

Crowds gather for the Annual Santa Parade



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Area Birthdays

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Santa Parade Pictures



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Lowell Area Schools Sports



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The crowd along Main Street Saturday evening for the Annual Santa Parade. More photos on pages 6 and 7. Photo courtesy of Ryan Heffron.

81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor

This December 7, 2022, many will gather at Pearl Harbor National Memorial for the 81st anniversary of the world changing event known as Pearl Harbor Day, or as President Franklin D. Roosevelt said in his December 8, 1941 speech declaring war on Japan, “a date which will live in infamy”.

Early on Wednesday morning, December 7, 2022, many will gather at Pearl Harbor National Memorial for the 81st anniversary of the world changing event known as Pearl Harbor Day, or as President Franklin D. Roosevelt said in his December 8, 1941 speech declaring war on Japan, “a date which will live in infamy”.



USS Arizona



USS Shaw

blow to the Navy’s fleet at Pearl Harbor. reflect the theme of this year’s Commemoration: Everlasting Legacy.

The mostly young Americans who died that day, along with those who served in uniform during World War II or on the home front war effort, are collectively known as the Greatest Generation. Their sacrifices

50¢



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Winter energy growing demand and prices; financial help available

Michigan energy customers have options to help with higher energy costs – and a new web page to make it easier to find – amid energy market volatility that the Michigan Public Service Commission’s 2022-2023 Winter Energy Appraisal finds is driving higher prices, amid increasing demand across energy sectors.

Demand for natural gas is expected to continue to rise, while residential electricity demand stays essentially flat, amid continuing high costs. Michiganders struggling with home energy costs have options for help, and a new MPSC energy assistance web page makes it easier for folks to find assistance.

The MPSC’s web page, www.michigan.gov/mpsc/gethelp, brings together, in one place, information and links to state and utility company programs that offer energy bill assistance to income-qualified households, including State Emergency Relief, the Michigan Energy Assistance Program, and the annual Home Heating Credit.

The web page includes links to contact info for all of the natural gas and electric utilities whose rates are regulated by the MPSC; many utilities offer payment programs, including those that help spread seasonal higher costs year-round. The

page also has information on home weatherization and other ways to help lower energy use.

Anyone needing help is encouraged to reach out to their utility, or contact Michigan 211 by calling 211, or going to www.mi211.org. Michigan 211 is a free, confidential service that connects Michiganders with a broad range of assistance programs and services and other resources, including help with food, housing, transportation and home energy bills.

Major findings of MPSC’s annual winter energy outlook, released today, include:

- Natural gas consumption for all sectors is forecast to rise 13.8% in 2022, led by increased demand in the residential and electric power generation sectors. Residential demand is expected to increase 13%.

- Residential propane prices, starting in October, averaged \$2.47 per gallon, an increase of 8 cents, or 3.3%, compared to last year.

- No. 2 heating oil prices started the 2022-23 heating season at \$4.40 per gallon, an increase of \$1.29 per gallon, or 41%, higher than last year.

- Demand for electricity is expected to rise 1.5% in 2022, with the largest growth in the industrial sector at 4.8%. Commercial demand

is expected to grow 0.9%, while residential demand is projected to essentially stay flat, at a 0.3% marginal decline. Residential electric rates edged up 2.3% year-over-year, as of October.

- Midwest prices for gasoline are expected to average \$3.89 per gallon in 2022 and \$3.46 in 2023.

Here is the outlook by category of fuel:

NATURAL GAS

Demand: Total natural gas sales are expected to rise 13.8% in 2022 to 991.4 billion cubic feet (Bcf), assuming normal winter weather. Power generation, expected to increase 19.6% in 2022, makes up for a large part of the growth, reflecting increased industrial demand for electricity. Residential use of natural gas, which fuels 77% of Michigan’s home heating, is estimated to grow 13%.

Supply: Michigan gas storage levels — the state has 10% of the nation’s available underground storage capacity — are expected to be 448 Bcf to end 2022, a decrease of 9.5% year over year. U.S. inventories were 3,580 Bcf, as of Nov. 4, 1% lower than in 2021.

Cost: The U.S. Energy

Information Administration forecasted residential natural gas prices for the Midwest this coming winter are noticeably higher than the year before at \$13.22/Mcf, a 29% increase.

PROPANE

Demand: Propane is used for home heating by 8% of Michigan households. Current federal weather forecasts call for slightly below normal temperatures this winter heating season, and weather is the chief determinant of demand.

Supply: U.S. propane production remains strong. U.S. inventories are at 85.5 million barrels, 19% higher year-over-year. Midwest inventories were 7% lower than the five-year average.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasted residential propane prices for the Midwest this coming winter are projected to average \$2.32 per gallon.

ELECTRICITY

Demand: Michigan’s total electric sales for 2022 are projected to rise 1.5% to 100.89 terawatt-hours (TWh), compared to 99.4 TWh in 2021. Sales are expected to rise in all sectors except residential, which is

expected to decline 0.3%, barring abnormal weather.

Supply: No supply shortages or transmission constraints are expected.

Prices: Year-over-year, changes vary significantly by utility. DTE Electric Co.’s prices were 2% higher in 2022 than in 2021, and Consumers Energy’s prices declined 1.7% over the same period. Owing in part to lower population densities and constraints imposed on the local grid by surrounding electrical generation and transmission systems, portions of the central and western Upper Peninsula continue to pay the highest rates in the state.

MOTOR GASOLINE

Supply: As of November 4, the Midwest held 45 million barrels of gasoline inventories, 500 thousand barrels more than this same time last year. On a national level, gasoline inventories are 3.3 percent lower than last year and below the five-year range for this time of year.

Prices: A gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in Michigan on Nov. 15, 2022, averaged \$3.99, compared to \$3.40 the year before. Midwest retail regular grade gasoline prices are expected

to average \$3.89 per gal for 2022 and \$3.46 per gal in 2023.

DISTILLATE FUELS

Demand: Use of distillates for home heating continues to decline in Michigan, estimated now at 35,680 homes, compared to nearly 77,000 in 2010.

Supply: Midwest distillate stocks, as of Nov. 4, were at 24.5 million barrels, 4.6 million barrels lower year-over-year. National inventories were at 106 million barrels, 18 million barrels lower than in 2021.

Prices: On-highway diesel fuel is expected to average \$5.08 per gallon for 2022, \$1.79 per gallon higher than in 2021, and estimated to pull back to \$4.65 per gallon in 2023. AAA Michigan found the average diesel price in Michigan at \$5.54 per gallon on Nov. 15, 2022, \$2.00 higher than the year before. The average cost of heating oil was \$5.11 per gallon, as of Nov. 7, 2022, \$1.96 per gallon higher than the same time last year.

For information about the MPSC, visit www.michigan.gov/mpsc, sign up for its monthly newsletter or other listservs. Follow the Commission on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

Attorney fee cap increase

Social Security Administration Acting Commissioner, Kilolo Kijakazi, announced a change to the Attorney Fee Cap — the first in 13 years. The maximum dollar amount limit for fee agreements, approved under the Social Security Act, increased from \$6,000 to \$7,200.

Effective November 30, 2022, we may approve fee agreements up to the new dollar limit, provided that the agreements otherwise meet the statutory requirements.

If a fee agreement is not filed, a representative can submit a fee petition after completing work on your claim(s). We’ll

review the value of your representative’s services—and let you know the fee your representative is authorized to charge and collect.

For more information, please read our publication, Your Right to Representation, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10075.pdf.

Vonda Van Til is the

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



NOTICE
VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Vergennes Township is taking bids for Township Hall lawn care and the Township Cemeteries lawn care services to be performed 2023.

Bids should be received by Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 3 p.m. to be considered, with the contract to be awarded at the December 19, 2022, 7:00 pm meeting of the board.

More information can be found at <https://vergennestwp.org/public-notices/> or the township offices ~ 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331. Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9am to 3pm, and Thursdays 9am - noon. Phone number is 897-5671, or email clerk@vergennestwp.org.

Shantell Ford
 Vergennes Township Clerk

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Michigan to deepen Native American history in social studies standards



Generations of Native American children, across the country were taken from their homes, and brought to federally-funded boarding schools that banned their native languages, clothing and traditions.

Now, Michigan is ensuring public school students learn the history of abuse at those boarding schools that once tried to erase Indigenous culture. They'll also learn about the 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan, tribal governance, economies of early civilizations, the Trail of Tears, causes of the Mexican-American War, and more.

Lawmakers infused the 2022-23 school-aid budget with \$750,000 to update state social studies standards and add modules about Indigenous tribal history for students in grades 8 through 12.

Michigan is among a number of states, including Idaho, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, that are beginning to bolster their curriculums to include more lessons about Indigenous history that tribes say have been lacking.

The movement has grown stronger this year after the U.S. Department of the Interior reported that thousands of children died in the custody of Indian boarding schools that abused them, exploited their labor and took their families'

land. That report came after discovery of the remains of 215 children at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, Canada.

In Michigan, the new curriculum will shift away from historical attempts to erase Indigenous histories and perpetuate the invisibility of tribal communities in the public education system, said Jordan Shananaquet, Eniigaangidoong (Chairperson) of the Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments.

CMTED, which includes leaders of the education departments of the state's 12 federally recognized tribes, is partnering with the Michigan Department of Education to



Grounds of the Ojibwa Native American Museum in the city of St. Ignace. Michigan students in grades 8 through 12 will soon learn more about Native American history and culture. (ehrlif/Shutterstock.com)

develop the curriculum and prepare educators to teach it.

The standards will ensure middle and high school students learn about the history, culture and contributions of tribal nations, State Superintendent, Michael Rice said.

The Michigan Department of Education has been prioritizing Indigenous education by, for example, launching an Indigenous Education Initiative, highlighting the work of Indigenous educators, and offering professional development on teaching about First Peoples.

That's refreshing to April Lindala, a professor in Northern Michigan University's Center for Native American Studies, where she teaches a course on the history of Indian boarding schools.

Students are graduating from Michigan high schools knowing surprisingly little about Indigenous history, particularly the boarding schools, five of which were in Michigan, she said.

"There are some who know nothing at all, or what they do know is so limited that they don't understand the consequence of what was happening at the time or the intergenerational consequences of how that past affects communities today," Lindala said.

Schools across the country have been moving toward more complete versions of history. In some places, the shift has given rise to pushback from parents and others who argue that "woke" educators are indoctrinating students with anti-American attitudes by, for instance, teaching that racism was baked into the nation's founding documents, or that Christopher Columbus should be shunned as a colonizer rather than celebrated as a discoverer.

"We're just talking about what actually happened to people," said Shananaquet, of the tribal education group. "We have to sit with the not-so-great

aspects of our history and understand that because it influences the present, too. We're trying to teach the multitude of histories and stop painting a historical narrative that is only happy and good. That's not real."

Understanding history also helps people understand the present, she said.

Native Americans "are not trapped in amber," Shananaquet said. "We are living, breathing, evolving people. This is who we were, this is what happened to us, and this is who we are now. ... We are a thriving people who have our own culture, our own languages, our own histories that were tried to be destroyed, and we're still here."

Tracie Mauriello covers state education policy for Chalkbeat Detroit and Bridge Michigan. Reach her at tmauriello@chalkbeat.org.

Tour makes a stop at Swisslane Dairy in Alto



The 2022 Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo tour made various stops in Ionia and Kent Counties on Monday, December 5th. The lunch stop was at Swisslane Dairy in Alto, where Renee McCauley addressed the group explaining the Dairy Discovery program conducted at that location. In total over 100 persons traveling on two buses toured the Swisslane operation, visited the barns, and enjoyed lunch. The annual bus tour operates the day before the beginning of the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo held in Grand Rapids at the Devos Place December 6-8th this year.

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Why some people prefer being alone

Previously I wrote about how loneliness affects our overall wellbeing. It got me thinking about the differences between being alone and loneliness. This topic came up again when I saw an article saying that more Americans are choosing to be alone in their spare time. So, I thought it was a topic worth pursuing.

There are many reasons people may prefer to be alone. For this article, I'm focusing on those that prefer being alone by choice. Choosing to be alone is different from loneliness or having a mental health issue with isolation as a symptom. According to the APA, loneliness is feeling "discomfort or uneasiness from being or perceiving oneself to be alone or otherwise solitary." This shows that loneliness is not the same as choosing to

be alone. So, why do some people not just choose to be alone but also enjoy it?

Different opinions

When researching this topic, I went to several reputable websites from professionals offering information about this topic and found the following statements. It's said "loners":

- Are highly intelligent
- Are often happier
- Dislike people
- Are antisocial
- Have mental health issues
- Are introverts and prefer their own thoughts/company, versus being with others

The above statements are just the tip of the iceberg. I was surprised at how many negative stigmas were given as reasons

for people being "loners," with only a few sites citing positive ones. I then went to some chat sites related to this topic and this is what individuals stated as reasons for preferring to be alone:

- I enjoy my own company more than being around others
- You get more accomplished with less interference
- You don't have anyone telling you what to do
- I feel more peaceful and relaxed
- I prefer nature over people
- It's quiet and relaxing
- I'm introverted
- I have freedom to do what I want without having to compromise
- It's less drama
- Trust issues

•I feel socially awkward or I have social anxiety

•I don't know why, but people say there is something wrong with me or I probably have a mental illness

Similar to the "experts" opinions, several individuals on these threads felt there was something wrong with them for wanting to be alone. The bottom line is, there is nothing "wrong" with someone choosing to be alone and enjoying solitude.

The benefits of being alone

People are coming to realize the benefits of being alone. Being alone does not mean the person has a mental health issue or hates people. Spending time alone can be good for self-development/

growth, recharging, planning, reflection, getting in touch with feelings, problem-solving, relaxation, enjoying quiet time, enjoying hobbies, creativity, stress relief, focusing on difficult tasks, spirituality, etc..

Research findings show that those choosing to be alone for positive reasons like those above, are more likely to have greater self-acceptance and personal growth. So, while being alone has many benefits, we are wired to connect with others, which has positive effects on our well-being. It's important to keep social connections and not spend too much time alone, finding the right balance for you. Balance is especially important for those with children

and/or a significant other because sometimes your family needs to be a priority over you wanting solitude. If positive alone time begins to turn to isolation, avoidance, sadness, loneliness or your family starts feeling resentment because they feel you are spending too much time alone, etc., it's time to make some changes or reach out for help.

Work to create the life you want, and don't let anyone make you feel like there is something wrong with you for wanting to spend positive time alone. This article is not intended to provide advice, diagnose, or provide treatment. It is for informational purposes only. I hope everyone stays healthy!

outdoors

hunt Michigan

Dave Stegehuis

Ethical hunting is much more than harvesting a game animal. Preparation for the hunt involves careful planning and organizing gear. Sometimes advanced travel and accommodations

are necessary. If a hunter is unfamiliar with a particular species, research on the location, habitat, and habits of the animal is also part of the hunt.

Anyone eligible to hunt can get a license for a wild turkey in Michigan. It could take years, if ever, to draw an elk tag. It may take years of applying annually to gather enough preference points to improve your chances of drawing a tag for many species here and in other states.

At the turn of the last century, unregulated hunting and habitat destruction

caused the demise of several species. Deer and turkeys were hard to find anywhere in the country. Bison were almost wiped out on the plains. The last passenger pigeon on earth died in 1914 at a zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio. Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, an avid hunter, established wildlife reserves, as well as the national park system, and was joined by Aldo Leopold and others to aggressively conserve our wildlife and natural resources.

Hunters play a role in conserving wild game and non-game species alike. In 1937 congress passed the Pitman Roberson Wildlife Restoration Act, which calls for a tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition. Since the passage of the

act, 14 billion has gone back-to-state agencies to be used for conservation related programs. Private conservation organizations, usually established by hunters, generate funding and actively support conservation projects. Hunters aid wildlife managers by regulating wildlife populations.

Only about five percent of Michigan citizens actually hunt, but they are a significant factor in supporting wildlife and conserving our natural resources, which are enjoyed by all state residents and visitors. Our state offers a wide range of opportunities for those who wish to adopt the hunting lifestyle and contribute to the conservation of our natural resources.

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DECEMBER SCHEDULE
Steve Boughton, Francesco Takes Flight, Dec. 2
Janet Vormittag, Cat Women of West Michigan, Dec. 9
Herman Hunter, The Wizard's Stone, Dec. 16
Karen Tintori, The Daughters, Dec. 23
Carol Nickles, Thumbfire Desire, Dec. 30

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viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 9, 1897

The Catholic mission is well-attended at St. Mary's Church, and interest is shown. The evening services begin at 7 p.m. standard time, and consist of an instruction for twenty minutes on some doctrinal point, the recitation of the Rosary, after which the sermon of the evening is preached.

The Ledger commends the act of local officers in enforcing the liquor law; particularly that portion relating to the sale of liquor to habitual drunkards. There is not a man in Lowell who, at heart, wished to see children and women half-starved and shivering with cold because the husband and father spends his money for strong drink, to his own ruin and damnation.

Rockefeller, whose wealth is estimated at \$40,000,000, is suing a poor washerwoman - a widow at that - for a little bit of horse pasture; and still, there are people who claim to think that these cooperation-made and multi-millionaires have souls. If any of them ever get to Heaven, they will discover their mistake, perhaps.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 14, 1922

Quite a number, from this vicinity, enjoyed the country fair and also boxing match at the City hall Saturday evening.

Frances Converse is able to sit up and is slowly recovering from her recent accident, in which she sustained a badly fractured ankle.

Phil Dickson was arrested Saturday, charged with being drunk. He pled not guilty before Justice Andrews. Trial set for Dec. 19.

Word received Wednesday night from Blodgett hospital that Mrs. Morris Kalward is on the gain. A tumor was removed from her head.

Emerson Weiland, clerk at Look's drug store, was taken with acute appendicitis pains, while on duty at the store yesterday afternoon, to Blodgett hospital, where he was operated upon last night. He came through the operation very nicely.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 11, 1947

Plans for the first annual Santa Claus parade, to be staged Saturday, December 13 at 3 p.m., are complete and the event promises to hold plenty of fun for young and old.

Since rural highways have been named and numbers assigned to the houses, a great deal of

confusion has resulted in mail delivery on all rural routes in Kent County. Lowell, while not so much affected as Grand Rapids, has its troubles also. Such addresses for example, as 12,303 Cumberland Road or 51,306 Vergennes Road do not appear on rural carriers roster books and patrons of a rural route should not use these addresses. All patrons are informed that for mail delivery purposes their address is still R.F.D. No. 1, 2, or 3, as the case may be.

Mrs. Hattie Scott suffered a fall at her home on Main Street the fore part of last week, and on Wednesday, was taken to a convalescent home in Grand Rapids, where she will be pleased to see or receive cards from her friends.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life December 7, 1972

Two juvenile boys, masked with nylon stockings, entered the home of Mrs. Rose Roth Saturday evening, held her at knife point, and demanded all of her money. Shocked by their entry, the elder Mrs. Roth denied them any money and started to scream, scaring them away. An immediate search of the area by Lowell Police turned up the two juveniles, and both were taken to Juvenile Detention. The butcher knife, used in the robbery attempt, was also recovered.

Shoplifting in Lowell seems to be the most serious for the Super-markets, Frank's 5 and 10 and Lippert's Pharmacy.

A \$16,000 fire at the Dick Slagh residence, Sunday morning was quacking Brough under control by the volunteer units of the Alto Fire Department. Working on a motorcycle in his basement, Slagh said the fire started when the furnace kicked in, possibly causing a combustion. He suffered burns on one arm.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 10, 1997

The Lowell High School Class of 1998 may be breaking from tradition when the students take their ceremonious walk down the graduation aisle next spring. The students discussed and voted, 98-53, to move the graduation site to Red Arrow Stadium. Seniors were polled on whether or not they wanted to move the graduation ceremonies from the Lowell Showboat - which has been the site of graduation for the last 24 years.

Alto resident, Dick "Big Stick" Johnson, had a hole-in-one on the 17th hole at Tyler Creek Golf Course on Friday, Nov. 28. It was a par 3 hole at 195 yards. The shot was witnessed by Bob Reagan.

While Lowell Area Schools received some good news from the state about funding, it wasn't enough to prevent board members from approving cuts of \$233,500 to the 1997-98 budget.

to the editor

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

Dear Editor:

I continue to be disillusioned with our political system. On a positive note, I am encouraged with the minimal claims of fraud in the mid-term elections, yet saddened our society has fallen to the point of death threats against our elected officials for doing their jobs. Our Constitution and Political arena have served us well for generations, but there seems to be degeneration of why we elect public officials, and for what purpose. I have always believed they worked for us and were to be concentrating on looking at ways to help us, not their own self-serving purposes. It appears to me the main focus of the party in the majority is to see what kinds of inappropriate behavior can be found on the other party and commence a political investigation. Is that really what we elected them to do? Is it time to investigate alternatives to our present party system? I don't believe it is constitutional; it just evolved.

I do believe the former President has broken some laws and should be held accountable. I am saddened in the fact that I have been forced not to vote for a candidate and his/her positions, but merely vote for the lesser of two evils. I find myself concentrating less on their political positions (seems all I heard in mid-terms was bashing of their opponent, nothing concrete on what they were going to do for US) so I looked more at their morals, ethics, honesty, integrity and faith.

We, as a country, have many challenges before us and our elected officials appear to be more influenced by big money (and thus their potential for re-election) than concerns of the general populous. Certain of the areas I believe we, as country, need to face are: Immigration, cost of prescription drugs, cost of health care, gun control, climate

**Letters,
continued page 10**

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
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Deadline is noon on Mondays**

Santa Parade in pictures

All photos courtesy of Bruce Doll



Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR



Santa Parade in pictures



Thank you Bruce Doll for taking these photos and capturing the spirit of the parade!



At Your Local Library

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

Scrabble for Seniors

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

All Aboard Book Club

Thurs., Dec. 8, 10 am - 11 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang. For ages 18+

Gingerbread Lane

Saturday, December 10, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Stroll down Gingerbread Lane and enjoy gingerbread house decorating. Each child will make a simple gingerbread house. Gingerbread house materials are not for consumption. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins and you may save one seat for a friend. For ages 0-10

Ready for Reindeer

Saturday, December 17, 10 - 11 am. Traveling all the way from the North Pole (via Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farms), live reindeer will be visiting the library. Dress warmly and don't forget the camera! For all ages.

SnowFest Craft Time

Monday, December 19, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Celebrate the snowy season with winter-themed craft-making fun for the family. For all ages.

Countdown to Happy Noon Year

Saturday, December 31, 11:30 - 12:30 pm. We're giving kids an exciting way to ring in the new year with a countdown, noisemakers, crafts and fun -- at an hour that won't keep them up way past their bedtimes. For all ages.

So Many Reasons to Shop Local!

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 411 E. Main
Date Built: c. 1867
Built by: Frank T. King and Joseph Amphlett; remodeled by J. C. Hare & M. C. Barber (1883)
1st business: Joseph Amphlett's Carriage and Wagon Works

The address of this building was originally 403 E. Main Street. It was built between 1866 and 1869 by Frank T. King and Joseph Amphlett. In 1870, Amphlett was using it as a carriage and wagon works factory. From 1880-1882, Delos G. Henry, Carriage Painter, advertised that he was working here. J. C. Hare purchased the west-half for Lowell Marble Works in 1881. In July 1883, M. C. Barber was making preparations to dry fruit during harvest and was fitting the east-half of the building up for that purpose.

By 1883, it must have fallen into disrepair because the east side residents wanted to fix it up. They collected \$1200 to be given



Christiansen Ice Cream Company at 411 E. Main St., 1930s-early 40s. Christiansen offered bulk ice cream and meat sales, as well as Frozen food locker rentals, 1940s-50s. The two houses to the east were later removed in subsequent expansions of the building and parking lot.

to the owners, J. C. Hare and M. C. Barber, to put the hotel into shape. Loren W. Davis, from Muir, was hired to be the new landlord hotel-man.

The "Davis House" hotel opened on June 1, 1884. He operated it until 1895. Then with a succession of owners, it was called Brace Hotel (1899), Lowell House (1903), and Hotel Lowell (1910). The hotel prospered, as long as the railroad depot was a block away on South Washington St, but when the depot was moved to the west side of town in 1900, patronship dwindled and the hotel eventually closed.

In 1929, E.C. Foreman used the building for a poultry hatching facility; in 1930, John Heyboer sold eggs from here; and in 1931, it was Beigle's Motor Sales. New life was infused when, in 1936, William Christiansen bought the

building and installed an ice cream and paddlepop manufactory. The building was once three stories tall, but rather than fix the roof, Christiansen decided to remove the third floor. (His remodelers noted square cut iron nails and the absence of modern metal bracing in the building.) A neat store was made at the front, with new walls, new counters and plate glass in place of smaller windows. All of Chris's ice cream was made at this location. This store featured ice cream cones and package sales; his downtown location



From 1884 to about 1910, this building served as a hotel. William Christiansen removed the third floor rather than fix the roof after he purchased it in 1936.

ABCs continued page 10

area churches

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

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists
"Praying and studying together"
Saturday service begins at 10:30 AM
10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell
616-987-0567
www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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

St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 • www.fbcloowell.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**

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WORSHIP
Traditional Service: 9 am
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday

- DECEMBER 8**
Mike Cummings, Ellen Miller.
- DECEMBER 9**
Allen Metternick, Sara Triplett, Deb Schuitema, Alison Nugent, Ben Nugent, Noah VanLaan, Sharlene McClure.

- DECEMBER 12**
Brad Briggs, Matt Newhouse, Sally Hacker, Charlie Young, Margaret Milanowski
- DECEMBER 13**
Chrys Thaler, Jeff Bowne, Michelle Fyan.

- DECEMBER 10**
Bill Flugler, Barbara Decker.

- DECEMBER 14**
Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth, Perry Beachum.

- DECEMBER 11**
Dave Rhodes, Kathryn Zalewski, Amber Waldron, Mike Kline, Billie Fallstrom.



Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Girls basketball cruises over perennial powers

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

If the state of Michigan didn't have Lowell girls basketball on their radar, it's safe to say they do now. The Red Arrows beat defending state finalist Kent City 66-39, and then followed that up by rolling over defending state quarter finalist East Lansing 54-15 on Thursday to jump out to a 2-0 start.

"I was happy with the start this week, going 2-0 against two very good programs is a great start, but we're nowhere near where we want to be. We've got a tough Caledonia team at home this Thursday and then travel to Detroit to play Midland Dow on Saturday in The Best of Michigan Showcase. We'll work hard this week on getting better during practice and try to go 2-0 again this week," Lowell varsity girls basketball coach, Heath Kent, said of the week.

For those in the Lowell High School gym on Thursday night, as they

saw Lowell go up 25-1 on East Lansing in the season opening home girls basketball game, it's very possible they don't know who East Lansing is. The Trojans are a juggernaut. A state girls basketball power with banners that dwarf what hangs in the Lowell gym. Defending state quarter finalists with tradition that could rival any school in the state. If any team was to go up 25-1, surely it would be the Trojans? Not on this night.

Now, there are some caveats. East Lansing comes into the season with a new coach, lost five seniors from last year's team, and was down two players. With that in mind, these caveats don't change what happened on Thursday. The Red Arrows jumped out to a 25-1 lead, 35-4, and eventually 39-9 lead at halftime, before calling off the starters en route to a 54-15 win. It was an absolute clinic, by a team eager to prove themselves.

"We know in order to

achieve our goals of league and district championships this season that we need to be playing at a high level every game. Our kids are competitors, who love to compete, so the goal was to build a tough non-conference schedule that was going to be challenging. The MHSAA also allowed us to schedule two more games this season so we were able to go out and find some teams around the state, that we normally don't play who are very good. We were also invited to play in The Best of Michigan Showcase and the Motor City Roundball Classic, which are great events and help give our team and players some great exposure," added Coach Kent.

The Red Arrows had to fill-in the point-guard position following the loss of Emma Bruwer, who transferred to NorthPointe Christian for educational reasons this year. This year's team will be led in



Piper Risdon tries to corral a rebound against East Lansing last Thursday.

scoring by a trio of juniors; Taryn Jackson, Braxcynn Baker, and Piper Risdon. All three play for the Michigan Basketball Academy's UAA 2024 club team and spent the fall together on the volleyball team. Baker has already earned several Division 1 offers, and would be the first Lowell player to join the Division 1 ranks since Matt Beachler went to Central Michigan University. Joined by current starters Lexi Howell, an Alma basketball commit, and Hope Rummelt, Lowell has a team they believe can play with anybody in the state.

That's exactly the way they scheduled. Several big-name tournaments on the schedule, which pit Lowell against Midland Dow, East Kentwood, and Westwood Prep. Along with two battles with some D1 prospects against a school that wears

blue and yellow (that's East Grand Rapids) and the rest of the OK White, which as is usual across all Lowell sports, is primed to be one of the toughest conferences in the state. The Red Arrows have laid out a gauntlet of opposition to prepare themselves for what they hope will be the deepest playoff run they've had since the early 2000's.

When it comes to the biggest game on the schedule, take your pick. "I think just about any conference game will be big. Our conference is loaded with great teams this season, I believe we have four of the teams ranked in the top 10 in the area. Whoever wins our conference is going to have earned it because there are no easy wins on the schedule. We wouldn't want it any other way," Coach Kent said of the schedule.

Next up for the Red

Arrows is Caledonia at home on Thursday, who lost to Grand Ledge 43-42 to start their season. That game tips off at 7 pm at LHS.

"We have a couple new additions who will help us this season. Allison Munson, Gracyn Hamilton, and RJ Wagamon are sophomores who are up on the varsity this season. They all bring different skill sets to the table and will play a big part in our success this season. We also have senior Aubriegh Oswald back this year. She was on the varsity as a freshman, but suffered an injury that kept her out for a bit. She will play a big role for us this season as we progress; she's an excellent athlete that will allow us to be very flexible on offense this season," concluded Coach Kent.

Competitive cheer to host Senior Showcase on Friday

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

With just two events in the month of December, the Lowell competitive cheer team won't have much time in between them. The Red Arrows host a home showcase and travel to Middleville TK, in back-to-back days, this upcoming weekend.

The showcase is Lowell's lone home event during the season and will feature both the varsity and middle school competitive cheer teams at 6:30 on Friday, in the main gym at Lowell High School. The

event is free and allows friends, fans, and family of the teams to watch them perform, prior to varsity's competition at Middleville TK the next day.

The showcase will also be the program's senior night, due to not having another home event. This year's schedule features conference competitions, as well as visits to Wyoming, Middleville TK, Charlotte, and districts.

Following Saturday's invitational at Middleville TK, Lowell is off, competition-wise, until

January 11th, when they compete at Forest Hill Central.



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

IN THE MATTER OF: CARLOS GUTIERREZ, Guardianship File No. 22-212,405-GA.

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

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 17, 2023, at 9:00 AM at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180

Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Courtroom 9C in person and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: November 30, 2022

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 401-7113

VAN ESSEN and ASSOCIATES PLLC, Attys for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 109 E. Main St. Suite 11 Zeeland, MI 49464 Phone: (616) 633-0196

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

IN THE MATTER OF: JOHN LIEFFERS, Guardianship File No. 99-167,746-GA.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his daughter: Carrie Hilliard, unknown children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 31, 2023, at 9:00 AM at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180

Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Courtroom 9C in person and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: November 30, 2022

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin, NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 260-5649

VAN ESSEN and ASSOCIATES PLLC, Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 109 E. Main St. Suite 11, Zeeland, MI 49464 Phone: (616) 633-0196

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obituaries

SCHNEIDER

Dorothy (Chaterdon) Schneider passed away in Phoenix, Arizona on October 27, 2022. She passed quickly and peacefully, surrounded by her family. She was 92 years old. Dorothy was born in Lowell, Michigan on January 23, 1930, to Valda and Orpha Chaterdon. She is now reunited with her beloved husband Larry. Dorothy and Larry shared a love for the Lord and were active in their church throughout their lives. Dorothy is survived by her five children, Scott, Gail (Miller), Richard, Steven, and Mark. She is also survived by her sister, Phyllis Bieri. Dorothy had 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. There will be a memorial gathering to celebrate her life at 10 am on January 14, 2023 at Calvary Church of the Valley, 6107 N Invergordon Rd, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253.



BLOHM
Donald Lee Blohm, age 89 of Lowell, MI passed Saturday, December 3rd, 2022. Don was born at home on a family dairy farm near Seymour, WI to the parents of Herbert and Delores (Hurst) Blohm in a family of nine children. Preceding Don into the arms of God is his cherished wife of 49 years, Naomi Dorothea Petcoff, passed 2007; brother, LeRoy Blohm; sisters, Beverly Weber and Janice Wichman. He is survived by his siblings, Melvin Blohm, Lois Buelow, Carol Ganzel, David Blohm, Joanne Blohm. Don is also loved and survived by his three children, Craig Blohm, Kirk Blohm (Lisa Phillion), Dana Blohm (Schneider); and his three grandchildren, Mack, Ava, and Lydia Schneider. Born in 1932, Don graduated high school and enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Mining School and soon after enlisted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After an honorable discharge, Don married his high school sweet-heart Naomi and moved to Michigan. Don worked in the chemical engineering automotive industry through the years, restaurateur, and



salesman. He often enjoyed breakfast politics and friends at the local diner. Don lived a lifelong dream of building and designing his own home. He was an avid planter of fruit-bearing trees and bushes; admirer of flowers and a bird watching enthusiast. He is especially missed by his son, Kirk, who so selflessly and steadfastly enabled Don to live out his elder years in his home he built and compassionately walked with him every day and into his final days as Don desired. He will be ever remembered and honored for his homesteading spirit and gentle nature loving soul. Burial services will be handled by Roth-Gerst Funeral Home of Lowell, MI. Don will be ushered to rest beside his beloved wife Naomi at St. Patrick's Catholic Church Cemetery, 4351 Parnell Avenue NE Ada, MI 49301. In lieu of condolences or flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Patrick's Catholic Church who so faithfully care for the resting places of our loved ones. Any cards of sympathy or communications are asked to be sent to 11595 Finn Ave Lowell, MI 49331. Roth-Gerst



gerst
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Roth-Gerst

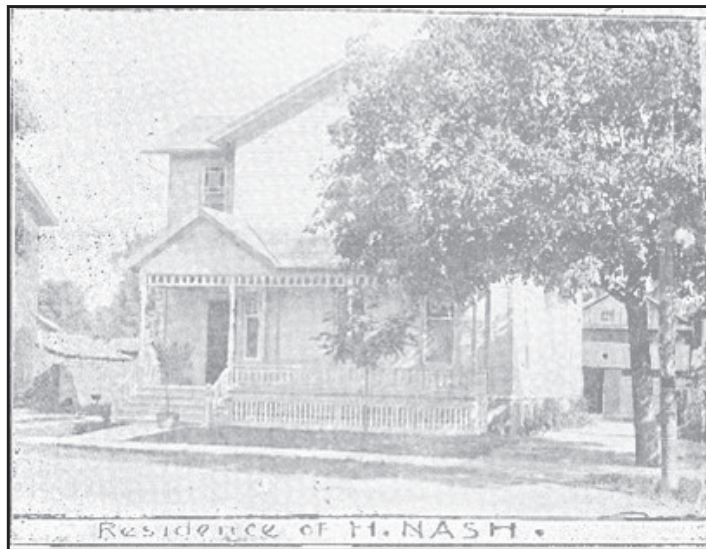
ABCs, continued

remained the soda fountain. From 1939 until the War years, he had a dairy bar here also. Later, he also had a meat market and frozen food lockers for people to rent and use, like we do our home freezers today.

In 1954, Christiansen added onto this building with a one-story addition, 413 E. Main, and opened Christiansen's Super Market, Lowell's first supermarket. In 1957, L. V. Eberhard purchased the Christiansen Super Market, locker department and ice cream business. (The building was rented to Eberhard.) This became Eberhard's eleventh location, and the first, outside of Grand Rapids. In 1968, when Eberhard built

a new store on the west side of Lowell, Mac Fonger's Super Save grocery store opened here. Lippert Pharmacies purchased the building and operated a pharmacy and gift shop here from 1973 until 1984, when it was sold to Rite Aid Pharmacy, 1984-1996. Canfield Plumbing & Heating has owned the building since 2003 and has operated an HVAC and plumbing service business from here with a fleet of blue trucks.

Today, the one-story addition is a separate address and has housed Dollar General since 2002.



Second house to the east was moved by Christiansen to 220 N. Jefferson so the Eberhard's parking lot, could be expanded in 1959. Photo taken of it in 1893, when it was the Hiram Nash residence.

Letters, continued

control, mental health, education, alternative energy, individuals and corporations pay their fair share of taxes to support the USA, and how to get the money out of politics. Wow, that's a big list. Here's a crazy thought: since we have a minimum age to serve as President, why not a maximum age? When was the last time Congress put aside party and just sat down, as civilized human beings, and logically discussed the problem and potential solutions? There are definitely some intelligent persons in Congress. Put the ideas of all on the table, develop a game plan, how to pay for it, and then the

"pro/con" list like I did when running a private company?

Please give these thoughts careful consideration when we go to the polls in 2024, or better yet, contact your representative NOW and request they start concentrating on what we hired them to do: work on our behalf, the people who pay their wages and benefits. If you are so inclined, add our elected officials', our country, and the world to your prayer list.

*Thanks for listening.
Ed Van Timmeren
Vergennes Township*

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE 22-
212427-DE
Court address: 180 Ottawa
NW, Grand Rapids, MI
49503; court phone no.
616-632-5440

Estate of DAVID A.
GORMAN, Deceased.
Date of birth: 1/17/1947

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, DAVID
A. GORMAN, died
10/29/2022. Creditors of
the decedent are notified

that all claims against
the estate will be forever
barred unless present to
Roxanne Dudicz, personal
representative, or to both
the probate court at 180
Ottawa Ave NW, Grand
Rapids, MI 49503 and the
personal representative
within 4 months after the
date of publication of this
notice.

November 30, 2022

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

Roxanne Dudicz
5088 Corporate Exchange
Blvd, Ste. 340
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
616-855-2858

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Liefers Family Trust
dated March 27, 2002

John Alden Liefers, Date
of Birth: August 11, 1940
Mary Ann Liefers, Date of
Birth: May 16, 1940

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS:

The decedents, John
Alden Liefers and Mary
Ann Liefers, whose
residence was 7542 Ashley
Ave., Belding, MI 48809,
died on October 30, 2006
and September 29, 2022,
respectively.

Creditors of the decedents
are notified that all claims
against the Trust will be
forever barred unless

presented to the Trustees
Mary Triesenberg and
Linda S. Loughlin within
four (4) months of the date
of the publication of this
Notice.

Notice is further given that
the Trust will be thereafter
assigned and distributed to
the persons entitled to
its assets.

Mary Triesenberg and
Linda S. Loughlin
2536 Elmwood Dr., SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Karen S. McFadden
P-57043
Attorney for Trustees
403 W. Main
Belding, MI 48809
616-794-1220

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classifieds

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KINGWOOD FURNACE - \$150; live edge Cherry log, cut 2" thick, \$300; Blue Spruce boughs for crafts, \$1 each. Call or text 616-617-0307.

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

for rent

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

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

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.^{TFN EOW}

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.

memorials

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April 24, 1910 -
December 5, 1999
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 Churchman
 Science Teacher
 (LHS 1945-74)
 Bob, Dave, Sue,
 Steve, Jerry

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

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

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

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

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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS**Wrestling prepares for season**By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Last year, as seniors left, it was freshman who quickly filled that void. Three of them made the individual state finals. When you're bringing in kids from Lowell Middle School wrestling, and a year later they're competing for individual state titles, it makes life a lot easier. That's just part of how Lowell continues to excel each year; as seniors graduate, new talented wrestlers enter the mix.

This year, Lowell wrestling looks to win their tenth consecutive title and conclude a decade of dominance in the MHSAA Division 2 field.

To kick off the year, the program hosted an intrasquad scrimmage, fit with scoreboards, announcing, and plenty of ranked wrestlers to entertain the crowd in a newly refurbished gymnasium at Cherry Creek Elementary, last Friday night.

Due to Michigan High School Athletic Association rules regarding coverage of practices and scrimmages, results are not made available, however, the night proved to be a great preview for fans.

Other preseason activities included the team's annual pie fundraiser, and a visit, during practice, from Olympic Gold Medalist Rulon Gardner, who took top of the podium at the 2000 Sydney Olympics representing Team USA.

The competitive season officially kicks off this Wednesday in a home assembly match against Brighton. Brighton is a perennial power in the state's Division 1 class, so the matchup will be a great first look at the Red Arrows from a competitive side. On Saturday, Lowell will send teams to Crown Point, Indiana and the Kent County Classic, respectively.



Ari McFarland gets a late takedown in Lowell's Intrasquad Scrimmage on Friday.

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to Santa

and your letter will be published in
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Or drop your letter off at our *santa door*
anytime at 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

Santa will reply if you include your name and address

DEAR SANTA