at 6 pm
Volleyball: Lowell vs Byron Center

Thurs., 9/22 at 6 pm
Volleyball: Lowell vs Forest Hills Northern

Fri., 9/23 at 7 pm
Football: Lowell vs Forest Hills Northern

obituaries

DEWITT

Dennis (Denny) Dewitt, age 69, passed away Friday, August 19, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold "Bud" and Geraldine "Gerry" DeWitt, and stepmother, Beverly "Bev" DeWitt. Denny will be lovingly remembered by his children of whom he was so proud, David (Julie) DeWitt, Kevin DeWitt and his fiancée KayLani Murin, Alyssa DeWitt, Megan (Giulia Barlow) DeWitt; grandson, Darin DeWitt. He is also survived by his longtime girlfriend, Celima Scriptor, who lovingly took care of Denny in the years leading up to his death. He will always hold a special place in

the hearts of his siblings, Linda (Doug) Marker, Terry (Robin) DeWitt, Cheryl (Mitch) McNeal, Christine (Phil) Fricano and Cindy (Dan) Bolhuis; special aunt, Connie Hagg, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Denny graduated from Lowell High School, where he played varsity basketball for all four years. During this time, he set the school record for career points scored which held for over 40 years. Denny enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, golf, and basketball. He was a dedicated employee, working at many local car dealerships until ending his career at Fox Ford in Grand Rapids. Visitation was held at 10 AM, August 25, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St. SE, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services to followed at 11 AM at the chapel. Pastor Ken Ford officiated.



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HARDY

Barbara Lou Hardy, of Lowell, Michigan, passed away peacefully on August 28, 2022. She was born on October 19, 1936. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim; parents, Delbert and Thelma Morgan; sister, Shelby Williams; and brother, Lowell Morgan. She is survived by her children, Jeff (Pam) Jantzen, Wanda (Ron) Weber; sisters, Alice Acherson, JoAnn Pifer, Patti (Charlie) Craig; brother, Mike (Cathy) Morgan; grandchildren, Cherelle (Eric) Dorn,

Casey (Kevin) Craig, Morgan Jantzen, Dillon Jantzen; four great-grandchildren, Hailey and Taylor Craig, Emery Dorn, Ryker Notenbaum; and several nieces and nephews. Barb had a love for flower gardening, watching sports, and shopping (she was the queen for fashion and always dressed her best). She also loved spending cherished time with family and friends. She will be dearly missed! The family wishes to thank The Care Team Hospice and a special thank you to the caregivers at Fountain View who made her last weeks more comfortable. A graveside service at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell, will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at 2PM. Chaplin Val VandeHaar officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Fountain View of Lowell, 11537 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331.



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TEELANDER

Ethel Ida Teelander, of Lowell and formerly of Cadillac, was 93 when she went home to the Lord on Sunday, August 28, 2022. She was born on June 19, 1929, in Cadillac, Michigan to Oscar William and Erma May (Cole) Teelander. Ethel was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Bernard "Tee" and Howard Emanuel; her sister, Velma May; and her great-grandparents, Edward and Nancy (Rathbun) Cole. Edward was a civil war veteran along with Nancy's father Ebenezer Rathbun, both serving in the 13th Michigan Infantry. Ethel was a waitress and hostess at the Hillcrest, Charlene's and the Harvest table restaurants. She was known by most as "Aunt Ethel" almost everywhere she went. She will be greatly missed by her nephews Howard, Alan, and Kevin, along with her many friends. The family would like to thank Don and Cindy Murray for their continued love and help they provided through the years. Also, a special thanks to Ruth Rounds who took Ethel on many adventures throughout northern Michigan. Aunt Ethel sparkled with freshness and was loved by the Green Acres community in Lowell, and her family are extremely grateful for all the love the staff shared with her. Visitation for friends and family will be held at Hitesman-Holdship Funeral Home in Cadillac on Thursday, September 1, 2022, from 11:00 am until 12 noon. Also on Thursday, following a brief period of intermission, friends are welcome to meet at Maple Hill Cemetery for interment and graveside services at 1:30 pm. Memorial contributions may be directed to After 26 Depot in Cadillac. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family online at www.Hitesman-Holdship.com. The family is being served by the Hitesman-Holdship Funeral Home.



VAN TIMMEREN

Sharon Van Timmeren, age 77 of Lowell, passed away peacefully August 25, 2022. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Van Timmeren; parents, Theodore, and Grace Boelema; brother, Donald Boelema, and brother-in-law, Tom Root. She is survived by her children, Timothy (Heather) Van Timmeren, Michael (Misty) Van Timmeren; grandchildren, Grace and Isabelle Van Timmeren; brothers, Robert (June) Boelema, Gerald (Sally) Boelema; brothers-in-law, Marv (Carol) Van Timmeren, Ed (Sharon) Van Timmeren; sister-in-law, Joyce Root; several nieces and nephews; and special fur grandbabies, Copper Todd, Roxie Ann, and River Blu. Sharon loved shopping, watching TV, bird watching, and a good steak. She was content to stay at home being the homemaker, raising her family. Visitation was held 6-8PM, Monday, August 29, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services were held at 11AM, Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Sarah Esquivel officiating. Internment Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery.



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McNUTT

William Eric McNutt, age 52, passed away Monday, August 22, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, William T. & Joan A. McNutt. Eric is survived by his wife, Carol; children, Alyse McNutt, Eliot McNutt, Reanin Craun; siblings, Amy (Mike) Miller, Aaron (Tracy) McNutt; mother-in-law, Sandy Knoll; six nieces; three nephews; and numerous extended family. He earned a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Toledo and went on to work for Crown Equipment Company for over 25 years. Eric started his career from the ground level, sweeping floors, working his way up to eventually becoming a Branch Manager. In his spare time, he was a part of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and took numerous trips to Oshkosh Convention annually. Eric was a single engine pilot for 25 years. He recently found a passion for cooking, which he excelled in. Eric loved the outdoors, sports including softball and golf, he enjoyed traveling, camping, and the water, especially Lake Michigan. He was a determined individual and took pride in being able to fix most things. Eric had a passion for life and will be remembered for his larger-than-life personality. He was always up for an adventure. Eric was an amazing father, husband, and a true friend that one could always count on. Visitation with the family will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022, from 11am -12pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331, with Funeral Services following at 12pm.



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McQUEEN

Delores ("Dee") L. McQueen, aged 85 of Lowell, passed away Friday, August 26, 2022. She is survived by her children, Marv A. McQueen, Don (Sheila) McQueen, Wanda McQueen; grandchildren, Dan (Robin), Nicki (Jason), Joe, Mandi (Brett), Cara (Brian), Steve (Deanne), Andy (Ora), Jeff, Nick (Amanda), Jared, Shane; 22 great-grandchildren; 3 great great-grandchildren; and brother, John (Jane) Boersma. She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Marvin H.; daughter, Barbara Engle; parents, Herman and Tillie Boersma; sister, Patricia Boersma; and daughter-in-law, Yvonne McQueen. She was a dedicated worker with long-standing careers and retirement from Electrolux, and later, from Walmart. She enjoyed traveling with her husband and children in her younger years, and later, camping with her grandchildren. She also took great delight in many Royal Caribbean cruises. She was empathetic and compassionate, as a great matriarch and caregiver, nurturing and feeding everyone. Visitation with the family will be held from 10-11AM on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331, with funeral services following starting at 11AM. Interment Pinckney Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Lacey's Too at 11981 Potters Rd, Lowell, MI 49331. The family is very appreciative of the overwhelming love and care that she received from the staff and her friends during the six years that she lived with them.



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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.

ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We have started widows coffee time Monday mornings at 9:30 at Keisers, west side. Questions call Jenn at 616-490-9970.

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card of thanks

The family of Carlen E. Anderson wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to family, friends, and neighbors for the overwhelming demonstration of love, friendship, and support upon the passing of our beloved husband and father. Truly, the cards, flowers, baked goods, food dishes, visits, and demonstration of care and concern brought great comfort and consolation to all us during this time of heartache and sorrow. Our deepest thanks to each and every one of you.

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

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obituaries

Continued

WEHR

Beloved father, grandfather, brother and husband, Merrill Bruce Wehr, passed away on August 5, 2022. He was number six of seven children, all with the initials MBW, and went by his middle name, Bruce. He was born in Dearborn, Michigan on April 2, 1960, to Jane O'Hara Friel, and Maurice Burton Wehr. He grew up in Allen Park, Michigan. He received a scholarship to Ohio Institute of Technology in Columbus Ohio, graduating with a BSEE in Computer Hardware. He married Sara Lynn Grundman in 1981 and the couple moved to San Jose, California for roughly four years. Bruce soon proved to have an uncanny knack for programming and was plucked off the computer floor by a mentor who recognized his talent. While in California, the couple had the first of two children, a son, Myles Brandon Wehr, before moving back to Michigan, and four years later having a daughter, Mirissa Brenna Wehr. Bruce went on to have a long career in programing, spending 22 years with Ford Motor Company, where he thrived, becoming their youngest senior engineer ever, for that time. There were many detours in the following years, and many other jobs, eventually settling in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area, he worked for a number of businesses before settling into a job at a great company he loved, Dornerworks. He is survived by his wife, Sara, his daughter, Mirissa and son Myles, as well as seven wonderful grandkids. He is also survived by his brothers Marshal, Michael, and Mitchell, and his sisters Marybeth and Marice. An informal outdoor memorial will be held in Fallasburg Park's Historic section on October 8 barring weather issues.



...
**Never follow anyone else's path.
 Unless you're in the woods and
 you're lost and you see a path.
 Then, by all means, follow that
 path.**

~ Ellen DeGeneres

to the editor

Continued

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

Fall of 1947, which would eventually earn the first football championship by Lowell's Red Arrows, 12 years later.

With 10 two-way players, these "Ironmen" were preseason picks for last place, based on their winless junior varsity campaign in 1957. But final-minute wins, 14-13 at East Grand Rapids and 20-13 at Rockford after a last-second 13-12 Homecoming victory over unbeaten Grandville, pushed the 1959 Red Arrows to a surprise Grand Valley title:

"A 50-yard pass from Dilly to Wissman, with 40 seconds remaining, set-up the winning touchdown, a 23-yard screen pass from Moore to Fritz as the final horn sounded." (Ledger, Nov.12, 1959)

That dramatic play, sent in by coach Charlie Pierce on 4th down with 10 seconds remaining, may be the single greatest play-call in Lowell's storied football history.

Subsequent years have seen multiple highs and lows, winless seasons and state championships, disappointments and celebrations, plus new Tri-River and O-K conference titles, and Pink Arrow games.

Hope springs ever eternal, and always, the people of Lowell turn out with pride, filling the stadium to encourage their team, band, cheerleaders, and enthusiastic students. Win or lose, we enjoy the common good spirit that brings a community together. So once again let the call go out:

"See you at the football game!"

Bob Thaler
 LHS Class of 1960
 Bay City, MI

To the Editor:

On Monday, August 22, I was privileged to attend the school district's kickoff breakfast. As usual, it was a chance to speak with friends and former colleagues, meet new staff and tap in to the energy surrounding the beginning of every new school year. The district's educational goals were laid out and explained, and the challenge issued to every employee regardless of position to be "All In."

Each LAS employee has the obligation to educate, to the best of their considerable abilities, every student in the district. Because, teaching doesn't occur just in classrooms and learning isn't just something that can be quantified by a test score. Learning starts when students get on the bus in the morning, continues when they go to the office to get a message or sign out of the building. It happens when a custodian opens a jammed locker, or an administrator passes them in the hallway and acknowledges them. Education happens when a media specialist helps a student find resources to pursue an interest that might not be part of the school's curriculum but that has intrinsic value to that individual.

Lowell is an outstanding school district for many reasons. We have one of the finest media centers in the state, run by one of the finest media specialists anyone

could hope to employ. Years ago, many districts cut their school libraries in order to save money. Now, they are scrambling to reinstate those services, but are encountering the hard fact, that certified media specialists are hard to come by. And they're not getting ours.

The soccer/lacrosse stadium that just opened last summer, not only serves two sports—soccer and lacrosse—it helps the district meet our Title IX obligations by accommodating girls and boys teams. It's available for youth soccer and lacrosse leagues and allows Lowell to host MHSAA events in both sports. Last, it greatly reduces wear and tear on our overly-stressed football field.

We have the Yeiter Learning Center for pre-schoolers.

We're about to complete a major renovation on the middle school, including a fully-functioning auditorium.

At least 50 of our staff contribute to the Lowell Education Association's scholarship program, which helps Lowell graduates going into education. Those contributions come directly from our staff's paychecks.

We have students doing real-time research at the VanAndel Institute on diseases like Alzheimer's, thanks to a dedicated LHS biology teacher.

Our graduates go on to be teachers, farmers, lawyers, parents, researchers, politicians, and every other walk of life. I'd like to think that's because of the foundation they received in their time in Lowell classrooms.

Over the past 16 months, the district has come under unrelenting criticism from a group of citizens claiming to want the best for all LAS students. As an elected official, I expect at least some disapproval of

what the board has done regarding school policy, etc. It comes with the territory, and God gave me sturdy shoulders. However, these attacks not only deal with policy, they are often personally directed to our administrators and staff, and most of what is being said is not true. The Board and LAS administrators have answered the questions posed. However, the recipients have often not liked those answers and go around claiming on social media that we're not listening. We are listening, and we know that LAS isn't perfect. No institution is. But we have confidence that what we're doing is the best for all of our students.

What I don't understand is that some of our biggest critics no longer have students enrolled in LAS, and some have their students here as part of the school of choice program. They seem to forget that, as a PUBLIC school district, LAS is obligated to conduct business in a manner that may not meet their personal standards. We have to educate everyone, regardless of creed, race, or gender, and we're going to do it as well as we can. We're not going to stop meeting our obligations because some don't like them, and we're not going to apologize for doing what's right.

My question is, why stay? If we're such a bad district, why put your kids through that? If we're not listening to your complaints (actually, we're not giving you the answers you want) then why keep your children in Lowell Schools? If we're so morally bankrupt, why not send them to a Christian school?

You have the choice.

With Pride and Respect,
 Laurie C. Kuna
 Vice-president, Lowell
 Board of Education

Expand your Social Security knowledge with these five terms

We strive to explain your benefits, using easy-to-understand, plain language. The Plain Writing Act of 2010 requires federal agencies to communicate information clearly, in a way "the public can understand and use." This can be particularly challenging when talking about complicated programs like Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicare.

Take a moment to learn a few common Social Security terms and acronyms!

COLA: This stands for "Cost-of-Living Adjustment."

With COLAs, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits keep pace with inflation. Most years, your monthly benefit amount will get a COLA, which usually means extra money.

Credits: As you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn credits – previously called "Quarters of Coverage" – that count toward your eligibility for future Social Security benefits. You can earn a maximum of four credits each year. Most people

need 40 credits to qualify for benefits.

Younger people need fewer credits to qualify for disability or survivors benefits. For more information, see Social Security Credits at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10072.pdf.

Earnings Record: This is the chronological history of the amount of money you earned each year during your working lifetime. Your credits remain on your Social Security earnings record, even when you change jobs or have no earnings for a period of time. Review your earnings record with a personal my

Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

FICA: This stands for "Federal Insurance Contributions Act." It's the tax withheld from your wages that funds the Social Security and Medicare programs.

Now, if any of these terms or acronyms comes up in conversation, you can help explain what they mean. Visit our online glossary at www.ssa.gov/agency/glossary to learn more of our terminology and deepen your understanding of how Social Security works for you.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

SUMMERTIME WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

SUMMERTIME WORD SEARCH

AUGUST
 BACKYARD
 BARBECUE
 BEACH

COOLING ENJOYMENT
 FAMILY
 FAN
 GRILL
 HOT
 JULY

POOL RELAXATION
 REST
 RETREAT
 SEASIDE
 SHADE
 SUMMER

SUNLIGHT
 SUNSCREEN
 SWIMSUIT
 ULTRAVIOLET
 VACATION
 WARMTH

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New York on August 30, 1989. I got my start acting in musicals. I've written many popular songs, including one for Eminem and Rihanna, and also have had a successful singing career.

Answer: Bebe Rexha

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to summer.

R T D H G O U

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

Answer: Drought

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		

CLUES ACROSS

- Taxi
- Cattle disease (abbr.)
- Before the present
- They burn in a grill
- Enough (archaic)
- "A Doll's House" playwright
- Long loop of cloth worn around the waist
- Napoleonic Wars battle
- Chinese surname
- Fragrant essential oil
- Follows sigma
- Model
- A place with many dining options
- BBQ dish
- Corn comes on it
- A sheep in its second year
- Triad
- They ___
- Actor DiCaprio
- TV's "Edith Bunker"
- Sustenance
- Man who behaves dishonorably
- Cause a loud, harsh

CLUES DOWN

- Conqueror
- Kin relation
- Increases the value of
- Pack
- Popular nut
- Dogs' enemies
- Former OSS
- Unpleasant person
- Come again?
- Beverage container
- Rock formation
- Dorm official
- The bill in a restaurant

- Type of jug
- Importance requiring swift action
- Outfit
- Small Eurasian deer
- Weight used in China
- A major division of geological time
- Popular beverage
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Practical joking
- Pouchlike structure
- Pound
- Lilly and Manning are two
- Stopped discussing
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Candymaker
- One thousandth of a second (abbr.)
- Northern sea duck
- Partner to cheese
- Cannot be found

Red Arrow

- SOCCER

SPORTS



Soccer loses pair on the road

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

In preparation for their big match this week, the Red Arrow soccer team had two games on the road last week in non-conference action. Monday, it was Spring Lake and Wednesday, a trip to Allendale; plenty of miles on the team's early season books. The results were a pair of losses, 3-0 to Spring Lake, and 4-2 against Allendale.

Monday's game against Spring Lake saw Lowell

go into a tough atmosphere for a visiting side. Spring Lake's campus had a very "up north" feel to it. A small stadium with fans close to the action on one side. Forest, surrounding the campus on all sides on a great weather night for high school soccer.

Spring Lake, a district champion last year, had an energetic student section that kept the noise going throughout the game. The good news for Lowell was

they didn't let in a goal from open play. Spring Lake converted two penalty kicks and scored one off a header on a corner. Lowell's offense thought they found their breakthrough late in the game as Owen Davis' volley found Rasmus Rewitz close to the net, only to be denied by a diving stop from Spring Lake's goalkeeper in the waning minutes.

On Wednesday, Lowell traveled to Allendale for another road game. This



Jace Dixon heads the ball against Spring Lake.



David Foster looking to advance the ball upfield.

time, the Red Arrow offense found the spark they needed and scored two goals. Allendale had an early 2-0 lead when Lowell broke through for their first goal of the season as Todd Parcheta, also doing double duty this fall by kicking for the varsity football team, scored in the right side of the net. It was Parcheta again who

equalized on a pass from team captain David Foster, evening things up at two. Allendale tacked on two more to close out a 4-2 victory.

Pink Arrow week means the most important game of the season for the Red Arrows, who will host their first Pink Arrow game at the new stadium. They'll

kick off at 3:00 on Thursday against Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg. The Trojans are 4-1 so far this season.



Golf team finishes top 10 at Middleville Invitational

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Sports are sometimes more than what the final score or final leaderboard shows. When the Lowell varsity girls golf team split their starters among two teams they entered at last week's Middleville Invitational, they knew that right now, it's not about where they end up on the leaderboard.

So Lowell's T-9th and

11th placements were a bit misleading. When you split your best players up, it is going to bring your potential placement down. Lowell's Team 1 finished 11th with a score of 381. Lowell's Team 2 finished T-9th with a score of 376. If you took Lowell's four best scores across both teams though, you get a 358, which would've ended up 4th place in the tournament.

The Red Arrows had

two teams competing and finishing in the top half of the field at Yankee Springs last week. The Red Arrows had 7 career new lows; Ellery Ostrander, Elyse Veldman, Sophia Flicknger, Hannah Flickinger, Leah Krieger, Avery Krieger, and Rylee Jannenga all set new personal bests.

South Christian won the tournament with a 328. The other teams to beat Lowell's

top four golfers were Sparta and Byron Center. Sparta is one of the team's Lowell will look to beat at regionals later in the season.

Macie Elzinga, daughter of Lowell boys golf alumnus Cris Elzinga, earned medalist honors at the tournament with an impressive 1-under par 71. She golfs for fellow OK White conference member Byron Center.

Rylee Jannenga, part of Lowell Team 1, led the way for the Red Arrows with an 86. She was followed by Leah Krieger (90), Stephanie Spinella (91), Elle Sluss (91), Hannah Flickinger (93), and Sophia Flickinger (96) to round out Lowell's under 100's. Spinella recorded a birdie on the par-4 11th hole.

The JV team under

new coach Drew Davidson, had matches this week on Monday and Tuesday at Morrison Lake. Varsity competed at Brookside, the first OK Conference Jamboree of the season. Greenville served as the host school in Monday's match. Results will be available in next week's Ledger.

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