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LACC Annual Awards



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Artist of the Month



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Lowell Area Schools Sports



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Lowell Area Chamber appoints new executive director and office manager

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors has hired Shannon Kennedy as the new executive director and Jessica Marks as the new office manager. Marks assumed her position in November, while Kennedy's first day was January 17.

Kennedy's background has a proven track record in marketing, event management, fundraising and leadership roles. She has a Bachelor of Science in communications from Grand Valley State University. She comes to us from National Nail, where she assumed the role of CAMO brand marketing manager. Other work experiences include, director of national events with Bethany Christian Services and North America Marketing director of Hush Puppies, Div. of Wolverine Worldwide. She will bring experience, enthusiasm, leadership skills and a fresh perspective to the Chamber, taking it to the next level!

Kennedy, a local resident, also brings a high sense of community and pride for the Greater Lowell Area. She volunteers with the Lowell Youth Sports Foundation, Caribbean Children's Foundation, and hosts the Diane Bennett Golf Cart Classic, an annual charity fundraiser in memory of her mom. She is married to Rob Kennedy, and they have two sons, Kamden and Braven. She enjoys reading, family movie night, and attending live sporting events, especially football and baseball. She will be working alongside Liz Baker, retiring executive director, until April 1.

Jessica Marks comes to the chamber with over 20 years of experience in bookkeeping for organizations she has volunteered for, and 10 years of management skills for Kent County Youth Agricultural Association, a medium-sized local non-profit. Marks held the positions of manager and office manager. She was also a media center assistant with Lowell Area Schools earlier on in her work career.

Marks has a Bachelor of Science in agriculture and business from Michigan State University. She is detail oriented; has proficient computer and customer service skills. Marks, who loves to volunteer, fits right into the part-time position, as it allows her flexibility to continue her involvement with other organizations and boards. She is the chair of the Lowell Area Fire Authority, assistant to the head coach of the Lowell High School clay target team, agricultural interest representative of the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board, and volunteers for the Newaygo County Agricultural Fair Association. A local resident, she is married to Roger, and they have two adult children, Tobias and Marilla. In her spare time, she raises birds, gardens, and enjoys genealogy. She is also an avid Michigan State fan. Marks replaces retired office manager, Catharina Bek.

Shannon Kennedy has been named the new executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. She replaces Liz Baker who will be retiring April 1.

Jessica Marks is the new office manager for the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. She replaces Catharina Bek who retired in Nov.



2022 Pink Arrow Pride funds distributed

Pink Arrow Pride announces the funds distributed from the 2022 annual event. The community support and sponsorships continue to show love for Pink Arrow and the mission served throughout the years.

Community Wellness continues, after 15 years serving families on a current cancer journey, with financial gifts from Pink Arrow Pride. The purpose of Pink Arrow Family Support is to provide a financial gift as a way to show support to those currently experiencing cancer. This gift is not based on financial need; it is simply a sign of support from the Lowell area community.

Because of Pink Arrow, Gilda's Club, of Lowell, continues to guide and provide support and uplifting counsel to all who walk through the door for cancer support and grief counseling from any loss.

Mental health professionals and programming support staff are on hand Tuesdays, in



Pictured left to right: Wendy Wigger, President, Gilda's Club; Teresa Beachum, Pink Arrow volunteer; Rosemary Treu-Earle, Pink Arrow volunteer; and Lindsay Jousma, Director of Program Operations, Gilda's Club.

Pink, continued
page 2

Pink, continued

Lowell. Together we learn to navigate a new normal by gathering and connecting with each other through experience, knowledge, and education.

This past year Gilda’s Club was able to return to in-person support, available directly at the Lowell Clubhouse. Virtual support groups will still be offered. Gilda’s Club’s motto of, “In This Together... Learn, Share, Laugh,” continue to expand this year as Supper Together and Member Social Events returned to build on community support for all who are impacted by cancer and/or grief due to any cause of death. Through the support of the community and Lowell Boosters, the Supper Together program provides a nurturing time for the members to share a meal together, prior to support groups on Tuesday evenings at the Lowell Clubhouse.

Additionally, Gilda’s Club Lowell has provided in-person support utilizing our master level professionals outside of the clubhouse. The Gilda’s Club youth staff have delivered the Tough Stuff Program to fifth grade students, and grief support with middle schoolers, throughout the Lowell School District. Developing healthy skills to face life’s inevitable challenges at this early

age will be an asset to our youth when facing the unexpected cancer diagnosis of a family member or friend, or walking through grief – be that, the death of a loved one or loss of another kind.

Pink Arrow 2022 Financial Distribution is as follows: Lowell Gilda’s Club, \$50,000; Lowell Community Wellness, \$44,000; Dr. Gerard and Kathy Talus Scholarships Education Grants total, \$7,000; Total, \$101,000.

Pink Arrow Pride accepts donations from individuals, families and companies, year around. If you would like to show your support for Pink Arrow Pride, please contact the business office at 616-897-7200, business email: pinkarrowpride09@gmail.com or April McClure at aprilfits207@gmail or Misty Anderson at mistyfits207@gmail.com. The 2022 Pink Arrow Perseverance stories can be found on the website: pinkarrowpride.org

If you or your organization would like to provide a meal at Gilda’s Club, on any given Tuesday evening, please contact them at 616-897-8600.

Save the date for the 2023 Pink Arrow Pride event - September 22, 2023.



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JANUARY SCHEDULE
Karen Tintori, Unto the Daughters, Jan. 2
Ingar Rudholm, Book marketing, Jan. 12
Andrew Smith, Michigan Reads, Jan. 20
Donna Neumann, I Want a Birthday Party, Jan. 20
Marion Volkman, Life Skills, Jan. 27
Leslie Cieplechowicz, Detroit Revealed, Jan. 27

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college news

Brianna Laux of Lowell has been named to the President’s List for Fall 2022 at University of the Cumberlands.

To be eligible for the President’s List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 4.0, receive an “A” grade in UC Engage, and be in good academic standing. (Note: All students who are named to the President’s List automatically make the Dean’s List, since the Dean’s List requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5; however, Cumberlands only lists students on either the Dean’s List or the President’s List, to avoid overlap.)

University of the Cumberlands is one of the largest and most affordable private universities in Kentucky. Located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, Cumberlands is an institution of regional distinction offering quality undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and online degree programs. Learn more at ucumberlands.edu.

Danielle Miron, from Alto, has been named to the Knox College Dean’s List of distinguished students for the 2022 Fall Term. To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must have earned at least 2.5 credits in the term, with a grade point average of 3.6 or better (on a 4.0 scale). Founded in 1837, Knox College is a national liberal arts college in Galesburg, Illinois. Knox enrolls students from nearly every state and more than 50 countries and is one of the Colleges That Change Lives. Knox’s “Old Main” is a National Historic Landmark and the only building remaining from the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Collier Kaufman, a native of Lowell, was recently initiated into the Grove City College Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 1,085 new initiates, from 45 universities, during November 2022.

Students initiated into the Society must

be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded in Lexington, Virginia, on December 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leadership at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK Idea - the concept that individuals, representing all phases of collegiate life, should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK’s mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK’s leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America. The Society’s national headquarters are located in Lexington, Virginia.

Seth Brower of Lowell, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s Fall 2022 President’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students, who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term, are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities, by U.S. News & World Report, and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce announces annual award recipients

The 2023 Person of the Year Award goes to Liz Baker

The recipient must demonstrate the following qualities: Over time, the candidate has freely donated considerable time to the community, school district, church, or humanity. This is over and above the demands of their regular profession; The community is a better place to live because of the efforts of the candidate; The candidate positively promotes the community in both word and action; The candidate possesses new and innovative ideas that benefit the community; The candidate cannot be a Chamber Board/Foundation Board member at the time of nomination;

Business Appreciation Award is PFCU

The business must be established and demonstrates the following qualities: Outstanding service, community investment, employment opportunity, volunteer service/monetary donations to the Greater Lowell Community

Most Promising New Business is Retro Electric Arcade

Best Business to Watch is Sabor Mexicano

The business must demonstrate the following qualities and be a Chamber member: business must demonstrate the ability to improve the economic base within the Greater Lowell Community; new business or a new venture of an existing business within the Greater Lowell Community

Brick Awards go to: Betten Baker Buick GMC, King Milling, Culvers of Lowell and Brookstone Investment

This award is given to Chamber Member(s) who has made a commitment to Greater Lowell Area over the year. A business must be in the Industry/Retail/Service and/or Non-Profit category to be eligible for this award. This award category does not have to be awarded each year.

Non-Profit Spotlight is Fallasburg Historical Society, recognizing an outstanding non-profit over the past year

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Future of fire pits in question at latest DDA meeting

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

On Thursday, January 5, 2023, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), of the City of Lowell, met to discuss the future of fire pits at outdoor events.

During the height of the pandemic, the city deployed, in the social district, a number of raised, metal fire pits where wood could be burned to heat those gathered around. Since businesses and restaurants in the area had reduced seating capacity to prevent

spread of COVID-19, these fire pits proved a creative response to the dilemma of protecting patrons from infection, while assisting area businesses in keeping their doors open.

City manager, Mike Burns, noted that there is already a budget for the continued use of fire pits in Lowell this winter, but raised the question of whether they are still needed now that full capacity has been restored.

“We’re paying money for that, but I can’t get my

street fixed?” Burns said, impressing upon those gathered what a random citizen might say of the expenditure.

If this were a debate over the cost of firewood, the DDA might not have even discussed the issue, but open fires have to be supervised, so long as they are in use, and that means paying city employees an hourly rate to do so. For a fire department employee, that may amount to \$25 or so per hour, but for a Department of Public Works (DPW) employee, it would be an overtime rate of \$50 or more per hour. If significant snowfall accumulated during a fire-tending shift, a DPW employee would be pulled away to plow instead.

To gauge return on investment, DDA members discussed whether the existing fire pits continue to be used, many voicing that they rarely see people around them anymore.

Member Martha Davis spoke in favor of the fire pits, but only for specific community events.



City manager, Mike Burns, elaborates on fire pit alternatives, including gas-heating stations on a timer.



Martha Davis of the Downtown Development Authority outlines a number of upcoming events she believes would benefit from fire pits.

She listed a number of weekends in January and the Chocolate Stroll event this coming February.

“Merchants look at it for ambiance,” Davis said. “And it draws attention to our businesses.”

Members discussed the installation of a gas heater on a timer, which would remove the need for city employee oversight, but when the costs of building the heater and plumbing a gas line were discussed at \$15-20,000, the idea was quickly abandoned.

The DDA ultimately tabled the topic, pending further discussion with the Chamber of Commerce and fire department, but the general consensus was to continue the fires during upcoming events this year in hopes of gathering data about usage. If the people of Lowell like the fires enough to justify the associated expenses, they will have their opportunity to express their approval by showing up and using the fires this winter.

LL& P program benefits residents and local organization

Lowell Light & Power board chairman, Perry Beachum, approached general manager, Charlie West, with an idea for giving back to the community. Years ago, donated Christmas trees were recycled at the Wittenbach-Wege Agriscience and Environmental Center. Unfortunately, they had to discontinue the event when the chipper was no longer free to use. West agreed that it would be a wonderful gift of Lowell Light & Power’s time and resources to offer the program to the community once again.

LL&P team members contacted the Kent County Fairgrounds, who agreed to designate a space for tree drop-off, from

January 1st through 10th.

On January 11th, the trees were chipped by six Lowell Light & Power team members, and two employees from the City of Lowell. The chips will be donated and used along the trails at the Wittenbach-Wege Agriscience and Environmental Center in Lowell. The outdoor learning center includes 140 acres of forest, wetlands and open fields, just waiting to be explored. The trails are open 365 days a year, from dawn til dusk, and are open to the public at no charge.

“Lowell’s community members have really come together to support this program. They’ve shared our social media posts and spread the word in local

Facebook groups. We have also received a few calls from customers to simply thank us for this event. It’s a great feeling to provide such a simple service that continues to give back. This has truly been a “Public Powered” event,” said Emily Mackie, LL&P’s communications specialist. “We’re already looking forward to doing it again next year!”

Pictured right: the crew who chipped donated Christmas trees. The chips will be donated to the Wittenbach-Wege Center.



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Author preserves family history in her memoir *Unto the Daughters*

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to write a book, now is the time to start or finish what you have started a long time ago. Write a page a day, and you will have a book in a year, per Stephen King, who mastered the horror genre, or you can write a book in one month during National Novel Writing Month.

Fiction and non-fiction, author, Karen Tintori, advises talking to the oldest people in the family because in the end, all history is family history.

In her memoir and historical mystery, *Unto the Daughters*, author & former journalist, Karen Tintori, unveils a family secret set in turn-of-the-century Detroit, in an Italian neighborhood. The inciting incident to break the silence was an obliterated passport, and then, a wedding photo.

"I am Italian," she said. "My mother's side of the family was from southern Sicily. You don't tell family secrets."

The story of her great-granddaughter, Francesca, haunted Tintori's inquisitive mind for decades. After 12 years, three novels with three different protagonists, and advice from the editor, Tintori re-imagined the haunting truth of an honor killing.

"I reinvented the truth,"

against custom and tradition and pays a double price," author, Frank Viviano, wrote in a review of the book.

In this case, it was Francesca who sinned against the tradition of getting married as a virgin to a higher member of the Detroit mob. Tintori writes:

"My family left Italy

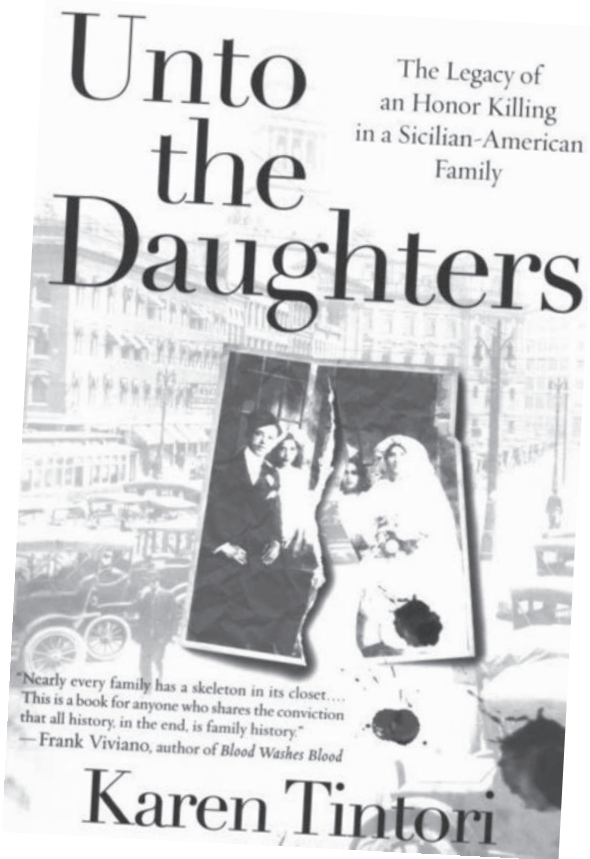
prowess, but a family honor was bound up in the chastity of its women."

The females in the family guarded the secret scandal heavily, even from men. "My mother had never breathed a word about her ill-fated sister Francesca, not even to my father," Tintori said. "Despite their forty years together as soul mates, he died without ever hearing a whisper of the scandal."

Tintori, a journalist, had to fight to piece together her great aunt Francesca's story. In spite of the family's silence, she pursued the story to the end.

"A guarded snippet was divulged here, a reluctant dribble there, then Basta no more," she said. "In the face of my own escalated horror, I remained fixated on ferreting out the truth about Frances' life, and her death. She haunted me."

It was Tintori's goal to restore honor to Francesca by penning the book. Her goal now is to find Francesca's husband's family, using Facebook. Tintori has co-authored



Something Borrowed Something Blue with Jill Gregory, which was made into a CBS movie.

She would love to see *Unto the Daughters* on the silver screen. "It would take someone like Coppola to get this done," she said. Tintori was referring to the

director of *The Godfather*, a landmark of American cinema.

Listen in to the podcast episode on For the Love of Books Podcast for a chance to win a signed copy of *Unto the Daughters*, sponsored by Doc Chavent and The Lowell Ledger.

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sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Nate Fowler

Lowell Area Schools is joining 537 local and 56 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

In another year full of challenges for public education, our school board members persevered through the adversity of 2022 to provide the best possible education for our students. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one of the very small ways to express appreciation for all they do.

School board members represent the views and priorities of their community in the complex system of maintaining and running a district's public schools. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public

education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan.

Too often, the efforts of school board members go unrecognized.

The school board's main goal is to support student achievement. To achieve that goal, the board focuses on the following needs:

- Creating a vision for what parents and citizens want their school district to become and how to make student achievement the top priority.
- Setting standards for what students must learn and be able to do.
- Assessing whether schools achieve their goals and whether students are learning.
- Accounting for the outcomes of decisions and

by tracking progress and reporting results.

- Aligning the use of the district's human and financial resources.

- Creating a safe and orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach.

- Collaborating to solve common problems and to support common successes.

- Focusing on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining and revisiting issues related to student achievement.

Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. No matter what challenges lie ahead for our district in 2023, our school board members will continue to govern to improve student achievement and provide exceptional education for all our community's children.

The individuals serving Lowell Area Schools are (the Board currently has one unfilled position):

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Brian Krajewski, | President |
| Laurie Kuna, | Vice-President |
| Pat Nugent, | Secretary |
| Tom Kaywood, | Treasurer |
| Jennifer Dougherty, | Trustee |
| Jared Blough, | Trustee |

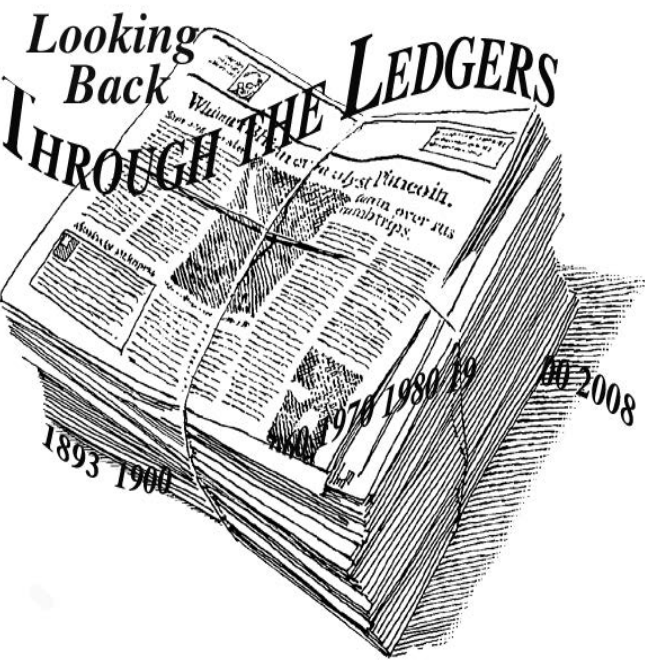


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viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 20, 1898

About six o'clock Tuesday morning, when Engineer Tied was "firing up" at the cutter factory and using some oiled tow to warm up the pipes, the stream of fire from the smoke stack attracted the attention of Fred Soules, who thought a big fire was imminent, and quickly began ringing the fire bell. Fifteen firemen and a team quickly responded, but no fire was to be seen, and the boys and numerous spectators returned to their homes and pancakes. Loss to the the village - \$17, with no insurance.

Etta, aged 17, the oldest daughter of Louie Waack, of Clarenceville, died from eating diseased pork of their own raising. Waack, his wife and six other children are all ill, some of them seriously.

P. Westbrook's horseradish, now on sale all over Lowell, is a first-class article, and is meeting with a big sale. He has sold 1,000 bottles during the past four weeks and the Ledger is now getting out 1,000 more labels for him.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 25, 1923

Miss Elsie Velzy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Velzy, of Lowell, is in Blodgett hospital with a broken leg, as the result of a coasting accident, the tipping of a bob sled on which about 14 youths and girls were riding down Umatilla St. hill between Union and Madison Ave. Elsie, 29, was caught between the sled and the ground when it capsized and her right leg was broken below the knee.

There are many little fishing huts on Pratt Lake these days, and some fine catches are reported.

Miss Lena Kelsey, 37 years old, is dead from injuries suffered while tobogganing at the Coe Amusement Park, Lake Goguac. Her condition was not considered serious at first, but it developed that her skull had been fractured.

John Rothenthaler, 46 years old, Alpine township farmer, was instantly killed, when hit on the head by a limb in his wood lot. The tree had become lodged against another tree, but was released by the wind.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 22, 1948

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Young suffered severe fire loss

on their home on M-21, about 2 miles east of town, last Sunday morning at about 11 o'clock. Three rooms on the east side of the house were almost totally wrecked by the fire. A passing motorist told them that their roof was in flames.

Earnings of the 44 pupils enrolled in the cooperative education program of the Lowell Public Schools reached a high of \$16,298 for the year of 1947. The program was started in January of 1947. It permits high school pupils to attend classes and work under supervised employment throughout the school year and summer vacation period.

Finely equipped doctors' offices, that would do credit to almost any city anywhere, were opened on Monday of this week, on the second floor of the Christiansen Drug Company block, by B.H. Shepard, MD and Keats K. Vining, Jr., MD. There are sixteen rooms in the suite, consisting of a general reception room, four doctors' offices and four examining rooms, a hospital room with four beds, emergency operation, x-ray and diathermy rooms, a nurse's office, supply room and lavatory.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life January 18, 1973

Mrs. Martin (Treva) Johnson, Community Co-Chairman for all south townships, including Lowell, for the 1973 Mothers' March of Dimes, is but one of 8,100 women who will be visiting homes and ringing doorbells starting Thursday, January 18th, with the purpose of preventing birth defects.

Lowell Light and Power Company revealed, that without any prior warning, they were informed at five o'clock Friday that they had used their January quota of diesel fuel. At that time, there was a three day supply of fuel on hand. Light and Power officials spent a harried weekend in their attempt to resolve the sudden energy crisis and are hopeful that more fuel will be located to carry through the months ahead

Robert G. Kenney has been named the new pharmacist-manager at Lippert's Pharmacy and has summed his new position.

Driving in excess of 450,000 miles in the past 20 years, as a rural mail carrier without an accident, has won S.J. Ayres of Lowell an "expert driving award."

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 28, 1998

In response to many complaints from residents, as well as city staff, regarding dog waste, city attorney, Richard Wendt, is charged with drafting up a proposed ordinance which prohibits dog owners from having their

Looking Back,
continued page 12

to the editor

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

Dear Editor:

President Thomas Jefferson espoused the principles of small government and balanced budget until the opportunity for the Louisiana Purchase presented itself, and those ideas proved inadequate. Alexander Hamilton espoused the notion that investing in the future was best for our country, sometimes at the expense of a balanced budget. I am hearing that a primary goal of the new leadership in the House of Representatives is a balanced budget, "just as all Americans have to do." With that requirement, I would never have had the opportunity to invest in a home or a new car, nor would our country have become "Great."

What is necessary, is restructuring our tax codes so that instead of returning money to those already wealthy, we restore the progressive tax back into the economic engine of capitalism to create more wealth, as happened during the Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford Administrations.

Jack Misner
Vergennes Twp



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.

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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!

Storytime

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

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, January 25, 4-5 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts. For ages 5-10.

All Aboard Book Club

Thursday, February 9, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini. For ages 18+.

business matters

Greenridge Realty announces it’s 2022 Award winners with Joshua McCracken earning the top spot for Realtor of the Year for the Lowell Office, as well a 2 Shining Star awards.



Dave VanKeulen



Joshua McCracken

Dave VanKeulen won a Shining star award as well as Presidents Club.

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 216 E. Main
Date Built: 1873
Builder: Sylvester Brower
1st business: V. D. Young Groceries

In 1873, Vatchel D. Young opened a grocery store here. In 1884, it was the meat market of Foreman & Aldrich. In 1891, it was the meat market of John J. McNaughton and Newton Coons; when the partnership dissolved, Newton Coons continued.

Charles McCarty and Co. Meats, Groceries and Produce moved four doors east to this location (from 208 E. Main) in 1897-1907. McCarty dealt with everything a farmer had to sell. His ad read “Dealer of Staple and Fancy Groceries, fruits, crockery, salt, lime, hair, plaster, bricks, drain tile. Buyer and Shipper of fruits, butter, eggs, potatoes, beans, corn, oats, wood, wool, hides, furs, dressed pork and beef, poultry and game.” He also made loans on Real Estate. He operated out of this east side location and his wholesale produce warehouse on West Main Street. McCarty was a busy man. He was a director of the Lowell State Bank, next door. In 1890, he (McCarty), Frank Twining King, Francis King, and Reuben Quick purchased the defunct Superior flour mill on the west side of the Flat River and organized the stock company ownership as the King Milling Company.

The meat markets, which followed McCarty Meats in this location, were: Staal Bros. (Claude and Hiram Staal), Taylor & Staal, Fashbaugh & Jones,



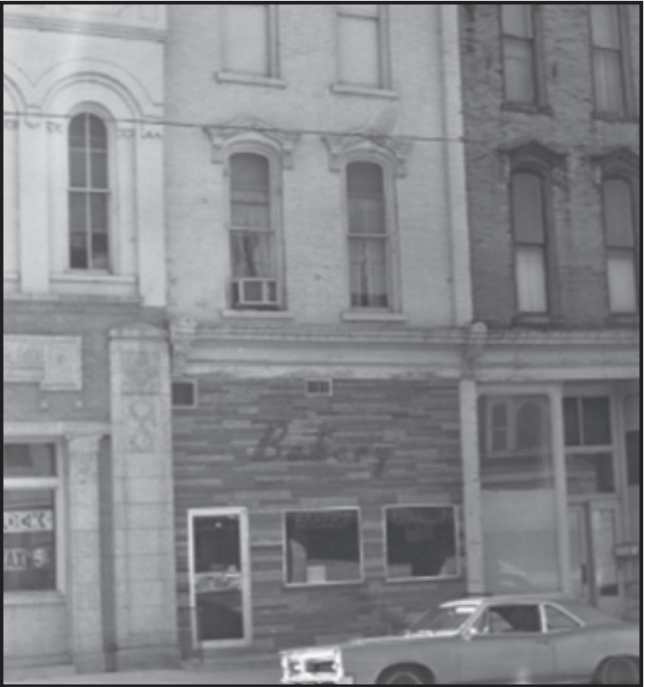
Charles McCarty & Co. Meat Market was here 1897 until 1907. The associated slaughter-house was on McCarty property on M-21, just east of Highland Hill. McCarty also built a warehouse in the back alley to use for his dealings in wholesale produce, fruit, furs, lime, brick, etc. The warehouse burned down in 1914.

and Lee Jones Meats (1914). The Sanborn Maps of 1918, 1929 and 1938 list “Feed” as the business at this location. We know that in 1925, John Brezina had a creamery and sold Massey Harris Implements so he must also have sold feeds. In 1931, W. E. Hall sold feed, eggs and operated a creamery.

From 1938-1945, it was the Cream Station of Mr. and Mrs. John Fahrni. Dr. J. W. Trumble purchased it from them and William Frost managed the creamery until 1949, when the building was sold to Oliver Farm Supply, 1949-1954. They sold and repaired Oliver farm equipment and DeLaval milking machines. In 1969, the building front was renovated, and Ralph and Barbara Fluger moved their Lowell Bakery from next door. Jim Brzezinski’s

Lowell Bakery was here during the 1980s. Quality Tax Service, Flat River Bait & Tackle, Back Alley

Bait, and Michigan Tax and Accounting followed. Bettie’s Pages bookstore opened in Feb., 2020.



Fluger’s bakery, 1969

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

happy birthday



JANUARY 19

Tim Stencel, Susan Cook, Tim Schuitema, Trevor Mooney, Mark Ries, Scott Crandall.

JANUARY 20

Shelby Baird, Josh Rinard.

JANUARY 21

James Vezino, Mark MacNaughton, Krysta Jankowski, Brooklyn Rinard.

JANUARY 22

Cheryl DeYoung, Bob Pfaller, Dale Latva, Jenni Magner, Frances Walling, Glenn Vanbuskirk, Shane

Gildner, Reece VanderWarf, Frances DeVries, Elijah Barr.

JANUARY 23

Amanda Wingeier, Zach Stauffer.

JANUARY 24

David Szymczak, Haleigh Timmers, Mackenzie Stiles.

JANUARY 25

Molly Doyle, Dean Olin.





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With Melissa Spino, MA, LPC, CDMS
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The importance of connecting to our values

When we plan for our future, we typically focus on life goals. Sometimes our goals don't blend well with our personal values so our values may get overlooked. Sometimes we get caught in "existence mode". This happens when we get caught up in daily routines, habits, and tasks so our values get pushed down on the importance scale, if we think of them at all. When we don't function from our values, we are just going through the motions of life. This "existence mode" typically keeps us stuck in a place we don't want to be. When you can't envision a different or better life, how can you make the changes needed to have a more fulfilling one? You can't. This is why it's important to live a life based on our personal values.

Personal values

Our personal values are our moral standards, our internal guide which is why they are so important. They are different from goals because once goals are achieved they are finished. Personal values may develop, adapt/change as we grow and develop, but they are our roadmap for how we act/ behave. They drive how we treat others and ourselves, our choices, our motivations, our boundaries, and what we consider important. Our values are what help us reach peace, happiness, and aide our overall wellbeing. They are ingrained in who we are.

Here is a list of common values but this is not a complete list: Accountability, authentic/ genuine, achievement, adventure, balance, beauty, boldness, bravery, challenge, citizenship, commitment, community, compassion, confidence, creativity, courage, curiosity, determination, dignity, empathy, fairness, faith, family, freedom, friendships, fun, generosity,

growth, happiness, honesty, influence, integrity, justice, kindness, knowledge, leadership, learning, love, loyalty, meaningful work, openness, optimism, personal development/self improvement, pleasure, popularity, recognition, respect, responsibility, security, self-love/like, self-reliance, self-respect, social connection, spirituality, stability, success, status, trust/trustworthiness, wealth and wisdom.

Our values help us be aware of who we are as a person. We need to know what we are capable of and the direction we want for our life. If we find ourselves going down apath that is making us really uncomfortable and unhappy, maybe it is not in alignment with our values. If the situation truly matters, then we may need to change our behavior or thought patterns to be in alignment with our values.

How to find your personal values

We have our general values and our core values. We make decisions and judgements based on these values. While our general values often change as we grow and develop, our core values often remain consistent. Values may change when we realize they are based off of limited knowledge or experiences, or that they may be hurting us in some way. Below are some steps you can take to determine your values.

Make a list of the most important/meaningful/ awe-inspiring moments in your life. Preferably 5-10.

Provide as many details of each event as possible. Why was it important, meaningful and/or awe-inspiring. What were you doing, who were you with? What emotions did you feel or associate with the event? Look for similarities or themes and write them down.

What inspires you?

Think about people, events, stories etc. Make a list. Think about what inspires you, that you admire, are in awe of, or respect. What about the person or event makes you feel this way. List the behaviors, feelings, actions, etc. Look for similarities or themes and write them down.

Make a list of the things you are the proudest to have accomplished or been involved in.

Provide as many details of each event as possible. Who else was involved, where were you? Why are you proud, what other feelings do you have about the accomplishments. What emotions did you feel or associate with the event? Why these accomplishments/goals and not others? Look for similarities or themes and write them down.

Next look at the above three lists and make a summary list.

Do you see any overlap in feelings, people, themes, etc.? If so, write them down. I know this is a lot of writing but it's important and you are worth it.

List the things that make you really angry, frustrated, or that you feel are not fair/unjust.

What is irritating may be due to it being in conflict with a core value. Think about book or movie characters, people in real life, tasks, situations, etc. Once you have your list look for themes and similarities. Compare it to your above summary list. Anything jump out at you? If so, write it down.

Think of your worst life experiences.

You know the drill, make a list. Why was it so bad? What were you doing, who were you with? What emotions did you feel or associate with the event? Look for similarities or themes and write them down.

Think of 5-6 people you admire and write out the what they do or how they act that makes you value them.

They can be family, friends, colleagues, role models, partners, teachers, etc. Think about how they act or what they do that makes you admire them and make a list. Look for similarities or themes and write them down.

Using all the prior information/lists, come up with a list of the values important to you from any themes or similarities you notice.

If you have trouble with this list, you can also google personal or core values to help you complete it. Don't worry if some of the values you list seem conflicting.

Finally, using the above list of values, narrow it down to your top 5-8.

This will be your core list of values. If you are stuck between two or three, think about a situation where you could only embrace one. Which would you choose? These core values may be modified as you grow and change but many will remain consistent. You can also make your list of general values from the remainder of the list but your core values are the ones that are so important to you that they feel like they are a part of you.

As you live your life, be aware of your choices and decisions. Are the values you hold important being shown in your daily life, in your actions and behaviors? If not, what values are you exhibiting? Are there patterns? If you're feeling disconnected, unfulfilled, or not satisfied with life, you may not be living in harmony with your values. If so, it may be time to make some changes to align your life with your values. If you struggle with this, it may be time to seek help so that you can live a happy and fulfilling life. I hope you find this information helpful but it is not intended to diagnose or treat. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy!

outdoors

Michigan winter

Dave Stegehuis

After Christmas and New Years, droves of Michigan residents head south for the winter. Those of us who are left behind have lots of opportunity for things to do before the spring thaw.

Most of the activities require cold temperatures and snow cover. This year, these prerequisites have been spotty but will eventually come to pass. It pays to keep an eye on weather forecasts. One morning, during the holidays, snowshoe conditions were excellent, and by the afternoon, a little sunlight caused the snow to become a bit mushy.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are good choices because essential equipment is relatively affordable, and with the exception of a special license plate sticker, trail use is free on hundreds of miles of public trails. One can travel at his or her own pace, distance, and degree of difficulty so that folks from the very young to seniors can participate.

Downhill skiers and snowboarders have their favorite hills. Skating rinks, indoors and out, draw people together

for a fun time which may include a hockey game. Ice climbing is a challenge for those who have developed the skill.

Fat-tire biking is gaining popularity around the state. A little research will turn up trails that accommodate the special bicycles. Power sports enthusiasts will find thousands of miles of snowmobile trails across the state. In the Upper Peninsula, snowmobiles are part of the culture. Dog sledding, for fun and competition, is enjoyed by dedicated mushers. It is possible for one to find an opportunity to drive or ride a dogsled, as well as tour the white landscape in a horse-drawn sleigh.

Predator hunting has become popular in recent times. This is an opportunity for an exciting hunting experience while helping to manage wildlife populations. Ice fishing requires only a modest investment in equipment with the potential for great fish dinners in return.

With some research, and the desire to get out of the house for fun, fresh air, and exercise ,we can find plenty to do during winter in outdoor Michigan.

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GROW YOUR COMMUNITY

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Explore a national marine sanctuary in Michigan

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

If you are anything like me, and hear the words “National Marine Sanctuary”, the images and places that appear in your mind, in some fashion or another probably include the Florida Keys, the Hawaiian Islands, and various places you might explore on the east or west coasts. Such thinking covers almost all of the fifteen locations that have been designated as marine sanctuaries by NOAA - which includes a reference to oceans in the long form of it’s name: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Would you be as surprised as I was to learn that our favorite state has one of the sanctuaries?

If you travel between 234 and 250 miles from Lowell, depending on the route you choose, you can visit the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena. When a friend of mine plopped a half dozen publications on my desk that were all about this phenomenal place, it took a minute for me to process that somehow it had escaped my purview. It is worth mentioning that thirteen of the other sanctuaries are located on the ocean. A stretch of Lake Michigan, on the other side of the Big Lake, is home to the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the other freshwater sanctuary. It is also worth mentioning that our mental images associating the word “marine,” with the briny deep of salted water, should be excused. Merriam-Webster lists “of

or relating to the sea” as the first definition. Those of us who love to nit-pick the choice of words, will have to remember that because of a number of characteristics, Lake Huron and the other Great Lakes have long been considered Inland Seas. From what I could ascertain, there is recognition of another fresh water sanctuary in the works.

Now that the semantical hurdles have been leapt, we can move on to the fun part. Thank goodness my ignorance of the sanctuary in Alpena does not stop some one hundred thousand people a year from visiting it. As a side note, I am holding out hope that 20-30% of the visitors to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center stumbled upon it by accident and were unaware that the State of Michigan and NOAA designated the sanctuary in the year 2000. The evidence seen so far suggests that the number-one draw in the sanctuary is the proliferation of wrecked ships resting on the bottom of Thunder Bay. To date, they have identified over 200 of them within the boundaries of the sanctuary. For bragging rights, we can focus on the fact that our sanctuary has way more shipwrecks in a much smaller area than the one in Wisconsin.

Thunder Bay was long recognized as one of the most dangerous places for ships, due to the rocky shoals that line the coast, combined with murky fog banks and fierce storms that can pop up with little to no warning. Small

wonder Thunder Bay is also called “Shipwreck Alley.” Apparently fresh water is well suited for preserving sunken wooden boats and the glass-bottomed boat, “Lady Michigan,” will take you on a two-hour tour of the shorelines and waterfront within the sanctuary that passes over many of the well-preserved wrecks. The boat operates daily from mid-May to early October. If you don’t want to wait, you can experience a really cool dive with 360° viewing from the safety of your favorite web connection and screen, including VR goggles, by going to: www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/vr/thunder-bay/shipwreck-alley/ to see the sunken ship “D.M. Wilson”. There are several other virtual dives available on the website, many of which feature wildlife, coral, and beautiful fish.

Aside from providing a nice feeling of summertime during our gray winter, these virtual dives also serve to educate us about all of the life below the surface in salt and fresh water, all over our country. The endgame of this enlightenment is to encourage all of us to do what we can to protect and preserve all bodies of water, for future generations to enjoy, and for the overall health of our planet. The first section you will read on the “About” page at www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov is titled “Conservation” and includes these words: “Backed by one of the nation’s strongest pieces of ocean conservation legislation, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the sanctuaries seek to

preserve the extraordinary scenic beauty, bio-diversity, historical connections and economic productivity of our most precious underwater treasures. By acting as responsible stewards of these special places, we strengthen our nation now and for future generations.” Hopefully, when we take steps to appreciate how our lives on land are dependant on water and the bounty it contains, we will move forward with greater attention to how our actions and lifestyle can contribute to keeping all of the water on the Water Planet safe.

The friend who gave me the informational material is very much involved in this most important aspect of our Marine Sanctuaries. Lowell area resident, Betsy Lopez-Wagner, has been an advocate for the health of water and our planet, in general, for years, and one off-shoot of her work was that she was asked to join the Business Advisory Council for the Sanctuaries. Most recently, she was designated as co-chair of the Council. The 15-member council is packed with some very heavy hitters from the outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation sectors. Their mission is to help implement the vision of the sanctuaries by increasing public awareness of them, with a focus on the recreation and tourism end of things. Betsy was born outside Chicago and has lived around the Great Lakes, as well as on both coasts, which fueled the fire in her belly to protect the planet by helping to



Betsy Lopez-Wagner

safeguard bodies of both fresh and salt water.

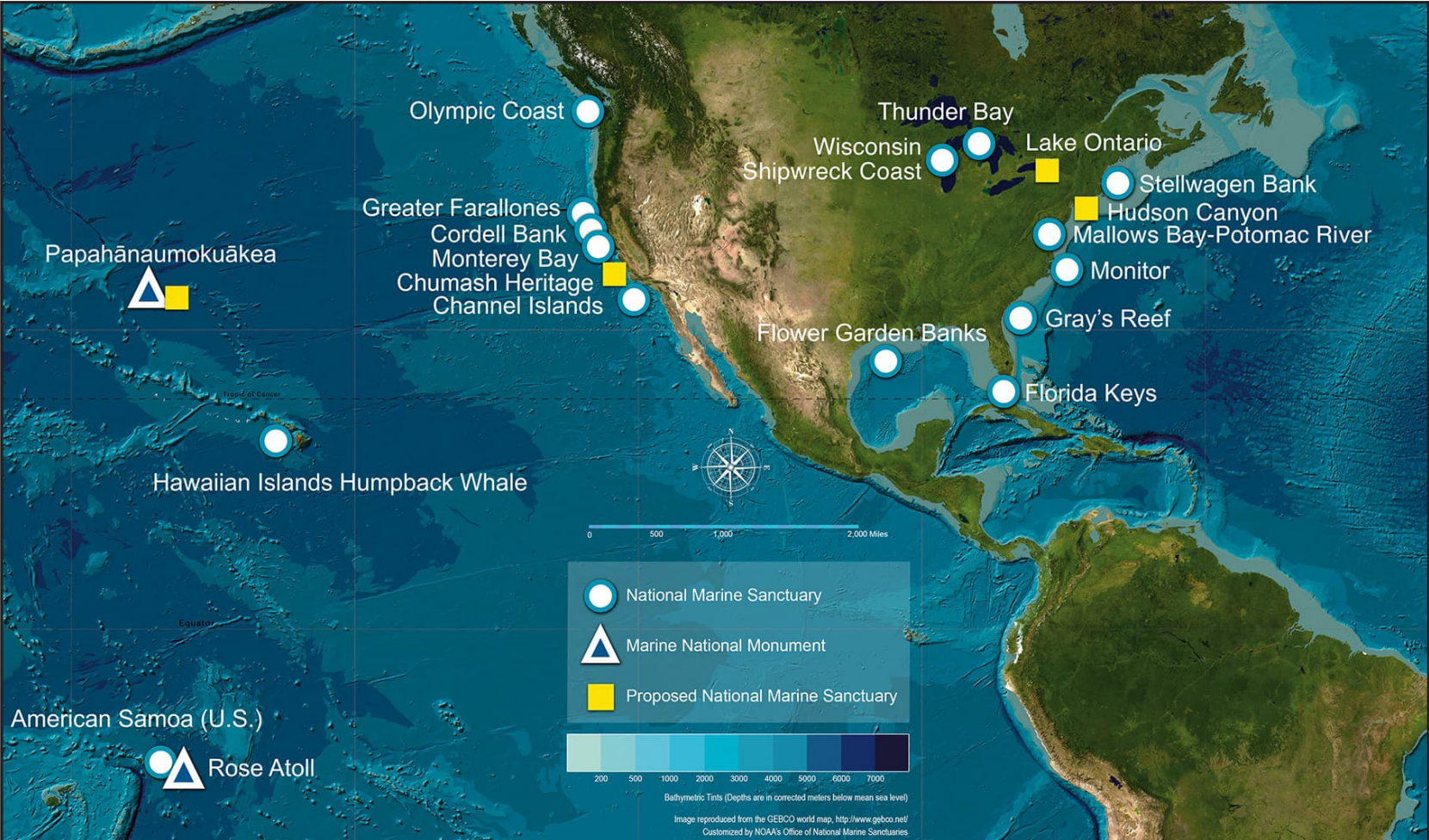
“I am deeply motivated by the community where I was born and grew up, a vibrant neighborhood outside of Chicago, surrounded by industrial facilities,” Betsy related. “I am dedicated to supporting the growth of an inclusive conservation movement to strengthen state, national, and international level priorities to protect our environment. I am striving to be a healer of Madre Tierra y Mar - our Mother Earth, our oceans, and the sea.”

With life goals like that, Betsy is a perfect fit for a Council dedicated to encouraging the protection

and appreciation of natural assets like the marine sanctuary in Alpena. If her

name sounds familiar, she and her husband, Will, live on a small farm north of Lowell and their son, Liam is a champion of Monarch butterflies and bees. Liam, was profiled last year in the Lowell Ledger.

Having been born on this side of the state and having been raised by a family that spent a lot of time on and around Lake Michigan, I have to admit that in my mind Lake Michigan is THE Great Lake. However, after spending time learning about this wonderful resource in near by Alpena on Lake Huron, a visit to the marine sanctuary there, along with a glass-bottom boat ride and a visit to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center ,are on my Michigan To-Do List. Hope to see you there.



Map of all santuaries.



Dede Alder: LowellArts Artist of the Month

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Many musicians begin playing music because members of their family played and passed on the tradition to them. Some take lessons from an early age and others might even just pick up a guitar and learn on their own. For Dede Alder, this month's LowellArts Artist of the Month, she discovered her love for music in elementary school. Originally from Traverse City, Alder joined band class in sixth grade and chose to play the triangle so she could be in the back of the room and have little, to no, spotlight on her. Then, in eighth grade, she tried playing guitar but didn't take to it, so she tried the marimbas, a mallet percussion instrument. She loved it and the trajectory of her life changed at that moment. "I really didn't like moving my fingers in the way that you have to [with guitar] and I realized I like hitting things better," said Alder. "So I taught myself how to sing and play a mallet percussion instrument at the same time. I didn't have any teachers, and it took me about two years to figure it out, and five more years to do a decent job at it."

Over twenty years later, and now living in Saugatuck, Alder is not only an accomplished solo mallet percussion player (marimbas, vibraphone, and xylophone), but she is involved in other unique and successful musical endeavors, including her band, Dede and the Dreamers, Duo 1 (with her partner Josh Holcomb), Sisters of the Drum, and a

member of the Earthworks Music Collective. She was excited and grateful to hear about being named LowellArts Artist of the Month."It was kind of surprising," said Alder. "I'm sort of discovering LowellArts, while you guys are discovering me. It seems amazing."

At the core of all of her music is her philosophy that the music has power to change things and also provide some healing medicine to people in the world. Her involvement with the Earthworks Music Collective is a perfect example of this philosophy. "Earthworks is a collective of Michigan artists that are songwriters," said Alder. "We specialize in using our voice to uplift social change or environmental issues and have been doing a lot with racial justice lately. We all have a mission to use our art for the greater good." This philosophy has also been an important theme in her solo work, along with her involvement with the Sisters of the Drum, an all-women's percussion ensemble (mainly hand drums).

But that is not to say that all of her music is about philosophy and deeper themes. Some of it is just plain, old fun, including her solo work on the marimbas, and with her band, Dede and the Dreamers. It is worth watching her Youtube solo performance on the marimbas called *Ping Island Lightning Strike*, a great example of her skills as a mallet performer and the fun she has with it. Dede and the Dreamers - comprised of Alder, drummer Scott Pellegrom,

bassist Chris Michels, and violinist Josh Holcomb - has been together for over ten years and just released their album *Powerful* in November of 2022, which can be found on Spotify and Reverbnation.com (I recommend you listen to the song *August Nights*, to get started). Alder has loved being a part of the group. "The way that we set up our shows is that we have songs that have tight arrangements but our solo section is always open," said Alder. "It is a chance to improvise. We all welcome the creative improv moments that are unplanned. We play quality music, but also, it has a fun spontaneous section to it."

Being a professional musician has been a fulfilling part of Alder's life, but it hasn't always been easy. It takes commitment, hard work, organization and a trust that her work is relevant, needed and important - that venues will continue to book her and fans will want to see her perform. The tension between her art and the economics of being a performer is not lost on Alder. "2022 was actually a rebuilding year for musicians, venues, and breweries," said Alder. "We are all still feeling the effects of Covid and the effects of the economy. I'm really finding that budgets for music have gone down but inflation is going up. It's quite a struggle right now, trying to figure out how to ride the wave. I think it will recover. I'm doing okay, but you have to be creative, so I'm applying my creative techniques to my career. I also feel like my art is valuable, and you have to trust that the path will open up, even though it



Dede Alder. Photo dedealder.com

is difficult right now." This year, Alder will continue with all of her projects but plans on focusing a lot on Duo 1, with her partner and violinist, Josh Holcomb. They are in the process of putting together a folk opera based on The Great Flood, performing the music later this spring and then producing an actual theatrical opera on stage later this year or in 2024. It's a big project but she is extremely excited about it, and at some point, like Sisters of the Drum, Alder would like it to be performed on a national level. What drives her to continue, no matter the struggle, is this idea of bringing music to people in the form of healing. "After Covid, I had this time to reflect, and I realized that what I want to really bring to everything I'm doing is medicine for our souls, for people," said Alder. "There's more underlying pressure (in the world.) Music can heal part of us and remind us why we are here and our soul's journey. Without being preachy, that is what I want to do. And people really need it." For more information about Dede Alder's music, projects and concert dates, please visit her website www.dedealder.com.

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Wrestling team takes on nation's best

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

‘Iron sharpens iron.’ It’s the longtime saying that has been a common theme during Lowell and Detroit Catholic Central (DCC) over the years. Both programs have been among the state’s best, not just in recent memory, but over the course of the Michigan high school wrestling era. With their combined prestige, it’s no surprise, the two compete on a near yearly basis. There’s a mutual respect between the two, and off the mat, both DCC head coach, Mitch Hancock, and Lowell head coach, RJ Boudro, are friends as well.

This time around, it was Detroit Catholic Central who won the match

and bragging rights, as they rattled off a string of narrow match victories to edge out Lowell in a battle of nationally-ranked squads. Lowell trailed 6-3, after a decision by Juan Acosta, when that DCC stretch would come. A 5-0 decision at 103, an ultimate tiebreaker decision at 113, a 1-point decision at 120, a 2-0 overtime loss, and then a 2-1 decision, all went DCC’s way. If you think of each match as a coin flip, for either team to have won all five would’ve been a three percent chance. Exactly what happened, though, and it gave DCC a 20-3 lead to start the match.

Owen Segorski got Lowell back on track with a technical fall at 138, but

DCC responded right back at some of their strongest weights, with four straight matches, where they picked up bonus points. Carson Crace was able to pick up a major decision of his own, but the Shamrocks would win 44-11. Both programs use duals like these to improve, with their ultimate goal of lifting a state championship at the end of the year, which is achievable given both programs are in different divisions. Both squads will be seen as favorites heading into the postseason as well.

In the other two matches Lowell saw very different results. The first was against Ohio top-ranked St. Eds. Lowell fell 61-3 to the Eagles, who just

happen to be the eighth-ranked wrestling team in the nation. The Red Arrows are 0-6 now in dual matchups with St. Eds, a testament to their ability to field a top-ten team in the nation, the last decade.

In fact, there were five nationally-ranked teams in the field. No. 8 St. Eds (OH), No. 22 Detroit Catholic Central (MI), No. 30 Dundee (MI), No. 38 Lowell, and No. 43 Davison (MI). The other team in the field was Lowell’s other opponent, Center Grove, ranked No. 3 in the state of Indiana but outside the national top 50 rankings.

Lowell knocked off Center Grove comfortably by a score of 49-12. For comparison, DCC beat

Center Grove 48-20. The meet started off at 190, as Lowell jumped out to an 18-3 lead, thanks to decisions by Ari McFarland, Jarrett Smith, Carter Cichocki, and a fall by Juan Acosta. After a decision loss at 120, making the score 18-6, Lowell got a pin from Jackson Blum and a technical fall from Trevor Boone to stretch the lead to 29-6. CJ Poole, Maddox Simcoe, Jared Boone, and Carson Crace all closed out the dual with a win. Lowell won the match count 10-4.

A 1-2 record isn’t what the wrestling team is used to, but these duals are what prepares the team to be better come postseason. The iron sharpens iron mentality, that by wrestling the best, you’ll improve.

The B team headed to Traverse City over the weekend, where the team placed third in a field with TC Central, Hartland, Gladstone, Decatur, Wyandotte, Roosevelt, Westland, John Glenn, Dearborn, Clinton, and Adrian.

The Red Arrows host the Gary Rivers Memorial Invitational. Wrestling starts at 9 am. A full schedule of the event was not available for this week’s Ledger edition, but can be found on the club’s Facebook page under “Lowell Wrestling Club.”

Ski team waiting for snow Bowlers have busy week



The Lowell ski team is anxiously awaiting to hit the slopes. Not enough snow on the ground has caused a cancellation of the ski meet again this week. Hope for some flakes to fall so our ski team can get to competing!

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

In a field of over 20 teams, the Lowell girls bowling team finished qualifying in fourth place, overall. Haylie Beers (seventh) and Courtney Witten (eighth) earned individual medalist honors and helped lead Lowell to a fourth-place finish in qualifying. In bracket play, Lowell defeated Kent City, before falling to Grand Haven, in the semifinals of the Mona Shores Invitational.

The boys team notched

a conference win last Monday against EGR by a score of 19-11. Caden Witten (205) and Gunnar Nelson (170) paced the team. EGR does not field a girls team, so the Lowell girls did not compete.

In Wednesday’s match against FHN, Lowell’s lineup consisted of Caden Witten, Gunner Nelson, Caden Dennie, Jacob Rapelje, and Keith MacDermaid. The Red Arrows won the bakers, a scoring style where each bowler alternates shots, by a score of 6-4. The Huskies

got the better of Lowell in the individual games 15-5, to take a 19-11 win. MacDermaid had a 188 and 202 to pace the Arrows in individual games.

On the girls side, Lowell’s lineup was Isabel German, Ruby German, Cadence Dewit, Rowan Williams, Haylie Beers, and Courtney Witten. Beers and Witten each bowled a 211 and 218, respectively. Dewit also rolled a 140, as Lowell beat a shorthanded FHN team 30-0.



Girls bowling team at the Mona Shores Invitational.

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Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Red Arrows feed off crowd, knock off Northern

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

It's been six long years since we've seen Lowell boys basketball beat Forest Hills Northern, but now, thanks to a Red Arrow win on Friday night, that drought is over.

The Huskies have been one of the top dogs, no pun intended, in the area the last few years. With that, some lopsided results have been in their favor since Lowell's last win in 2017. This year though, both schools battled back and forth on Friday night.

Lowell jumped out to a 14-10 lead after the first quarter, and stretched it out to a 29-21 lead with two minutes left in the second quarter thanks to a Dawson Huhn three-pointer.

An Aidan Fitzpatrick three gave Lowell a double-digit lead midway through the third, and with a lead as high as 13, Lowell seemed

to be well in control of the game.

The Huskies had other ideas though, bringing the game back within four points, to end the third quarter, and getting their student section, who had traveled to Lowell, back into the game. Both teams had sizable student crowds, with Lowell's buoyed by a sponsored business incentive to get kids free admission for select games this season.

That energy certainly helped the team, as they once again reclaimed a double-digit lead on a Drew Veldman pullup jumper, with five minutes to play.

With 1:30 to go, Jackson Reisbig, catching a ball in the paint, took an inadvertent arm to the face. He was able to quickly shake it off and hit a free throw, and both teams would exchange free throws

and possessions late. The Huskies whittled the deficit down to as low as three, but could never get any closer. The final was 60-53.

Earlier in the week, Lowell survived a close game with Greenville. The Yellow Jackets, in a 52-52 game, knocked down a three with 47 seconds to play. Lowell, in the double bonus, drew a quick foul where Ben Gaskin knocked down both free throws.

There's no shot clock in high school basketball, so in theory, Greenville could have simply run the clock out with a one-point lead, so Lowell needed to either create a turnover or foul. Your best bet is to create a turnover, which they did, as a full court press caused an errant pass that was snatched out of the air by Fitzpatrick, given to Gaskin who was fouled. He would make both free throws and



The Lowell bench gets excited late against FHN.

gave Lowell a one-point lead.

Gaskin went four-for-four in must-make free throws in front of a decent-sized Tuesday night crowd,

a difficult task in a pressure situation. Greenville got a look in the final possession, but the shot came up well short, as Lowell came away with a 56-55 victory.

Lowell has quietly improved to 6-3 on the season, and plays EGR and Grand Rapids Christian this week.

Girls basketball moves to 10-0

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The gap between the upper echelon of the OK White girls basketball conference and a large percentage of the rest of schools in the state is huge, and the results continue to prove that. Greenville started the season 7-0. They beat up on many of the mid-Michigan teams. Sparta, Tri-County, Chippewa Hills, Cedar Springs, Central Montcalm, Belding, and more West Michigan area Comstock Park. Many of these games weren't particularly close. A 39

point win over Chippewa Hills, 43 point win over Tri-County, 28-point win over Sparta. These were blowouts.

Starting off OK White competition, Greenville lost 78-31 to Byron Center, 72-43 to EGR, and then 68-17 to Lowell. So what does that make Greenville? Somewhere in the middle, a good team, but miles behind the elite teams that are atop the white; Lowell, EGR, Byron Center, and GR Christian notably.

There's no doubt where Lowell stands. One

of the top ten teams in the state, based on recent AP rankings, Lowell moved to 10-0 this week with dominating wins over Greenville and FHN. The Red Arrows held Greenville to just five points in the second half, as Lowell cruised to a win on Tuesday on the road.

Piper Risdon, a force on the glass, has been proving she can shoot as well. She made 10 three-pointers on the night, had 35 points overall, and pulled down 10 rebounds in the win, to lead the team.



Braxcynn Baker and Taryn Jackson discuss before a play earlier this season.

Red Arrows fall to the Rams

Against FHN on Friday, it was a similar scoreline, lopsided in favor of the Red Arrows for a 74-39 victory. Braxcynn Baker led the way with 37 points, Risdon chipped in 19. Lowell has a huge game this week, as they face eighth ranked in the state EGR. The latest polling had Lowell ranked seventh. Tip off is this Tuesday; results will be in next week's Lowell Ledger. On Friday, Lowell is at GR Christian, in what will also be a difficult game, with the Eagles coming off a win over the Pioneers.

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

In Lowell gymnastics' Wednesday's meet with Rockford, Lowell went head-to-head with one of the state's juggernauts. The Rams picked up the win 136.975 to 132.45.

Lily Collins paced Lowell with a 9.175 on floor. Ivy McDonald had a 9.5 on beam, which matched a school record she earned in 2021. On bars, Collins scored an 8.05 to lead the team followed closely by Meier at 8.00. Krista Jungblut earned an 8.375 on vault to lead Lowell. Leah Krieger (8.35) was close behind. Romyn Slagell was Lowell's only gymnast to compete on all four apparatuses, earning a 31.075 all-around score.

The gymnastics team hosted their annual Military tribute meet on Saturday, a full story will be in next week's Ledger.



Lowell gymnasts high five after a great routine.



obituaries

PURSLEY

Albert “Al” Joseph Pursley, age 78 of Grand Haven, formally of Lowell, passed away at his home on December 21, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 30 years, Sandy; parents, Gerald Pursley and Marjorie Totten; brother, Jack; sister, Beverly; and grandson, Patrick. He is survived by his life partner, Pat Marcotte; children, John (Wendy) Pursley, Kari (Todd) Wood, Kristina (Steve) Shannon, Jan (Bill) O’Donnell; grandchildren, Tara, Seana, Amanda, Daniel, Kristin, Elizabeth, Hannah, Jonathan, Mary (Justin), Caitlin (Josh), Michael; great-grandchildren, Logan, Raya, Nova, Delia, Will; brothers, Thomas and Dean; sister, Geraldine Schultz; sister-in-law, Pat (Ron) Schumaker; and many nieces and nephews. Al served in the US Navy and retired from Steelcase where co-workers knew him best as “The Fox”. For many years he was a member of the West Michigan Bluegrass Association and a founding member of Steam Powered Bluegrass Band where he played and traveled to many festivals all over Michigan and Indiana. Al enjoyed spending time with his family and was excited when he and his son would compete in Bass tournaments. He was a 50-year “Friend of Bill W.” Al will be missed by many. A celebration of life will be held 2-5PM, Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the Firefighter’s Hall, 1930 Fuller St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, or Children Advocacy Center of Ottawa County, 12525 Union St., Holland, MI 49424.



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LAX

Our cancer-fighting unicorn, Katherine (Kate) Marie Joan-Ling Lum Lax, peacefully passed away in her sleep surrounded by family on Thursday, January 12, 2023, after nearly doubling her original brain cancer prognosis. Her journey was not easy, and yet she handled each step with unwavering kindness, love, and grace. Kate grew up in Lowell, MI, making fast friends throughout her childhood, who have remained “forever friends” to this day and beyond. Lansing, MI was like a second home, where Kate and her brother Kai spent days with cousins at the family restaurant and learning family traditions from their PoPo. During summers, Kate, friends and family would gather at Granny’s house on Murray Lake for days in the water and evenings at the bonfire. When she graduated from high school, Kate fulfilled her dream of attending MSU, and somehow ended up dating and eventually marrying Dave (a Wolverine). They moved together to California and enjoyed several carefree years of sunshine. Shortly after marrying, Kate and Dave settled back to Grand Rapids, MI, which has been their home ever since. The two have a beautiful daughter, Evelyn, who is truly Kate’s passion, inspiration, and motivation to make the world a better place. Throughout Kate’s life, she had a calling for service to others. It was no surprise when she began and excelled in her career as a fundraiser for non-profit institutions, eventually making her way back to her alma mater MSU in the College of Human Medicine. After Kate’s original brain cancer diagnosis and treatment in 2020, her illness prevented her from continuing her career, but her passion for service burned bright. Kate made it her mission, over the past several years, to investigate environmental causes of brain cancer, in an effort to leave the world a safer, healthier place for future Red Arrows. As symptoms of her illness started appearing, Kate continued to wake up every morning with a smile and warm greeting to each and every caregiver, family member, and friend. Her memory is cherished by her husband Dave Lax, daughter Evelyn Lax, mother Kim Lum, father Wing Foo Lum, brother Kai Lum, nephews Carter and Chase Merritt, and niece Maelynn Lum and countless other family and friends. We know that those who went before her will welcome her into heaven with open arms. Private services will be held by the family. A public celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the MSU College of Human Medicine Cancer Research Fund (see <https://tinyurl.com/23yd57vy> for more information).



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...
**Only a moment you stayed,
but what an imprint your
footprints have left on our
hearts.**
~ Dorothy Ferguson

Looking Back, continued

animal damaging landscaped areas.

Vergennes Township board has given the go ahead for the renovation and expansion project designed to increase the number of lots in Bailey Cemetery, located behind the Vergennes United Methodist Church on Parnell.

The Lowell Planning Commission has decided to hold a special meeting to determine if a variance should be granted to a local gas station. Owners of the Amoco station, located on the corner of Hudson and Main Streets, are seeking a variance request to allow the station to have two signs on its property.

HUYSER

Russell J. Huyser, age 92 of Lowell, passed away January 14, 2023. He is preceded in death by his wife, Kay; daughter, Sandy; brother, Bud; sisters, Sharon Van Orman, Jackie Vincent. Russell is survived by his wife of 13 years, Becky; children, Connie Ysseldyke; Susan (Greg) Brom, Luke (Jeanette) Chomic, Kerry (Joe) Merrill, Pastor Tim (Anna) Chomic, Katie Chomic; 17 grandchildren; brothers, Frank Huyser, David (Diane) Huyser, Janet (Dennis) Burns; sister-in-law, Cookie Huyser. Russell served in the Army Reserve. He built churches throughout the US under Continental Baptist Missionaries for 7 years. Russ was a general contractor for 40 years running his own business, Huyser Construction. He built many houses, churches, and offices in the Grand Rapids area. Russ loved his work and took great pride in it. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. Russ was the best dad to his 3 daughters, and a wonderful grandfather. Visitation with the family will take place from 2-4PM and 6-8PM on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at Roth Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services will take place at 11 AM, Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at First Baptist Church of Alto, 6015 Bancroft Ave SE, Alto, MI 49302, with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Larry Rolston officiating. Interment Snow Cemetery.



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Self-attestation of sex marker in Social Security records

Effective October 2022, you can self-select your sex on your Social Security number (SSN) record.

“The Social Security Administration’s Equity Action Plan includes a commitment to decrease administrative burdens and ensure people, who identify as gender diverse or transgender, have options in the Social Security Number card application process,” said Acting Commissioner of Social Security, Kilolo Kijakazi. “This new policy allows people to self-select their sex in our records without needing to provide documentation of their sex designation.”

You need to apply for a replacement SSN card to update your sex marker in our records. You still need to show a current document to prove your identity, but you no longer need to provide medical or legal documentation of your sex designation.

We will accept your self-identified sex designation of either male or female, even if it is different from the sex designation shown on identity documents. Identity documents include a passport, a state-issued driver’s license, and an identity card. SSN cards do not include sex markers. Currently, our record systems are unable to include a non-binary or unspecified sex designation. We are exploring possible future policy and systems updates to support an “X” sex designation for the SSN card application process.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it – and share it on social media.

Hillary Hatch 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 hillary.hatch@ssa.gov

VERGENNES
TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Planning Commission on February 6th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township Hall located at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave (Lowell) to hear the following business:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a special exception use application from HFS Equipment/Ryan Harrington for the properties addressed as 300 and 320 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell, MI 49331 (also known as permanent parcel numbers #41-16-27-400-064 & #41-16-27-400-065 respectively). The special exception use would allow the additional operations of a diesel mechanic and repair shop on a “C” commercial zoned property that already hosts open air vehicle sales. Applicable zoning ordinances include: 201.308 and 201.502.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a special exception use application from Amanda Conley located at 12583 McPherson St NE, Lowell, MI 49331 and known as permanent parcel #41-16-15-400-024. The special exception use is to allow a dog kennel business on an “R-A” rural agriculture zoned parcel to host up to 10 animals. The applicable zoning ordinances include: 201.304 and 201.502.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursdays or on the website at www.vergennestwp.org. Public comment will be heard at the meeting and comments received by mail, email, in person or in the Township drop box will be considered if received at the Township office prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may be emailed to: zoning@vergennestwp.org

To view the application on the website, click on “Departments”, then “Planning Commission” then “Pending Applications.”

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HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. Jan., 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}

help wanted

LHS SENIORS - The General Local Scholarship online process was announced to LHS seniors via a "lowelleducation" account email 8 am on January 3, 2023. Interested 12th grade students living within the Lowell school district boundaries but not attending LHS should phone (616-987-2908) or visit the Englehardt or Alto KDL branches for applications. Deadlines are noted with applications. Two letters of recommendation, transcript, and personal statement are also required.

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

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Senior

Spotlight

Our Senior Spotlight
Athlete This Week:

Ian George

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

The unsung heroes of a football team are the guys playing their hearts out on the line of scrimmage each and every down. It’s not the flashiest job, but these are the players that often are the difference in the football game.

Lowell football tackle, Ian George, recently committed to continue his education and football career at Alma College next fall.

“What sold me on Alma was the coaches and how the whole team feels like a big family,” Ian said of the the school.

Connor Douma, Zack Post, Brady Douma, Grant Pratt, Garrett Pratt, Ryan Stevens, and Joey Schaefer are some of the Lowell football players to wear the maroon and white over the last five years. George

will join fellow Red Arrow, Lexi Howell, who also committed to Alma and was featured in the Ledger last week.

“Committing early is a big stress relief. The recruitment process was very fun and attending all the camps and game visits was very fun and good learning opportunities,” George added.

He plans on studying business or sports medicine while attending Alma. At 6’7”, 270, George was an important part of the line of scrimmage that led Lowell to a 6-4 season, and more often than not, had great success running the football.

“Lowell has taught me to always be ready for anything and to relax and take things slow,” he concluded.



Ian George (#54) on the sidelines during a special teams play, following a Lowell Touchdown, this past fall.

Competitive cheer breaks through for school record

By Justin Scott
Sports reporter

First place, a trophy, and a school record. Not a bad day? The Lowell competitive cheer team had themselves a weekend at the 10th annual Wyoming Invitational, where they took first place.

With scores of 218.7 (round 1), 209.44 (round 2), and 270.3 (round 3), Lowell outpaced the rest of the field. It was the first time the program did back tucks, a flip in which the feet move forward and the head moves back. It produced the highest round two score in program history. The 218.7 was the third highest in program history.

“The team has been working incredibly hard to bring the fire, and today, that is exactly what they did,” the program said on social media.

Earlier in the week, Lowell competed at Forest Hills Northern, where they took fourth in the conference jamboree, with an overall score of 653.52. All three round scores were an improvement upon the previous competition.

Lowell next competes at Northview this Thursday.



The Lowell competitive cheer team after the FHN Jamboree.



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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

Guess Who?

I am a rapper born in Florida on January 15, 1981. My mother threw me out of her house for dealing drugs. I wisely turned my life around and became a music sensation. My stage name is a tough breed of dog.

Answer: Pitbull

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				

BATH SAFETY WORD SEARCH

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

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

BATH SAFETY
WORD SEARCH

ADJUSTABLE
AGING
ASSISTANCE
BARS

BATHROOM
COMMODE
FALLING
IMPROVEMENT
MINIMIZE
MODIFY
NONSLIP

PRECAUTION
RAILS
RAISED
RISERS
SAFETY
SCALD
SEAT

SHOWER
SLIPPERY
STEP-IN
TASKS
TEMPERATURE
TRANSFER

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the bathroom.

R H W S E O

Answer: Shower

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Not invited

6. Whale ship captain

10. One point south of southwest

14. Small cavity in a rock

15. Recidivists

17. City of Angels hoopster

19. A way to mark with one's signature

20. OJ trial judge

21. Rice cooked in broth

22. One point east of due south

23. One point east of southeast

24. Complements an entree

26. Grouped by twos

29. Disfigure

31. Woods

32. Political action committee

34. Longer of 2 bones in the forearm

35. Kin groups

37. Philippine Island

38. Contrary to

39. Bluish-gray fur

40. Comprehend the written word

41. Natural depressions

43. Felines

45. Breathe noisily

46. Taxi

47. Pancake made from buckwheat flour

49. Swiss river

50. Foot (Latin)

53. Have surgery

57. Formal withdrawal

58. Monetary units of Peru

59. Greek war god

60. 2,000 lbs.

61. High points

CLUES DOWN

1. Green and yellow citrus fruit

2. A bright color

3. Thicket

4. Journalist Tarbell

5. A place to work or relax

6. Sharp mountain ridge

7. Helicopter

8. Mimic

9. Suggests

10. More musty

11. Large, flightless rail

12. Make beer

13. Soviet Socialist Republic

16. People who can account for you

18. Taunt

22. South Dakota

23. Cover the entirety of

24. Kids' favorite visitor

25. A way to save for retirement

27. Fencing swords

28. C. China mountain range

29. Type of sandwich

30. Team

31. Paddle

33. Partly digested food

35. Most cagey

36. Shoppers make one

37. Cathode-ray tube

39. Food supplies

42. Backbones

43. Concern

44. Blood group

46. Broadway songwriter Sammy

47. Dutch colonist

48. Full-grown pike fish

49. Deity of a monotheistic cult

50. Type of bread

51. S. Nigerian people

52. Scottish tax

53. Young women's association

54. Brazilian city

55. Hide of a young animal

56. Midway between north and northeast

2022 quite the year in sports, continued from last week

August

Sue Bird, a pioneer for women’s basketball, plays her last WNBA game with the Seattle Storm. Her playing career in the WNBA lasted 21 years.

The Detroit Tigers fire general manager, Al Avila, after a rebuild gone sour. The move was cheered by Tigers fans.

Katie Brim becomes two-time Paralympics cycling world champion. The victories were even more notable to Lowell residents, as Brim is a 2016 LHS graduate, who competed on the Lowell Crew team.

Hawaii’s Honolulu Little League topped Curacao in the Little League World Series championship. The Hawaiian team broke records as one of the most prolific teams to ever compete at the event.

September

Ajla Tomljanovic defeats Serena Williams in what ultimately would be Williams’ final professional tennis match.



Roger Federer with longtime rival Rafael Nadal after his last match, concluding a career where he amassed 20 grand slam wins. (AP - Kin Cheung)



The Las Vegas Aces celebrate winning their first WNBA title. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

The U.S. Tennis great retired following the tournament in a pre-announced move. Just a few weeks later, another tennis great, Swiss international Roger Federer, hung up his racquet. Both players are certain to go down as two of the best to ever play the game.

Chess Controversy. Yes, Chess is a sport according to the International Olympic Committee. Regardless of opinions on the nomenclature, Chess has moved mainstream, in part thanks to streaming platforms like Twitch and YouTube, as well as Netflix’s hit, The Queen’s Gambit. With booming popularity comes a bigger spotlight. When American grandmaster, Hans Niemann, defeated world number one Magnus Carlsen, it raised a few eyebrows. Carlsen suspected Niemann to have cheated, later deemed to be accurate.

The Las Vegas Aces win their first ever WNBA championship. The WNBA season was overshadowed by the arrest, trial, and eventual freeing of WNBA star, Brittney Griner. Griner was arrested for possession of cannabis oil when

she went to Russia to compete for UMMC Ekaterinburg on February 17. She was sentenced to nine years in prison, which U.S. officials categorized as wrongly detained. She was freed in a prisoner swap in December.

October

New York Yankee, Aaron Judge, breaks Roger Maris’ home run record with 62 hits during the season. A best for an American League player. He beat out Los Angeles Angels’, Shohei Ohtani, for MLB league MVP.

Michigan Football defeats Michigan State in a game that ended 29-7. Though the game would unfortunately become known for what happened after the game, where six Michigan State players would end up being charged with aggravated assault misdemeanors, and one player charged with felonious assault. Michigan State received the largest fine in Big Ten history and Michigan was also reprimanded for their tunnel management.

November

The Houston Astros win the World Series, 4-2, over the Philadelphia Phillies. The series included a rare combined no-hitter by the Astros.

On the same day, Los Angeles FC won the MLS Cup (soccer), breaking through for their first ever championship.

Western Michigan fires head football coach, Tim Lester, after a disappointing 5-7 season. He went 37-32 over six seasons, and despite a 26-20 interconference record never won their division during his tenure.

December

The 2022 FIFA World Cup. It’s the biggest sporting event in the world, and it lived up to the hype. Argentina won the 2022 World Cup in what was widely acclaimed as the greatest World Cup final ever in a captivating back-and-forth classic. The South Americans took an early 2-0 lead, and dominated the majority of the match. In a flash, all that changed as France star, Kylian Mbappé, scored two consecutive late goals for the 2018 champions, just 90 seconds apart, to force extra time. The teams traded goals in extra time before the Argentinians won 4-2 on penalty kicks. It was the perfect cap to the legendary career of Argentina right winger, Leo Messi, one of the greatest players of all-time, who scored two goals to carry his nation to glory.

Morocco was the tournament surprise, making their way to the semifinal to become the first African or Arab semifinalist in tournament history. Japan and Croatia also made Cinderella runs, while World no. 1 and World no. 2 Brazil and Belgium fell flat. World Cup fever hit The United States as well, who had two draws and defeated Iran in the group stage before losing to the Netherlands in the round of 16. The tournament was hosted



Leo Messi’s World Cup photo became the most liked photo on Instagram of all-time after Argentina won the 2022 FIFA World Cup (PHOTO: SHAUN BOTTERILL - FIFA/FIFA VIA GETTY)

by Qatar, a small, wealthy middle-eastern country. Controversy surrounded the hosts, whose bid was shrouded with claims of bribery with the global governing body FIFA, and questions around Qatar’s human rights record. It was also the first World Cup held during winter, due to the Qatari climate. On the pitch though, the 32 nations who competed put on a spectacle worthy of the world’s attention.

The Detroit Lions win their sixth game in seven tries, as they make a push for a once improbable playoff spot. The team started the season 1-6 before putting a run together and giving Lions fans hope.

The sports world had a fitting end to the year as college football’s playoff semifinals ended with a bang. Ohio State missed a game-winning field goal in sync with the clock striking midnight. The impeccable timing sent 2022 off with joy for Georgia football fans, who survived a scare from the fourth-seeded Buckeyes. Michigan lost to Texas Christian University in the first semifinal in a 51-45 game.

2023 Bridal Guide

Running in the Jan. 28 edition of the Buyer’s Guide & News
Deadline is noon on Thursday, Jan. 26

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