



page 6

School Board Forum



page 3

Board Candidates



page 10-11

Lowell Area Schools Sports



page 12 & 13

50¢



Rin Tarsy: LowellArts Artist of the Month

By Bill Lee
Contributing writer

When you watch some of Rin Tarsy's music on Youtube, you not only hear her richly textured voice, impeccable guitar playing, and profound lyrics -- something similar to an artist like Jewell -- but you'll also see a number of her songs are labeled, "The Carlos Sessions." So, who is Carlos? Is Carlos a friend? A relative? A famous person maybe? No, Carlos, who seems to find his way into many of Tarsy's videos, is her houseplant. "I love big leafed plants," said Tarsy, LowellArts Artist of the Month. "Carlos is the first plant I ever bought. I got him from Ikea when he was 2 1/2 feet tall and then when he got to be big, he has come with me at wherever I lived. One day I decided to do some Youtube videos of songs and I looked over at Carlos and [realized] that he needed to be a key member of the videos. Then I started finding different spots to put him in. It's a super fun way to make the videos. He's my buddy." This fun side of Tarsy, along revealing some deeper vulnerabilities in her music, is all part of her quest for authenticity as an artist.

Originally from Portland, Michigan and now residing in Grand Rapids, Tarsy had heard about the Artist of the Month program in Lowell from her former



Aquinas College professor Roger McNaughton and also former classmates from the band August (selected this summer as LowellArts Artists of the Month). "He (Roger) emailed me about it and wanted to let me know that my name was out there," said Tarsy. "Then I looked into it. It's really cool to see that Lowell goes above and beyond to put artists out there. Thank you."

Tarsy has had a unique journey so far in becoming

a professional musician. Her real name is Catherine Jandernoa, but because her last name was difficult for people to pronounce, she decided to make her stage-last name different, a shout out to her great aunt Gloria's last name, Tarsy. The name has stuck pretty well. Growing up, she always knew that singing and music would be a part of her life; she just didn't know to what extent, and it took her a while to find her

way in the local scene. She had changed her interests a couple of times while attending Aquinas before settling on music. "I started off as a nursing major at Aquinas," said Tarsy. "I had a couple of surgeries on my vocal cords right after high school and before freshman year in college. I had to do a lot of speech pathology to retrain my voice so I could sing in a healthy way. I really came to love with how the vocal cords work.

At the time I was planning on becoming a speech pathologist and working with singers who had injured their vocal cords as well."

Instead, she decided to take a chance at pursuing music full time. During high school Tarsy was involved in musicals and Christmas shows. After college she spent some time teaching and also did some travel

Artist, continued page 3

City Council discusses health insurance, updating the master plan and water pump repair

By Jake Bates
contributing writer

On Monday, Oct. 17th, the Lowell City Council met for its second meeting of the month to discuss issues facing the city, such as city employee health insurance



Doug Derks

costs and alternatives.

Doug Derks presented information pertaining to the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool. "It is focused on its members. The decisions are made by the member organizations," said Derks. "One of the biggest advantages you have is that you're moving from an HMO to a PPO, so you have access to every hospital in the state of Michigan network." This would give city employees more choices when

deciding who their doctor should be or which hospital they should go to. The motion to approve the city to participate in the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool passed unanimously.

The Michigan Department of Treasury pushed back on an application for King Milling to receive the Industrial Facility Tax (IFT) Credit, valued at \$42 million dollars towards a new mill. When the city submitted the paperwork to the state, they raised a number of issues. Jessica Wood, the city attorney, explained, "the significant

difference here is that the applicant determined that it would be more beneficial for them to not include personal property as part of this application." Lowell City Council approved a motion to submit a new IFT application.

Lowell Fire Chief, Shannon Witherell, took the podium to discuss the ongoing ISO audit the fire department is facing. The score on the audit determines the insurance rate that is paid. Currently, the fire department is using a fire code called MBC, and the chief is recommending the switch to IFC 2015. The

motion passed quickly.

City Manager, Michael Burns, discussed the "master plan," a document that clarifies the vision of Lowell's growth trajectory and planning for how to allocate the land. He mentioned that this document hasn't been updated since 2007, so he believes that it needs to be updated. The Planning Commission chair, Andy Moore, recommended that city council attend the next meeting on Nov. 14 to discuss this issue in depth.

City council, continued page 2

City Council, continued



Shannon Witherell

City Clerk, Susan Ullery, put the meeting on the city council's agenda to further discuss updating the master plan.

W a s t e w a t e r Superintendent, Brian Vander Meulen, explained a recent incident with a water pump. The cord on the pump broke, which created more issues and allowed water to get into the motor cavity. The cost of the repair is estimated at \$16,975.00. The City Council passed the motion to approve the spending.

Public Works Director, Daniel Czarnecki, presented

the bid for road work on Gee Drive. "The bid came in at \$273,500, so we'd end up paying 20 percent of that." This road is covered as a federal road, so it is receiving some of the money allocated for infrastructure improvements throughout the country. Lowell only has four of these roads, and Gee Drive is the only one in need of construction, currently.

Czarnecki continued his presentation with park building roofing projects. He explained which building will receive a new metal roof, "The grandstand

roof down at recreation park, the large pavilion roof at Creekside, and the small pavilion roof at Creekside." The cost of the project is estimated at \$46,200. The City Council approved the motion to repair park building roofs.

The Flat River Grill submitted a request to extend their lease, for a portion of the city sidewalk, an additional 10 years. Perry Beachum, a citizen, requested that the city council table this for additional discussion. "Is it market value? Is it equitable? I don't see it as equitable for a for-profit

business having a \$1 lease for 10 years." More citizens took to the podium to voice their support that Flat River Grill should have to pay a more reasonable amount. The City Council supported a motion to extend the lease in its current terms, there were 3 yeas, and 2 nos.

Burns discussed the budget, for a moment towards the end of the meeting to make note that there may be an additional \$500,000 available to put towards road work in the city.

Fish & Chicken Express is now open

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

The iconic Fry Daddy's, by the tracks, is now Fish & Chicken Express, available on your favorite apps GrubHub, Uber Eats, and Door Dash. Still located at 608 W. Main Street, the new restaurant is ready to serve you and will be a take-out only. The business was purchased in September, by Bashar Jaghama and Joe Aql.

"We're going to keep the fish, all fried, adding fried chicken," Jaghama

said. The old signature dishes will also stay, like fried okra, cauliflower, and fried green tomatoes.

"We love the small-town atmosphere of Lowell," he said. "We're going to be open more days for business; have our fried okra, fried green tomatoes, mac and cheese. As part of the upgrade, the fryers have been replaced, and a new fridge and freezer. There will be a new digital sign, and TV menus.

All orders are served with fries. The selection of

fish varies from catfish, ocean perch, cod, tilapia, jumbo shrimp and smelt. A typical meal of two pieces of catfish with fries, and a cup of tarter sauce will cost about \$5.99.

Jumbo shrimp is served with cocktail sauce, bread and fries. There are also combo deals available for \$15.99. Open Monday through Saturday from 11 am to 9 pm. Closed on Sundays.

Right: Owner Bashar Jaghama.



It is important to report life changes when receiving Social Security

Did you know that certain life changes can affect your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments? Sometimes your circumstances may change after you apply for or begin to receive SSI. When that happens, it's important for you to tell us about these changes. This will ensure that you receive the benefits to which you're eligible.

Here are some common changes you must report

if you have applied for or receive SSI:

Changes in income, wages, or self-employment income;

Starting, stopping, or changing jobs;

Changing your address or persons moving in or out of the household;

Changes in marital status (including any same-sex relationships);

Having more than \$2,000 if you are single or

\$3,000 if you are married in resources that you can cash in, sell, or use to pay for food and shelter; and

Changes in resources, including money in financial accounts and buying or selling extra vehicles, stocks, investments, or property.

For a complete list of reporting responsibilities for all our programs, please read our publication, What You Need to Know When You

Get Supplemental Security Income at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11011.pdf.

How to Report Changes in Wages

You can conveniently report your wages using our: Free SSA Mobile Wage Reporting app for smartphones.

Online Wage Reporting Tool using your personal my Social Security account. If you don't have an account, create one today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

gov/myaccount.

Be sure to sign up for monthly SSI wage reporting emails or text reminders, so you never forget.

Other options include speaking with a representative by calling toll free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visiting or writing your local Social Security Office.

Report Changes in a Timely Manner

You must report a change within 10 days after the month it happens. You should report a change even if you're late. Failure to report timely may cause you to:

Receive less than you should and take longer to receive the correct amount;

Receive more than you should and have to pay it back;

Have a penalty deducted from your SSI payment; or

Lose SSI for not reporting information that we use to determine whether you are still eligible for SSI.

Securing your today and tomorrow starts with being informed. Please share this information with your friends and family—and post it on social media.

WINDOWS/SIDING
DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS

SAVE **50% OFF**

HEATING/COOLING BILLS
GUARANTEED!!!

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7300 allweathersealinc.com

319 E. Main Lowell

All-Weather Seal

Not good w/any other offer! Good on initial presentation

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$25 a year for zipcodes beginning with 493 or 495; \$36 a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs Publisher/Editor
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting/Sales
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales
Emma Palova Reporter
Justin Scott Sports Reporter

(616) 897-9261
email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.thelowellledger.com

When it comes to Home, the **EXPERIENCE MATTERS.**

Call Mark Johnson today!
(616) 940-8181
MarkJohnsonAgency.com
6151 28th St. SE, Ste. 10,
Grand Rapids

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE A Company

Lowell Area School Board Candidate Forum held at The Performing Arts Center

By Jake Bates
contributing writer

A Lowell Area School Board candidate forum was held at the Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Oct. 20. Six individuals sat in front of a small audience to present their case for election. Candidates tackled questions from moderator, Maryalene LaPonsie, about LGBT representation in the

school, handling differences in opinion, misinformation, and school start times.

The first question posed to each candidate was regarding LGBTQ+ stickers, flags, and slogans being handed out in the school and whether the school board should regulate this issue. Jennifer Dougherty began by answering with statistics that

LGBTQ+ affirming spaces could reduce the likelihood of an LGBTQ+ student committing suicide by 35 percent, and that would be worth causing discomfort to other students, according to her. Chris German disagreed and said he “understands what kids are up against. The problem becomes when we’re making others uncomfortable because of



Six Lowell School Board candidates attended the forum last Thursday, Jessica Curtis, Jennifer Dougherty, and Chris German pictured.



Pictured above: Kyle Hoff, Parker Liu and Patrick Nugent.

it.” Kyle Hoff expressed agreement with German and pointed to a current policy that forbids staff from speaking about sexuality with students.

Parker Liu answered, “If it is simply creating an environment that no child should be discriminated against because of how they feel, then that should be what it’s for. It shouldn’t be, necessarily, a conversation

about their individual gender identity or sexuality.” Patrick Nugent expressed agreement with most candidates that every student should feel supported in a school environment. Nugent mentioned that the superintendent has investigated this incident and there was a clearly drawn line regarding this circumstance. Jessica Curtis said, “I feel that we must support all people in our schools for them to be successful...I know that there are certain policies... but those are always under review.”

The second question from LaPonsie was, “How many school board meetings have you been to? And how do you see yourself fitting in with the current board members? Also, if you find yourself on the opposite side of an issue from other board members, how will you handle that situation?”

German answered first that he has watched all of the Lowell School Board meetings virtually. And that he would be open to civil discussion regarding issues that he may not agree with others on. Hoff said he attended four or five board meetings in person, but has watched many virtually, as well. He claims that he can work with anyone, and he is open to hearing new ideas. Liu said that he has attended

the last two school board meetings and has read the minutes from “several other meetings.” Liu said, “I hope for differing opinions on our board...those differences in opinions and understandings can help us find a path that makes the most sense for our community.”

Nugent said that he did not attend board meetings before he was on the school board, but has been to every one since he was elected. He mentioned that he has already worked with individuals that he did not agree with on the school board with professionalism. Curtis is also an incumbent, so she has attended many meetings. “Pushback from other points of view will press me to always dig deeper and look for more information and compare the varying options to each other.” Jennifer Dougherty said she has attended 15 board meetings. She was impressed with how well the board discussed topics in a civil way and looks forward to doing the same.

The board also answered questions regarding misinformation in the age of the internet, the role of the school board in developing curriculum, and what time school should start in regards to AAP recommendations that students need adequate sleep.

Artist continued

overseas, but when she got back, she knew it was time to put all of her efforts into her love of music. And so the hustle of playing in front of people as much as possible began. Presently, she is playing some live venues but also doing a number of other things that keep her involved in music. “I work for a couple of different churches,” said Tarsy. “I sing for weddings and other special events but I’m constantly working toward making more of my original music being more of what I do.”

When asked about her style of singing and some of her influences, she immediately talks about her love for the big voices of Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey,

and Christina Aguilera. She knows her voice is different from theirs as hers can be big at times but there are softer elements that are unique just to her. “My voice is kind of naturally that way,” said Tarsy. “What I really like to give when I’m singing a song is what the essence of what my voice actually is and so I step away and let my voice do its thing. And what ends up coming out is more of that texture and soft thing that is happening.”

She has always enjoyed performing live in front of audiences, but it was hard at first to show her vulnerable side of her lyrics and therefore herself. And even though performing alone brings some anxious moments before a show – knowing that the show’s

success revolves around her and her alone – Tarsy relishes in those frozen moments of a live show. “I love the moment when I can tell a song hits in a room,” said Tarsy. “There’s almost like a pause in a breath after I’m done where if it landed there’s a moment when everybody is just taking it in and that is really special. Also talking to people after is really cool. I feel like I get to know people in the audience and talk to them afterwards and hear what they appreciated from the performance and how they connected.” She takes pride in giving her audiences a full realm of her deepest thoughts and emotions whether they are lighthearted and upbeat or more profound and thoughtful. “I enjoy the ride to incorporate all of those,” said Tarsy. “It’s cool to invite everybody else into

this space of everything that life actually is, because it is a mixture of all those things.”

Overall, she is still uncertain of what is next for her as time goes by. She will be playing a number of shows this fall and winter, including at the Pyramid Scheme in Grand Rapids, November 11, but after that? Frankly, she is not sure. “I’m kind of in the phase of trying to figure that out for myself,” said Tarsy. “Right now, I’m in the midst of finding out what that is so that I can be authentic in my pursuit of it. I’ve got songs that I am hoping to record in the next year. I’m constantly working on the craft. I think of it more in terms of hopes, instead of goals. I know I want this to continue to only be a bigger and bigger part of my life. I’m always working behind the scenes to make it happen.”

VOTE JESSICA CURTIS FOR LOWELL SCHOOL BOARD

Invested in Our Community

- Lowell High School Graduate - Class of 1999
- Appointed School Board Trustee since 2020
- Active member with Lowell Education Foundation, Lowell Athletic Booster, LMS PTO and various other community organizations



Commitment to Serve

“As parent of three children who attend Lowell Area Schools, it has been a privilege serving on the board the past two years. I am committed to collaborating with parents, students, teachers, and administrators to increase educational opportunities for all students and continue our tradition of excellence within our district. If elected, my dedication, leadership, and experience I have already attained will provide continuity and support towards achieving our district’s future goals. It would be a pleasure to represent the community again as a school board member of Lowell Area Schools.”

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jessica Curtis, 13211 Burroughs St., Lowell, MI 49331

Veterans Day

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Veterans and Families

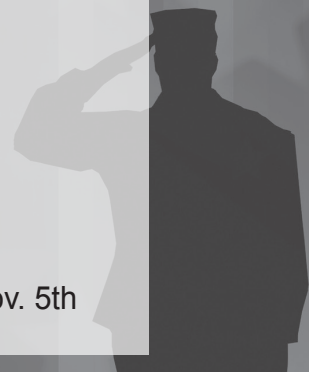
In recognition of your service to our country, the Lowell American Legion and VFW invite you and your family to a free dinner.

Date: November 13, 2022

Location: Veterans Center, 3116 Alden Nash, Lowell, Michigan

Time: 2:00 PM

RSVP: Richard Thomas, 231-590-3782 by Nov. 5th





Live the Life You Want

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

Living a meaningful life

I wanted to write an article on this topic because I regularly hear from clients that they feel like they're just going through the motions of life, just existing, or that their life has no real meaning or purpose. So, what does it mean to have a meaningful life? In positive psychology, it's defined as having purpose, fulfillment, satisfaction, and significance in one's life. Essentially, we want to know that our life was worthwhile and had value.

Research on this topic is interesting but the results are not surprising. Researchers have come up with three major areas they feel make up a meaningful life.

Coherence (feeling life

makes sense)

Purpose (working toward identified goals)

Mattering (one's life has value/makes a difference).

The research also shows that believing one's life has meaning aides mental and physical well-being.

4 Pillars of Meaning

As noted above, researchers have identified 3 main areas associated with having a meaningful life. In the book "The Power of Meaning", the author explores what pursuing a meaningful life means. She identifies 4 pillars needed for a meaningful life which are:

Belonging Being understood, recognized, and affirmed by friends, family, partners, colleagues, etc. Feeling a sense of

community. Many consider their relationships to be the most meaningful part of their lives, even if they are strained or difficult.

Purpose Life goals that reflect one's values and serve the greater good. Researcher Adam Grant, concluded that helping professions such as teachers, medical professionals, counselors, clergy, etc. tend to rate their jobs as more meaningful/purposeful.

Storytelling People who describe their lives as meaningful tend to have stories of when they overcame something difficult/negative, resulting in lessons learned & growth.

Transcendence These are awe-inspiring experiences that decrease self-focus and lead the person toward participating in more generous & helpful behavior. The author feels these experiences diminish self-importance, which increases a sense of meaning. She notes transcendence experiences do not have to be big.

They can be as simple as stargazing or a hike in a beautiful area.

There seems to be professional agreement that if a person isn't living a meaningful life, it makes it difficult to find happiness and contentment. This can become more of an issue as we move toward the later stages in life.

Ego Integrity vs Despair

According to developmental psychologist, Erik Erikson's, *Stages of Psychosocial Development* our final life stage, age 65+, is called "Ego Integrity vs Despair." Erickson developed 8 life-stages, from infancy to adulthood. Each of these development stages has a psychosocial crisis to overcome. If the person successfully completes a stage it aids in healthy development. Failure to successfully complete a stage may make it difficult to complete further stages and can result in developing unhealthy personality traits & sense-of-self.

During this final-life stage, one thinks about

their life's accomplishments and if satisfied that life was meaningful, integrity develops. With integrity about one's life comes wisdom, allowing the person to view their life with a sense of closure, satisfaction, and completeness. Erickson theorized, if this stage of life was met with integrity then one could accept death without fear.

If the opposite occurs and one sees their life as having no meaning, no purpose, important goals were not accomplished, or there is guilt about the past, then a feeling of dissatisfaction with life occurs and the person is in despair. The state of despair often leads to depression and hopelessness.

This is not to say a person stays only in one state. For instance, a person, mainly in the state of ego integrity, can still experience both integrity and despair. The two states need to be balanced, and issues of despair worked through and resolved to reach the final stage of integrity.

Getting Started

Regardless of the theories and research,

we know that having a meaningful life enhances our overall mental and physical wellness. This is not to say that there won't be challenges, sadness, and even stress in the journey, but working to live a meaningful life brings fulfillment, satisfaction, and happiness.

Do you feel like you are just existing and going through the motions of life? If so, it may be time to make some changes. Not sure where to start? Try helping others through acts of service or even random acts of kindness. Get out and find things that inspire you. As noted previously, try stargazing, take a hike in a beautiful area, spend time with loved ones, or try something new (hobby, craft, etc.).

If you feel lost and are still not sure how to get started or make changes, just know that help is available and you are not alone. You can talk with a mentor, trusted friend or family member, clergy, or professional counselor. This article is not meant to treat or diagnose. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

business directory

RISNER'S ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT

SHANE RISNER • 616-897-1080
email: risnersroofing@gmail.com
website: risnersroofing.com

897-4123

Arctic Inc. Heating & Cooling

- Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters
- Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems
- Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers

SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES

www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com

Rich's Service Co.

In-Home Appliance Repair
Dryer Vent Cleaning

INSURED • 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

Washers • Dryers • Refrigerators
Garbage Disposals • Stoves
• Dishwashers

RICH CURTIS • 897-5686
209 E. Main St., Lowell

BILL WHEELER

Certified Public Accountant

W.J. WHEELER

103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, MI 49331

897-7711

ROGERS NEIGHBORHOOD REALTY

upsizedownsize
RIGHTSIZE

Take advantage of the equity you've gained in today's market and achieve your real estate goals. We're here to help!

RogersNeighborhoodRealty.com
318 E Main St, Ste A, Lowell, MI - 616.644.0784

JERRY'S LAWN MAINTENANCE & SNOWPLOWING

- Fall Clean-Up
- Fertilizing
- Bark
- Lawn Maintenance
- Spring Cleanup
- Winterizing of Sprinkling Systems
- Snowplow Service

Over 25 years of experience, insured, referrals upon request

616-822-4168

outdoors

the big woods

Dave Stegehuis

Visitors from other parts of the country often remark about the abundance of trees when traveling around Michigan. We, who have always lived here, may take all of this forested land for granted. There is a region of the country called the Great Lakes Northwoods. This designated area includes northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The Northwoods gets its identity by being one of the largest continuous expanses of hardwoods in the country.

Sustaining these forests is important and necessary. Wildlife, of all kinds, find a home in

the varied habitat. People enjoy many recreational opportunities, such as camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. Tourists, from around the country and world, are drawn to the region. Most of the fresh surface water in the country is filtered by the forests. The trees have the ability to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Logging and manufactured forest products make a sizable contribution to our economy.

There are threats to the sustainability of these valuable forests. Poor management of the uses of the land and timber has caused damage to the resource. Science-based

cutting and reforestation can help to maintain a diversity of species required for a healthy forest. Invasive insects and disease must be monitored and dealt with.

When driving "up north" in Michigan, we can recognize and appreciate the vast stretches of forested land unfolding in front of the windshield. Michigan may not have huge canyons, tall mountains, or vast swamps, but we do have lots of trees and water. We need to pay attention to how our forests are managed, both locally and statewide. Also, we don't want to take this unique resource for granted and miss the opportunity to take advantage of these natural areas for recreational activities, as well as appreciating the critical role the forests have in the environment and our economy.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
SYNOPSIS OF MINTUES
October 17, 2022

Motions Approved:

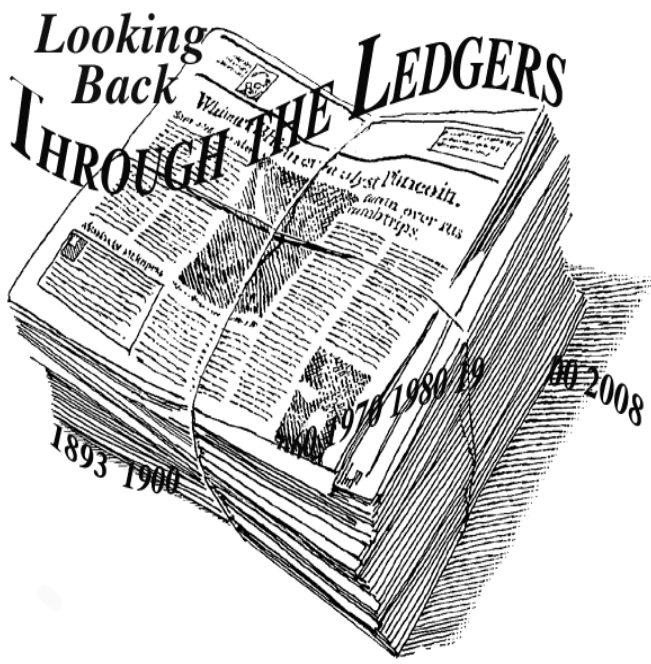
1. Motion to approve Resolution #2022-13, approval of the site plan for Arrowhead Golf Course.
2. Motion to accept the snow removal bid from Pro-Seal Asphalt Maintenance.
3. Motion to accept the quote from Phoenix Design Studio for a sign for the Alton Cemetery.
4. Motion to approve Kore Hi-Com as I.T. service company.
5. Motion to approve 13965 Fun St SEU Permit.

Subscribe NOW!

Fast & convenient right over the phone with a credit card!

the powell ledger
897-9261

viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 28, 1897

A very serious accident befell mesdames Terry Corrigan, Patrick Corrigan and Peter Corrigan on Monday evening. The three ladies had been visiting Mrs. James Griffin, and were just starting for home, when the horse started on a run across the road and upset the buggy, throwing the ladies out. Mrs. T. Corrigan was seriously injured internally and is in a critical condition. Mrs. Patrick Corrigan has a very severe scalp wound, which required 17 stitches. Mrs. Peter Corrigan suffered the dislocation of her elbow and other bruises.

Today, at about noon, Monroe Beadle, presumably while under the influence of liquor, struck Jasper Bush on the head with a club, inflicting a ghastly scalp wound nearly six inches long. He also struck the old lady Bush, knocking her down and injuring her to some extent. Beadle is under arrest and is charged with assault, with intent to kill, and his bail has been fixed at \$1,500.

George Durfee was arrested at Grand Rapids on a queer charge, that of stealing bees. The officers claim the he would take hive and all home, put the bees into a new hive and burn the old one so there would be no chance of detecting his guilt.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 2, 1922

Henry Bank broke ground Tuesday for two new 5-room bungalows on his lots on Vergennes Road, as per plan indicated in this paper recently.

From what we can learn, the Lowell branch of the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture company is likely to continue operating at present for a long time to come. We learn, however, from a report of the meeting of Ionia Chamber of Commerce, that the Reed company needs additional factory room for its expanding business; that it has reached its maximum of production in Ionia with its present facilities. A piece of land between the present factory and the railroad track is needed, and the Pere Marquette company is willing to lease for a term of a year, but refuses to sell.

NOTICE: Until further notice to the contrary, the Lowell Banks will not reopen for business Saturday evenings, beginning November 4. City State Bank, Lowell State Bank.

There will be Grange meetings at South Lowell Grange, Saturday night, November 11. Be sure and come, everybody. You don't know what you miss when you don't go to Grange. It is for everyone in the family. Everyone welcome.

Many folks are beginning to believe that moonshine and gasoline are not good mixers.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 30, 1947

Seven-year-old Frank English, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold English, passed away at the family farm home southwest of Lowell. Frank was accidentally, and mortally wounded when he ran in front of a bullet fired from a .22 calibre rifle by his brother, Lyle, 13. He was rushed to Osteopathic Hospital in Grand Rapids, but he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

The Class of 1946 is celebrating a reunion with a weiner roast at the Fallasburg Pavilion, Saturday night, November 1 at 8 o'clock. Since they graduated, many of them have married and this is the first chance to meet their husbands and wives.

Walter Wittenbach, Oakfield - tp. farmer, met with a painful accident when an extension ladder broke while he was picking apples. In the fall, Wittenbach received broken ribs and an injured back, which will lay him up for some time.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life October 26, 1972

Friday, Lowell Police arrested three juvenile boys who admitted taking a driver's training car from Lowell High School, last July. The boys drove the car over 200 miles before they returned it to the school, scratched and dented. They have been referred to the Kent County Juvenile Court.

Amway Corporation announced that its retail sales for the fiscal year, ended August 31, 1972; exceeded \$180 million. The privately held company does not disclose its earnings.

Kathryn Gilley, 18, was cited for careless driving, following a one-car crash, Wednesday afternoon. Apparently, she panicked when she came upon another vehicle on M-21 near Spaulding Ave. The Gilley vehicle traveled some 100 feet after she lost control, and struck a telephone pole. A passenger in the car was taken to Butterworth Hospital for treatment of injuries. Two other passengers, as well as Miss Gilley, were not hurt.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 29, 1997

Developer Michael Nosko, presented the Lowell Planning Commission a plan for property located on the east side of Ridgeview Drive, between Sibley and West Main. The site plan called for developing 28 single-family homes on a little over 2 acres. This will leave about one acre for the development of three rental complexes or similar multi-housing facilities.

Looking Back,
continued page 17

to the editor

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

Dear Editor:

Born in February of 1949, my dad and mom loved and valued me as their third child, second son, of the fourteen they had. I never met my youngest brother who died just before birth. What a loss! The Bible says life is valuable; I agree. That book has been a reliable resource for life and how it works, from the God who created life. By His design, every animal on earth gives birth to their young to continue their kind on the earth.

The Bible says that children are a gift from God...a very different perspective than what is often declared in our culture today. Each child is unique and God has a special destiny for each one He personally forms in the womb. Being thankful for my siblings, I could not imagine even one brother or sister not being a part of my life and family.

It is sad that some people want the "right" to kill their young, before or at birth, and so destroy the gift that God is preparing for

their lives. Since the Bible presents God as very good, every one of His gifts are valuable. I understand that there are many today who do not have my perspective, and yet I know of nowhere else in the rest of creation where the bearers of young attempt to kill their young before or at birth. Most will ferociously protect their young from danger, even at the risk of their own lives.

Abortion is not a support to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" except in the most selfish of applications. Yet those three things are what we are called to support, as those living under the Constitution of the United States. It is not a "right", or a right thing to do, to kill the life God is gifting us within the womb. Putting to death a person in the womb is a terribly wrong thing to do. Abortion is the most extreme abuse against the one in the womb who cannot speak for him/herself. Abortion is contrary

Letters
continued, page 16

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 500-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.

Scrabble for Seniors

Fri., Oct. 28 from 1-3 pm. Sit down and enjoy a word game, unplugged, with other fans. For 18+ and skill levels welcome!

Spooky Storytime

Mon., Oct. 31, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Bring the whole family, enjoy some not-too-spooky stories. Costumes welcome! Ages 0-5

All Aboard! Book Club

Thurs., Nov. 10, 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss *My Dear Hamilton* (make book title *Italics*) by Stephanie Dray. Adults 18+

Craft & Create

Thurs., Nov. 10, 6:30 -7:30 pm. Create together! Features a new craft each time for you to make and take home. Adults 18+

Home Repair Services/Get Your Home Ready for Winter

Thurs., Nov. 10, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Get your home ready for winter with guidance from Home Repair Services of Kent County. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins and you may save one seat for a friend. Adults 18+

ABCs of Lowell history

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

Address:
305-7 E. Main
History predating
Lowell's first brick
building: 1835-1864

Luther Lincoln "rolled up" the logs for a cabin on this site in 1835 but left before occupying it because he had unknowingly built on what was designated as "University Lands." He was angered and left this area to go further north up the Flat River. He and his young son built a sawmill near what is now Greenville. Lincoln Lake is named for him, as is Lincoln Lake Road.

In May 1836, James and Amelia Christler, and their five children arrived from Canada, finished the cabin



The Pullen Building now occupies 305-307 E. Main.

and occupied it for two years. Next, it was used by Daniel Marsac for a tavern/inn to provide for travelers on their way to Ionia to the land office. In 1848, when it was Timothy White's Tavern, the first township meeting was held here and Mrs. Roxinda White suggested the name "Lowell" for our township, after Lowell, Massachusetts. (The township became Lowell in 1848, but the Village did not become Lowell officially until 1861, when the State Legislature

approved it).

The log cabin was added onto by building additions around the original log structure. It became the American Hotel under Arza King. In 1863, when King closed the hotel and left town, Edmond Lee moved his grocery store here from across the street. A year later, the structure caught fire and burned. It was found that the original log walls were still inside. They smoldered for days. Next week, we will explore the history of Lowell's first brick




Roxinda White

building; now the oldest brick structure in town that was built here after the fire.



Timothy White

THIS AD FOR SALE!
More than 50% of adults have a positive perception of ads in print newspapers.*
Want to be next to trusted content? Place your ad in this newspaper and a network of newspapers in the state!
Call this paper or 800-227-7636
www.cnaads.com *Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018



area churches



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

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

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

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

St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

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

happy birthday



OCTOBER 27
George Cook, Tim VanLaan, Tracey Johnson, Judy Purdy.
OCTOBER 28
Aaron Stencel, Bonnie Essich, Debbie Stoutjesdyk.
OCTOBER 29
Tammy Barber, Al Mulder, Jared Spencer, John Butler Jr., Jeremy Drake, Valerie Stuewe.

OCTOBER 31
Bob Richter, Connor Duiven, Larry Taunt, Thomas Alberts, Patricia VanSickle.

NOVEMBER 1
Walt Batt, Abbot Kastanek, Brenda Lea Owen, Suzanne Olin, Anthony Kiedis, John Luc Richmond.

OCTOBER 30
Jeremiah Russo, Joseph Russo, Justin Wilczewski.



area births

Dudley



Jay P Dudley and Krista (Foster) Dudley of Alma, MI proudly announce the birth of their son Tate Foster Dudley.

He was born September 3, 2022, weighed 9 lbs 3 oz and was 22" long.

Tate joins his sister Sawyer (4 yrs) and brother Grayson (3 yrs) at home. Grandparents are Kim & Cheryl Foster of Belding, Dan & Shari Ebidon of Middleville, Jay & Patti Dudley of Holt and great-grandmother Carole Dudley of Grand Ledge.

Lowell High School class of 1971 gathers



The Lowell High School class of 1971 enjoyed a great night at The Fairway on October 1.

Some classmates in attendance came as far away as Arizona, Montana, Tennessee and Indiana.

Attending were: Rick Seese, Randy Seaman, Evelyn Seese, Jake Callier, Nancy Tudar Richardson, Jane Curtis Dailey, Jeannie Leeman Amos, Joyce VanTimmeren Root, Lorraine Hoag Ziegler, Crista Yeiter Simmons, Brian Roth, Marcia Sandy Knott, Dave Alexander, Mary Dalton Houghton, Pete Olson, Joel Wittenbach, Marcy Hale Merritt, Linda Roth Affholter, Anita Hahn Roth, Thomas Schmidt, Sharon Beach Hoover, Joanne Vader Tuttle, Mike Topp, Sue Metternick Birman, Gregory Topp, Robert Kowalczyk, Cherry Wheat, Martha Coons Bein, Bob Reynolds, Steve Newell, Doug Abel, Barb Groenenboom Mulnix, Debra Yeiter Baer, Gary Blough, Doug Gould, Michael Heiman, Dorothy Claeson Sypniewski, June Bird Serne, Cathy Bishop Dennis Kissinger, Cindy Froese Wells, Maureen Kennedy Kissinger, Sandy Scott and Sharron Callihan Croshaw.

A wonderful memorial was on display to honor the 36 classmates that have gone on before their friends.

This is an endorsement from last week's open letter to the community from Steve Gough, *LHS Principal* and Christine Beachler, *LAS Library Media Director*

We support Lowell Schools' approach to individual parent control of library books

Chaye Klomprens
Kathy Homer
Phil Beachler
Jeffrey Larsen
Katelynd Pulver
Julie Pelletier
Lindsay Bredin
Eric Bredin
Maggie Duimstra
Margaret Tuori
Kim Lum
Chelsey Liu
Robert VanderJagt
Leah M Groves
Sarah Murray
Heather Gray
Jason Liley
Emily Liley
Amy Velazco-Snell
Kaitlyn Richardson
Julie Schulz
Claire Vandenburg
Coletta Brown
Dawn Emelander
Shelly MacNaughton
Scott MacNaughton
Sarah Thompson
Anna Mainero
Allison Butkus
Parker Liu
Theresa DeWit
Elaine Buehner
Nicole Lintemuth
Sean Staudacher
Chloe Bayer
Jared Kellum
Elizabeth Sparks
Grey Grooters
David Kopolka
Jodie Seese
Rick Seese
Kristin Schutte
Carol Hovinga
Nancy Misner
Jack Misner
Sherri Billock
Shelli Otten
Freeman Billock
Erin Foltz
Antosha
Duczowski-Oxley
Emily Betz

Meg March
Sandy Liu
Mandi M Moore
Jaclyn Stouten
Brian Hook
Taylor Hook
Daven Donald
Susan Snell
Mike DeVore
Emily Cannon
Amy LeClaire
Dan Mooney
Tara DeRuiter
Lindsey O'Connor
Melissa Martin
Connie Uramkin
Melissa Tichelaar
Dorothy Anible
Sarah Allchin
David Brandt
Erin Brandt
Laurie Summerfield
Shannon Goodwin
Josh Rose
Kristin Mooney
Matt Richardson
Heidi Kolp
Jennifer Bolhuis
Noelle Rottier
James Christians
Cathy Wood
Shelley Swift
Elizabeth Couture
Jen Conner
Nancy Richter
Amy Gless
Bonnie Norment-Anderson
Maureen Kissinger
Courtney Young
Sariah Ross-Malach
Kristie Whaley
Deborah Riley
MarcyMerritt
Clay VanderWarf
Sara Duczkowski
Janel Hafer
Sarah Ellis
Scott Hall
Kyle Holst
Jill Kirkpatrick
Bruce VanderJagt

Craig Fonger
Deborah MacDonald
Barbara Wismer
Tony Oxley
Emma Wikstrom
Marci Billock
Sara Hood
Kortney Beachler
Hillary Coaker
Abigail Sweeney
Sue Sweet
Mark Blanding
Vicki Newman
Glenna Blanding
Angela Christians
Cindy Smith
Bill Smith
Erin Hendrick
Kathryn Ferrentino
Olivia Geiger
Sharon Ellison
Tony Ellison
Ashley Meek
Laura Judge
A'maya Hansen
Sharon MacDermaid
Susan McDonald
Katie Erickson
Charlene English
Lisa Campos
Morgan Jarema
Glenna Blanding
Julia Crawford
Heather Eveland
Derik Eveland
Geri James
Denise Beimers
Ginny Lower
Peggy Idema
Cyndi Dalga
Ken Dalga
Drake English
Corbin English
Catherine Visokay
Cliff Yankovich
Jennifer Vanderhorst
Lisa Camferman
Lori Ingraham
Barb Yowaish
Bunny Rice
Susie Wisler
Jonathan D Wiedyk

Amy Pearson
Wendi Vogel
Rochelle Cummings
Andrea VanderJagt
Bradley VanderJagt
Ana Dunn
Peter Vanderhorst
Kimberly Larsen
Katie Boggs
James Boggs
George Carroll
Brandi Melkild
Bisera Riordan
Becca Niemczyk-Fitch
Kate Dernocoeur
Patricia Haywood
Hannah Schmidt
Laura Garrison
Kathleen Golinski
Mike lincolnhol
Carmen Tawney
James E Turner
Jason Haybarker
Dawn Broderick
Heather Cooper
Corrine Haybarker
Gary Liu
Matthew Vogel
Nicole Ronda
Marcia M Kapolka
Eric Dexter
Lori Lincolnhol
Derek Foltz
Keith Golinski
Laurie McKee
Elizabeth Malartsik
Gretchen Ballega
Kelly Lester
Kelsey Postema
Kenneth Ballega
Merrie Smit
Dianne MacNaughton
Sarah Allchin
Mary Bommarito
Diane and Roger LaWarre
Nancy Kistler
Teresa Beachum
Perry Beachum
Laura Golinski
Kristine Hendricks
Chris Judge
Jackson MacNaughton

Sue Clements
Mike Curtis
Trudy Cahoon
Nancy Roth
Dale Latva
Karen Latva
Sandy VanStee
Margaret Hoats
Erin Brandt
Julie Smith
Deborah Riley
Abbey Mix
Mallory Koster
Becca Briggs-Limbers
Patrick Hendrick
Jenna Smith
Dr. Gregory Forbes
Ann Forbes
Bonnie Barthel
John Barthel
Debi Stears
Kara Bykerk
Mary Roth
Carmen Spike
Amy Albert
Joanne Reynolds
Tiffany Mundt
Paul Mundt
Anne Miller
Alyssa Farnham
Colleen Nisbet
Bethany Joy Winn
Jessica Haveman
Carrie Moskal
Jake Kutilek
Megan Maginity
Professor Sharon Wynkoop
Dianna Boston
Sarah Fontaine
Rachel Francisco
Debra Knooihuisen
Kelley Stewart
Casey Saylor
Judy Mitchell
Kimberly VanBelois-Smith
Carrie Vonderheide
Danielle Churchill
Genevieve McDaniels
Lisa Plank
Lori Cyrocki
Erin Matlosz

Linne Bunn
Mindy Tiede
Ella Dougherty
Cary Hamel
Michele Morrell
Michelle Schaedig
Diane Hamel
John Hamel
Brianna Goodwin
Corey Schaedig
Gratia Lee
Nichole Dorsey
Tracy Loughlin
Lyndsey Graham
Kristin Triplett
Kris Rickert
Bobbie Minier
Teresa Kiser
Ashley Velzen
Annie McMahon Whitlock
Katie Coxon
Al Eckman
Jailine Gomez
Whitney Hoard
Jill VanAntwerp
Chris VanAntwerp
Emily Judd
Matthew Beachler
Ted Kushion
Deb Kushion
Misty McClure-Anderson
Matthew Block
Melissa Catanach
Kate Bredwell
Anne Douglass
Amy Boston
Jennifer Barnes
Melissa Block
Amanita Fahrni
Robert Fahrni
Suzanne Carr
Jamee Willemstein
Kandice Way
Kylie Golden
Mary Carmichael
Roxanne Goff
Julie DeVoe
Alan Halbeisen
Bruce St. Pierre
Debra Helmes
Paul Cummings
Janet McCarthy-Fabis

Erin Meendering
Lacey Charboneau
Bill Ingraham
Alexandra McMahon
Colleen Miller
Brooke Miller
Juston Miller
Camille DeBoer
Courtney Willard
Evan Way
Audrey Soyka
Heidi Greer
Logan McLeod
Shelly Severts
Andrew Sargent
Abby Wiseman
Phyllis Plumley
Nancy Dood
Janet Buche
Julie Niemela
Barbara Anderson
Rachel Millhisler
Kara Swayze
Jon Ballega
Keana Fahrni
Philip Haagensen
Erin Lyons
Leighann Kohl
Melissa Lancaster
Jennifer Wheaton
Maddi Emelander
Judy Guider
Martha Hayden
Kristen Yeary
Michelle Chrisman
Dan Chrisman
Sue Wilterink
Jennifer Jackson
Valerie Giuliano
Carol Thomson Webb
Ann Nichols
Sara Guile
Terry & Nancy Raymor
Brian VanVeelen
Shannon Todd
Cinda Quilitzsch
Vicki Vairet
Jennifer Hall
Bobbie White
Tuesday Gough
Nancy Wills

Should our state constitution enshrine the right to abort children up until birth?

Should children be allowed to be sterilized or abort their child without parental consent?

Should non-medically trained persons be permitted to conduct abortions and be free from legal repercussions when they botch an abortion, leading to serious injury and death?

All this and more becomes state law with this extreme Trojan horse amendment by voting for Proposal 3.

When you vote in this November's election...

VOTE NO on PROPOSAL 3

Don't be fooled by the Orwellian deceptive use of buzz words in the ballot proposal, such as "reproductive freedom" and "women's rights."

Learn more about this amendment and how it goes far beyond the permissions of ROE and would make our state the most extreme state in the U.S by searching:

**#fightlikeheaven
or at
<http://micatholic.org>**

Paid for by St. Mary Church, 402 Amity Street, Lowell, MI 49331

Lowell inventor sells improved backpacks H.C. Pax

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Building on his previous experience, Chris Geisert, Lowell Arrow Alumni of 1993, went back to China and developed more patented products such as the backpack strap system after his successful Posture Pal invention. Now, his patented backstrap system is available through a company he started with his daughter, Haven Geisert.

The backpack was developed by Geisert while visiting many back pack factories near Shanghai and Fujian province. "I had an incredible cushion that addressed many problems with posture so I had to do something special with the backpack that I was developing," said Geisert.

After altering the shape of the straps through many prototypes, Geisert decided to use four adjustable straps that met in a stabilizing centerpiece.

"With this center stabilizing piece, each strap is fully adjustable," Geisert said. "With H.C. Pax's patented strap system, the weight doesn't disappear, it gets transferred to anywhere on the body you want. If you tighten the lower straps and loosen the upper straps, now you literally wear it without the straps touching your shoulder."

A person can also wear it like a normal backpack or with the weight on one shoulder and any combination you can imagine. Having the weight transferred to the chest region allows the backpack

to be even lighter because the shoulders, chest, hips, and lower back no longer can carry the weight. Instead of just the shoulders and the lower back, now you can use the entire upper body.

Currently, H.C. Pax has only one model of a backpack but plans on expanding to include many styles of bags. The current model is designed for middle and high school students, but anybody can wear it.

"The heart and diamonds logo is a drawing Haven used to do when she was a baby. We decided to use a graphic designer to make it more commercial," said Geisert.

The name H.C. Pax was also Havens idea. Pax stands for back "pack" but



Chris Geisert with the backpack he designed.



the x takes the shape of the straps and works it into the name of the company.

You can purchase the backpack at the companies website, hcpax.com

And with the Lowell Ledger, if you use promote code, you can save \$30 and free shipping.

Left: Front closure of H.C. Pax that shifts the weight.





Suprisingly great rates right around the corner.

Deborah Wilks Ins Agency Inc
Deborah Wilks, Agent
11827 Fulton St E
Lowell, MI 49331
Bus: 616-897-9237

I'm your one-stop shop for the service you deserve at a price you want. Call me for surprisingly great rates and Good Neighbor service right in your neighborhood.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements.





FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS PODCAST with host EMMA PALOVA

Listen in for a chance to win a signed copy in the podcast book giveaway
<http://emmapalova123.podbean.com>, and major podcasting apps

OCTOBER SCHEDULE
T.J. London, Man of War, Oct. 13
Joanna Walitalo, Woodburnings, Oct. 19
Kathryn Den Houter, Prison Shadows, Oct. 26
Special episode, Panel of Fear, TBA
Chris Stark, Carnival Lights, Oct. 28


Sponsored by Doc Chavent, The Lowell Ledger,

CITY OF LOWELL

Kent County, Michigan

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE ADDING ARTICLE VIII, "REGULATED FLOOD PRONE HAZARD AREAS," TO CHAPTER 7, "BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL IN ORDER TO DESIGNATE ENFORCEMENT OF THE STATE CONSTRUCTION CODE, ACT 230 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1972, AS AMENDED, AND DESIGNATE REGULATED FLOOD PRONE HAZARD AREAS

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 22-07 adding Article VIII, "Regulated Flood Prone Hazard Areas," to Chapter 7, "Buildings and Building Regulations," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on October 17, 2022. Ordinance No. 22-07 designates the City of Lowell as the enforcing agency for Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, and designates regulated flood prone hazard areas. A copy of Ordinance No. 22-07 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street in the City during regular business hours of the City.



Ordinance No. 22-07 is effective 10 days after this publication.

Susan Ullery
City Clerk

Meet the Lowell Area School Board Candidates

This concludes our feature of all candidates for the Lowell Area School Board.

There are three positions open on the board this year. All information is courtesy of SupportLAS

Candidate's Corner



**Parker
Liu**

Liu is a 2010 Lowell High School graduate whose family relocated to Lowell from East Grand Rapids in the late 1980s. While growing up, his family was involved in many extra-curricular activities around town as well as with their church, Lowell United Methodist.

In school, Liu was a member of the LAS orchestra program, Fiddle Club, Fusion Rock Orchestra and taught several music students privately. He served as Student Council president his junior and senior years and was in Boy Scouts (Now, Scouts USA) and earned an Eagle Scout rank from Troop 102 in 2009.

"I decided to run for the Board of Education in response to much of the turmoil faced by the board over the past couple years," Liu said. "I have tried to stay, at a minimum, up to date with our elected officials since moving back to Lowell in 2017, through meeting minutes and local media.

"Decisions made by the Board and both superintendents since the start of the pandemic, and in response to calls for social justice reforms, faced significant scrutiny by some in our community. I shared my thoughts with the board on a couple occasions and

tried to understand both sides of these issues."

Liu is active in his church and leads a week of church camp each summer attended by community youth. Most recently, he volunteered at the Lowell Pride celebration.

He earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2016 from Ferris State University and currently is employed by Cherry Health in the Heart of the City Clinic in downtown Grand Rapids, where he works primarily with medically underserved populations. He has a specific interest in diabetes and psychiatric care.

He and his wife welcomed their first child, Bodhi, in October 2020. Also that year, Liu was invited to participate in a video shared with district staff as a part of the first diversity, equity and inclusion training, and shared his experiences as a mixed-race student in Lowell.

"I feel the work of the DEI Committee is vital for LAS to remain as one of the premier educational systems in the state," he said. "LAS is overwhelmingly homogenous in terms of race and culture, and, in my opinion, the exposure to the experiences of those who do not fit that mold create well-rounded citizens of tomorrow. I fully endorse the work of the DEI Committee

and will ensure that it is able to continue its work in the future with the interest of all students and board policies in mind."

Liu thinks he is suited for the board seat because "I have always drawn to leadership and have a natural skill in developing and communicating my thoughts clearly to others. I try not to speak about topics I do not understand without taking the time to research an issue thoroughly. My background in pharmacy practice has given me the skills to understand data and how to use that data to make changes; I plan to use this skill with my work on the board."

Parker Liu Survey Responses:

What do you think are the 2 biggest successes/strengths of Lowell Area Schools, and what are the district's 2 biggest challenges?

While I believe there is much to be celebrated about our schools, I believe one of our strengths is the consistent, high-achieving results over many years. LAS has a long track record of all sorts of achievements, including academic and athletic. This type of legacy should not be taken for granted; I believe it is a testament to the commitment the district and our community has made in our students. Additionally, I believe LAS has some of the highest-performing and most dedicated educators and administrators in the area. It is not unusual to hear of teachers spending their entire careers in Lowell and leading to relationships with families that can span generations. I believe this level of commitment and consistency leads to the strong results I spoke to previously; these individuals become experts not only in educating

our youth but also in our community: understanding its needs and adapting to changes over time.

I am a strong believer, however, that every individual and organization has room to grow. First, I have spent a lot of time digging deeper into our schools by reading BOE meeting minutes, reviewing district policies, and reading comments and editorials from families and parents. At times, I found it difficult to find the information I was trying to locate; this led me to believe that the district could be doing more in its transparency in operations. Some parents shared a concern about transparency in BOE meeting comments recently. The district responded by creating individual email addresses for BOE members and reiterating the processes in place for parents and community members to share feedback. I think this is a great first step towards increased transparency. As a BOE member, I would do my best to connect my decisions with the community by keeping the line of communication as open as appropriate and allowed by policy and law. I would also encourage families and community members to share feedback through the channels provided. Looking ahead, I believe one of the district's biggest challenges will be to continue to work proactively to improve and innovate as technology and other aspects of our community change and evolve. I want to see LAS continue to produce the leaders of tomorrow. To continue to achieve this vision, I would encourage our district's leaders and educators to continue to look for new ways to teach existing topics to achieve the strongest results, find new topics to incorporate into curriculum, and look at what is emerging in the world around us to keep LAS students ahead of the curve. As a member of the BOE, I believe I can help the district meet both of these challenges by being a true advocate for our students, parents, and community, continuously pushing LAS past the minimum standards, and working with district leaders to develop a vision and mission that helps LAS remain a top district in the area.

If you could have an impact on our school district's curriculum, what changes would you make? What would you keep the same?

First, I believe it is important to explain my understanding the Board of Education's position as it relates to curriculum. The main purpose of the BOE is to create a mission and vision for our schools and help provide the resources necessary to achieve that mission and vision. Those resources include finding the best people to fill leadership roles that can help not only achieve the BOE's mission and vision, but also empower our educators and support staff to do the same. Personally, when reviewing curriculum (especially when concerns are raised by various individuals), I would want to see plans that are based in fact, taught with proven methods, and allow for freedom and flexibility to meet the needs of all our students. I would use these characteristics as a guideline; I do not feel it is the position of the BOE to be micromanaging the specific curriculum decisions of individual educators or departments.

In keeping with the spirit of the question and the BOE's position to provide the mission and vision for our schools, I would want to see LAS keep and expand the wide variety of programs available to our students. This includes the variety of electives and advance courses of study but also more practical and hands-on experiences such as KCTC. I believe this variety provides each student an opportunity to learn more about themselves through exposure that will help better position them as they become independent adults. While I would not seek any specific changes, I would encourage our educators and administrators to continuously evaluate our methods and topics to ensure our curriculum is up-to-date, free from potentially damaging bias, and addressing mitigating factors or barriers to achievement by certain groups of students. Changes should then be made in a timely fashion to ensure progress is maintained. As a BOE member, I would use evaluations and analysis as well as feedback from parents and students to see which areas may require attention.

How well do you think the district meets the needs of our special education students and their families, and what would you improve upon?

To start, I want to be clear in that I do not have direct experience of working with LAS special education

services. I have spoken to a few families that have utilized these services who felt like the district could be investing more in these students. Personally, I believe our schools should strive to provide equity in our classroom experiences. The vast majority of our students will be able to achieve success with the programs that are already in place. Some students, including our special education students, may require additional support to find similar levels of success. As a result, I believe that every attempt should be made to provide the additional resources to any student that might need it.

Since this is not an area that I am familiar with at this time, I would invest the time necessary to understand the needs and desires of special education services by engaging with both our families and educators that use and provide these services now. In addition, I would research how special education services are being delivered elsewhere and see if there are investments and improvements that can be made in this area. Finally, I believe the district should commit the time and resources necessary to ensure our special education students find the success that is most meaningful to them; I would ensure my decisions in regards to these areas is in alignment with this belief as much as I am able.

What role do you think standardized tests should play at Lowell Area Schools?

While I believe that standardized tests can be helpful, I believe that they are a single tool in amongst many tools that should be used to help our district understand how its policies, procedures, and curriculum are translating to success through learning in the classroom. Standardized tests make up 40% of our educator's annual evaluations; this heavy emphasis could lead to our educators focusing too much attention to their student's achievement in this one aspect of their education and cause them to miss out on other opportunities for learning that are important to ensuring the complete education of each student. Furthermore, standardized tests have limitations: they represent a single snapshot of a student's knowledge, they are testing a student's

22nd Annual
Taste of Vegetarian

Sunday, November 13
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Riverside Fellowship
10300 Vergennes, Lowell
Corner of Vergennes & Parnell

featuring
plant-based recipes
with gluten-free Options

Please call 616.987.0567 to place a reservation or leave a message if you have any questions.

**Liu, continued,
page 18**

Candidate's Corner



Patrick Nugent

For Nugent, public service is a good fit both personally and professionally. A life-long Lowell-area resident and graduate of Lowell High School (he was valedictorian), Nugent was first elected to the Board of Education in 1998. He has served as its secretary since 1999. He also serves as the Board's representative on the Lowell Education Foundation.

Nugent earned a Bachelor's degree in History education from Michigan State University, and a Master's of Education degree in secondary education from Grand Valley State University.

As the senior school board member, he has now served under four superintendents. A math and history teacher at West Catholic High since 1993, Nugent called the board "a natural place where I can put my skills to use in the community."

"There is something to someone in the room, having a store of knowledge and context that they can bring to the table. I can provide that," he said. "I have a desire to serve my community and as long as the community wants me."

Serving in public office goes back at least a couple generations. Both his grandfather and grandmother were involved in Grattan Township business, and an uncle was a township trustee. Another grandfather was a school board member in Orleans.

Nugent also serves as secretary of the Grattan Township Historical Society, and maintains cemetery functions and records. He spends his free time (mostly in summers) researching and documenting township history.

Nugent said the biggest challenge for board members is lack of local control, especially when it comes to finances and academics. "There's great benefit of working with other districts in terms of curriculum and assessment. But sometimes we're not always sure that the state knows what's best for Lowell Area Schools."

Patrick Nugent Survey Responses:

What do you think are the 2 biggest successes/strengths of Lowell Area Schools, and what are the district's 2 biggest challenges?

Lowell has many strengths. We have great administrators, teachers, and staff. The students of Lowell do great things and contribute in many ways to the community. In return, the parents and other community members support our schools through volunteering in classrooms, attending school events, and supporting millage requests. It is the combination of a vibrant community supporting its schools that makes Lowell Area Schools special.

Finances are always a challenge for schools. Most of Lowell's school funding comes from the state, so the budget decisions are made in Lansing and not locally. Lowell has maintained, and must continue to maintain, a healthy fund balance so we can be prepared for whatever comes out of Lansing, especially if the state budget takes a downturn. Additionally, we need to cultivate additional sources of income, such as grants and partnerships, to keep our programs flourishing.

Especially for Lowell, population growth is a major challenge. Our district will see significant new housing and growth in future years. The Board needs to stay abreast of these developments and have building and funding plans in place so we can meet the community's future needs.

If you could have an impact on our school district's curriculum, what changes would you make? What would you keep the same?

The school board does have input in major curriculum decisions. Lowell has a solid curriculum which meets and exceeds all state and accreditation requirements. I would like for us to continue to add opportunities for students at all levels; programming for advanced and gifted students, additional remediation for students who need extra time or support, skills-based opportunities to ensure a prepared workforce.

What I appreciate most about our curriculum is the

many options it currently offers. We have strong programs in elementary art and music. At the middle school and high school levels, we have STEM, drama, agriscience, and many other electives students can pursue. All grade levels are complemented by the Wittenbach Center's curriculum enhancements. Additionally, we have a very successful alternative high school program, which has made a major difference in some students' lives.

How well do you think the district meets the needs of our special education students and their families, and what would you improve upon?

Lowell has a very robust special education program. We have excellent administrators, teachers, and staff who do great things with students who have a wide variety of physical, social, and cognitive needs. Since coming into her position as director, Ms. Sneider has evaluated our programs and worked to improve them further. We are bound by law, and by basic humanity, to provide all children with a comprehensive education. We need to continue to be responsive to student and parent needs and continue on the path of improvement.

What role do you think standardized tests

should play at Lowell Area Schools?

Standardized tests have a place in education. It is important that we have consistent measures that help us to determine that all students are meeting state and local standards. Testing, such as NWEA/MAP has proven very effective in helping teachers and students gauge proficiency and set goals for improvement throughout the school year. State M-STEP testing can also be a good tool for measuring year-over-year achievement. Unfortunately, the State has not maintained consistent tests or benchmarks, and this data is not very timely.

It must be remembered that standardized testing is just one of many assessment tools used throughout the school year by teachers and administrators to measure student progress. Too much emphasis on standardized testing can be unhelpful and sometimes counterproductive.

How do you think Lowell Area Schools could make schools a safer place for students and staff?

Lowell schools are safe places for students and teachers to be. The school district works very closely with school safety experts from the Kent County Sheriff Department and Michigan State Police to

develop and implement safety procedures. All school buildings have been constructed or retrofitted to provide secure entrances, and include security cameras and other safety precautions. Here in Lowell we have successfully faced a variety of school safety situations over the years. In each instance, there were overall positive outcomes, and the administration used each instance as a learning opportunity to be better prepared for the next situation.

It cannot be overlooked that the most important factor to creating a safe school is to have strong positive relationships among all those in the school—students and adults. Additional help, awareness, and training about mental health, bullying, and safe environments help everyone to be more aware of what is going on in the school and hopefully prevent any possible future breach of safety.

As the district continues to grow more diverse, how can it best meet the needs of all students?

Lowell is more diverse in some ways and less diverse in others. Diversity does not have to become an issue of race or gender. At the base, Lowell Schools is a place

that provides a welcoming learning community where all students can succeed academically. If basic respect for the human dignity of each person is emphasized and reinforced by the school, then all students should be able to succeed.

It is noted that some students have additional needs based on their individual background. This is readily recognized in special education, when an Individual Education Program (IEP) is developed for a student. Likewise, data from across the nation and also in Lowell demonstrate that students from a lower socioeconomic level have lower levels of achievement on average. Whatever the reason, we need to determine a student's actual academic needs and give the student the support needed so that student can progress academically.

What programs will you work to build and/or expand that support career readiness?

Career readiness is an important priority for the school district. The district has a career readiness curriculum in place from elementary through high school. At the basic level, the

Nugent, continued, page 17

★

Honoring Our Area Veterans

★

The Ledger, along with local businesses, will once again be saluting area Veterans.

The names and pictures we receive will appear in our November 9 edition in honor of Veterans Day, November 11, 2022.

If you would like to spotlight a Veteran living in our area, please mail or bring their picture along with their name, branch of service and years served to:

The Lowell Ledger/Veterans Page
 105 N. Broadway • PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
OR email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Put "Veterans" on the subject line, type the name, branch of service and years served into the body of the email and attach the picture.

★

Deadline for submission is noon, Monday, Nov. 7, 2022

For more information call the Ledger at 616.897.9261

You or the Veteran you are honoring must be from the Lowell area.

★

NOTICE

If the veteran you want to honor was in last year, we still have their photo. No need to resubmit.

★
★

Veterans Day, November 11, 2022

Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS



Football team carries momentum into playoffs

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Senior night is always emotional, but wanting every last playoff point, the Red Arrows had a job to do on Friday night. That mission was accomplished with a 49-22 victory in the final regular season game of the season against Northview.

The Red Arrows leaned on the running game and had 50 rushes for 338 yards and six touchdowns on an evening that Lowell, whose playoff spot was relatively safe, was ensured. Six wins no longer ensures a playoff spot, rather a combination of strength of schedule, opponents played, and win-loss are factors.

Sixteen football seniors were honored for Lowell in pregame, including: Ethan Krieger, Jonah Phillips, Brendan Wittenbach, Ian George, Gus McDonald, Kelton Devito, Easton Rich, Connor Lixie, Caleb Alex

Binns, Aigan Fitzpatrick, Dawson Huhn, Nolan Jannenga, Carson Crace, CJ Poole, and Maddox Simcoe. Ten senior cheerleaders were honored. They were: Kendra Hoffert, Autumn Lamoreaux, Hannah Witherell, Ryleigh Wilder, Sophia Campos, Savannah Redumski, Carly Peal, Kyra Boersma, Kalea Sobie, and Alyssa Aguilar.

Quarterback Jackson Reisbig ran for 186 rushing yards and four touchdowns on the ground. The other two offensive touchdowns came from Tacho Gonzales, who ran for two touchdowns and 91 yards. Connor Lixie also had an 85-yard kickoff return, for a touchdown, to close off the scoring.

On the defensive side, Ethan Krieger was in double digits for tackles with 10, as well as, two tackles for loss. Aidan Fitzpatrick had 3 tackles, a pass defend, and an interception. Maddox Simcoe also recorded an

interception, in addition to four tackles and a pass defend.

Northview finished the season at 3-6 and their season is over.

Lowell concluded the regular season at 6-3, including a 4-3 finish in OK White Conference play. The Red Arrows drew 8-1 Zeeland West in a road game for the first round of the MHSAA Division 3 playoffs. Kickoff is 7:00 pm at Zeeland Stadium on Friday night.

Right - The Red Arrows run onto the field.

**GO
TEAM,
GO!**



Red Arrows get tough draw in MHSAA football playoff bracket

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

What do you call a first-round matchup between the seventh-ranked team in the state in your division and the 14th-ranked team in the state in your division?

Whatever you want to call it, it's reality. Lowell could've received a geographic-based matchup with 23rd-ranked East Grand Rapids, 25th-ranked Cedar Springs, or 16th-ranked Coopersville. They also could've had a playoff point-based matchup, where the 1-seed plays the 32 seed, and 2-seed plays the 31-seed down the line, which is something the MHSAA doesn't do but is an option. Instead, Lowell drew seventh-ranked Zeeland West in a road game, 45 minutes away in the first round of the MHSAA Division 3 football playoffs.

Now Lowell coaches and staff do not, by tradition, complain about things they cannot control. You get good draws, you get bad draws. This has been a foundation of Red Arrow athletics for decades. We can call a spade-a-spade though, this one was a bad draw.

The loser of this game, whoever that will be, has the right to be aggrieved. Zeeland West, at 8-1, drew a good 6-3 team, who lost to FHC by 7, EGR by 1, and Byron Center by 13. They also face an uncommon offense that can be difficult for teams to stop.

Lowell, on the other hand, was in the top half of the rankings, and of the 32 teams in the field, Lowell was 14th. Their reward was a team not in the bottom half, but instead of facing off with the competitive equilibrium 17th-place team, they got a team ranked 10 spots higher.

A tough draw? Yes. A winnable game? Absolutely. When it comes to matching up with Zeeland West, the Red Arrows have shown their ability to compete with some of the state's best with narrow losses to Forest Hills Central, who is No. 3 in Division 2, and Byron Center at No. 10. Lowell has taken care of business elsewhere on the schedule with their only other loss a 1-point loss to another playoff team, East Grand Rapids. It should be an exciting game.

The Dux are hard to judge, coming out of a relatively weak OK Green conference. At 8-1, they're certainly a talented team. They've beaten 0-9 Wyoming, 0-7 Holland who disbanded their season, 3-6 Stevensville Lakeshore, 4-5 GR Union, 3-6 Zeeland East, 5-4 Cedar Springs, 6-3 Reeths-Puffer, and 7-2 Muskegon team with a loss to 7-2 Mona Shores. The win over Muskegon is particularly impressive. The Dux are also an unusual team, as well. They run a run-misdirection based offense, not unlike Lowell, and have never kicked extra points.

So passes should be few and far-in-between on Friday night. Whoever comes out on top, they'll battle the winner of East Grand Rapids (4-5) and St. Joseph (8-1).

There was plenty of grumbling about the playoff pairings, as is usual. Though the MHSAA knows the system is not perfect, things have been improving over the years. The new strength of schedule-based playoff point system proves that. Most teams like it. Keyword there, of course, is "most".

But no area team was as surprising as Grand Rapids Christian, who made the playoffs with a 3-6 record. In fact, six teams with three-win seasons made the postseason, and that drew ire of 6-3 teams (Lakewood being one of them) who did not make the playoffs. In this case, teams like GR Christian came out of difficult conferences, played incredibly difficult competition out-of-conferences, larger schools, and were rewarded for that scheduling. The Eagles had one bad loss this season, fellow 3-6 team Northview. The rest of those five losses came against 6-3 teams or better.

Northview at 3-6 happened to miss out of the playoffs, despite being in the same conference as GR Christian. The difference? A loss to West Ottawa (4-5) and being in Division 2.

For Lowell though, the task is simple on Friday night. Win and advance.

**LOOKING
FOR A
PRINTER?**

Let us give you a quote on your next printing job!

Business Cards • Letterhead • Envelopes •
Posters • Banners • Post Cards • Pamphlets & More!

Lowell
**Litho
& Printing**

litho@lowellbuyersguide.com
105 N. Broadway, Lowell
616-897-9261

**We're
Local - Like
You!**

Red Arrow

- CROSS COUNTRY

SPORTS



Both harrier teams finish fifth in conference

Submitted by Paul Judd
And Clay VanderWarf
Cross country coaches

A cold and windy Riverside Park greeted the OK White teams as they prepped to compete in the OK White Conference meet. The fast times by all did more than heat up the atmosphere, as many runners saw personal best times on a fast course. Lowell finished fourth on the day, three points behind Forest Hills Central in a meet won by

East Grand Rapids. With the fourth place finish, Lowell finished the season rankings in fifth place which was two points behind Forest Hills Northern.

The Arrows were led by Annika Sandman, who finished third, running a blistering 17:46, which was just shy of a 30 second personal record for her. Katrina Sandman hit her season goal of breaking 19 minutes, running 18:54,

which was good for a conference medal ninth place. Keira Sandman nearly matched her season best time, running 19:37, which was good for 20th place. Evie Deur and Claire O'Boyle closed out the varsity scoring, finishing in 20:34 and 20:43 which was good for 35th and 42nd respectively. Audrey Latchaw and Veronica Tapia completed the Lowell varsity team.

The fast times established a new school record for the one-to-five average time, with a 1:5 average time of 19:31. All conference honors go to Annika and Katrina, while Keira grabbed all conference honorable mention.

The boys completed the regular season with a fifth place finish at the OK White conference finals, held at Riverside Park. The Arrows accumulated 129

point, East Grand Rapids took top honors with 29 points followed by Grand Rapids Christian, 50 points, and Forest Hills Central, 64 points.

Ben Bromley led the Arrows with a 14th place finish, with a time of 16:38. As a result of his racing, Bromely made the All Conference Team. Levi Mills was the second Arrow in at 23rd, 17.17. A pack of Arrows followed with Rhys

Sandman, 32nd, 17.40, Dannion Simmet, 33rd, 17.45 (personal record), and Mason Saylor, 34th, 17.45, a personal record as well. Braylon Iakiri, 42nd, 18.08 and Antonio Casarez, 43rd, 18.11, a season best, rounded out the varsity lineup. The Red Arrows will take the next week to prepare for Regionals at Portage Central on Friday, October 28.

Athlete Spotlight

Our Spotlight Athlete This Week:

David Foster



What sports do you play and how long have you played them for?

I have played soccer since I was in elementary school.

What are your plans for after high school? (Examples: College/major, trade school, military, etc.)

Post high school I will go to Ferris State University to get a degree in dentistry.

Which high school sports memory most sticks out to you and why?

A memory that sticks out to me the most is the

team unity after a big win in districts my junior year against Forest Hills Eastern.

Name a person who has had a big impact in your high school life, whether that's a parent, teacher, coach, or friend and tell us what impact they've had?

Joe Woodruff, a coach and friend my junior year, was the positive impact to the team that made us better. He would always stay positive and lead us.

What is an accomplishment you are most proud of?

Getting all districts my junior year is what I am most proud of.

What is your favorite sporting event (non-high school)?

Fifa World Cup

Which school in the OK White, outside of Lowell, is your favorite and why?

Forest Hills Northern because my travel teammates attend school there.



- VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball preps for districts

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

As the preparation for next week's districts continues, the Lowell volleyball team had a busy week playing in their first conference tournament match, followed by hosting a tournament of their own.

Lowell lost a five set match to Byron Center in their conference tournament opener. The Red Arrows brought the Bulldogs to a fifth set before losing. It was an improved showing from a 3-0 loss earlier this season. The final set was as close as

the rest of the match, going Byron Center's way by a score of 15-13.

In the East vs. West Challenge on Saturday, Lowell won one, lost two, and recorded a tie, in a packed day of action at LHS. Lowell recorded a 2-0 win, 25-18, 25-18 against Cadillac. Coopersville beat Lowell 2-0, and Lowell bounced back from a first set loss to tie Stoney Creek 1-1. The Red Arrows bounced back similarly against Macomb Dakota, before the Cougars beat Lowell in

the third set tiebreaker in bracket play.

The Red Arrows have two conference tournament matches this week and a Halloween rematch against Byron Center that will be hosted at Caledonia for districts.



Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!



Call or email the Lowell Ledger Crew!

Phone: 616-897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

obituaries

MERRIMAN-HESCHE

Alice Merriman-Hesche, age 90 of Lowell, entered her heavenly home on October 19, 2022. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Kenneth Merriman; second husband, Darrel Hesche; parents, Von and Ethel Stout; brother, Alton "Al" Stout; stepson, Glenn Hesche; step-son-in-law, Don Miller; father and mother-in-law, Erwin and Marie Merriman; and sister-in-law, Kathryn Merriman. She is survived by her children, Joe (Susan) Merriman, Ron (Diane) Merriman, Carolyn (Tim) Yonker, Janet (Randy) McIntyre; stepchildren,



Phillip (Cathy) Hesche, Steve (Janey) Hesche, Joella Miller; 21 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Doris Stout; and several nieces and nephews. Alice graduated from Ionia High School. She was a homemaker, helped on the family farm, and sold real estate for over 20 years. She was very active in the Alto United Methodist Church and volunteered for several community

organizations. Alice enjoyed baseball, specifically the Detroit Tigers, loved to crochet, play cards, garden, and make flower arrangements. The family would like to thank Maple Ridge Manor and Careline Hospice for taking excellent care of our mother. Visitation was held from 5-8PM, on Friday, October 21, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services were held at 11AM, Saturday, October 22, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Robert Wright officiating. Interment Merriman Cemetery. Luncheon followed at Bowne Center UMC. Memorial contributions may be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331, or Alto Bowne Center United Methodist Church, 12051 84th St. SE, Alto, MI 49302.

gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

HENDRICK

Carla Hendrick of Lowell, passed away on October 22, 2022. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rex and Edith Hendrick; significant other, Mark DuPont; and nephew, Christopher Hendrick. She is survived by her daughter, Ally Plantinga; brother, Roger (Brenda) Hendrick; sister, Carlene (Rob) Bottrall; nieces and nephews, Mara (Mark) Iteen, Rhea Hendrick, Rodger (Miki) Hendrick; and feline friend, Foxy.



Carla was a good sister and friend. She was blunt, had a great sense of humor and was very considerate. Carla loved to cook and bake. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

de AGUIRRE

Gertrude Devitt de Aguirre, age 89, of Ionia (formerly Lowell), passed away on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 surrounded by her loving family. Gertrude was born on November 20, 1932 in Little Hocking, OH. She was the youngest of seven siblings born to Thomas and Alva Devitt. After the death of her parents, she moved to Worcester, MA and was raised by her aunts. In 1950, the family moved to Tampa, Florida. She met Sgt. John Willys de Aguirre USAF, and they were married on October 13, 1951. Together they had two children, John Jr. and Patrice. In 1965, the family moved to Grand Rapids, MI. Over the years she held jobs in retail and as a bookkeeper for Foremost Insurance. After retiring she took on a part-time job as a greeter for Meijer, Inc. Gertrude was a devout Christian, who loved the Episcopal Church. She will be missed, but remembered for her compassion, love and patience toward everyone. Gertrude is preceded in death by her parents and former husband, John; brothers Francis, Thomas, and Kenneth Devitt; sisters Cecilia Duboise, Ann Peterson, and Genevieve Smith. She is survived by her son, John (Linda Lassen) de Aguirre Jr. of Portland, OR and daughter, Patrice (Mike) Mason of Ionia, MI; grandchildren, Jenny Scott and Beth (Russ) Geldhof of Ionia, MI; great-grandchildren, Sterling Scott and Grady Geldhof; sister-in-law, Isabel Clark of Cathedral City, CA and many other extended family members. The Liturgy of Thanksgiving for the life of Gertrude will be held at 1:00pm on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ionia, Michigan, reception to follow. There will be a private interment at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to the Friends of Jesus Benevolence Fund, managed by the Ionia Ministerial Association, in memory of Gertrude. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com.

KOOIMAN

Martin "Bud" Kooiman, aged 86 of Lowell, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2022, with his family by his side. Martin was born on November 2, 1935, to Martin and Mona (Crakes) Kooiman. He was preceded in death by his parents; his siblings, Richard, Elinor, Gertrude, Keith, Edward, and Donald; and son-in-law, Michael Bergy. Martin is survived by his children; Martin (Renee) Kooiman, Jr., Mary Fry, Marlene (Mark) Clark, Amy (Kenneth) Stuart, Diane (Dale) Chiles, Susan (Jay) Block and Sally (James) Hoonstra; 29 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Martin retired from General Motors after 27 years of service. He loved dogs (especially Rosie), feeding and watching the birds, and his John Deere tractor. Martin had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by having trusted in the finished crosswork of the Lord Jesus Christ - his death, burial, and resurrection - to take away all of his sin and to give him salvation and eternal security with the Lord. Because he believed that, praise God, we know that we too, who believe and trust in Christ, will one day be reunited with him. Funeral services will be held at 11AM, Friday, October 28, 2022, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Rev. Ron Tuinstra officiating at Alton Bible Church, 2780 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell, MI 49331. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Humane Society of West Michigan, 3077 Wilson Sr., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534, or to Alton Bible Church.



gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

BAYER

George Bayer, age 71 of Lowell, passed away on October 23, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Sarah Bayer. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Irene; children, Michelle Bernedette (Roger) Jagodzinski, Timothy Robert (Val) Bayer, Brandon Carl (Jennifer) Bayer; grandchildren, Justine, Jordan, Jake (Ellen), Logan, Madison, Branson; great-grandchildren, Jossifina, Roselynn; nieces and nephews, and many friends. George worked for Daily Machine for 30



years and went on to retire from Ventura Manufacturing after 26 years of service. He was on the Montcalm College Board of Apprenticeship and Training for 20 years. George enjoyed riding motorcycles, hunting, racecar driving, and was very sociable. He was a loving father, husband, and grandpa. Visitation will be held 2-4PM and 6-8PM, Thursday, October 27, 2022, Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services will be held at 11AM, Friday, October 28, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, with visitation one hour prior. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 32121 Woodward Ave., Suite 350, Royal Oak, MI 48073.

gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

STUART

Donald Lee Stuart, age 89 of Lowell, went to his heavenly home on October 19, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Leahbelle; son, Thomas; father, Lester Stuart; mother, Esta Kole; stepfather, Andy Kole; brothers, Wayne (Eleanor) Stuart, L.D. (Norma) Stuart, Dick (Marion) Stuart; sister-in-law, Marjory Stuart. He is survived by his children, Brenda Stuart, Kenneth (Amy) Stuart, Wendy Stuart, Gwen (Alan) Poling, Bethany (Steve) Smith, Denise (Greg) Smith; 22 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; brother, Hillis Stuart; sister, Lois (Don) Willison; brother-in-law, Bob (Rosemary) Kauffman; sisters-in-law, RuthAnn (Ernie) Newman, Julie Benschoter, Charlene Kauffman; and many nieces and nephews. Don proudly served in the US Army during the Korean War. He was a lifelong dairy farmer, alongside his wife Leahbelle, who passed away 3 short months ago. Don was devoted to his faith, church, and family. He loved the outdoors, always being useful and productive. Don was very outgoing, loved his family and friends, enjoyed gardening, and sitting on the porch watching birds and appreciating nature. He was kind and loving and will be greatly missed. Funeral services were held at 11AM, on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, Clarksville Bible Church, 191 S. Main St., Clarksville, MI 48815, with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Tim Bateman officiating. Interment South Boston Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at <https://givenow.lls.org/give/>



gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

CLASSIFIEDS...
Just a Fax Away
Buyers Guide
Fax the Buyers Guide
(616) 897-4809 fax

COPY SERVICE
Black & White and Color
Quick Service, Great Quality
Buyers Guide
105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9555



office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Closed Fri., Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

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

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. Usually \$6 - \$9 each. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

CONDO FOR RENT - Available April 2023. Gated community in Florida. 3 BR, 2 BA. For more information call 269-908-1654.

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

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

WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

WE MAKE COLOR COPIES Buyers Guide 105 N. Broadway Phone 897-9555

misc.

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$37 per year and \$5 per month... start losing weight TODAY Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-866-495-1709

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.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - a utility or box trailer. 1 7/8" - 2" ball. Cash. Call 616-585-1709.

CALL FOR AUTHORS TO BE FEATURED - on "For the Love of Books Podcast" hosted by author and journalist Emma Palova of Lowell. The show features Indie & small press authors & their events. Email emmapalova123@gmail.com. Listen in on podbean & other major podcast apps: For the Love of Books Podcast

help wanted

DISKING JOB NEEDED - I have 2 acres of plowed furrows that need smoothing over. Would like to rent disk harrow or pay to have job done. Call 616-676-9734.

PART-TIME NEWSPAPER REPORTER WANTED - The Lowell Ledger is looking for a news/feature reporter with strong writing skills and can meet a deadline. This is a stringer position - paid by the story. Please send writing samples and brief resume to: The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or email to: ledger@lowell-buyersguide.com

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED - Multiple positions available for truck drivers. Must have Class A CDL and clear driving record. Currently looking for drivers in our flatbed, bulk, and aggregate departments. Progressive pay scale, bonuses, and full benefits including health, 401k with match, and life insurance. Dental & vision also available. Apply in person at Timpson Transport; 3175 Segwun Ave. Lowell, Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to Info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 616-897-5905.

services

ZOOLAND DAYCARE - has full-time openings. Please contact 616-308-0195.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dumpster rental, 10-20 yards. Mention this ad for \$10 to \$20 off. Call or text Doug for estimates at 616-295-6640.

WORK WANTED - Double D's Tree Service Plus 40' & 70' bucket trucks. Tree trimming and removal, brush chipping. Free Estimates and Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008.

WHEN IN AN ACCIDENT - YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO TOWS YOUR VEHICLE - Request J&K Roadwide Service, 616-690-0983.

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

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

services

COPIES COPIES COPIES - Color & black & white copiers! Excellent quality! Stop by our office, Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE - Lowell & surrounding areas. On road repairs. Rob's Towing & Auto Salvage. "CHEAP HOOKER" 616-292-7649 or 616-295-8820.

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees...I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: Flat fees only, no hourly billing. FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger offers this service! Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 5 p.m. & Fri., 8 - noon.

Eat. Shop. Explore. LOCAL

Find Out What The Buzz Is All About with a subscription to the lowell ledger Call to start your subscription 897-9261

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like LAS VEGAS, UN EATEN, M G, E L M S, T E W A, D E G, R A D, N A U S E A, A D, M I S D E A L, T R E A S U R E I S L A N D, O B S E R V A N T L Y, T E D, D I S.

Grid of numbers for a puzzle solution, ranging from 1 to 9.

Vertical list of puzzle solutions: S W N P P D K P S Q K U K A L R U B P A, T K H S E W S I S A E P S Y C E L E R Y, O A S Y O P K H D S R P T U Z F P K T H, R O A O B E E T S T T T U H U T O H T U, R C U L N T Q O N G O U O Q C S T B U E, A C Q S R E P P E P S H R R C R A S I Y, C L S A R T I C H O K E P N H L T M E C, H Y K T D O U E C I B A S G I Q O U C I, R M Y I P T A C H P M M S P N P E K U L, Z Q H N I K P M U P P H L P I D S K T R, Z S E O T A M O T Q S M E E A A N F T A, S T O L L A H S L E B F S G M R R O E G, F T N T A L D P T W G H S R A F A Q L P, M T I N G C B A G R T A U D R B K G Y D, O Q O A G M N R E O C N R O C F B M U Y, F Z N L U Y O S K E E L B B D M I A D S, U F S P W Z A N D Q Z F M L K L Y F C U, E B S G K Y P I C A U L I F L O W E R U, M Y H G K R E P O F F U Z C Z O D P Q T, T S Z E W A A S E I L W Q N C H A R D Y

to the editor

Continued

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

to the Bible, as well as to all of nature itself. God says to love life, not hate it. I choose love!!

God is good and is big enough to provide sufficiently for every child to be born and to be loved and to have what they need in life. But it is only realized, as we trust Him on the basis of what He says in the Bible.

On November 8, 2022, I encourage all to vote against Proposition 3 on

the ballot. Michigan must remain a life-supporting state that protects parents and children. There is plenty of land and resources on this planet to support every life ever conceived in the womb. Love life!! Love the unborn child that God is creating in the womb. Vote "NO" on Proposal 3.

Grateful for God's goodness to me,

**Clare Wilson Gleason
Lowell**

Dear Editor:

In the summer of 2020, I was placed on the kidney transplant list and began the search to find a living donor. As you can imagine, asking family and friends to donate a kidney is an enormous request—especially amid a pandemic when the whole world is turned upside down.

The person who answered my search was Jennifer Dougherty, one of the candidates for Lowell Area Schools Board of Education. Jennifer didn't

know me very well at the time, and yet she was still willing to go through an extensive evaluation to see if she was a match. It takes an exceptional person to be willing to donate a kidney—but exceptional is the definition of Jennifer.

Jennifer is generous in other ways, as well. She is active in the community and schools, serving her church and many other organizations. Earlier this month, she delivered 194 care bags to Children's

Hospital of Michigan and C.S. Mott's Children's Hospital for families with children having heart surgeries.

Her experience as an engineer, business owner, farmer, and mother of four in Lowell schools also speaks volumes about her ability to collaborate and find solutions with other board members. Her top priority is preparing our students with the skills they'll need for life after graduation...whether

To the Editor:

Those who oppose Proposal 3 want voters to think it is confusing and extreme. They back up those claims with scare tactics that have little to no basis in reality. What Prop 3 does is allow women to have complete bodily autonomy. It is unfathomable that in 2022, granting one group of human beings the right to full personhood is an issue determined by voters, politicians, anyone but that person themselves. If passed, a woman, who for any reason does not want to give birth to a child, could terminate that pregnancy safely and legally rather than at the risk of death.

A later-term abortion is always a tragedy, an

it be to enter the job force, go to trade school, or pursue higher education. She would serve as much needed direct representation for families who live south of the river and attend Alto Elementary.

For all these reasons, I think Jennifer Dougherty would be a tremendous asset for all our students and teachers in Lowell Area Schools!

**Heather Gray
Vergennes Township**

indication that something has gone terribly wrong with that pregnancy. No woman carries a child to near-term, then simply decides she is not in the mood. This horrific claim insults the intelligence of every one of us.

We are, all of us, vulnerable to misinformation. We must not allow a well-funded group of fear mongers to deny the full right of personhood to any of our fellow human beings. Anything less is just cruel. To vote yes is to tell women that what they do with their own bodies is their business, and none of ours. Vote YES on Prop 3.

**Morgan Jarema
Vergennes Township**

To the Editor:

There are a few points that Cliff Yankovich left out of his editorial last week that need to be known. When you head to the polls in just under two weeks, you will be asked whether the Michigan Constitution should be amended to allow "reproductive freedom for all." This will appear on your ballot as Proposal 3.

Proposal 3 would not be passed as a law. You are actually voting to CHANGE the Constitution. Once we have done that – it is extremely difficult to revise or abolish.

Based on multiple legal evaluations, Proposal 3 would:

- Allow abortion up until birth
- Allow minors to pursue abortions and sterilization without parental notification or consent
- Exempt abortion

facilities from safety regulations

• Allow anyone to perform an abortion, even if they don't have a medical license

• Prohibit the state from prosecuting a person who injures or causes the death of a woman during an abortion

All of these sensible measures to regulate abortion would be abolished.

The ramifications of Proposal 3 are profoundly troubling. If it passes, Michigan will have one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world – similar to China and North Korea.

Is this what we want for our children and for Michigan's future?

Michigan women and children deserve better. We must reject this radical proposal by voting No on Proposal 3.

**Kathy Ormiston
Lowell**

Dear Editor:

I was an elementary teacher for 17 years and a secondary media specialist in Lowell and Forest Hills for over 20 years. I was disheartened to hear that a group of parents are trying to ban books in the Lowell school libraries. As a media specialist, I spent a good percentage of my time reading reviews and building appropriate collections for my students. The majority of these books, I also read, so I could recommend and share ideas with students and teachers.

I have always encouraged parents to participate in their child's reading choices and I believe any parent has the right to limit what their child is allowed to read. With online card catalogs and computerized circulation, this is easy to do for any student. What I don't believe is that any parent can make that decision for any other students.

Lowell is a public school with students representing many different ethnic groups and diverse backgrounds. Library collections need to represent all students. I wonder if those parents, who are promoting banning books, are also checking the digital content their children are consuming daily.

Lowell has formal challenge policies that parents can use to challenge titles they believe are inappropriate. Parent objections and concerns should follow these policies. Social media platforms should not be used.

My goal, as a media specialist, was to promote reading. Reading is a lifelong skill that opens up opportunities for everyone. Reading is how we learn about other people, new ideas and understanding the world we live in. It is the foundation of all learning and growth.

**Sandy Vanstee
Lowell**

JOIN NOW

the Y LITEHOUSE FAMILY YMCA

THE NEW LITEHOUSE FAMILY YMCA
FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Expanded fitness center
- Group Fitness classes
- KidZone drop-in child care
- Special program rates
- And more!

THREE EASY WAYS TO JOIN:

VISIT
your nearest YMCA

ONLINE
at grymca.org

CALL
616.855.9622

NEED IT PRINTED?

FROM SIGNS & BANNERS to BUSINESS CARDS & BOOKLETS and everything in between!!!

CONTACT
Lowell
Litho & Printing

616.897.9261
FOR INFORMATION OR AN ESTIMATE!

LOWELL LITHO
Your Hometown Printer

Find Out What The Buzz Is All About with a subscription to the lowell ledger

Call to start your subscription 897-9261

DIFS and DHHS warns older Adults to protect themselves against Medicare scams

The Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Michigan Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) are warning older adults in Michigan to protect themselves from scams and high-pressure sales tactics during the 2022 annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, which runs from October 15 to December 7.

“Every year, Michiganders are targeted by criminals who try to take advantage of them and steal their money or personal information during the Medicare open enrollment period,” said DIFS Director Anita Fox. “It is important that Medicare participants protect themselves by not giving out personal information, including their Medicare or Social Security Number, to anyone who tries to solicit their business over the phone, online, or at their front door.”

“We want to make sure that Medicare participants get access to the health care coverage they need without being taken advantage of by scammers,” said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. “It is important to remain vigilant to protect your personal information and identity.”

“Don’t become the next victim of a Medicare scam,” said MMAP Executive Director Jennifer Page. “MMAP’s certified counselors are just a phone call away and will give you expert advice on choosing the best Medicare plan to meet your health care needs or help you identify and avoid Medicare scams and deceptive sales tactics.”

DIFS, DHHS, and MMAP have some important tips for older Michiganders to protect themselves during this Medicare Open

Enrollment period: Never give your Medicare number or other personal information to callers or visitors saying they are from Medicare. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will never call or send someone to your home to ask for personal information or check your Medicare number. Agents cannot state that they are from Medicare, are approved, endorsed, or authorized by Medicare, call on behalf of Medicare, or say that Medicare or any state or federal agency asked them to call or see you.

You can get information on Medicare plans without providing an ID number. The only time you must use your Medicare ID number is when you enroll in a plan.

Do not rely on caller ID. Scammers can use technology to make it look like they are calling from a legitimate business or government agency.

Ignore anyone who contacts you saying you must join their prescription drug plan or you will lose your Medicare coverage. You may have to pay a penalty if you delay enrolling in the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan but that coverage is voluntary.

Don’t trust mailers that appear to be government communications. These may be advertisements for private companies that may have a disclaimer buried in small print.

Remember that Medicare Agents/Brokers selling Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D plans are not allowed to do certain things, including:

Make unsolicited calls, send unsolicited text messages, or leave voicemail messages.

Approach you or market to you without you giving permission first. They cannot go door to door,

leave materials on your doorstep, or approach you in a public place, like a park or supermarket.

If you have questions or concerns about your Medicare coverage, DIFS and MDHHS urge you to contact Medicare directly at Medicare.gov or by calling 800-633-4227. If you or a loved one have experienced this type of scam or a high-pressure sales tactic, contact DIFS at Michigan.gov/DIFSComplaints or by calling 877-999-6442 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to file a complaint.

Helping seniors navigate the complexities of open enrollment and avoid Medicare scams is the mission of the Michigan Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP), a free and confidential public service that offers a statewide network of more than 700 trained and certified Medicare counselors. MMAP is funded by the state and federal governments and is not affiliated with any insurance company. You can reach a MMAP counselor by calling 1-800-803-7174 or visiting mmapinc.org. Information related to scams identified by MMAP can be accessed here: <https://mmapinc.org/medicare-scams/>.

school needs to emphasize basic workplace skills that are needed in all types of careers. Administration has in the past and should continue to have dialogue with local and regional business leaders about the skills and knowledge they expect from Lowell graduates. For some careers, we have an excellent college prep curriculum which prepares students for higher levels of work. Additionally, we have many excellent programs available through Kent Career Technical Center. These programs need to be recognized as equal or sometimes preferable career paths for our students.

What mental health supports, services and classes do you think are needed at Lowell Area Schools? What will you do as a school board member to support student and staff mental and emotional health/well-being?

As stated above, it cannot be overlooked that the most important factor to creating a safe school is to have strong positive relationships among all those in the school—students and adults. Additional help, awareness, and training about mental health, bullying, and safe environments help everyone to be more aware of what is going on in the school and to help all students have a successful educational experience.

Lowell has been on the forefront in the region

for implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). These protocols at every school are designed to get students the correct level of support needed. As a board member, I have always supported additional social workers, counselors, behavior interventionists, and community counseling partnerships that have given students the supports they need.

What should be our school district’s top spending priorities? Alternatively, if school funding is reduced, what programs/budget items should be less prioritized?

The most important fact to recognize is that schools are people organizations. Over 80% of a district’s budget pays the salaries of the employees—teachers, administrators, aides, secretaries, custodians, and bus drivers who teach and take care of our students every day. This points to

the importance of hiring and retaining high-quality employees. Then, the next priority with funds is to give those employees and our students the tools they need to do their jobs well.

Over my years on the Board, I have been through times where we had extra money to expand programs and times where we had to make major cuts due to declines in state funding. The Board first of all needs to carefully monitor the budget and maintain a healthy fund balance when possible so we can weather the storms. When cuts do have to be made, the first rule is always to make cuts away from the actual classroom teaching and learning. In the past that has meant not replacing administrators and working with a leaner administrative staff. It has meant putting off discretionary purchases such as new busses, new books and computers, or certain school improvements. It also means finding other sources for revenue or cost-sharing, such as grants and community partnerships.

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER Job Posting

UTILITY SERVICES SPECIALIST

Miss Dig Coordinator/ Operations Assistant

Job type: Full-time position (IBEW position)

Pay range: LL&P/ IBEW Union Contract (TBD)

Location: Onsite

Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) is a local municipal utility whose purpose is to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity and energy services in a culture of efficiency, compliance, and sustainability. LL&P is a community focused organization, dedicated to serving our customers. LL&P offers a generous compensation package, which includes competitive pay and great benefits.

Job Description

Under the direction of the Transmission/ Distribution Manager, oversee and coordinate all LL&P Miss Dig requirements including performing utility marking requests, respond to online reporting requirements, and coordinate all Miss Dig requests for LL&P performed work. Provide assistance with various tasks associated with the ongoing operation of an electric distribution system, as directed by the Transmission/ Distribution Manager. This position also supports the administrative staff through meter reads, hanging disconnect tags, and the disconnect process. Administrative support will also include basic office duties. LL&P is seeking a candidate with utility locate experience for an electric utility or utility locating company as a preference, but not required. An applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent and must possess a valid Class D Driver’s License and legally be allowed to drive in Michigan.

A full job description can be found at <https://www.lowell-light.org>.

Interested applicants should complete our application form on our website lowell-light.org and email along with resume to customerservice@lowell-light.org or send to Lowell Light & Power, PO Box 229, Lowell, MI 49331, no later than November 16th, 2022.



For information on Lowell and Light including more information on employee benefits and our company culture, visit our website at <https://www.lowell-light.org/>. Lowell and Light & Power is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.



HELP WANTED Part-Time Newspaper Reporter

The Lowell Ledger is looking for a news/feature reporter with strong writing skills and can meet a deadline.

This is a stringer position - paid by the story

Please send writing samples and brief resume to:

The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331

email:

ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com



Looking Back continued

Lowell City Council has three seats to fill. Voters will choose between Incumbents Jeanne Shores, Jim Hodges and Don Green, and challenger Mike Blough.

With Friday night’s convincing 23-7 win over East Grand Rapids, Lowell shares in its first OK White conference football championship. The Arrows last share in a conference title with Belding, Lakewood and Sparta as a member of the Tri-River conference in 1979.

Kevin Rude, of Sundry Development, attained final approval from Vergennes Township for his 25-home Valley Wood condo site on Grindle Drive.

Work to restore Lowell Light and Power’s electrical system, to the condition that it was in prior to the Aug. 19 fire, will leave most customers without power for approximately four hours on Sunday.

Liu, continued

ability to take a test in as much as they are evaluating achievement, and they are generally not effective at considering other mitigating factors that could impact achievement in a student's educational journey. While an important tool, I believe the results from standardized tests should simply be a part of the overall holistic approach and evaluation of the education of our students.

As a result, I believe the district should be looking at other areas of growth, including mental and emotional regulation and well-being, classroom participation and overall engagement with the curriculum, and preparedness for the everyday challenges of life in general. Academic achievement ensures baseline knowledge, but consideration of these other areas helps us see our students as future contributing members of society that can live and grow independently. As a BOE member, I would want to see the district considering all these factors when looking at the overall success in the district's ability to completely educate our students. As a whole, our education needs to remain practical, and addressing all of these factors can help us achieve that goal.

How do you think Lowell Area Schools could make schools a safer place for students and staff?

As a part of the district's mission and vision, I believe LAS should strive to create a safe and welcoming environment when any person walks into our schools. In terms of physical safety, I believe the district should have a safety plan that can be delivered consistently across all settings in our district. The policies and procedures that area developed as a part of that plan should have a proven track record for success; this may include consulting with experts while also evaluating these policies and procedures regularly to see where vulnerability may exist. Our goal in terms of physical safety should also be based on proactive changes rather than reactive practice. Studies of horrifically violent events in schools across the country over the years have shown that warning signs existed; awareness of these warning signs and providing support when required, will prevent tragedy from occurring.

Beyond physical safety, I believe the district is charged with creating a culture and environment that is free from discrimination of all kinds. Our students should be focused on learning in the classroom, and growing as a community, rather than a fear of bullying or isolation that has, unfortunately, existed in our schools for as long as they have been in existence. I believe LAS should find ways to celebrate the uniqueness that each individual brings to the school community, and teach through the difficult situations when they may occur. I believe that denying the existence of discrimination in our schools could lead to long-term emotional and mental damage to both offenders and victims. Creating safe spaces to learn and grow is about addressing these difficult situations head on, rather than leaving them for our young people to cope with in the future.

Finally, LAS should look for ways to support the emotional and mental well-being of our students. In the same way adults can experience burnout, our students have the same risk. In addition, our students are changing and developing each day; by raising awareness and addressing mental and emotional well-being from the start of our students educational journey, we can help our students ultimately grow into the unique individual they will become.

Addressing all of these areas will help our district and BOE achieve its own stated policy, that LAS will strive to create an environment in our classrooms and schools that is welcoming and values each person that walks through the door.

As the district continues to grow more diverse, how can it best meet the needs of all students?

Embracing diversity is important to me, personally, in so many ways. Growing up in the district as one of only a handful of students with a background that differed than most (I identify as an Asian American), I felt that I encountered situations that were unique to my experience. While my experience as a student of LAS was overall a positive one, I have heard stories from other students and families that were not quite the same. In my work as a pharmacist serving patients in underserved communities, I find more and more value in the diversity of experiences that I see and interact. Our

world is becoming more integrated and diverse each day, and I believe it should be a part of our mission to celebrate diversity when preparing our students to be the leaders of tomorrow.

I believe that exposure to a diversity of backgrounds, viewpoints, and perspectives will help our students develop tolerance and the tools necessary to work with all kinds of people in the future. This exposure should focus on how each member of society has a role in its growth and development and how we can support each other in these roles. This exposure can also help our students understand the challenges that various groups may face to find the same level of achievement as themselves. Ultimately, I believe that creating an environment of tolerance and embraces diversity, helps us value the uniqueness of each person, and helps each person develop who they are as an individual in a more positive and holistic way.

Despite my strong feelings, I do not believe that we can achieve an environment of tolerance by being strictly punitive when negative behavior is shown. I believe that the district should develop policies and procedures that teach through the difficulties we face in building an understanding of the diversity that surrounds us. I believe we should promote healthy conflict resolution, rather than simply separating opposing viewpoints. In the end, I believe that celebrating diversity helps the district achieve its overall mission and vision of building our leaders of tomorrow.

What programs will you work to build and/or expand that support career readiness?

As a graduate of LAS in 2010, I felt pressure to pursue a path of higher education at a traditional 4-year university. While this path was eventually the one that I followed, I do not believe it is the appropriate path for all students. I believe the district should be doing its best to promote as many post-graduate paths as possible; this can include traditional higher education at post-secondary institutions but should also include education at community colleges, trade schools, and paths to entrepreneurship. LAS has a partnership with some programs such as KCTC that help us achieve this vision. As a BOE member, I would want the district to look at the experiences of our older students to see how we are helping them discern a path forward for

themselves. In addition, I hope the district is able to help students understand the significant financial and time investment, as it pertains to traditional higher education, in an effort to prevent students ending up in a situation that can be difficult to reconcile for many years into their future.

Beyond exploring options for after graduation, I believe LAS should provide courses that offer basic competency in life skills that will be relevant regardless of the post-graduate path. Sections of our curriculum dedicated to basic personal finance competencies, overall health and well-being, and other areas that may evolve with time, will help our students find success in wherever life may take them. In the end, I hope to encourage our district to find ways to celebrate all paths that lead to growth and development following graduation; the potential paths forward are as unique, as our students, and no student, should feel like they are not making the right decision if they feel it is the best decision for themselves.

What mental health supports, services and classes do you think are needed at Lowell Area Schools? What will you do as a school board member to support student and staff mental and emotional health/well-being?

As I spoke to previously, I believe addressing mental and emotional health and well-being is a key part of preparing our students for the future. Personally, I have experienced the disengagement and disenfranchisement that comes when working in environments that did not provide these types of supports; without support in these areas, my performance began to diminish and I felt an overall loss in motivation to continue to move forward. On the contrary, when working in an environment that places value in addressing mental and emotional health, the opposite occurred. While I learned the tools necessary to support myself through these experiences, I believe LAS can actively help our students develop these tools that will help them later in life.

I believe that addressing these vital areas should take place throughout a student's educational journey, starting with our youngest learners and extending to those students that are nearing graduation. Programs are currently available that help with this process, and, as a BOE member, I would want

district leaders to consider how these programs can help LAS students. In addition, I would want to see the district partnering with other professionals with experience in these areas to ensure that methods are being delivered consistently across the district. Training for our educators and administrators should focus on 2 areas. First, they should be focused on creating an environment that fosters growth and development in social and emotional well-being. Secondly, they should be able to identify when students may need additional support beyond their expertise and training. I believe it would be inappropriate for educators and administrators to handle some of the complex problems that can come from addressing these areas of development.

In response, I believe the district should find ways to bring other experts to the school environment to help with challenges as they arise. Social workers, counselors, and other interventionist can help our students address their challenges where they feel safe and without being removed from the school environment. With that being said, I believe the district needs to have clear and specific policies in how families are integrated into this process. No interventions should take place without the consent and understanding of a student's caregivers. Any interventions that take place need to be a partnership between these experts and families since the work in developing social and emotional well-being continues at home.

The employees at LAS should also be offered similar support services through an independent organization that will help our staff with their needs without the fear for reprisal. Administrators and other district leaders should strive to create environments that allow for open lines of communication that can help identify and address problems on both an individual and systemic level when necessary. If our staff do not have the necessary support, it will create additional obstacles that will ultimately negatively impact the experiences of the students.

In the end, the BOE and district leaders need to listen to all participants in each student's development including the student, families and caregivers, educators and support staff, and other experts when finding ways forward. Social and emotional health and well-being needs to be a

focus for the district moving forward.

What should be our school district's top spending priorities? Alternatively, if school funding is reduced, what programs/budget items should be less prioritized?

I believe that spending priorities should align with the district's main vision and mission to deliver an educational experience that will help LAS build the leaders for tomorrow. With that in mind, LAS should focus its spending priorities on offering a wide variety of academic programs and resources that, not only offer the best educational opportunities, but also promote equity in the our classrooms and schools. We should be prioritizing programs that will have the greatest lifelong impact on our students and have a proven track record for success. After addressing priorities that focus on the academic experiences of our students, the next priority should be services that support each student's chances for success. These services should include meeting a student's basic needs in addition to providing additional supports for their academic achievement. These support services should be flexible and evaluated on a regular interval to ensure we are continuing to meet the needs of as many students as possible. Finally, staff well-being and retention should remain high on the list. Our educators are key to the district's success, so we need to be giving them the support necessary to be able to commit to our students and community over the course of their career.

In the event that changes in our funding do not allow us to provide the same level of service we have seen previously, I believe the BOE and district leaders should use a practical and methodical approach to making cuts. The district should look at which programs and services are helping us best meet our vision and mission and prioritize those initiatives. Our goal should be to support as many students as possible in achieving their academic goals. While programs may need to be cut all together, I believe it is a part of the BOE and district's responsibility to attempt to maintain as many programs and services as possible. As a BOE member, I would do my best to find creative solutions to these problems, whether that is finding ways to best utilize the resources that are available or seeking out new resources that help us maintain and grow into the future.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

PRODUCE AISLE WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| PRODUCE AISLE WORD SEARCH | CABBAGE | GARLIC | POTATOES |
| ARTICHOKE | CARROTS | LEEEKS | PUMPKIN |
| ASPARAGUS | CAULIFLOWER | LETTUCE | SHALLOTS |
| BEETS | CELERY | ONIONS | SQUASH |
| BRUSSELS SPROUTS | CHARD | PARSNIPS | TOMATOES |
| | CORN | PEAS | TURNIPS |
| | EGGPLANT | PEPPERS | ZUCCHINI |

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on October 24, 1989. My first on-screen credit came in 2009. I had a recurring role on "Switched at Birth," but made an impression as a superhero of sorts on a Netflix series about kids with powers.

Answer: David Castañeda

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to vegetarianism.

E G M E U L

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

Answer: Legume

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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unhappy Clairvoyance One who works under you What happens there stays there Not ingested Got the picture One thousandth of a gram Breakfast item About Tall deciduous trees Safe keeping receipt Cowardly Pueblo people of New Mexico Herring-like fish A very large body of water Angle (abbr.) Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation White clerical vestment Cool! Matchstick games Thick piece of something A state that precedes vomiting Burned item residue Jaguarundi Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord) The home of "60 Minutes" | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dorm official Give cards incorrectly One who is learning the job Popular R.L. Stevenson novel Attentively CNN's founder Criticize <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fijian capital Assist Elected lord in Venice The capacity of a physical system to do work People of the wild Parent-teacher groups Midway between south and southeast Moved quickly on foot Handheld Nintendo console "Top of the Stairs" playwright Electronic data processing director Leaned About aviation Mountain is a popular type Lake along Zambia and | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Congo border Heroic tales Soviet Socialist Republic "Star Trek" villain Hand gesture popular on social media Renters have one Tubular steel column Database management system Similar Providing no shelter or sustenance Death What a sheep did Midcentury Asian battleground Horizontal passage into a mine Mortified Improper word No seats available Financial obligation It can be hot or iced Tough outer skin of a fruit ___ Spumante (Italian wine) Misfortunes Negative Camper |
|--|---|---|

NO MORE NONSENSE! VOTE RED NOVEMBER!

Tudor Dixon's Five Point Plan for EDUCATION



1 Distribute Tutoring Certificates

Fund 25 hours of one-on-one or small group tutoring in reading and math for every student in Michigan using some of the federal relief money for schools to help students catch up.

2 Preserve Parents' Rights

Require school districts to put all curriculum and teaching materials online for parents to see and ban school personnel from talking to Kindergarten to Third Grade students about sex and gender theory secretly behind their parents' backs.

3 Protect Girls Sports

Protect young girls from being forced to compete against biological boys in school sports by banning born boys from playing on girls' teams in school-sanctioned, gender-specific sports.

4 Improve Civic & Financial Literacy

Enact substantial civic and financial literacy requirements for grade school. Develop a civics curriculum that focuses on America's founding principles, the United States Constitution, and the roles and responsibilities of government as envisioned by America's founding fathers.

5 Create Education Savings Accounts

Empower parents to decide which education environment is best for their child. Allow families to use the state's per-pupil funding amount on public, private, charter, virtual, or homeschooling options.

THIS WAS MADE BY A VOLUNTEER & NO FUNDS WERE USED.

VOTE NO ON ALL 3 NOV. 8!

All 3 proposals are amendments to the MI Constitution (permanent changes)

Prop. 3 Reproductive Freedom for All

Would make Michigan the most pro-abortion state in the country

- Allows abortion up to birth, including partial-birth abortion and the termination of babies that survive abortions
- Allows minor children to obtain abortions, sterilization, puberty blockers, & sex change surgery without parental knowledge or consent
- Eliminates screenings of woman coerced into abortion
- Removes health and safety requirements of abortion facilities

NO

Prop. 2 Promote the Vote

Would make us highly vulnerable to voter fraud

- Allows nine days of early in-person voting - less oversight
- More absentee ballots/drop boxes - less oversight, higher expense
- No state ID required to vote - potential for non-citizens to vote
- Allows public sources/charities to fund elections - potential for financial manipulation (Zuckerbucks)
- Establishes post-election audits can ONLY be conducted by state/local officials; denies citizens access to election records - potentially making it a crime to ask questions about election accuracy

NO

Prop. 1 Voters for Transparency and Term Limits

Would actually double how long Representative can serve

- Reduces max. length a lawmaker can serve from 14 years to 12 years, but would allow them to serve the full 12 years in one chamber! Since the Senate only has 38 seats and the House 110, currently most House Reps never make it to the Senate. Therefore, it actually doubles a State Rep's ability to serve from 6 years to 12 years and Senator's from 8 years to 12 years

NO

Taking the Arrows for your Children!

BLOUGH - GERMAN - HOFF

for

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education



Family. Leadership. Education.