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Red Arrow
Winter
SPORTS TEAMS

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Community
Support Month



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Lowell Area
Schools Sports



page 10 & 11

\$1.00



State grant opens doors for community splash pad

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Sitting at the intersection of the Grand and Flat Rivers, Lowell is a community defined by water. There's the Lowell Showboat along the Riverwalk, the beach at Stoney Lakeside Park, and as soon as summer 2023, construction is expected to begin on a community splash pad, adjacent to Grand River North Riverfront Park in Lowell Township. The latter was made possible by a \$150,000 Recreation Passport Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The splash pad is a joint effort between Lowell Township, City of Lowell, and private donors. Though Lowell Township supervisor, Jerry Hale, spearheaded the project, a splash pad has been a priority for City of Lowell mayor, Mike DeVore, for years.

"I called up Mayor DeVore and said, 'You know, I don't want to steal your thunder, but what if we did it together?'" Hale recounted.

The joint operation



The splash pad site is adjacent to a children's play area featuring train-themed playground equipment.

requires an initial funding and maintenance commitment by both the city and the township. Construction itself is expected to cost the community \$450,000, of which the DNR Passport Grant will cover \$150,000.

Hale has secured an additional \$150,000 from an anonymous donor and expects to gather \$50,000 from other sources. That leaves \$100,000, which he has requested the city provide from either the Lowell Area Community

Foundation or the city's general fund.

Lowell's City Council discussed the proposed splash pad cost-sharing agreement at their January 17, 2023 meeting.

"I'm getting a lot of pressure from my four

grandkids," council member, Cliff Yankovich, joked.

DeVore shared a number of benefits, including centralized location, relative savings, and expedited

**Splash pad,
continued page 2**

Cancer is a relentless foe

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

The Pink Arrow football game was the brain child of our former football coach, Noel Dean. Back in 2008, he was casting about for a way to help residents of the Lowell area who were battling cancer. Pink

Arrow was born, and since then, the event has grown to be way more than a football game, and the best part is that it has been copied all over Michigan and the rest of the country, thanks to some national news exposure early on.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with Pink Arrow Pride, Coach Dean came up with a plan to have his players (the Red Arrows) play a game in pink jerseys and turn that game into a fundraiser, to lend a hand to area residents and their families who were fighting some form of cancer. FYI - the tremendous success of Pink Arrow is the reason that Lowell is home to a Gilda's Club. There is no

other town of our size that has one. The story goes that he floated the idea by one of his friends, Perry Beachum, and asked, "Do you think the team will put on pink jerseys, if I ask them?" Perry replied, "They will take off their cleats and walk on hot coals, if you ask them."

Since that initial Pink Arrow football game, the event has exploded into a day-long Pink Arrow Pride Day at the High School, with different teams getting involved, the local restaurants set-up in tents by the field (my go-to Pink Arrow dinner is the chicken fingers from Keisers), and all kinds of things, with the sole purpose of raising awareness and money for those fighting cancer. In addition to the emotional support at Gilda's Club, Pink Arrow helps meet other needs, as well, including

\$500 a year, for three years, to help with expenses. All the money raised, benefits families fighting cancer; the money is collected and administered by volunteers. If ever there was a charity that is deserving of your money, Pink Arrow certainly is one. There are no fancy offices or salaries to eat into the money raised; it stays right in the community it was designed to help.

And now to the sad point of this story. Cancer does not care about the success of Pink Arrow. Cancer has no respect for the brilliant idea of Coach Dean and his family. The difficult news that I have been building up to is that Noel and Jill's son, Doak, has been attacked by cancer. This young man is an athlete and was ambushed by cancer near the end of 2022. Doak graduated

from Lowell in 2021 with impressive wrestling and football stats, as well as the needed academic prowess to attend Harvard. Doak is a member of the wrestling team at Harvard, following in the footsteps of his older brothers, Zeth and Kanon. (The Dean family and the sport of wrestling are pretty much synonyms.)

Last fall, Doak noticed a "twinge" and thought maybe he pulled a muscle. The pain did not go away and he finally mentioned it to his parents when he came home for Thanksgiving break. A visit to the doctor revealed that the "twinge" was testicular cancer. It was so advanced that Doak was in an operating room within 24 hours.

**Doak, continued
page 2**



Doak Dean

Splash pad, continued

timeline. “Thanks to Jerry,” he said, “we’re one to two years ahead of where we would be.”

The council ultimately tabled the vote on whether or not to approve the cost-sharing agreement, due to lack of clarity regarding maintenance costs and logistical concerns at this point, in the venture.

“If there’s a sprinkler ban, people might be unhappy with 60 kids splashing in the water for 12 hours a day,” said council member, Leah Groves, referencing the city’s water rationing plan to conserve limited water supply during the summer of 2022. In an interview, Mayor Burns noted that he doesn’t expect water shortages to be a continuing concern.

“We’re confident we’ll get it done,” Hale said, “but we don’t know all the details.”

Hale has only just started designing the splash pad with an engineer. In addition to questions of

water sourcing, open or closed system, and logistics of who is responsible for what, Hale is entertaining zones for younger and older kids, water cannons, and buckets that dump water at odd intervals. Once the details are ironed out, the Lowell City Council will resume their vote on the cost-sharing agreement.

Hale and DeVore learned the hard way that the key to a successful splash pad is location, location, location. Past efforts failed when proposed splash pad sites either lacked sufficient parking or included underground electrical wiring, where the pipes would need to be laid. In addition to the DNR grant, the current push was largely fueled by a private land donation. Impact Church has deeded property, adjacent to North Riverfront Park, for the explicit purpose of the splash pad. The only catch in the agreement is that the property reverts back to church ownership, in the event that it is no longer used for this purpose.

When it comes to township improvement projects, Hale’s guiding question is, “What isn’t provided already in the community?” In past years, this has included pickleball courts and volleyball



The splash pad joins a long list of past park improvements, including pickleball courts (pictured), volleyball pits, and a disc-golf course.



In addition to the proposed splash pad, Lowell Township expects to finish construction on a disc golf course at South Riverfront Park this summer.

pits. Residents strolling in South Riverfront Park may have also noticed disc golf baskets spread intermittently throughout the greenery. Hale expects to finish work on a disc-golf course there with the help of church volunteers, during Impact Church’s Love Week, this coming July.

The community splash pad will provide hours of fun and relief from the sweltering heat. It will fulfill a need for a community that’s desperately wanted a public pool for years. Regarding the possibility of a municipal pool, DeVore said, “That is never going to happen. For a municipality our size, it’s just not

feasible... If it were, the other one would have never closed.”

DeVore explained that Lowell’s only hope for a community pool would be if a private organization, like the YMCA, took care of construction and maintenance, but he expressed excitement at having an alternative to such a pool with the future construction of the splash pad.

“I’m not entirely sure I would have been able to pull this off by myself,” DeVore said, “so I’m eternally grateful that Jerry and I work so well together and that he was willing to come on board.”

“I don’t do it for the legacy,” Hale commented. “As long as it gets done, that’s where I’m at.”

There’s a trailhead near the North Riverfront Park parking lot that leads deep into the woods, across the wooden bridge, and over to the amenities of South Riverfront Park. To one side of the trail, there’s Corner Stop Ice Cream, a children’s play area featuring train-themed playground equipment, a pavilion, and the pickleball courts. On the other side, once the trees are cleared and construction has finished, Lowell residents will have the option to bring their children to a hopping splash pad.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF POSTING OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

The Lowell Charter Township Board adopted the following amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinances at its meeting on January 16, 2023.

- Ordinance 10-2022Z to amend the Township Open Space Planned Unit Development Ordinance and the environmental standard subsection of this Ordinance applicable to all PUD districts to meet the Kent County stormwater control standards as regulated by the appropriate Kent County permitting authorities.

This Ordinance will become effective seven (7) days after adoption by the Township Board or the publication into a newspaper of general circulation, whichever is longer.

The adopted ordinance is available for review at the office of the Township Clerk, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 616-897-7600. The ordinances are also available on the Township Web Site at www.lowelltwp.org.

Monica Burt, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

Doak, continued

At first, the docs were seeing indications that the cancer had been eradicated, but further scans showed signs of it near one of Doak’s kidneys. The result has been that Doak will not be continuing with his first season of wrestling for the Harvard Crimson team. Instead, he is looking at a schedule of a much different kind: three 21-day cycles of chemotherapy, in which there are 5 days of chemo and 16 days “off”. Ask anyone who has danced with cancer, and they can tell you, once you get a little bit down the road with chemo, there are no days off.

My purpose in posting this is to ask you to think of the Dean family, as we move along in 2023. Say a prayer, send some positive

energy and good thoughts toward Doak, if you could. Remember to include his folks - Dean and Jill, along with his brothers, Zeth and Kanon and his sister, Darby. Experience has taught me one thing about facing a severe health challenge, like cancer - it is almost easier to go through it yourself than to sit by and watch a loved one face it - so send some positive vibrations and prayers for all of the

Dean family, as they gear up to help Doak through the next few weeks and months - please.

If you have a minute or two, send Doak and his family a note or card of encouragement. I have first hand knowledge of the impact a card can have while facing-off with cancer. Here is where you want to send it: 3028 Orchard Circle Tifton, GA 31794

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~ Christopher Reeve

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Community Support Month: Where big ideas start small

By Bill Lee
contributing writer

Some great things come from a lone idea. The idea then is discussed with others, some brainstorming takes place and the next thing you know, Governor Gretchen Whitmer is supporting the idea by announcing a proclamation that the month of February will be called “Community Support Month” in Michigan. That is how it happened for the small church congregation of Lowell United Methodists, who started it all last year. Community Support Month is a program that will recognize healthcare workers, first responders, educators, and service workers, each week in February.

Davin Risk, Grand Rapids resident and Worship Director at Lowell United Methodist, was part of the thinktank that started this project last year. “We were doing some visioning with our leadership at the church, and through that process, we were thinking about the world around us and asked, ‘okay, what are we seeing?’” said Risk. “It was a lot of angst and

people living in anxious times. With the pandemic happening, people in health care were not being treated very well and our drive-through workers at McDonalds were getting the short end of the stick with people’s frustrations. We thought about what could we do to show some appreciation for those people. We came up with the idea of picking a group of people each week and giving them a gift bag with little things in it. Also, there is a prayer in there specific to that industry.”

Clearly, there were many groups that probably deserved recognition, but when it came to decide, the church agreed upon four: health care workers (doctors/nurses), educators (teachers and support staff), first responders (police, fire, and EMTs) and service workers (fast food, grocery and others). The church saw how these four groups shared a lot of risk during the pandemic, but also, were not necessarily treated very well during those anxious times. “Health care workers were getting bashed,” said Risk. “First responders and police were culturally going

through struggles, and then educators had to completely adapt to everything that they know on how to teach and parents frustrations were spilling over into educators (including bus drivers and cafeteria workers). The last group was service workers. Cashiers and restaurant workers, all of those frontline workers, typically make the lowest wages and put up with the most.”

Last year, the church decided to start small by providing about 25 gift bags for each group. It was a modest approach that grew pretty quickly. The church not only reached their goal of raising \$700, but once the word spread in a grassroots way, that number reached \$3000 and they ended up recognizing over 2000 people in Lowell and the surrounding communities. Using that momentum from last year, the church this year, decided to do significantly more gift bags, along with having more volunteers help, including a group of 20 students from Lowell High School. This past Saturday, the volunteers packed over 1000 bags. The gift bags were filled with lots of goodies like snacks, hand



Davin Risk on the left, and Pastor Brad Brillhart, of Lowell United Methodists Church, on the right holding Proclamation from the Governor’s Office.

sanitizer, tissue packets, lip balm and industry specific products like hand warmers for school bus drivers or small notebooks for police officers.

Also, in preparing for this year, Lowell United Methodist Church hoped to reach more people outside of Lowell, including Grand Rapids. Several churches in Grand Rapids – First United Methodist, Trinity United, Northlawn United,

and Aldergates United – will all be a part of this year’s Community Support Month. But something exciting also happened. The whole State of Michigan got on board too. “Something that was small now has an official declaration on the books, in the halls of congress in Michigan, that February is Community Support Month,” said Risk. “Next year we’ll go for a national declaration and maybe we can get the White House to recognize it.” Recently, they began a partnership with Betten Baker Auto Dealership and Meijer grocery store, who have provided funds to help support this endeavor.

And it all started with an idea: a group of thoughtful people in Lowell wanted to show their appreciation for workers who help residents on a daily basis. That kernel grew into something bigger and has now gained momentum into several cities, including Grand

Rapids and Chicago. It has become an inspiring and passionate venture that has gone beyond recognition. “This to me is the embodiment of love,” said Risk. “This isn’t to promote the church. The purpose of this is to love and to spread love. When you lead with that, it kind of breaks down some walls for people as well. To see that happen and organically grow the way it has, it is really exciting. It is invigorating and reminds you on why you get involved in ministry in the first place.”

There are many ways that you can support Community Support Month. Individuals and businesses can donate money to help with the program. A GoFund Me page has been created, as well. For more information on how to help, email Davin Risk at davin.risk1@gmail.com or go to the Community Support Month Project Facebook page.



Kids are from Lowell United Methodist Church “BLAST Youth Group” and Lowell High School National Honors Society. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

CITY OF
LOWELL
PUBLIC NOTICE

990 N. WASHINGTON

The Lowell City Council will hold public hearings on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 and Monday, March 20, 2023 to hear citizen comments on the future of 990 N. Washington.

Do not hesitate to contact the City Clerk with questions or comments you wish to have read into record.

Susan Ullery
City Clerk

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CITY OF
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PUBLIC NOTICE

LAST DATE TO FILE
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TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023
4:00 P.M.

City of Lowell registered residents of the City interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four-year term vacancies occurring, must obtain nominating petition forms for circulation and return no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.

Susan Ullery
City Clerk

Book Corner

Blood Cobalt: A Review of Cobalt Red by Siddharth Kara

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

In *Cobalt Red*, author Siddharth Kara exposes the violence and exploitation inherent in the harvest of the single most important mineral in the production of lithium-ion batteries. The book’s subtitle outlines the premise quite handily. Through an interrogation of artisanal mining of cobalt, Kara reveals “how the blood of the Congo powers our lives.”

Cobalt Red is the fourth installment in a series of books, wherein Kara elucidates the current state of slavery in the world. His books *Sex Trafficking* (2009), *Bonded Labor* (2012), and *Modern Slavery* (2017) are lauded by the United Nations, scholars, activists, non-profit organizations, and governments, alike, for

addressing worldwide slavery in the forms of human trafficking, debt slavery, and child labor. *Cobalt Red* continues this work through its exploration of how colonial, medieval, and even stone age conditions in Congolese cobalt mines, undergird so much of modern life, worldwide.

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries drive a number of important technologies, like cell phones, tablets, laptops, vaping devices, and electric power tools, and the success of such batteries depends on cobalt. Kara notes that many in the industry are already working toward cobalt-free solutions, due to logistical, economic, and ethical concerns, but also because cobalt is not a renewable resource. Kara interviewed a student named, Gloria,

who underscored the latter problem.

“The mineral reserves in Congo will last another forty years,” she said. “[M]aybe fifty? During that time, the population of Congo will double... [W]e will have two hundred million people who are poor, uneducated, and have nothing left of value.”

As nations push to meet climate action goals from the 2016 Paris Agreement, the demand on cobalt is expected to grow by almost 500 percent from 2018 to 2050. With cobalt-alternative battery technology nearly a decade away from commercial-scale use, and suffering from issues with energy density, thermal stability, manufacturing costs, and longevity, the world appears to be married to the unethical mining of cobalt in the Congo.

As in the classic Ursula K. Le Guin short story, *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*, the prosperity of most of the world depends upon the suffering of one nation. In other areas of the world, similar mining booms might make local inhabitants wealthy. Kara writes of the abject poverty and horrible

working conditions faced by the miners, comparing it to the subjugation of the Congolese by King Leopold II. Though the current situation falls short of the 13 million killed under Leopold by a wide margin, artisan mining in Congo is not without its casualties.

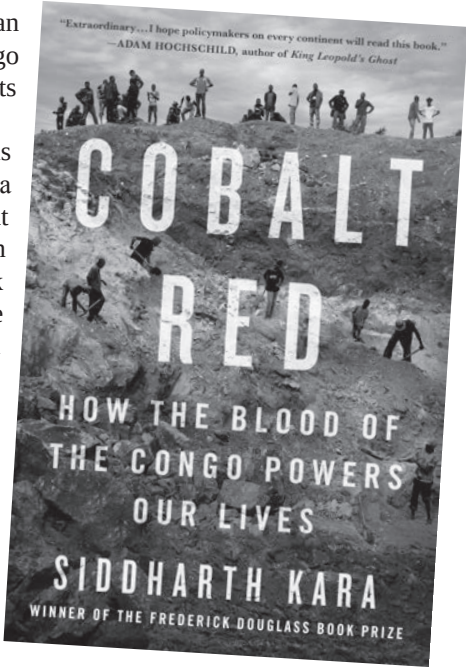
“Until this moment,” Kara writes, “I thought that the ground in the Congo took its vermillion hue from the copper in the dirt, but now I cannot help but wonder whether the earth here is red because of all of the blood that has spilled upon it.”

Big corporations, like Apple, Samsung, Tesla, Daimler, and Glencore PLC, claim that their cobalt is ethically sourced. Both the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) and Global Battery Alliance (GBA) were formed to monitor situations like those described in the pages of *Cobalt Red*. However, Kara notes that he never witnessed any of these groups overseeing the Congolese mining operations.

Attempts to intervene into the artisanal cobalt mining industry are disrupted by soldiers, surveillance, remote mining locales, local distrust, and scale of operation. Creusers, or diggers, mine the cobalt, which is delivered to traders, depots, and buying houses, who transport their supply to industrial mining

companies. In doing so, they launder the slave-mined cobalt into the formal supply chain.

Kara calls readers to action. His passionate writing exclaims that there’s no



excuse for these mining practices to continue. No commodity is worth destroying the life of someone else, no matter how far removed the producer is from the consumer. So long as there is demand for products that use cobalt, these practices will continue. Readers must question the value of their smartphones, weighing their own convenience against the oppression of millions.

Kara received the Frederick Douglass Book Prize in 2010 for *Sex Trafficking*, and this honor sets the expectation that *Cobalt Red* will be a hard-hitting, heavily annotated, unassailable sociological treatise, akin to Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow*. The historical background Kara provides

is top level research, but the book itself feels closer to Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*, which Kara references liberally, and George Orwell’s *Burmese Days*. It’s largely a personal account of the atrocities Kara witnessed during his own visits to the Congo.

Because of the circumstances that prompted *Cobalt Red*, much of the most damning details are unverifiable. Few people have the level of access that Kara fought so hard to gain, and all of Kara’s interview subjects are anonymous for the sake of their safety. This would be a problem if Kara purported to have written the final word on the subject. Instead, Kara should be seen as a whistleblower. His personal accounts give just enough information to invoke an emotional response in his readers. This is not an encyclopedia entry. It’s a call to action.

If there’s a shortcoming to *Cobalt Red*, it’s that bad faith actors can easily co-opt Kara’s message as a hit piece against electric vehicles and renewable energies. It is certainly the case that demand for electric vehicles perpetuates slavery in Congolese artisan mines, but so does the use of smartphones, e-cigarettes, and hoverboards. Additionally, one of the most problematic habits, personal ownership and excessive use of motorized vehicles, has been perpetuated by the oil and gas industry for decades. In other words, hamstringing the electric vehicle movement would benefit those who spurred on these unwholesome practices in the first place. Furthermore, renewable energies are a means of preventing the effects of climate change in the Congo from further destabilizing the region.

To be clear, Kara seeks a more nuanced solution than the complete destruction of the clean energy sector. However, he also demands more of the people of the world. It is not enough for tech giants to tell us that their minerals are sourced ethically. The people must hold them accountable, the press must decry the blood on their hands, and everyone, all together, must change. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” and nowhere is that more evident than in the pages of *Cobalt Red*.

Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives comes out on January 31, 2023, one day before the publication of this article. It’s published by St. Martin’s Press, a subsidiary of MacMillan Publishers. It is available wherever books are sold.



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JANUARY SCHEDULE

Donna Neumann, I Want a Birthday Party, Feb. 3
Jean Davis, Lansing Women’s Expo, Feb. 8
Lisa Jacovski, Let’s Talk, Learning to Bowl, Feb. 9
Janet Glaser, Feb. 10
Tana Jenkins, Love Rescued, Valentine’s special, Feb. 14
Diana Kathryn Plopa, A Tryst of Fate, Feb. 17

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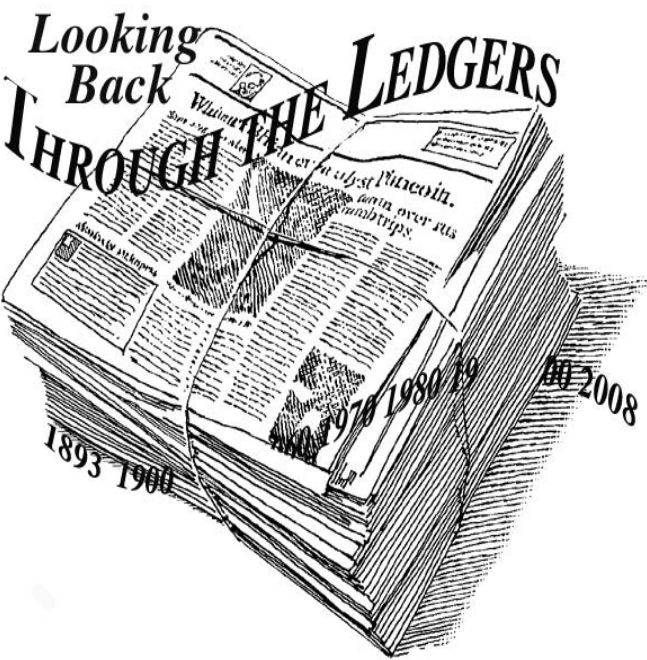
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viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 3, 1898

The first grand jury in 10 years, in Berrien county, has been impaneled to try numerous saloon keepers and druggists for alleged violations of the liquor laws.

Rover Snow, a farmer near Battle Creek, while preparing a windmill, was struck by the fan and thrown to the ground, 45 feet, striking on his head. He died instantly.

Arthur Kangas, aged 10, was run down by a work train at Calumet. His right arm was severed from his body and his head split open. He died in a short time in the hospital.

George Johnson has started from Sault Ste. Marie with a dog team and a sled eight feet long, carrying 650 pounds of supplies, and expects to average 50 miles a day on a trip to the Klondike.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 8, 1923

One hundred and twenty-one appreciative Board of Traders partook of the goodly dinner provided by the Methodist ladies for the annual gathering of Lowell's businessmen's organization at the City hall Tuesday evening.

In case of fire, call Central and tell her where. The Lowell Fire Department will come out with their new chemical truck. Can you afford to be without this protection? Order a phone.

Dr. D.L. Davis, of Lowell, and C.L. Shaver, of Grand Valley Poultry farm, Saranac, in the endeavor to place white diarrhea-free chickens on the market so that there will not be the terrible mortality and disappointment, and even failure to the poultry raiser, have bled their entire flocks and sent the blood to the M. A. C., Lansing, and had it tested, and the reactors removed and disposed of it from their flocks. This has been a large sacrifice to the above-named men and should be appreciated and taken advantage of by those who require baby chicks in the spring.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 5, 1948

The first class to complete the AAA prescribed driving course at Lowell high school have been granted their diplomas - their operator's license.

New telephone directories for 1948 were placed in

the hands of Lowell subscribers the latter part of last week. The new directory contains 1,100 names, an increase of 100 names during the past year.

Mrs. Rose Watrous accompanied her granddaughter and children, Mrs. Bruce Tower, Addie Rose and Lonny, to Grand Rapids, Saturday afternoon. They visited little Jean Tower and baby Linda Watrous, who is in an incubator at St. Mary's, having weighed only 4 1/2 lbs. Afterwards, they visited the baby's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emery Watrous, of Welcome Valley.

Harry Waseleski is the new conservation officer, who has been appointed by the Conservation Department, to patrol the Lowell area. He is one of sixty-five rookie conservation officers to have completed the longest, most intensive and careful training ever given.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life February 1, 1973

Lippert's new store, at 413 East Main St., is now open for business. They will have their grand opening next week.

Lowell High School's wrestlers attained a surprising hold on first place in the Tri-River conference, last Wednesday night,

Remaining idle in Tri-River basketball play Friday night, the Lowell Red Arrows found themselves alone in third place, after the leagues top three teams sustained surprising upsets.

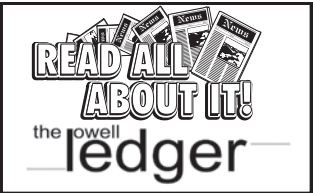
Several organizations within the Lowell area began last week to receive their checks from he Lowell Area United Fund. The United Fund monies will go to the Girls Scouts, Cub Scouts, Campfire Girls, Youth for Understanding program, and the Lowell Community Center.

Last year's Youth for Understanding program helped sponsor eight students from Lowell High School's junior class, enabling them to live in homes in foreign lands with their host families. The students submitting applications to go abroad this summer, along with their parents, will be the special guests at a dinner tonight, January 31.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 11, 1998

Lil Grummet is retiring from Lowell High School after 28 years. Grummet's last day in the student services department is February 18. She and her husband, Bob, are planning to take some time and travel to the Florida's Keys and Texas.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission gave its preliminary approval on developer Mike Harding's proposed six-unit site development on Lincoln Lake Road.



outdoors

green grass

Dave Stegehuis

Long distance travel has become more difficult and expensive in recent times. Unreliable air travel and high fuel prices are reasons to stay close to home.

Camping is a great way to take a break from the job and one's daily routine. There is over a thousand campgrounds in Michigan, so somebody besides me must think it's a good idea. Every year Gwen and I share a campground with folks from California to Maine. The state of Michigan maintains over a hundred state parks and recreation areas. Everyone in the state has easy access to a variety of camping experiences.

Making smores around a campfire is a traditional camping activity, but there are a lot more opportunities for fun and adventure. Campgrounds are often located on water and invite all kinds of water sports. Hiking, biking, local entertainment, fishing, and touring, as well as visiting local attractions like museums, waterfalls and lighthouses, can be accessed from a well-chosen basecamp. It is OK to shop if you are having fun.

Campground culture invites folks to get to know the neighbors and perhaps make new friends. The slower pace and the absence of the distractions of our busy daily lives allows people to pay more attention to each other. Everyone has an interesting story if you take time to listen.

The popularity of camping vacations has motivated the R.V. industry to offer a wide range of products. A tent setup will work and is still the choice of manly campers, while others may desire more amenities. As a family, we spent twenty years tent camping. By the time our kids graduated from high school, they lived a year of their life out of a tent. The fond memories of these outings will last a lifetime. These days, air conditioning and leather recliners in our R.V. haven't spoiled the experience.

There is no one answer for camping styles; everyone can make choices to accommodate their own priorities. There is the old adage about the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. Well, our side of the fence is just as green.

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. We have a 500-word limit.

Letters can be sent to emailed to
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Deadline is noon on Mondays



At Your Local Library

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

Scrabble for Seniors

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 February 8, 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.

The Art of Life Guided Painting

Thursday, February 9, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Follow along step-by-step with one of The Art of Life’s professional artists and art instructors to complete a pre-chosen image. Feel free to add your own flair or just use the supplies to create your own thing. This is a beginner level workshop. 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 18+

Heart to Heart Craft Party

Saturday, February 11, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Roses are red, violets are blue, join our Valentine event, just for you! Celebrate Valentine’s Day with crafts. For all ages.

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+.

Subscribe NOW!

the lowell ledger

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

Don't miss another week!

897-9261

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 212 E. Main
Date built: 1873
Builder: Sylvester Brower
Owner: John Kopf
1st business: J. Kopf Furniture

After 1873, furniture manufactured at J. Kopf & Co. Furniture Factory, south of the Grand River, (1867-1888), was sold at 212 E. Main. Windsor and cane-seat chairs of cherry and walnut were their specialty. They also made stands, drop-leaf tables, desks, bedsteads and caskets. They turned out 20,000 chairs, annually, at their peak.

John Kopf, proprietor of J. Kopf & Co. Furniture Factory, acquired the lot at 212 E. Main from E. J. Booth in 1873. This Main Street store was then built to showcase and sell the furniture that was made in



The Kopf Factory

the factory, on the south side of the Grand River. Sales, both wholesale and retail, and shipping were handled here. The basement was used to store furniture; the first floor held first-class furniture, clock repair,

silverware and jewelry; the second floor held parlor furniture; the third floor had caskets and a painting room. In 1882, Kopf sold the store to Taylor & Wittrup, who continued selling Kopf furniture. In 1888, the store became Taylor and Kopf Funeral Directors and Furniture. After John Kopf’s death, in 1888, his nephews, John L. Kopf and Goodrich Kopf, Jr., formed a business known as “Kopf Bros. Furniture and Undertakers,” which operated from 1889 to 1895. A. D. Oliver, a jeweler, worked in a corner of the Kopf Bros. building during the 1890s.

Yeiter & Wadsworth Furniture and Undertaking moved here from 206 E. Main in 1896 and continued for 17 years, 1896 -1913. It was Yeiter & Shaw for one year, and then became Yeiter and Co., when Orlo J. Yeiter, a young man and cousin, joined J. B. Yeiter. In 1922, J. B. retired and O. J. Yeiter continued the company at this location

until 1927, when he moved to 202 W. Main.

From 1931-1945, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Smith sold used furniture and antiques. Their son, Carl L. Smith purchased the store in 1943. In 1948, Carl affiliated with Western Auto which began as a specialty retail chain of stores that supplied automobile parts and accessories. Later, Western Auto added firearms, toys, household goods and a catalog department. In 1956, Carl and Louisa Smith moved their Western Auto home and auto supply store across the street to 229 and 219 E. Main and utilized both storefronts.

Rittenger Insurance and Richmond Real Estate were here in the early 1960s. In 1965, the MOOSE Lodge expanded to the first floor of both 210 and 212 E. Main. In 2015, both buildings were gutted and remodeled. This double storefront became home to Main Street BBQ in 2016.



The Furniture sign behind the pole is attached to 212 E. Main, July 4, 1895 or 96.

area churches

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060
Pastor Ryan Landt
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays 7 PM
Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church

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

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

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897-7168 • www.fbcloowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • 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**

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

discover. grow. share
621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

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

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

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Pastor Alyssa Anten
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 6 PM

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616-897-5906

happy birthday



FEBRUARY 2

Marie Wade, Sarah Baker.

FEBRUARY 3

Dale Phillips, Clarice Poisson, Sana Bryant, Cassandra Thomas, Chris Dennie, Olivia Dennie, Jon Jacobs.

FEBRUARY 4

Kelsey Scheider, Alan Lally.

FEBRUARY 5

Ann Mulder, Colleen Myers, Mandy Schneider, Mike Conklin.

FEBRUARY 6

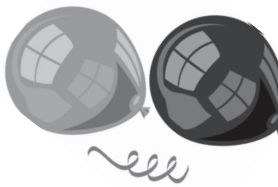
Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.

FEBRUARY 7

Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.

FEBRUARY 8

Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes, Karis Dilly.



Michigan supplies 46 states with hen losses, sends egg prices soaring

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

As Michigan continues to fill-in for losses of egg-laying hens in 46 states, prices of eggs are soaring by 60 percent.

Even though the Avian Influenza (AI) last year caused the depopulation of 52,463,040 head of poultry in 46 states and has driven up the prices of eggs, neither Michigan nor small farmers have been impacted by the deadly flu.

“No commercial farms in Michigan lost any hens from Avian Flu,” said Brian Burch on behalf of the Department of Ag.

However, Michigan’s family egg farmers supply eggs to thousands of stores, restaurants, and distributors across the country, and our supply continues to fill-in where other states had losses, according to Burch.

Small farmers, like Rachael and Jon O’Brock of Seldom Creek Farm, have not been impacted by the concerning trend of Avian Influenza.

“I am not aware of any smaller farms that have been significantly affected by this. On a larger scale, commercial producers pack millions of birds with similar genetics into a confined area, and it seems plausible that this could make them more susceptible to widespread illness,” said O’Brock.

According to O’Brock, the family farm has seen costs rise up this year and may need to adjust pricing at some point, as well.

“A 3x increase in prices is not at all warranted, based on the cost increases we have seen that have been happening slowly over the last two years,” he said. “If you are interested in knowing where your eggs come from or worried about supply, we encourage you to work with local farms, like us, as much as possible.”

For a similar and potentially lower price at current store levels, you can buy a local product, support farms in your community

to build a more resilient food supply, and eat a better product. “Better yet, if you are able, you could get your own backyard flock for the ultimate control,” said O’Brock.

The production is down significantly at the farm right now, which is completely normal in the winter, but the farm has already seen production begin to increase weeks past the winter solstice, as the days are getting longer again.

Seldom Creek Farm has just stocked its egg stand and they expect they will sell out within a few days. There is a limit of two dozen per visit to help the supply go farther.

“Our customers seem to have already been doing this voluntarily, which is appreciated. We typically start to see production take off near the end of February, and hopefully, will be able to get back to where we have the consistent product after that point,” O’Brock said.

The primary threat of High-Pathology Avian Influenza (HPAI) is from wild waterfowl. “Michigan farmers take great care for their birds and have implemented stringent biosecurity measures to keep wild birds away from the poultry houses,” Burch said. “Even more importantly, the farmers themselves must

not carry the virus into the barns, so every farm worker must change all clothing and footwear prior to entering a barn, and sometimes, even shower in, as they enter the barns.”

Seldom Creek Farm emphasizes genetic diversity for its animals raised outdoors, according to Rachael. “We raise over 10 different chickens,” she said. “We haven’t had any cases of bird flu and are not aware of any small farms in our area that have had cases either.”

According to Rachael, the farm does not make much profit above breaking- even on their egg chickens. “Eggs are a valuable product to the Ada/Lowell area and we want families to have access to nutrient-dense food at a reasonable price,” she said. “We could raise our prices to make more profit, and/or profit off of the current panic and confusion, but we have chosen to keep serving our loyal customers and be a reliable source of eggs in a world of egg insanity right now.”

Rachael encourages people to buy from local farms to create a local-food economy that is resilient, or to keep their own small flock of chickens for fun and for eggs. “Grow your own food, and don’t rely on other people to grow it for you, is the common-sense message,” she said. “That being said, don’t come to us until February, ha. We have seen an increase in new customers looking for eggs, and we are unable to keep up with demand, since our chickens lay fewer eggs in winter.”



Jon and Rachael O’Brock of Seldom Creek Farm.

Burch said he hopes that supply will catch up with demand in 2023. “I am not able to predict when that will happen. We are still concerned about HPAI in 2023, so of course, any impacts of new outbreaks can affect ongoing supply,” he said.



Egg prices are high and supplies are low.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
Synopsis of Minutes
January 9, 2023

Motions Approved:

1. Not to move forward with the purchase of the Grattan School.

2. Resolution 2023-001 establishing mileage rates.

3. Committee Appointments.

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
Synopsis of Minutes
January 23, 2023

Motions Approved:

1. 5-year contract with infrastructure Alternatives.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash, SE., Lowell, MI 49331 at a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A complete copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Lowell Charter Township office or on the website www.lowelltwp.org

Any interested party may submit written comments concerning the proposed budget until the date and time of the hearing.

Monica Burt, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

CITY OF LOWELL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 990 N. WASHINGTON

The City of Lowell is seeking proposals for the demolition of 990 N. Washington from qualified bidders.

Sealed proposals marked “Bid for demolition of 990 N. Washington” must be received by the City Clerk on or before 11:00 a.m., local time, on Monday February 27, 2023 at the City of Lowell, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI 49331 in the City.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal at its sole discretion, waive any irregularities, and may negotiate the terms of purchase with one or more proposers. The selected proposal must be considered by the City Council.

Bids will be available by emailing City Manager Michael Burns. His email is mburns@ci.lowell.mi.us. The City will provide an opportunity for bidders to inspect the premises on Wednesday February 8, 2023 at 11 a.m.

Any bidder submitting a proposal hereto certifies that it is not an Iran linked business as that term is defined by the Iran Economic Sanctions Act, Act 517 of 2012 and that it and its subcontractors shall not discriminate against an employee or applicant for employment with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or a matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, or marital status or because of a disability that is unrelated to the individual's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position.

Any questions regarding this request should be addressed to Michael Burns, City Manager at 616-897-8457.

Michael Burns
City Manager

Rock Fusion Orchestra sells out two performances

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

The talented students who make up the Lowell Fusion Rock Orchestra did it again. They sold out both performances at Lowell Arts on Saturday and Sunday, in spite of all the snow. In case you are unaware, Fusion Rock is a fantastic blend of stringed orchestral instruments and rock music. Wendy Tenney has been the orchestra director at both the Lowell Middle and High Schools for a couple decades now. She told us that the idea for Fusion Rock came from some of her students. Over a decade ago, Fusion was born out of a Fiddle Club that Tenney started for her

cello, and double bass. The Gallery at Lowell Arts was packed for the Sunday afternoon show I attended. Wendy told me the big snowstorm did not hinder attendance on Saturday either.

It is a unique experience to listen to an orchestral group covering songs by the likes of Queen, Aerosmith, AC/DC, The Beatles, The Who, Coldplay, Michael Jackson, and others. (How did these young kids know so much about my collection of 45's from back in the day?) For any orchestral purists out there, rest-assured, they put in a couple of tunes for you, as well. They played Rossini's *William Tell*



Rock Fusion Orchestra seniors: Left to right: Ian Berrington, Hannah Bechill, Noah VanLaan, Director Wendy Tenney, Zach Chambers, and Reid Eldred.

musicians who wanted to play more music outside the classroom. She asked them what they would like to do and how they wanted to move forward - the answer was to start playing some rock n roll music. So, she added a drum kit to the traditional orchestral instruments of violin, viola,

Overture and *Waltz #2* by Shostakovich. The theme song from *Pink Panther* made the list as well. While it is a pretty good auditory leap to hear *You Really Got Me* by the Kinks or AC/DC's *Back in Black* from stringed instruments, other selections like *Eleanor Rigby* by The Beatles or

Bittersweet Symphony by The Verve featured strings in the original versions and so the transition seems to be only natural. Besides the drum kit, another big difference in the Fusion performance is that the violin and viola players are not seated. Rather, they are standing up and dancing around.

Watching some of the individual players, it was easy to see which songs were their personal favorites because they were really moving a lot. As a whole, Fusion Rock really moved around during *Paint It Black* by the Rolling Stones (a crowd favorite, judging by the applause), *You Really Got Me* by the Kinks and their closing tune *Wrath of Ignatius*, by Jeremy Crosmer. To get a feel for what the Rock Fusion Orchestra is all about, you can watch a very professionally produced video of "Wrath of Ignatius" recorded with the group's line up from five years ago. Go to www.lowellorchestras.weebly.com and then click on the "Fusion Rock Orchestra"

tab. You will be impressed. Fusion Rock made the concert even more fun by passing around the microphone and allowing different players to introduce the next song. Some of the kids were pretty serious and others hammed it up a bit with a joke or just by goofing around a little. Tenney took the time to introduce the seniors in the group and they gave us a little insight into their future plans. Hannah Bechill,

Orchestra will be making some appearances in the near future at the Collage Concert, at the High School, on March 21st and the All Strings Concert, coming up in May. One more fun fact about Fusion Rock - they are available to play events. You can contact Wendy Tenney at the website, listed above, for more information. Lowell Arts has four more Gallery Concerts scheduled this season. All of

Hyde. The gallery offers a beautiful, up-close venue for these local artists and Lowell Arts is making you an offer you can't refuse. Picture yourself surrounded by impressive visual artwork and great music at the same time. Gallery Concert Series 4-Pack: for \$40.00 ,you can get tickets to all four of the upcoming shows. Head to www.LowellArtsMi.org/gallery-concerts to get yours.



double bass, is going into biology. Noah VanLaan, violin, has plans to be a pilot. Zach Chambers, viola, plans on being in elementary education. Construction management is what drummer, Reid Eldred, has on his calendar. Ian Berrington plays viola and he is going into music education. It is worth noting that Ian charted out the arrangements for two of the songs on the play list: *Back in Black* and *Beat It*. Wendy Tenney remarked that Ian really excelled at musical arrangement, which is no easy task.

It was really great to see so many people getting out to support these musicians. Fusion Rock them on Saturday nights at 7:00 pm. February 11th is *Love & Other Songs*, performed by a group of local singer/song writers, organized by Josh Rose. The Blue Water Ramblers will perform on March 25th. You can see The Wild Honey Collective April 29th, and the series concludes with Eyde & Mike, the talented husband and wife team of Eyde Evans-Hyde and Mike



Lowell student starts microgreen business

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The FFA organization’s goal is to convert students’ knowledge and practices related to plant and animal science into successful, profitable businesses, and Lowell high school senior, David Johnston, is putting this guidance to use. He’s created a company called CÉVA, where he sells produce from his hydroponic and microgreen farm.

In an 18’ x 18’ greenhouse, adjacent



Johnston’s hydroponics setup produces (from left to right) Bibb lettuce, oak leaf lettuce, romaine lettuce, and kale.

to the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience & Environmental Education Center, Johnston reveals lush greens connected by white PVC pipes, a big, blue tank of water with vegetation floating on top, and a metal storage rack with trays of colorful

sprouts. “This is all David,” says Kevin Nugent. Nugent is Lowell high school’s agri-science teacher and FFA advisor. Nugent set-up an agreement wherein Johnston rents the school’s facilities for the purposes of his business.

The microgreen rack is the center of Johnston’s attention. Each tray is labeled with a CÉVA tag that displays the name and important details of the product in question. Johnston is currently

he removes the cover, and the sprouts begin to pop up and green. Depending on the timing, he’s noted some interesting flavor changes. His arugula, for example, is atypically spicy, and since they’re just sprouts, they are higher in nutrients than mature plants of the same genus and species.

Johnston has been interested in plants for some time. Though he doesn’t have access to a big, family farm, like some fellow FFA members, he does have a small garden at home.

“I raised chickens once for two years,” Johnston shrugs. “That was about it.”

At one point, Johnston’s dad showed interest in growing potatoes, but they couldn’t quite get it to work. After some online research and YouTube videos, Johnston cracked the formula. All he had to do was change the pH of the soil, and he and his father were able to grow potatoes.

Johnston had his first glimpse into the formal world of agri-science, when he attended Nugent’s full-year agricultural biology course, during his freshman year at Lowell. He ended up taking Nugent’s plant science course, as well, that spring.

Johnston’s first visit to the small greenhouse, that now houses CÉVA, took place while attending Nugent’s plant science course. Each member of the class was responsible for a number of vegetable seedlings raised in the larger soil greenhouse next door. The vegetables produced from this class project typically went on display at the Wittenbach Center’s community gardens, and some were even sold. Prior to Johnston’s tenure, Nugent prepared the hydroponics systems and used the small greenhouse for one brief

hands-on-lecture each year. “While we’re learning about this in class,” Nugent explains, gesturing to the hydroponics and aquaponics equipment, “we get the opportunity to apply it in the real world.”

During his occupancy of the small greenhouse, Johnston has already had the opportunity to teach first and fifth graders about growing vegetables. With his residency here, there are opportunities to expand the educational options available to area students.

Johnston continued his agriscience curriculum during his junior and senior year by enrolling in Kent Career Tech Center’s agriscience program. He was impressed with KCTC’s huge list of courses, including pesticide certification, floral design, and landscaping.

“I regretted getting up at 5:00 every morning,” Johnston says, and his commute was pretty intense, but generally, Johnston was thrilled at the opportunity. His work at KCTC netted him a scholarship and a number of credits to Michigan State University.

Through KCTC, Johnston had an opportunity to set-up a booth at the Home and Garden show, at DeVos Center in downtown Grand Rapids. Second year students design the booth, decide which plants they will present, and choose a color scheme. It’s equal parts plant science and merchandising.

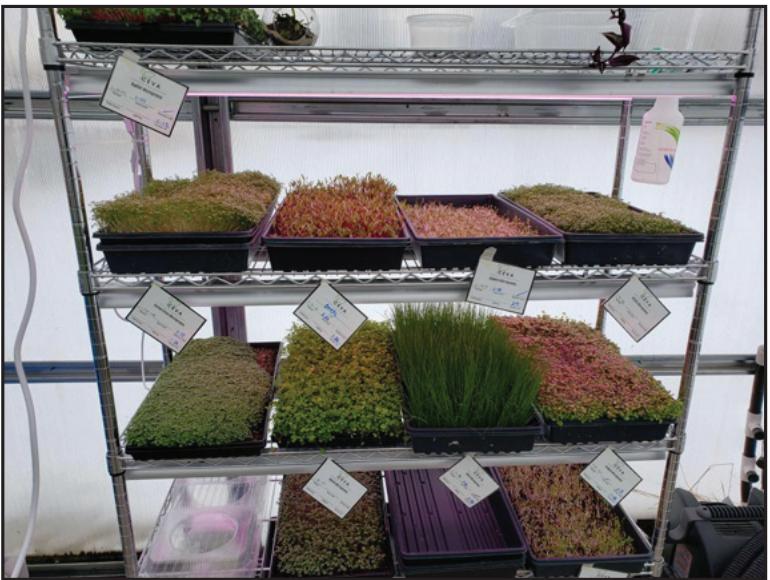
The FFA is the common thread through all of these activities, and, as mentioned above, the marriage of science and business is at the center of this organization. Through educating students how to turn their passions into a profitable business as early as primary school, the FFA creates an impressive pipeline from hobby to lifelong career. In so doing, children from poor farming communities gain the opportunity to make something from the agrarian lifestyle they’ve inherited. Yet, the FFA is so much more. Shedding the title, Future Farmers of America in 1989, the FFA organization has broadened its horizons. An urban child in Brooklyn is equally prepared to take advantage of the hydroponics setup in their closet or the trellis outside of their eighth story



Teacher, Kevin Nugent with student, David Johnston, in Wittenbach Center’s hydroponics greenhouse.

apartment window, as a traditional farmer in Kansas. Immersing oneself in Johnston’s greenhouse setup, with beautiful kale, Bibb lettuce, oak leaf, and romaine and curious gardening practices, one might breeze past Johnston’s recognitions. Luckily, Nugent makes a point to list them. Johnston

he’s already got interviews lined up. As for Johnston’s greenhouse facility, there’s always another class, another set of glowing eyes and eager hands, someone else who can be inspired by the possibilities of Johnston’s hydroponics, aquaponics, and microgreen



Johnston keeps his microgreens safe from harmful insects using a single venus fly-trap terrarium.



Johnston’s aquaponics tank uses floating barley grain as an environmental control against algae growth.

is the Chapter Vice President for the local FFA. He’s also been awarded a state FFA degree. Only two Lowell students had the opportunity to secure one of these degrees, and they did so through a number of contests and activities.

Just like the microgreens see the sun only briefly, Johnston’s high school plant science endeavors are just a brief glance of light. Much more brightness is to come. He’s already been accepted to a two-year associate’s degree program in agriculture, co-hosted by Michigan State and Montcalm Community College. Johnston intends to use his knowledge from college, and a number of industry jobs, to diversify and scale up CÉVA. In fact,

operations. Johnston’s own brother starts high school in the fall, and he’s shown some interest in plant science, as well. “This is just a great opportunity for him,” Nugent says.

CÉVA is currently limited to individual sales, but Johnston hopes to scale-up his operations in the near future to include subscriptions and potentially, even retail sales. Johnston is still experimenting with a long-term process, but his plans are solid. They’re reinforced by generations of FFA best practice, and the drive of David Johnston himself.

Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestling has 10 champions in Yale last weekend

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

When you think of the Yale Bulldogs, you might think of the athletics program of the Ivy League university in Connecticut, home of the best law school in the nation. A true academic juggernaut. Lowell faced the other Yale Bulldogs this weekend, that of Yale High School in Michigan. Situated between the thumb and metro Detroit, Yale is unique in that their colors, mascot, logos, and name are nearly a carbon copy of a university.

One key difference is Yale High School has wrestling as part of their core athletic programs, which the university does not. On the other side, we have the opposite of a carbon copy, which is Lowell and the unique “Red Arrow” nickname and a unique fight song to go with it. In the Yale High School wrestling tournament, Lowell had a

dominant day, where ranked teams were limited and the Red Arrows were heavy favorites going in.

Lowell had 10 champions, two runners-up only held from championships by their own teammates, and three third-place finishers.

Freshman, Logan Dawson, was the surprise of the tournament, knocking off senior teammate, Easton Lyons, and the No. 2 ranked wrestler in the state, Dominic Guntow (Warren Woods-Tower), on the way to a championship. Dawson is a skilled freshman, but in a loaded lineup at his weight class has been mostly competing with the B team this season.

Other first place finishers were: Juan Acosta, Jarrett Smith, Carson Crace, Maddox Simcoe, CJ Poole, Owen Segorski, Trevor Boone, Jackson Blum,

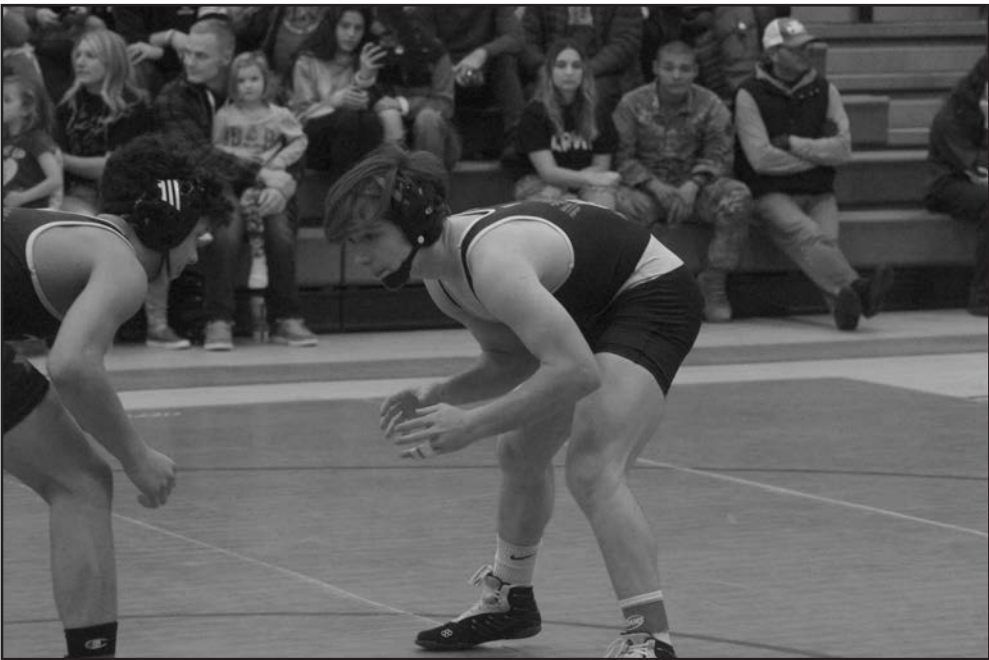
Logan Dawson, and Carter Cichocki.

Crace scored a win over No. 1 in Division 2, Joey Scaramuzzino, of Croswell Lexington. A 5-2 decision that if the two find themselves in the same weight class in March, could be a state championship match preview.

Braddock King and Easton Lyons went undefeated against non-Lowell opponents. Both wrestlers lost to teammates in the finals, always an interesting and rare moment in tournaments, where coaches just let the kids wrestle and try to avoid injury.

Landon Miller, Ari McFarland, and Tacho Gonzales finished third.

The B team headed to Charlotte for the Barrus Team Tournament where Lowell went 4-1 with wins over Charlotte, Chelsea, Howell, and Lansing



Freshman, Logan Dawson, had a standout performance at Yale this weekend.

Waverly. Their lone loss was to fellow OK White member Greenville. The wrestling program’s win-loss record is based on designated A-team results only, so these would not be considered a part

of Lowell’s overall win-loss record. Mason Saylor impressed for Lowell with five pins in five matches. Both Saylor and Dawson were named wrestlers of the week by the coaching staff.

Lowell is at the Hudson Tri with Dundee to face the top team in Division 3 and Division 4 this week, as well as the OK White Individual Tournament.

- SKI

Ski makes return to the slopes

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Let it snow. Let it snow. Let it snow. Christmas has passed, yes, but the Lowell ski team has been hoping for snow in January, and finally got it over the past week.

Snow levels had been too low to allow

Cannonsburg to safely host competition, until just recently, where Lowell was able to get their season underway.

Thursday the team participated in a scrimmage with Rockford, while

MHSAA scrimmage rules do not allow publication of scrimmage results, the Red Arrows performed well against the larger school in the giant slalom event.

In the first competition of the season, Friday, the team traveled to Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac, where

and Mitchell Swint.

Scoring for Lowell in slalom was Colton Byrne in sixth, Cooper Byrne in 13th, Sophie Konyndyk in 38th and Sam Konyndyk in 39th. Ramsey Ponchaud and Anders Melby also raced slalom.

The co-op of Forest Hills Northern-Eastern took first place, followed by EGR, GR Christian, and Rockford. Lowell’s seventh place positioned them in front of West Catholic-GRCC, Spring Lake, and Northview. Forest Hills Central entered the season ranked eighth in Division 2 for the boys, Lowell only trailed them by 22 points.

Tuesday, the Red Arrows will take on EGR, Rockford and Northview, starting at 7 pm at Cannonsburg.



Ski team members during a break at their first race of the season.

Lowell competed against all ten Division 1 and Division 2 teams in the Greater Grand Rapids Ski Conference.

The Red Arrows took seventh, overall, in giant slalom and slalom combined. In slalom, they took sixth and in giant slalom, eighth.

Scoring for Lowell in giant slalom was Cooper Byrne in 15th, Colton Byrne in 38th, Anders Melby in 39th and Sam Konyndyk in 47th. Also racing GS were Kaleb Young

- GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics duals Rams

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Both Lowell and Rockford gymnastics were able to get plenty of gymnasts action last week, as the programs went head to head, with mixed A and B squads competing. While usually the A team is all of your starters, this wasn’t the case in this meet, as many Lowell starters also competed on the B team.

With that, team score wasn’t the focal point of this meet. The Rams, amongst the strongest in the state, won against both Lowell teams.

Lowell A kept it extremely close with Rockford in vault ,with Leah Krieger (8.9) and

Haley Haywood (8.85) leading the way. Haywood and Lily Collins paced Lowell on the bars. Ella Curtis competed in all four apparatuses, along with Claire Weeks, each addicted 3rd and fourth place finishes, respectively, on bars and beam.

Ivy McDonald, a record holder for Lowell gymnastics, led the B team with an 8.9 on vault and 8.575 on floor. Romyn Slagell led the Red Arrows on beam with a 7.725 and Brena Lacey paced Lowell with a 7.2 on uneven bars. Ali Kyes added a second placed 7.6 on floor, as well.

Lowell faced Forest Hills United on Monday at Runciman.





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Red Arrow

- TENNIS

SPORTS

Busy offseason week for tennis program

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

With nearly one hundred years of tradition, the Lowell tennis program hasn't had many January weeks with as much excitement as the past week. Tennis head coach for the Lowell boys and girls, Chris Phillips, was named Michigan High School Tennis Coaching Association Division 2 Coach of the Year at the organization's annual banquet in Holland.

After six years of tutelage, under longtime Lowell tennis coaches, instructors, and program leads Bonnie and Roger Wall, Phillips took over the LHS tennis program in 2013, and ten years later he remains, in addition to his duties as digital photography and CAD teacher at LHS. "I've always appreciated Chris and his relationship with his team since my first year coaching with him," said Dan Bolhouse, head coach of fellow OK White member, Forest Hills Central. "He has my respect for the way he runs his program and gets the best of his teams."

Phillips played four years at Byron Center High School and began coaching at LHS in 2007 with the JV program. The Red Arrow tennis program is, generally speaking, year-to-year, a solid program. They are for better or worse, surrounded by schools good at tennis. An expensive sport, where money plays an important part, schools with higher-income families like Forest Hills Northern, Forest Hills Central, Grand Rapids Christian, and East Grand Rapids are tennis powerhouses. It means conference play for the Red Arrows, you're often going against some of the state's best kids; going to tennis academies, getting winter lessons, and vested in the sport year-round.

While for Lowell, many kids on the tennis team, over the past decade, have been multi-sport athletes or started the sport in high school. "Here in Lowell, we don't get a lot of players who play competitively, who take lessons throughout the year. Nevertheless, a few at the #1 singles position have

made it to the state finals," Phillips told the MHSTeCA. The difficult conference schedule means that Lowell uses non-conference opponents, and schools like Northview, as bellweathers for the program, to find out how the team is for the season, since wins, and even matches won against the Forest Hills of the world, are difficult to come by in the best of years. "We're in an extremely difficult conference and we're usually happy when we can end the season in the middle of the standings. We've never made it to the state finals as a team. But I enjoy helping kids improve and seeing them have fun," Phillips added.

The program had a sixth-place finish in the state in the 1960's and a state runner-up finish in the 1930's, but those results are nearly a lifetime ago, and the state of the tennis scene in West Michigan has, of course, changed dramatically. "He is a Mr. Nice Guy of very few words, but his integrity and strong faith speak for him," longtime



Chris Phillips is presented with Division 2 Coach of the Year by the MHSTeCA. (Photo Courtesy of Lowell Athletics)

Lowell JV coach, Sue Buete, told the MHSTeCA. Phillips' Coach of the Year award coincided with the release of a Lowell tennis-hype video from HD4media, owned and operated by Chris' brother, Taylor. It's notable because the boys program had difficulty numbers last year on the boys side for the

first time in a long time. The video, which features members of the 2022 boys team in practice during the fall, Lowell hopes will drum up excitement for the sport. News stations don't take tennis highlight videos; it's a sport that doesn't get a lot of regional press and a professionally made video of a high school tennis

program is special for the program. The video can be watched on the "Lowell Red Arrows Tennis" Facebook page. The girls program is back in competition this spring, while the boys resumes in Fall 2023. Interested students can attend tryouts with no experience necessary.

- COMPETITIVE CHEER

Cheer competes at Byron Center twice last week

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

It's all about improvement during the competitive cheer season, and Lowell achieved that this week with their highest

round one score of the year. The Red Arrows scored a 222.3 in round one of the Lake Michigan Competitive Cheer Officials Association (LMCCOA) Scholarship Invitational, held at Byron

Center on Saturday, which amounted to their best round total. They added a 200.92 in round two, and 252 in round three, to finish in 8th place. The invitational is a

unique one as seniors from all teams are honored by wearing bright blue bows, and scholarships are given out.

The LMCCOA was established in 1998, as winter competitive cheer emerged as a new high school sport in Michigan. The organization seeks to encourage the promotion and training of officials in the sport, as well as to continue to grow the sport. They gave out nine \$1,000 scholarships, one of which went to Lowell senior, Ilana Rhodes. Earlier in the week, Lowell was also at Byron Center, where they finished fourth place in their second conference jamboree. Lowell scored a 662.76, overall, and returns to action at Forest Hills Northern this Saturday.



The Lowell cheer team at Byron Center this week.

- BOWLING

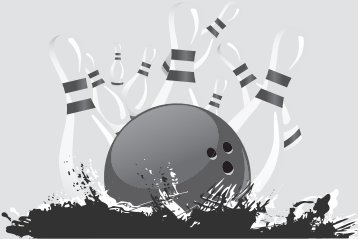
Bowling in teeth of conference schedule

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

It's the busy portion of the season for the Lowell bowling teams, as they sit in the heart of the conference portion of their schedule.

Last week, the girls team split, beating Grand Rapids Christian and losing to Northview. The boys team tied Grand Rapids Christian but lost to Northview. In the Northview match, Lowell was led by Caden Witten, who picked up a team point, thanks to a 212 game. Keith MacDermaid and Caden Dennie each rolled a 197 and 192, respectively, as well. The Wildcats won close baker games to finish off a 24-6 win. Caden Witten had a high team game of 205 in the tie with GR Christian.

The girls lost by a similar scoreline to the Wildcats, picking up two team points from Haylie Beers, one from Courtney Witten, and one from Cadence DeWit. Lowell tied the first baker with Northview, at 148, each to conclude the Red Arrow scoring. Witten and DeWit led the team in the GR Christian match. Both teams compete against Greenville and East Grand Rapids at home matches this week. Lowell's home matches are held at Hillcrest Lanes in Belding.



obituaries

JOHNSON

Betty L. Johnson, aged 89 of Lowell, formally of Hastings, walked into Glory on January 20, 2023, in the peaceful presence of her family. Betty was born September 7, 1933, the daughter of Wilbur Tolles and Belle (Hill) Tolles. Betty graduated from Hastings High School. She started driving school bus (17) for Hastings in 1970 and 24 years later retired as Director of Transportation for the Hastings Public Schools. Betty enjoyed Motorcycling all over the United States with her husband, Richard, and her dear friends. Most of all was her passion for her Grandchildren, whom she cherished and spoiled. Her greatest love was her husband of 49 years, Richard, and they were married in a double wedding ceremony at Lowery Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado, on July 3, 1951, with Wayne (Jiggs) Morgan and her best friend, Joyce (Nixon) Morgan, of Hastings. Betty is survived by her son, Stephen (Tammy) Johnson, of Lowell and daughter, Susan Johnson-Byrd, of Hastings; grandchildren Jonathan (Jisue) Hollister, Stephen Hollister, Aaron (Becca) Johnson, Jade Brown, Aundria Johnson-Byrd, Brett Johnson; great-grandson Keenan Hollister, and brother, Richard (Vi) Tolles, of Florida. A memorial luncheon will be served after the morning worship service at 11:30 AM on Feb. 5, 2023, at the Green Street Methodist Church, 209 W. Green St., Hastings, Michigan 49058. A very special thank you to Kathy from the Giving Care Group, and much appreciation to Kathy and the Champions at Faith Hospice. Memorial Contributions can be made to Betty's home church, Green Street Methodist Church. Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home; to leave an online condolence, visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.



Our adventurous beloved mother, Rita Francis Pratt (Hamilton), of Lowell, sadly passed away on December 23, 2022, at the age of 81. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert C. Pratt; father, Carroll Hamilton; and mother, Elsie Patten Hamilton; and close friend, Merilu Lasby. She is survived by her children, Debra (Nick) Mion, Carl Pratt, Jonathan Pratt; grandchildren, Donovan Pratt, Alaina Mion; brothers, Russell (Barb) Hamilton, Richard (Ruth Ann) Hamilton, Reginald (Dusty) Hamilton; brothers and sister-in-law, Leo (Myrtle) Pratt, June Roth, Kenneth Pratt; several nieces and nephews; special friends, Ace and Sherri Fairchild; and special pets, Patches "Mommy Kitty", Gray, and Phoenix. Rita was a wonderful mother who was always there when we needed her. Rita and Robert "Bob", her husband and best friend of 46 years, would take their children on many vacations and adventures while raising their family on Murray Lake. Rita and Robert, who sadly passed away in 2011, enjoyed riding their matching touring Honda motorcycles while visiting family and friends and later



having dinner and ice cream at one of their favorite "hang-outs". Rita received her teacher's certification after graduating from Michigan State University. After 32 years with Lowell Area Schools as a middle school teacher, she attained a pilot's license. She and Bob continued their love of exploring in their Piper Cherokee 160 airplane for 12 years. Rita also enjoyed reading, gardening, especially tending to her roses, peonies, gladiolus, irises, and cherished time spent with her grandchildren. Visitation will be held 2-4 PM, Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services will be held at 11 AM, February 8, 2023, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Brad Brillhart officiating. Interment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Red Cross Association <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>

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LOMBARDO

Sam P. Lombardo, age 84, of Saranac, passed away January 10, 2023. He was born Salvatore Peter Lombardo in Motelepre Sicily, Italy, the son of Peter and Rosalia (Toro) Lombardo. Sam traveled, by ship to New York with his mother and brother, John, in 1945. He would later come to Saranac, where he made his home, business and raised his family. As a young man, he worked for the creamery in Saranac. He started his own business in 1965. Sam's Citgo Auto Center, located in Saranac, was a family endeavor and would expand to Lowell in 1994 with his son, Rob, until his retirement in 2003. He married Ruth Murphy on September 9, 1993, in Arizona. Sam was a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church. He enjoyed collecting Checker Cabs in his younger years and riding his bike in later years. Sam was known as the "Tomato Man," in Saranac and Arizona, raising delicious garden tomatoes. Surviving Sam is his loving wife, Ruth Lombardo of Saranac. Children; Monya (David) Cohen of Silver Springs, Maryland, Rob (Kristi) Lombardo of Lowell, Layle Lombardo of Saranac, and Sunny (Todd) Paperny of Los Angeles, California. Stepchildren; Renee Bellavia of Clarksville, Randy (Kelly) Murphy of Ada, Ryan (Peggy) Murphy of Gross Pointe and Rory (Tanya) Murphy of Lawton. 19 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, sister-in-law Joan (Leonard) Venneman of Lowell and Maureen Koss Lombardo, mother of Sam's children, also survive. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother John and stepsister Caroline Lombardo Menta. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Saturday, February 4, at 11:00 a.m., with Father Michael Goodwin officiating. Visitation will be at the church 1 hour prior to services. Those wishing, may make memorial contributions to West Michigan Hospice, St. Anthony's Catholic Church or Saranac Fire Department. Arrangements in care of Lake Funeral Home in Saranac. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com



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Treat everyone with politeness and kindness, not because they are nice, but because you are.
~ Roy T. Bennett,
The Light in the Heart

LEGAL NOTICE

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The Probate Court for the County of Kent
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GLORIA MCINTOSH,
Guardianship File:
23-212711-GA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her daughters and unknown children and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
MI 49503, Courtroom 9C in person and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.
Dated: January 24, 2023
Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Martin Luther King Jr. SE, 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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Perspectives Forum offers life’s deeper topics for discussion

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Are you tired of all the vitriol surrounding you wherever you go? It’s everywhere on different levels of toxicity; in relationships, at workplaces, in neighborhoods, and even in places of worship.

Pastor Jon Pickens, of First Baptist Church in Lowell, has decided to do something about it, rather than spew hatred and gossip on social media platforms and hide behind the internet.

“I want to know where people are coming from,” he said. “I am tired of seeing and hearing conversations on Facebook.”

Lately, it’s been a landslide of speculations,

Perspectives Forum for five consecutive Wednesdays, starting on Feb. 8 at Big Boiler, in the upper room at 7 pm.

“Anybody that wants to come to listen and share is welcome,” he said. “We’re going to ease into the discussion, have a Q&A, clarify questions, and share perspectives with other people.”

The topics are:

Week 1: Existence and Purpose

Week 2: Truth and Morality

Week 3: Suffering and Evil

Week 4: Death

Week 5: Hope

itself, no hot-button issues.”

Pickens said a gentle debate in an amped world is a challenge, but it is absolutely possible. “I am hoping to have healthy conversations,” he said. “Attend any topic you want.”

Each topic is self-contained, and the sessions don’t build on each other. It took Pickens four to five months to put the forum together, even though he had been thinking about it for a long time. The only rules are to treat others with respect, interact with kindness, and allow people to be heard.

“I love my Lowell community,” he said. “I know, sometimes, conversations can get tense and relationships are hindered because of different perspectives about issues.”



Pastor Jon Pickens with his wife, Trish.

The hope is that people would be able to express why they believe what they believe about these issues without a debate setting.
~ Pastor Jon Pickens

projections, arguments, deleted posts, censorship, and people hiding behind other identities across the board on all social media, and anonymous posts.

Together, with associate pastor, Andrew Bolkcom, they will be hosting a

The forum is not about winning an argument, according to Pickens. “I am not coming to preach,” Pickens said. “That’s why we picked a neutral spot. We’re going to talk about things people wrestle with, like deeper questions of life

Pickens wants to create a space where people can have a conversation to express their perspectives, while others listen and express theirs without an agenda to win the conversation or argument. “I think it is healthy to listen and to express your perspective in a safe environment,” he said.

Pickens has been a part

of the Lowell community for 11 years.

“I am a local pastor in town and it certainly grieves me to see and hear conversations that bring out the worst in us,” he said. “Anyone is welcome. We would love for you to join us. Just order something to drink/eat and join us upstairs for what I hope to be a healthy conversation.”

An anonymous post from last week, on one of the community pages

on Facebook, resonated Pickens’ disappointment. “Anyone else constantly disappointed with all the unkind comments/reactions to questions/posts? This group is an amazing way for us to communicate and help our neighbors. Even though there is so much great information and people in this group, many aren’t even comfortable posting as themselves anymore. Come on Lowell we are better than that!”

Pickens’ hope is that people would be able to express why they believe what they believe about deeper issues of life without a debate setting.

“If you are looking for a debate, this is not the forum for you; however, if you are looking to hear from others and to express your perspective on these fundamental issues, while being shown respect, then perhaps this is a great forum for you,” Pickens said.

Michigan Reads, a gateway for independent authors to connect with the world

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Michigan Reads is a new functional gateway for Michigan independent authors, started by authors, Ingar Rudholm and Andrew Allen Smith of West Michigan. The site was tested, and more authors were added, according to Smith. “The purpose is to centralize Michigan authors in a single place,” said Smith.

The site will be offered to all authors in mid-February, with limited

criteria. One of the criteria is that a participating author must write a review of another author’s book. “You can have as many books as you want,” Smith said. “It’s a place that is easy to remember.”

The main innovation of the gateway is name recognition, according to Smith. Eventually, more features were added, such as electronic billboards. In the works are streaming and TV. The proposed cost per author, per book is \$10, and a requirement to write a

review of somebody else’s book.

In December, 2022, the site was tested on multiple platforms to determine traffic and readability. In January, 2023, the authors met and discussed ideas, results, and how the site will progress in the future, as well as a national alternative that is cost-effective for indie and self-published authors.

The goal of this site is to allow select Michigan authors the ability to showcase their works in

a controlled environment, according to Smith. “The list of writers will grow as the site grows, and it is expected, this may eventually connect the multitude of Michigan

Nelson, Jean Davis, Ingar Rudholm, and Andrew Allen Smith.

Other than individual author books, the gateway also presents two

We know there must be an alternative. We believe that alternative is the Power of The Pen!” reads the intro.

A collection of 55 short stories and poetry writing, in horror, thriller, and suspense genres, written by 33 authors from around the United States. Proceeds from book sales support the community service works of The Haley Sue Foundation.



Authors with fun readers from Michigan and around the world,” Smith said.

Stage One allowed select authors to showcase their books with links to external retailers. This was completed in January 2023.

Stage Two will automate the selection process and improve metrics.

Stage Three will be to create a pseudo-social network, available for Michigan authors and readers, not dictated by over-controlled social networks and algorithms.

Currently, on the Michigan Reads gateway, are the following authors: Amy Klco, D. A. Reed, Diana Kathryn Plopa, Jules

community anthologies: *The Drifter and Other Unusual Tales* and *The Gift and Other Stories* that benefit The Haley Sue Foundation. Pages Promotions founder, Diana Kathryn Plopa, organizes and edits the community anthologies.

“We believe a more harmonious and supportive society begins with literacy. We believe that a successful life begins with, and is enhanced by, the written word. We believe that not everyone is able, or inclined, to pick up trash by the side of the road, give blood or donate financially to contribute to their community’s well-being.

The Gift and Other Stories anthology has been created from a series of Flash Fiction Writing Prompts offered to our Facebook Community each day during the Spring of 2022. All interested authors were invited to write for as many prompts, as tickled their imagination.

This book is the end result of our Spring Flash Fiction Challenge, developed from 60 prompts; 17 authors contributed a total of 90 stories. Proceeds support the Haley Sue Foundation.

Listen in to the podcast episode on For the Love of Books Podcast with host author, Emma Palova, and guest, Andrew Allen Smith.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

VISION CHECK WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

VISION CHECK
WORD SEARCH

ABERROMETER
ALLERGY
ANISOCORIA
ASTIGMATISM

BENIGN
BIFOCAL
BLEPHARITIS
BRIDGE
CATARACT
CHAMBER
COATING

CONE
CORNEA
DIOPTER
DISORDER
GLAUCOMA
LENS
MACULA
OPTICAL
REDNESS
REFRACTIVE
RETINA
SWELLING
TEARS

Guess Who?

I am an actress born on February 3, 1976 in Oman. I published two teen novels when I was younger. I went on to a successful movie career, and had a recurring role in the fourth season of the “Arrested Development” series. I am married to a comedic actor.

Answer: Isla Fisher

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to vision.

S P U I L P

Answer: Pupils

CLUES ACROSS

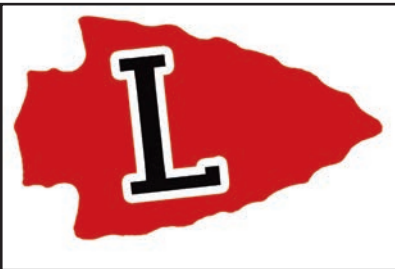
1. Shed tears
5. Luxury jewelry designer
10. Goddess of wisdom
12. Convert into a particular form
14. Working-class people
16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
18. A princess can detect its presence
19. Red-brown sea bream
20. Defunct retail empire
22. Vase
23. Demeter's equivalent
25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
26. French and Belgian river
27. Small amount
28. High schoolers' test
30. Animal's foot
31. Some is red
33. Per __: each
35. Swedish jazz pop duo
37. Plate for Eucharist
38. Train line
40. Russian pop duo
41. Stake
42. Plant by scattering
44. Female sibling
45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
48. Popular cookie brand
50. Group of Niger-Congo

languages
52. A team's best pitcher
53. Vomits
55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
56. Men's fashion accessory
57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
58. Expensive cut of steak
63. Popular James Cameron film
65. A __: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
66. Kids' snow toys
67. Flip side to yin

CLUES DOWN

1. Global public health agency
2. Snake-like fish
3. Midway between northeast and east
4. Dabbed
5. TV show
6. Folk singer DiFranco
7. Canadian flyers
8. Of the dowry
9. Commercial
10. The act of imitating
11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
13. Lands of an emir
15. Swiss river
17. Island
18. Monetary unit of

Afghanistan
21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
23. Garfield is one
24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
29. Small savory Spanish dishes
32. Body part
34. Touch lightly
35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
36. __ Hess: oil company
39. Antelope with a reddish coat
40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
43. Pink Floyd's Roger
44. Short and thick
46. Small, sac-like cavities
47. Performer __-Lo
49. Entrails of animal used as food
51. __ King Cole, musician
54. Where construction is done
59. Chap
60. Investment vehicle
61. Often mixed with tonic
62. Holiday beverage egg __
64. Against



LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER TEAMS

Varsity Gymnastics



Emmalee Bonn, Alexis Clark, Lily Collins, Ella Curtis, Hannah Flickinger, Haley Haywood, Krista Jungblut, Leah Krieger, Aliya Kyes, Brena Lacey, Ivy Mcdonald, Julia Meier, Romyn Slagell, Jordan Velzen, Claire Weeks

Varsity Ski



Front row left to right: Ramsey Ponchaud, Colton Byrne; Back row left to right: Coach Byrne, Cooper Byrne, Mitchell Swint, Sam Konyndyk, Sophie Konyndyk, Anders Melby, Kaleb DeYoung, Neave Rewa

Boys Bowling



Front left to right: Keith MacDermaid, Gunnar Nelson, Dustin Richardson, Mason Hesche; Back row: Andrew Mathews, Caden Witten, Caden Dennie, Dylan Anderson, Kyle Anderson, Jacob Rapelje, Myles Kuehle

Girls Bowling



Ruby German, Cadence DeWit, Haylie Beers, Rowan Williams, Courtney Witten, Isabel German

