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Lowell High School Spring Musical



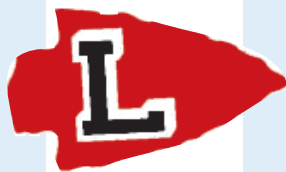
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New Salon



page 8

Lowell Area Schools Sports



page 10, 11 & 16

\$1.00

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Red Arrows complete a decade of dominance



Lowell Red Arrow wrestlers holding up all 10 fingers, indicating the program's 10th consecutive state title. See the complete story beginning on page 11. Photo courtesy of MHSAA.

Annual Lowell Chamber of Commerce gathering of the membership

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

There was a mixture of laughter, tears, and lots of hugs at the annual dinner hosted by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, last Thursday night at the Fairway of Kent County. The event is centered around acknowledging the volunteers and board members who give of their time to help the Chamber do what they do. It is also a time for acknowledging businesses for their

investment in Lowell, shining a spotlight on one of our non-profits and presenting the Person of the Year Award, to cap off the evening. (Full disclosure, yours truly was one of the MCs for the evening, along with Rick Seese.)

The dinner always has a great turnout, and this year, it was a sold-out event. In my view, the driving force behind the full house was the fact that Liz Baker, Executive Director of the Chamber for 30 years, will

be retiring in April, and she was the recipient of the Person of the Year Award. More on that below.

The non-profit, the Chamber chose to acknowledge this year, was the Fallasbug Historical Society. Craig Fonger, the current president of the FHS, accepted the award and called up board member, Bruce Doll, and they invited everyone to the second Annual Fallasbug Celebration, July 29th.

The Retro Electric Arcade was recognized as the Most Promising New Business. Nicole Crocker, who owns the Arcade with her husband Carl, accepted the award.

Sabor Mexicano owner, Melida Borgos, was very thankful for her business being recognized as The Best Business to Watch. When she concluded her brief speech, she walked over and gave Liz Baker a big hug.

Take a trip down M-21 (Main Street) these days and the investment in the community, by businesses of all sizes, can



Retiring Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Liz Baker, was named Person of the Year.

easily be seen in all the building improvements and renovations, along with the completely new construction that abounds from one end of town to the other. The Chamber recognized several businesses with Brick Awards, in appreciation of their efforts. Brick Awards were given to Betten Baker Buick GMC, Brookstone Investments, Culver's of Lowell, and King Milling. The awards were accepted

by Charlie Jefferies, Eric Springer, Steve Stephan, and Brian Doyle, respectively. The Business Appreciation Award was accepted by Eric King, the manager of the Lowell branch of Portland Federal Credit Union.

The last award for the evening, the Person of the Year, was awarded to Liz Baker, the soon-to-be-

Dinner,
continued page 9



Nicole Crocker from Retro Arcade, which was recognized as the Most Promising New Business.

Lowell High School presents *Matilda the Musical*

By Gabrielle Yeary
contributing writer

Out of all of Roald Dahl’s books, *Matilda* is by far the most inspiring. The fantastical story follows five-year-old Matilda Wormwood on her journey against her very own Goliath: Agatha Trunchbull. Ignored by her cruel family, Matilda displays extraordinary intellect and, eventually, psychokinetic abilities. Luckily, Matilda spent her childhood surrounded by books. Morgan Saylor, the young freshman who

will debut as Matilda Wormwood on March 3rd, refers to Matilda’s love for books and storytelling as “a kind of a break for her, an escape of sorts.” However, as Matilda tells stories to her local librarian, Miss Phelps, she begins to create a bond with Miss Honey, a kind and generous teacher at Matilda’s school with a similar upbringing to Matilda’s, and the two stories slowly become one. Meanwhile, Miss Trunchbull, the tyrannical headmistress at Matilda’s

school, and Matilda go head-to-head in a battle of authority until Matilda, Miss Honey, and her peers all revolt against Miss Trunchbull. Matilda defies all that she was raised with — lying, ignorance, and bullying — and changes her own story. In Saylor’s words, Matilda is “just so determined to see that everything is fair, because for her, it really hasn’t been. She just wants to see people get what they deserve, good or bad.” Roald Dahl’s *Matilda the*



Morgan Saylor and Gabi Yeary.



Cast of Matilda.

the music score; finding the correct blend of voices and sections on stage while making sure the music and vocals are true to the show in a way that can be successful for our cast,” the Vocal Director, Nate Masterson, claims. A lot of the cast agrees that while this soundtrack may be one of their favorites in Lowell musical history, such a unique musical lineup requires focused and intense learning. The songs may have been difficult for the cast to learn at first, but after weeks of perfecting each song, the musical is now far beyond any average high school performance.

only allows scenes to blend into one another but also ensures the audience is involved and entangled in the magic. At first, this task proved to be challenging. “The transitions are crazy difficult, especially with the giant sets we have!” explains Fahrni. Figuring out how to move sets around actors, while not drawing attention from the scene occurring was difficult for the crew and cast equally, yet after endless practice, the scenes have begun to fall together seamlessly.

That’s what they’re all about. “I love how we’ve all been so supportive as cast and crew, despite the occasional chaos,” Sarah Harper, another performer, explains, “It’s really exemplified how much we have to work together to make such a fantastic show come to life.” To properly spread Matilda’s message about love, relationships and kindness, the students first had to experience it with each other.

Matilda is a surprisingly heart-warming show. You will cry and laugh out loud, sometimes within the same song or scene. The writing is brilliant. Story and song are woven together to present a piece of live theater that I promise, you will never forget,” Heidi Kolp, the Assistant Director, finishes. LHS Roald Dahl’s *Matilda the Musical* is a phenomenal show put together by even more phenomenal people and, just like every other Lowell High School production, it definitely will not be one to miss!

Overwhelmingly, nearly all the students claimed that the community they’ve gained is unlike any other. They explained that the musical wouldn’t be the same without the family they’ve formed in it. In between scenes and practices, you’ll find conversations amongst each of them. Consistently, they’re backstage helping one another with choreography, directing, homework, or music. Funny photos, uplifting comments, and general positivity is always present with these outstanding students. “Everyone is always helping someone out,” ensemble member, Lexi Martin says, “We all have each other’s backs.” The LHS Theater Department creates more than productions, they create families and lifelong relationships and bonds.

Shows for LHS Roald Dahl’s *Matilda the Musical* will be opening on March 3rd, at 7 pm and continuing March 4th, 10th, and 11th, at the same time with a matinee performance on March 5th, at 2 pm. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis, so buy yours while you can online at www.showtix4u.com/events/LPAC

Musical highlights the importance of bravery in the face of adversity, love, and most importantly, books! So, it’s no surprise Lowell High School chose to do it as their spring musical this year!

“One listen to the soundtrack and I was hooked,” Amanita Fahrni, the Lead Director for the Lowell High School Theater Department for the past six years, explains when she was asked why she chose *Matilda* this year. The soundtrack is composed of upbeat, energetic, and inspiring songs. “There are always challenges with

Another new aspect of the musical is the show’s flexibility. In previous musicals, at the end of each scene, the crew will take a few moments to change and rearrange the set as the lights go down. This year, the audience will notice set pieces and characters moving on and off stage during scenes. Ben Vonderheide, a sophomore who plays Michael Wormwood, Matilda’s older brother, says, “The setting evolves so quickly, there’s always something going on in the background of each scene.” This uncommon directing technique not

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLANNING COMMISSION

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hear public comments about the following request. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, concerning the following:

1. Conditional Rezoning of Parcel 41-24-04-300-015 – 11602 64th Street

The Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to hear comments regarding a proposed conditional rezoning of 11605 64th Street, which is presently zoned R-5 – Manufactured Housing Community District, to R-4 – Multi-family Residential District. This is a 37-acre parcel which is being proposed for six multi-unit condominium buildings with public amenities. As a conditional rezoning, the applicant agrees to enter a contract agreement with the Township to develop the property as specifically proposed.

The application and materials are available for review, and written comments will be received by 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.

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Council draws outrage over downtown parking changes

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council called to order their Tuesday, February 21 meeting with council members Marty Chambers, Mike DeVore, Leah Groves, Jim Salzwedel, and Cliff Yankovich in attendance. The council was joined by Michigan Republican Representative, Gina Johnsen, who shared words of support.

“You hired me, so I work for you,” Johnsen said. “My personal cell phone is available to anyone who needs it.”

Though Johnsen is a recently elected state politician, she was not

that the council’s actions two weeks ago officially eliminated something that didn’t exist.” Janowski said. “To borrow the popular phrase, ‘Come on, man.’”

Janowski wrapped up his speech with what he saw as a contradiction, noting that two-hour parking signs were removed from in front of businesses on Main Street, but not removed from the parking lot just outside of the building where the city council meets.

“Is there two-hour parking in Lowell or isn’t there? Is it enforceable, or, explained by the chief of police, unenforceable?”

Janowski’s argument assumed that there must be

council, Wood summed up the legal consequences of the council’s decision at the previous meeting.

“Just to reiterate,” Wood said, “the way they were doing it before was legal, the way they’re doing it now is legal, and this is just a policy decision.”

A number of others joined Janowski’s support of two-hour parking in downtown Lowell, including Patricia and Annelyse Dlouhy of Sweet Seasons, Eric Bartkus of Ability Weavers, Perry Beacham, Karen Waid, and outgoing Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Liz Baker. Council members have made it clear many times in the past how important well-attended city council meetings are in preventing misinformation and public uproar. Mayor Mike DeVore spent some time addressing exactly this at the first council meeting of the year, on Tuesday, January 3.

“I enjoy it when people come to these meetings. I really, truly do,” DeVore said. “But I want to make sure that they are informed correctly. If you have questions or you feel a way about something, we’re all available.”

The February 21 meeting was also the first of two public hearings on the fate of the property located at 990 N. Washington. The property’s addition to neighboring Scout Park has been discussed on and off for nearly 20 years, but eviction of long-time renters has brought debate over the property’s future to a head over the past year. At what mayor DeVore described as a “biodigester-sized crowd” during the January 3 meeting, the council discussed four options for development, once the property was annexed and demolished: (1) to add 990 N. Washington to the park

network, (2) to develop the property into three residential units, (3) to develop the property into affordable housing, and (4) to defer the issue of the property’s use to a future council. Despite a feasibility study conducted in 2020 by Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), which suggested that 36 units of affordable housing in Lowell would be filled in just four months, the community’s dire need for housing for those who have fallen on hard times has been largely ignored in the public forums surrounding 990 N. Washington. The public hearing on February 21 was no exception.

City manager Burns was happy to unveil a clarified map delineating the exact boundaries of Scout Park, 990 N. Washington, and another property in question. The three speakers at the planned 990 N. Washington forum represented just a fraction of the crowd that showed up at the January 3 meeting. Mayor DeVore, prepared for far more speakers, limited each citizen to five minutes at the podium, with a warning after four minutes. In practice, these limits never came up. Bruce Matthews and Bill Schreuer agreed that the property should be added to Scout Park.

“Let us not be the ones, to paraphrase Joanie Mitchell, who sang ‘pave paradise and put up a parking lot’,” Matthews said, a nod to council member. Cliff Yankovich, who is well-known for his love of Mitchell’s music.

Elaine Gregersen, who lives adjacent to 990 N. Washington, delivered the final public comment of the evening, expressing a desire for the property to be taken care of and cleaned up, as soon as possible. She noted that she has seen a number



Citizen, Rob Janowski, shares his frustrations after the removal of two-hour parking signage in front of downtown Lowell small businesses.

of questionable activities going on at the property, and she is afraid in her own home. “I know you can call the cops and all,” Gregersen said, “but what would I say? There’s a trailer up the road?”

Council member, Leah Groves, did not mince words on the question of Gregersen’s safety. “A call to the police is always valid if you ever feel fear in your own home,” Groves said. “You don’t have to face that alone.”

The second of the two public hearings on 990 N.

Washington is scheduled for the Monday, March 20 council meeting. Lowell township Supervisor, Jerry Hale, was expected to attend the February 21 meeting to discuss the city of Lowell and Lowell Township joint splash-pad venture, but that discussion has been rescheduled for the March 6 meeting. Those interested in watching the February 21st meeting can find it on the City of Lowell YouTube channel, @cityoflowell. The agenda can be found at the City of Lowell home page, lowellmi.gov.



Elaine Gregersen expresses concern about unlawful activity at 990 N. Washington while the property’s future use is debated.

the one who delivered a campaign speech. That honor belonged to Ron Janowski, whose impassioned oration, in opposition to the removal of two-hour parking signs in downtown Lowell, read as the first gambit in a run for city council. Janowski positioned time restricted parking as critical to the success of small businesses, especially during trying economic times, and accused the council of acting in a cloak-and-dagger fashion to approve legislation against the best interest of the community.

“For all the world, now, in hindsight, it looks like five people acted unilaterally, and without public comment or input, to slip into law something of high interest and impact to the public,” Janowski said, “especially to the Lowell business community that put them in office.”

Janowski expressed frustration regarding responses from Lowell city manager Mike Burns, city attorney Jessica Wood, and chief of police Chris Hurst, suggesting that two-hour parking was never protected by ordinance and is therefore unenforceable.

“It follows, then,

one universal rule for two-hour parking throughout the entire city, but attorney Wood clarified that this is not the case. Lowell has adopted Michigan State Police’s Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, and Villages as local ordinance, and per the code ,the city of Lowell can manage time-restricted parking through signage alone. There does not need to be any further ordinance. In response to insinuations of criminal acts by the city



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Vegetarian Soup - \$4/bowl, Dessert bake sale - \$1/dessert.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to these worthy causes: St. Mary Youth, Lowell Baby Pantry, Archdiocese for the Military Services, Ukraine Solidarity Fund

Author J. Q. Rose pens mystery romance *Deadly Undertaking*

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Set in a funeral home, the mystery romance novel, *Deadly Undertaking*, features a handsome detective, a shadow man, and a murder victim, who all kill protagonist Lauren’s plan for a simple life.

The main character, Lauren Staab, knew there would be dead bodies around when she returned home to take care of her mother, who had Alzheimer’s. After all, her family was in the funeral business, they owned Staab and Blood Funeral Home. But finding an extra dead body on the floor of the garage, between the hearse and the flower car, shocked her.

Lauren’s plan to return to her hometown, to keep the books for the funeral home and take care of her sick mother, suddenly turned upside down in a struggle to prove that she and her family are not guilty of murdering the man.

The author’s real name is Janet Glaser, but she

uses the pen name J. Q. Rose, which reflects her life experience as an owner of a floral shop. “That’s the most asked question I get,” Rose laughed. “I am a funeral director’s daughter.”

Rose used the unique setting of a funeral home because she knew it so well, that it almost prevented her from finishing the novel. “The heroine is a funeral director’s daughter and so

she recommends switching to writing short stories or anything else if the story is not moving. Rose also found out that she wasn’t a pantsier, aka, writing by the seat of her pants; instead, she needs a simple outline. “This story is very engaging,” she said. “It keeps going, there’s lots of action.”

In the character of her mother who is harboring

and handsome detective Gary, who no longer was the nerdy kid from her class but a muscle man. However, it was Gary who escorted her to the police station as a suspect in the murder case. The shadow man always showed up at the wrong time and place, and of course, he didn’t have a face to slap.

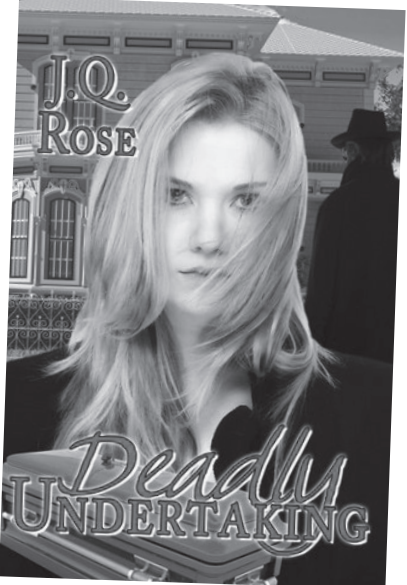
Rose teaches people how to write their life stories in a series of workshops. “You have a story to tell that matters,” she said.

Rose penned a memoir, *Arranging a Dream*, about being in the floral business for 20 years. A funny thing happened to Rose during the Holton Festival in July, when a woman came to the event. “What do you like to read?” Rose asked her.

“I hate to read,” the woman responded. “I came for the candy.”

Currently, Rose is teaching a workshop about “How to write a spiritual memoir.” As she became a published author, Rose realized how the author community is friendly and helpful. “I have friends all over the world,” she said. “There are so many perks. Just keep on going.”

Listen in to the episode for a chance to win a signed copy of *Deadly Undertaking*.



<https://emmapalova123.podbean.com/e/author-jq-rose-pens-mystery-romance-deadly-undertaking/>

As an author, I have friends all over the world. There are so many perks to being an author. Just keep on going.

~ J.Q. Rose

am I,” she said. “I found it hard to write about murder and drugs because that wasn’t my life.” So, Rose had to put away the writing of the book over the summer. “I identified too much with Lauren,” she said.

Although it wasn’t writer’s block, because Rose knew exactly what she wanted to write about,

secrets, she also brought out awareness about Alzheimer’s. “I wanted to make people aware that Alzheimer’s will become a pandemic, if nothing is done,” she said. “A lot has been done, but not enough.”

Rose had a good time writing the story, mainly in crafting characters such as the shadow man Henry

outdoors

making plans

Dave Stegehuis

Summer may seem far off now, but March could go out like a lamb. By then, most of the outdoor shows will be done and it will be time to make plans for spring and summer in Michigan.

Michigan residents will share the many attractions and resources of the state with folks from around the country, so it may be wise to make reservations. The Great Lakes state gets very busy during the summer months, especially during holiday periods, so it is wise to arrange for

accommodations early. Reservations at state parks can be made on-line. Renting motor coaches or travel trailers sometimes makes sense for long-term campers and folks just touring around the peninsulas. Rental slips are convenient or essential for securing larger watercraft.

Traveling anywhere requires dependable transportation. Repairs or general maintenance on motor vehicles takes time, and if hired out, involves making appointments. The availability of parts or

labor may extend the time required to complete a job, so maintenance issues should be addressed early.

Maintaining and upgrading recreational equipment deserves the same kind of attention. Watercraft, recreational vehicles, off-road vehicles, camp stoves, personal gear, and other equipment can malfunction or break down and detract from the enjoyment of an outing. Maybe it is time to trade in that old set of golf clubs for the latest and greatest.

Planning can bring some relief to those who are weary of snow, ice, and cold. Looking ahead and anticipating activities, which take place during long days and warm temperatures, can lift ones spirit and generate excitement for the future.

Preparing now for spring and summer activities will extend the experience and help insure a trouble-free enjoyable season. Winter will return, so let’s take full advantage of Michigan’s recreational opportunities when the sun shines.



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MARCH SCHEDULE

Matt Lubbers-Moore, ReQueered Tales, March 10
GR Expo special with Janet Vormittag, March 14
Betty Passick, The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the Prairie, March 17
Lori Hudson, Ghost on Beale Street, March 24
Preethi Saravanakumar, March 31

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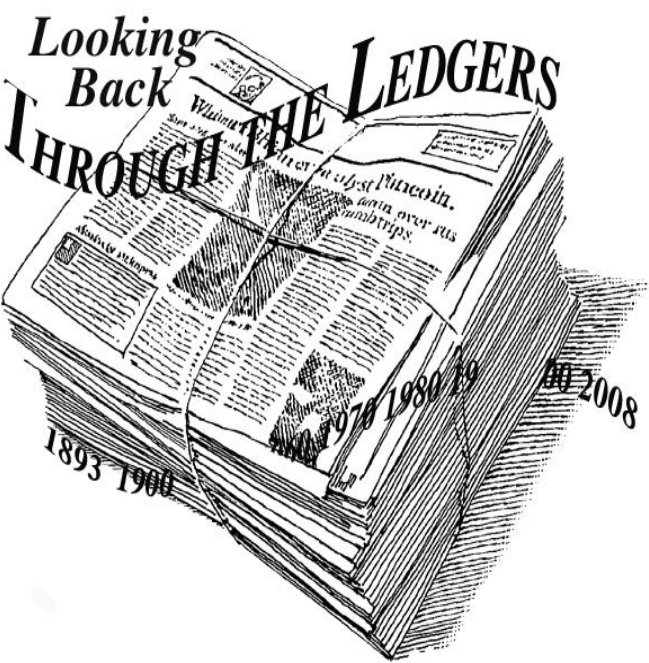
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viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 3, 1898

Jennie M. Starbard filed a suit for \$20,000 damages against D. G. H. & M. Railway for the death of her husband. Melvine Starbard, who was killed on the track near Lowell.

Michigan News: Mrs. George Davidson, aged 28, of St. Joseph, left her home at night, dressed only in her night gown, and with her two week old babe in her arms. She boarded the tug, Hohn, and from thence, plunged into the river, and both mother and child were drowned.

There is a woman in Lowell who is dead certain that “when Washington founded this government, he didn’t found it on a Catholic Bible but on a Protestant Bible.” When the Lord passed out the brains, this woman wasn’t there.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 8, 1923

Considerable discussion, pro and con, on division of Kent County into two counties is heard nowadays. The prevailing sentiment seems to be against the proposition. Whatever the outcome ,the taxpayer pays the freight.

We regret very much to hear of James Morley’s misfortune cutting his hand at Mr. Denton’s, as a farmer needs both of his good hands, and then, some to assist him in these times.

Alto Creamery reminds patrons to not keep cream too close to stove and also keep it away from places where it will take up old fruit, onion or potato flavors. Always keep cream test above 35% and stir cream often to prevent lumps.

Herbert Maltman has been painting names on mail boxes through the neighborhood this last week. He is trying to help himself in his course of lettering.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 4, 1948

The village of Lowell is in a sound financial position, as brought out in the annual village report published in this week’s issue of the Ledger, on page six. For the first time in the history of the village, metered electric sales brought in a revenue of more than \$100,000.00, namely \$108,718.49, an increase of approximately \$10,000.00 over the previous all-time high.

Charles Radford, Lowell rural mail carrier, suffered

a broken ankle in a fall from a ladder at his home. He was removing ice and snow from a roof. He was taken to Blodgett Hospital, where x-rays revealed he had broken two bones in the ankle.

The Lowell Cub Scouts will build picnic tables, like the sample in the Thompson Sanitary Market window ,for the cost of the material in the tables, which amounts to \$10.40. Contact Lew Morse.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life March 1, 1973

Former Lowell boy, Scott Jefferies, now at the University of Alaska, is named the “Outstanding Student of 1973 in the state of Alaska” by the Alaska Surveying and Mapping Convention.

On the front page of this edition of the Lowell Ledger are reports of three serious car crashes resulting in one death and sending 10 people to area hospitals.

Lowell grapplers combined their wrestling skills and enthusiasm with their ability to work together as a team and took the first place honors in the District Wrestling Tournament, held here last Saturday.

A police dog, belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Wierenga, decided to take the driver’s seat, causing his owner to lose control of her car. No one was injured.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 11, 1998

Marsha Wilcox was appointed to interim supervisor at a special meeting of the Vergennes Township Board ,Wednesday night. She will fill the position until the August election. She replaces Jim Cook, who served as the township’s supervisor for nearly 14 years. He resigned last week due to declining health.

Lowell Area School’s superintendent announces plans to reduce administrative staff by two. Bert Blake’s decision, fueled by economic future, the reduction will save Lowell Schools approximately \$150,000 in 1998-99.

Lowell Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade bands both scored a first division rating at District 10 MSBOA festival last week at Grandville. Both bands scored an overall top rating for their performances. Both bands will participate in the state band festival.

Luke and Renee Brogger’s new home in Vergennes Township has been broken into and thousands of dollars worth of damage had been inflicted on its structure, including walls with holes punched in them, a stairway bannister that lay in ruins, shattered crystal given as wedding presents, smashed picture frames, slit bed mattresses, and a battered stove and dishwasher.

to the editor

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

Dear Editor,

Lowell City Council recently removed 2-hour parking limits along Main Street. This unexpected action has great impact on our small businesses. In response, numerous small business owners have raised concerns about the removal of the limits and how it was handled by our City Council. Business owners have emailed each individual council member, spoke at or had read into the official minutes their concerns at the council meeting on Feb 21st, 2023.

At question is why the parking signs were ever removed in the first place, without comment or input from business owners. Limiting the time that parking must turn over energizes a downtown business area, and it helps to ensure a steady flow of visitors to small shops, such as we have here in Lowell. Such flow is critical to the success or failure of small businesses, but especially in these challenging economic times. Time-restricted parking is proven, it is good for the public, good for business, and good for Lowell. We need time-restricted parking in the downtown business district.

What is not in question is the value and need for limited-time parking restrictions on Main Street. This issue is pressing and already has broad support in Lowell’s business community. Mayor DeVore has promised that returning the 2-hour parking limits will be an official agenda item for the City Council meeting on Monday, March 6th. We ask that all City Council members support the reinstatement of the parking limits.

Ron Janowski and Karen Waid owners, Flat River Antique Emporium

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, March 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 Birds of Alto

Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Learn how to attract birds to your home feeder and how to identify different species. A presenter from the Grand Rapids Audubon Club will share tips and tricks for enjoying one of the most popular pastimes. Local vendors will also share the newest products to help make you more successful in attracting your favorite birds. For ages 18+

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, March 16, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. For ages 18+

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, March 22, 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.



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ABCs of Lowell history

Address:
96-98-100 E. Main
Built: 1866; Expanded 1886; Remodeled 1928
Built by: L. B. Lull & Wm. Boyce; Remodeled by Cliff Hatch
1st business: Nash & Boyce Axe Factory; Stormzand’s Central Garage

Harmon Nash and William Boyce operated a Machine Shop and Axe Factory where they manufactured axes, log-running tools, ice-breaking tools and repaired mowing machines. The log-running was just starting on the Flat River at that time. Ice was being harvested from the river, packed in sawdust and stored in ice houses to be used by households to keep their foods cold. Boyce died in 1879 but Nash was in business for over 50 years, until 1918. He also sold Agricultural Implements like McCormick binders plus, buggies, wagons, robes, and horse blankets. Nash expanded the building in 1886 by adding a large platform at the rear of the express office, which was the building next door to the west, as an agricultural implement depot. In 1882, Robert W. Gra-



Stormy’s Central Garage. The wrecker is parked on the sidewalk behind the gas pumps so a tractor and farm truck could remove the snow.

ham “moved his two wooden buildings from the east side to his lots on the bridge by the axe factory”. It is believed these were the express office, noted above, and the tailor shop (102 E. Main). Anthony H. Stormzand operated Stormy’s Central Garage, an auto repair shop, from 1922-1940. In 1928, he had a 30x60 addition built and had the half-rotted timbers of the old axe factory replaced. In the 1950s, William Christiansen used the building as a parking structure for his tenants who occupied the second floor of his drug store across the street. 96 E. Main - East store-

front: Art’s (Warning) TV was here, 1965 – 1990, and Peg Bedell opened Bedell Jewelers, a watch repair and jewelry shop in the same storefront, 1965-1987. The Touch of Country oak furniture store and Hungry Howies Pizza followed. Milo’s Kid’s Consignment Store opened in October 2022. 98 E. Main - Center: Gillis Upholstery Shop, Harriette’s, The Debonaire Shop, Bride ‘N Bouquet, Bookabout, and Circle

JF Saddlery were here. Dr. Robert Kyser, dentist, and briefly, Dr. Judd Carroll, had an office in the back with windows looking out over the river, 1950s-1996. Fish & Finn Outfitters & Consignment has opened at 98 E. Main. 100 E. Main - West: Jim’s (Worley) Barber-shop, 1967-2017. Flat River Tatoo operated by Joseph Peterman, opened in November 2021.

college news

Collier Kaufman, an Exercise Science Major at Grove City College, from Lowell, has been named to the Dean’s List with Distinction for the Fall 2022 semester. Collier is a 2020 graduate of Lowell Senior High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kaufman (Eileen), from Lowell

Students eligible for the Dean’s List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean’s List with Distinction, a GPA of 3.60 to 3.84 and for

the Dean’s List with High Distinction, a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0. Grove City College is a highly ranked, national Christian liberal arts and sciences college that equips students to pursue their unique callings through an academically excellent and Christ-centered learning and living experience. Established in 1876, the College is a pioneer in independent private education and accepts no federal funds.



Debonaire Shop

area churches

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Barrier-Free

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

"Praying and studying together"
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10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell
616-987-0567
www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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(Missouri Synod)
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Sunday Services - 10:30 am
www.gslc.church
Richard Boshoven, Pastor **897-8307**
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Website: www.stmarylowell.com
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Confession: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm
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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**

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

happy birthday



MARCH 2

Mary Vezino, Roger MacNaughton, Anna Kline, Lisa Schoen.

MARCH 3

Sarah Newell.

MARCH 4

Scott Vashaw, Bryce Tulppo, Patrick N. Johnson, Jared Brzezniak, Dawn Emelander.

MARCH 5

Don Silvis, Michael Nearing, Brandy Washburn.

MARCH 6

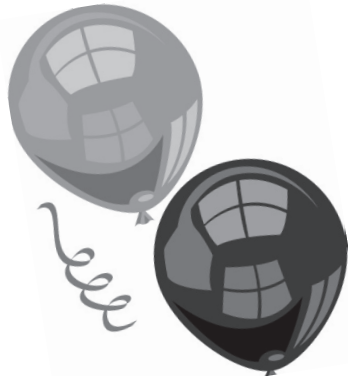
Pat Covell, Darlene Waldron.

MARCH 7

Carrie Metternick, Marshal Mooney, Michael Barnes, Shirley Canfield.

MARCH 8

Amber Rittersdorf, DJ Main, Charles Drake, Colleen Lally.



Cliff's

By Cliff Yankovich

Riffs



Alternatives to four year college – Part One: Become a bench jeweler

Along with several other skilled trades in America, there is a shortage of bench jewelers in Michigan and across the country. A bench jeweler is a skilled crafts person who can repair and/ or create fine jewelry. The repairs would include sizing rings, re-setting diamonds and gems that have fallen out, soldering chains, and other repairs needed on rings, chains, pendants, and earrings. The reason for the shortage is two fold. First, the industry is seeing older jewelers retire, with no one in the pipeline to fill the void. Part of the reason for that is that the industry has not done a good job in reaching high school students looking for a trade to learn.

To get a handle on the national picture, we contacted David Geller of Jeweler Profit. Geller is a 14th generation jeweler, who after owning a successful jewelry store in Atlanta for over 25 years, sold it to an employee and became a consultant to the industry in the US and around the world. He literally wrote the book on jewelry repair, his Blue Book of Jewelry Repair is used all around the world. He confirmed that what is happening in Michigan is a mirror of the country. “There is not a large influx of apprentice jewelers coming around and so many jewelers are older, “Geller stated. “I get calls and emails weekly from people looking

for a jeweler....and yes, there is a shortage and a need.” He told me about a mid-size jewelry chain that was actually recruiting from their sales staff in order to fill their own need for jewelers. Geller and I discussed one excellent jewelry trade school, New Approach, in Arrington, TN. New Approach teaches an industry respected, 13-week class, with only 30 students per class. They graduate two classes a year. (The rest of their classes teach specific skill sets.) Geller said that half of the graduates have jobs waiting for them before they are done. He also said that even if New Approach doubled their capacity, it would not make a dent in the demand. Graduates are typically looking at starting pay of \$18 to \$20 an hour, and sometimes much more, depending on the area they go to work and their skill level. The skills needed to be a bench jeweler center around small motor skills – the ability to perform intricate tasks using the muscles in the wrist and hands. Setting

gems, that can be less than 1.00 mm in diameter, calls for steady hands and the ability to focus. Jere Keyes is a third generation jeweler with over forty years experience on the bench. He likens being a bench jeweler to being a combination of a mechanic and artist. The mechanic part is a reference to the kind of tasks that are done day-in and day-out, like sizing a ring by cutting the metal and then soldering it back together with no trace of the cut or solder. Where the artistic side of it comes in is when you are faced with something out of the ordinary, for example, adding an extra birthstone to a ring or converting an inherited engagement ring into a pendant. Over his career, Keyes has worked in a variety of settings. A bench jeweler might work for a single store or they might go to work for a huge chain. Kevin Joseph started out working as a partner in a store, then went on to supervising a half dozen other jewelers at a trade shop. A trade shop is a business that does jewelry repair for stores that do not have jewelers or have too much work to handle in-house. He went from the trade shop to working for the largest jewelry company in the country and supervises several of their repair centers. His income and benefits have risen, along with his responsibilities. At this point in his career, Keyes does work at several stores in the Grand Rapids area. He will work at a particular store for a day and is paid by the job. With his experience and skills, he is typically making \$75 to \$100 an hour as an independent contractor. He also has a shop at his home ,where he makes custom jewelry for stores all over Michigan and the rest of the country as well. The point in telling you about Kevin and Jere is to give an indication of the employment possibilities available to trained bench

jewelers. A person could go to work for a mom and pop, a regional sized chain, a national powerhouse or be totally independent. Now that you are aware of the need for bench jewelers in Michigan and around the country, the logical question would be: How does one get training to become one? One tried and true method that Geller observed at the trade shop operated by his father and used at his store is to bring in high school students to start out with simple tasks like polishing the repaired jewelry. The student is paid less than the bench jewelers and the arrangement is good for the business because it frees up the bench jewelers to perform work that demands higher skills and at the same time commands a higher price. One step beyond that would be for someone to start out as an apprentice and learn from the business. Barry Trieweiller retired and closed his store, Trier’s Jewelers, in Ionia, a couple of years ago. Barry was an old school jeweler, he could work on jewelry,

watches, and clocks. He told me he started working at the store in high school and the former owner, Bob Jones, taught him all the aspects of the business. When Jones was ready to retire, he sold the business to Barry. Sadly, when Barry retired, he had no one to take his place. There are several places around the country where someone could learn the trade. Here are some links: GIA : www.gia.edu/gem-education/program-graduate-jeweler New Approach: www.newapproachschool.com Drouhard School: www.drouhardjewelersschool.com Miami Jewelry School: www.miamijewelrystore.com The Jewelers of America www.jewelers.org has a nice list of schools on their website. This list is just a starting point. A search for “jewelry repair schools”, “jewelry design schools”, or “bench jewelry schools” will provide even more options.

Social Security celebrates Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History Month. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women. Social Security provides vital benefits and financial protection for women. Nearly 55% of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women. Today, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation’s history. Women also have longer average life expectancies than men and tend to live more years in retirement. This means women have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income.

It’s important for women to plan early and wisely for retirement. Our online booklet, *Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know* found at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10127.pdf, provides detailed information about how life events can affect a woman’s Social Security retirement benefits. These events may include marriage, death of a spouse, divorce, self-employment, and other life or career changes. Your earnings history will determine future benefits, so we encourage you to verify that the information in your record is correct. You can create a personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/

myaccount to review your full earnings history. You can also view your Social Security Statement using your personal my Social Security account, to get estimates of future benefits and other important planning information. If you find an error in your earnings record, it is important to get it corrected so you receive the benefits you earned when you retire. Our publication, *How to Correct Your Social Security Earnings Record* at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf, provides you with details on how to make a correction. Learn about how Social Security benefits women at www.ssa.gov/people/women. Please share this information with your loved ones.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF LOWELL

2023 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2023 will be held at Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St SE, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting: March 7th, 9:00 am

Appeal Hearings:
Wednesday, **March 15th**, 3:00 pm to 9:00pm
Thursday, **March 16th**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact: City Hall @ ph. 616.897.8457

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2023 assessments

By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 10th 2023

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2023 are as follows:

Commercial.....	44.03.....	1.1360
Residential.....	45.07.....	1.1090
Industrial	42.92.....	1.1650
Personal Property	50.00.....	1.0000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3-day notice.
Contact: Michael Burns – City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457



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Kim Bazen opens The Mane Salon & Company

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

A few years ago, Kim Bazen thought about buying a hair salon of her own in Lowell. She certainly had the experience to do it, with 38 years as a stylist, with many of those years as a manager. But the timing just seemed to be off, and plus, she really loved working for Brenda's Hair Design, owned by Brenda Bergy. Then last fall, Kim and Brenda began to discuss how Kim might take over the business, come 2023. In the months following, they worked together to help Kim with the transition of

becoming the new owner of the salon. After 34 years, Bergy handed the comb and scissors over to Bazen, who is now the owner of the newly named, The Mane Salon & Company, located at 1002 West Main Street in Lowell.

Bazen is excited to bring her vast experience and a personal touch to the salon. "I've done every part of the business," said Kim Bazen. "I always seemed to manage salons and then I went on and did chair rental myself about 10 years ago. I really loved it." Similar to Bergy's business approach, Bazen will continue to

rent chair space to stylists, a method that makes it convenient for them to set their own days and hours. Now as a landlord, it is her job to make sure her business is comfortable for her stylists and their clients. "It [renting a chair] is a scary step because you have to have a clientele," said Bazen. "I ended up leaving Lowell and going into Ada and doing chair rental, so I always felt like I could make it better, the chair rental atmosphere. I'm big on customer service, making them feel comfortable, even though they are not my clients. It's everybody's clients, so they can come in and have a cup of coffee, and sit down and relax."

The Mane Salon & Company will offer many services, including hair styling, highlighting, perms, straightening and everything to do with hair. Also, Bazen is excited to be offering body waxing for women, and men alike, for all areas except Brazilian waxing. She is very proud of her team of stylists, with over 172 years of experience, including former owner, Brenda Bergy. Joining Bazen and Bergy will be



Left to right: Brenda Bergy, Marylin Dawson, Ron Thomas, Kim Bazen, and Rachel Klahn.



Dogs, Lucy Lou and Susie Q.

Marylin Dawson, Ron Thomas, and Rachel Klahn and, of course, The Mane Salon & Company doggy mascots, Lucy Lou and Suzie Q.

Bazen knows that making money for herself in the first year will be difficult, as it is for many new business owners, but for her, it is not about that. Her goals in 2023 are to recruit more stylists to rent her chairs but more importantly, provide a great customer experience for everyone. "It's not about the money for me," said Bazen. "It's about having a nice salon that people can come to and be independent and do their thing. I would like to have a full staff by next January."

In the future, she is hoping to provide more services for her customers

and stylists, particularly in the area of retail. "I always wanted to do both," said Bazen. "I want to have a distributor for hair stylists where they can come and buy color and products and then do hair in the background. There is more to that with licensing, so I just decided to just do hair. Down the road, I would like to add on, to make it a retail for people in the area to be able to buy good products at a reasonable price."

Bazen and her family have been Lowell residents for over twenty years and she hopes that she and her business will be a part of the community for many years to come. For Bazen there is an enthusiasm, coupled with an anxiousness, in starting a new business, especially since she has never been an owner before. Fortunately

for her, she has a colleague who helped her with every step along the way, Brenda Bergy. "I do want to thank Brenda," said Bazen. "She has been outstanding with the support and helping me with this. She is staying [as a stylist]. That is top priority. She helped me to get things changed in October. She's been great. I am glad she is staying and there is no friction. She's really just helping me go along, since I've never owned anything."

You can find out more information about The Mane Salon & Company by visiting its Facebook page, and you can contact them at 616-897-7131 or by each stylist's number. And if you are a stylist looking to rent a chair in the future, please call Kim Bazen at the salon.

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Celebrating the heritage of area farms

We are looking for farms to feature in the Ledger. Centennial Farms would be great, but other family-owned farms would be considered too! Just looking to write a piece on the history of your family's local farm!

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Dinner, continued

retired Executive Director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. With all due respect to the other winners of the night, this was the Main Event. The MC's did their best to highlight all the great ways Liz Baker's work has helped put Lowell on the map as a great place to raise a family, open a business or just have a great time at one of the many signature events in Lowell. It was also pointed out that several of these events have been copied by other communities in the area – two such examples are the Community Expo, held at the High School every year, and the Sizzlin' Summer Concert series, the Lowell

Chamber hosts along with Lowell Arts and the DDA. Some people, including the MCs, got teary-eyed as Baker's career was called into focus. They were also careful to point out many examples of community service and involvement that was way over and above "just doing her job" as the Director of the Chamber. Liz finished out the evening with a very lovely speech that began when she recalled that three decades ago, she was hired for five dollars an hour, on a part-time basis. She gave numerous shout-outs to those who helped her along the way, starting with her husband, Mike, and

their two sons, Nick and Jake, who were generous in sharing her with the community she loves. She spoke words of appreciation for the many business owners, volunteers, and board members who have helped the Chamber reach and exceed it's goals over the years. It was a great night all around. We would like to congratulate Liz Baker for being the Person of the Year and to thank her for all of her hard work over three decades that helped make Lowell the Best Place to Be.



The Baker Family.

All photos courtesy of Bruce Doll



Charlie Jefferies of Betten Baker.



Craig Fonger of Fallasburg Historical Society.



Eric Springer from Brookstone Investments.



Melinda Borgos, of Sabor Mexicano, hugging Liz Baker.



Eric King representing PFCU.



Brian Doyle of King Milling.



Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Individual State Wrestling Tournament this weekend

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Thirteen Lowell wrestlers are heading to Ford Field this weekend to compete in the MHSAA Individual State Tournament. Here's a quick look at those thirteen.

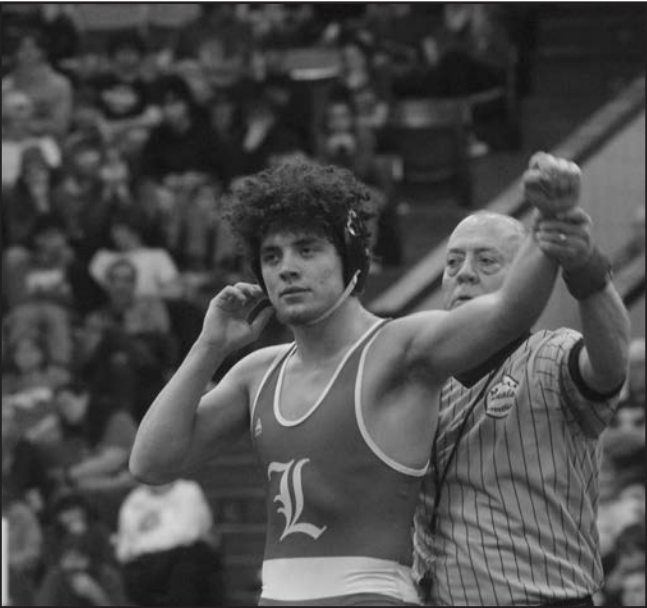
Mason Saylor - 106 Ranking: No. 8

Saylor came on strong at the end of the year, rising from the Lowell B squad to the individual lineup, where he won his way to a trip to Ford Field.

Here, he'll have a tough matchup in the first round with John Glenn's, Izaak Kukulski. A state placement would be the culmination of a great first season for the Lowell freshman. Teammate, Jarrett Smith, is on the other side of the bracket.

Jarrett Smith - 106, Ranking: No. 2

True to his Michigan Grappler ranking, Smith earned the number two overall seed. He starts with a rematch of his matchup with Goodrich's, Dylan Angelo, in the first round that was



Tacho Gonzales gets his hand raised after a win at the team state finals.

won by Smith by decision.

Smith was one of two Michigan wrestlers, along with Jackson Blum, to place at the prestigious Fargo 16U Nationals Tournament last year. The top overall seed in the field, at 106, is Brady Baker. He scored a 3-2 decision over Smith earlier this year, and a potential finals rematch would be an exciting one.

Carter Cichocki - 113, Ranking: No. 2

After a state runner-up finish last year, Cichocki is positioned for another deep run earning the number two seed.

The top seed at 113 is Santana Ramon of Allen Park at 48-0, and while comparing records, Cichocki is 26-8, it is of note that Lowell wrestled a much tougher schedule than Allen Park did. Ramon lost to Jackson Blum during last year's individual tournament and went on to place.

Logan Dawson - 120, Ranking No. 3

The good news for Dawson is teammate, Jackson Blum, is on the

other side of the bracket. Blum, the only one who's been able to beat Dawson this postseason.

Of course, this is the individual finals and competition will be fierce. Dawson has been on a tear after starting the season in the program's B lineup because of what is simply a stacked group of wrestlers for Lowell, around his weight class. He won a wrestle off against a teammate to make it to the individual postseason lineup.

Jackson Blum - 120, Ranking: No. 1

Blum is a defending state champion, and has looked great this season. He starts out with Nikolas Krjac of Croswell-Lexington in round one.

Blum has only lost three times this year, twice to Ohio wrestlers, and once to Marcus Blaze of Detroit Catholic Central. All by decision against some of the nation's top wrestlers.

Trevor Boone - 132, Ranking: No. 9

Trevor becomes the third Boone to make a state finals appearance for Lowell, his brother, Austin, was a four-time individual champion and has another brother, Jared, who finished third last year.

Boone enters the tournament at 25-11, and a first round win could pit him against top seed Aaron Lucio of Stevensville Lakeshore, who won a state title last year, and beat Boone by major, earlier this year. Boone has gotten better over the year, evidenced by his narrow loss to No. 3 overall seed Kyron Zoet of Byron Center at regionals.

Owen Segorski - 138, Ranking: No. 1

The other of Lowell's two defending individual champions, Segorski will be seen as one of the ones to beat at 138, not just as a defending champion, but also because of his performance at regionals, where he scored a major decision over the second-ranked wrestler in the state, Tee Ward of Fremont. The top overall seed went to Jayden Schwartz of Charlotte.

Rankings are based on Michigan Grappler's rankings from last week. This week's rankings will not be released in time to be entered in for Ledger publication.

CJ Poole - 144, Ranking: No. 2

Poole gets the third seed in the 144 pound weight class, and has been on a roll this year. The senior starts out with Colten Strawderman of Edwardsburg.

In a double elimination tournament, it takes two wins to place.

Maddox Simcoe - 150, Ranking No. 1

Another chance at an all-Lowell final, but this one is a bit more bittersweet, as only one of these two Lowell seniors (along with Miller below) can ultimately come away with the state title.

"Ultimately, we try to avoid wrestlers competing in the same weight class," Boudro said, "but our wrestlers enter the postseason at the weight they're most comfortable with and where they can best succeed."

Simcoe placed third last season in the Ohio State



Landon Miller is one of several Lowell seniors wrestling their final matches as Red Arrows this weekend.

Wrestling championships, where he wrestled for Colombian Tiffin.

Landon Miller - 150, Ranking: No. 4

Miller finished seventh in the state last year, and going up through the youth program, like so many Lowell wrestlers, so this is the last run for Miller in a Red Arrow singlet. He starts out with Zachary Taylor of Gibraltar Carlson in the first round.

Tacho Gonzales - 157; Ranking: No. 8

Gonzales starts out with 12th ranked Jadyn Grimes of Mason. A win would set up for a matchup with sixth ranked Timothy Simons (Gibraltar Carlson) in a first couple rounds of ranked wrestlers. Certainly the normal at Ford Field.

Carson Crace - 175, Ranking: No. 1

Crace gets the number one overall seed, and could see a semifinal grudge match with Goodrich's, Brady Benson, Carson's only loss

to a Michigan wrestler this year. It was a close match with a very late reversal deciding in. Carson finished third last season.

Also, on the other side of the bracket is Gaylord's Brayden Gatreau, both wrestlers did not face off in the team semifinal.

Juan Acosta - 285

This past weekend, Acosta went toe-to-toe with James Mahon, the number one overall seed here, at 285, losing a one-point decision. This bodes well for Acosta, just a sophomore at heavyweight, leaving plenty of room for growth the next two years.

If Acosta does win his first round match, he'll likely get a rematch with Mahon.

Veronica Tapia - 100

At just a freshman, the sky's the limit for Tapia. She hasn't wrestled as many matches as many of the other girls at the tournament, but at 10-2, can certainly make some noise.

Basketball teams wind down regular seasons

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

With the ability to schedule extra games this year, the MHSAA postseason tournament has more anticipation than ever. Especially for the Lowell basketball teams, who have both had seasons full of excitement. High drama finishes for the boys, a lightning-quick start to the season for the girls, and plenty of great play, over the course of the year.

The Lowell girls topped FHC 63-30 on senior night last week, celebrating an experienced group of senior student-athletes. Those

seniors were Aubreigh Oswald, Hope Rummelt, Lexi Howell, Kenzie Munson, and Summer Havey. The first four are current players on the team, while Summer Havey had to give up the sport, due to injury. Since, she has been an important part of the team in a non-playing role.

Lowell finished 16-6 during the regular season, falling to Byron Center in the finale. The Red Arrows will be strong favorites in games against Cedar Springs (Monday) and the district semifinal (Wednesday), teams they have already beaten by

large margins this season. The Red Arrows would potentially meet the Rockford Rams on Friday in the district final. If upsets don't happen, it would set up a blockbuster district final.

The Rams enter the postseason the top-ranked team in Division 1. Lowell, who has been in and out of the rankings, has scored wins over No. 9 East Kentwood, and Division 3 ranked Kent City.

The boys at 10-10 have their regular season finale on Tuesday, at East Grand Rapids, after falling to Forest Hills Central



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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestlers hit the 10 year mark as state champs

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

In the front three sections of Wings West’s No. 1 seed side on Saturday afternoon, was a group of young Lowell fans. A sizable youth contingency as into the dual as any fan in the stands. There was the not-so-secret to how Lowell has built a decade of dominance.

Lowell’s youth wrestling program from the Mighty Arrows through middle school keeps churning out talented wrestlers with no end in sight.

When Lowell clinched the dual on Saturday, and a 10th straight state championship, those

wrestlers knew the math and the significance of that moment, holding both hands out in the air, all ten fingers showing.

The Red Arrows rolled through the field with mixed lineups and a lot of different wrestlers, cruising their way through the same three schools they beat in order in 2022.

“The opportunity to do those things, that’s why you do it,” Lowell wrestling head coach, RJ Boudro, told the Ledger in their weekly round up. A video segment that can be found on the Ledger’s Facebook page.

It started in the quarterfinals, where Lowell put out five starters out of

14 possible, beating Brother Rice 49-21. The dual was 18-16 in favor of the Warriors halfway through, but Lowell coaches weren’t concerned as Lowell reeled off 24 points in four minutes of time. In the end a comfortable victory.

“It’s a program strategy. There’s guys on our team that have wrestled on our program three or four years, not able to make the individual lineup. It’s a big deal to give those guys that lifelong memory to compete at the state tournament. It’s a reward for those guys. It’s not about margins, we just want to win and move on,” Boudro said.

Jack Lamoreaux,

Connor McDowell, Easton Rich, Cody Foss, and Jace Blakely were among the match winners for the Red Arrows in the quarterfinals against the eighth seed.

Fourth seed Gaylord was Lowell’s next opponent. A northern Michigan power, the Blue Devils needed a good start to have a chance in the dual. They didn’t get it. Carson Crace scored a decision over Ty Bensinger, the No. 3 ranked wrestler in the state to start the match. Then Ari McFarland, coming into the dual unranked, scored a surprising win over another No. 3 wrestler in the state.

“It was a huge win for Ari and his confidence, and

definitely was a big start for us.”

It was a deflating loss for Gaylord and likely dashed their hopes of an upset as Lowell went on a big run with wins by Juan Acosta, Jarrett Smith, a Logan Dawson technical fall, two forfeits, a Trevor Boone major, Owen Segorski technical fall, and finally a major by CJ Poole expanding the lead to 42 to -1.

The negative number always is an eyebrow raiser. Gaylord was deducted a team point for unsportsmanlike behavior. It happened during CJ Poole’s match, easily the most contentious of the weekend.

A combination of differing tactics, tough calls, late takedowns, and frustration from the Gaylord bench. You could feel the intensity of the Lowell crowd after, just incredibly invested in the match.

“CJ wants to wrestle all the time, in that match Gaylord opted to wrestle defensively and on the edge of the mat. CJ got into a double leg on the edge of the match, and both wrestlers ended up going off the mat and nearly out into the Gaylord bench. As that happened, one of the

Wrestling,
continued page 16

GYMNASTICS

Regionals week for gymnastics

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

It’s a short drive for Lowell gymnastics on Saturday to the regional, well, relatively speaking. When you have teams like Marquette, Negaunee, Calumet, and Escanaba in your region, for every other school, the drive is relatively short to Kenowa Hills.

Five and a half hours for Escanaba, six hours for Marquette, six hours for Negaunee, and the Calumet Copper Kings have an eight-hour drive ahead of them. Don’t get us wrong, driving in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan is beautiful a lot of the year,

but late February and early March isn’t the prettiest of the many seasons we experience.

Championship season in gymnastics is exciting, however. Every hundredth of a point can make the difference between a berth at state, and a season coming to a close. Every vault, landing, transition, and skill performed on the apparatus is critical.

Rockford will be the favorite amongst the 13 teams scheduled to compete this Saturday. Lowell, one of them, along with the four UP schools, Coldwater, Coopersville, Forest Hills

United, Kenowa Hills, Jackson, Parma Western, and West Michigan Aviation Academy.

Three spots are open, and with Rockford taking one spot almost certainly, the other 12 schools will be competing for two spots. Last year, Lowell finished fourth behind the Rams, Forest Hills United, and Jackson.

Jackson will again be very strong, scoring above a 142 at Coldwater earlier this year when the program met. The Red Arrows have been able to beat Forest Hills United this season, and will be hopeful a score in the

upper 130’s, or breaking through in the low 140’s, could propel them to a state finals berth.

Ivy McDonald and Alexis Clark earned all-conference honors, as the team scored a 136.325 at conference, a second place finish. Krista Jungblut earned honorable mention all-conference honors.

Lowell was led by McDonald’s conference championship score on bars, 8.825. Clark added a 9.35 on floor. Good for 2nd in the conference.

Regionals start at 10:00am, on Saturday, at Kenowa Hills.

de Voest commits to GRCC golf program

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Make it three Lowell boy golfers now that will be playing golf at the collegiate level, one of the highest numbers ever in program history.

Patrick de Voest, Lowell senior, has recently committed to play golf at Grand Rapids Community College ,starting next year, with a goal of eventually attending Michigan State University to get a degree in the education field.

“I have wanted to be a teacher since third grade so I think that’s what I will be doing,” Patrick said to the Ledger.

De Voest came to golf, later than many in the program, early in high

school, but quickly found enjoyment for the game, and talent, at that. De Voest eventually got a job at local Arrowhead Golf Course, where he frequents during the summer along with many other Lowell golfers. The course is the program’s home course since Deer Run was sold to the Kent County Youth Fair.

“During the summer of 2020, I would go out with my brother everyday and play 18, then come home and just chip balls around our house. Then that summer, I spent probably more time at the golf course than at my house,” de Voest said.

Golf at a community college means plenty

of competition with midwestern community college’s and the opportunity to play at high end courses in the region. Egypt Valley, LE Kaufman, and Bedford Valley in Battle Creek are some of the courses GRCC played at last year. After talking with the coaching staff, and evaluating options, Patrick decided that committing to the Raiders would be the best step for him. Brad VandenHout, 2021 graduate of Lowell High School and former Red Arrow golfer, is currently on the GRCC roster, which is composed of all local underclassmen.

“GRCC is a great school and being able to play golf everyday with

some cool people really is a dream come true,” de Voest said, who was also the #1 singles player for Lowell tennis this past season. Both of his brothers, before him, also held that spot during their high school playing careers.

Golf season starts in the spring for the Red Arrows, who expect an exciting year. Patrick is one of those reasons for such high expectations, shooting a 75 last season over 18. A top ten 18-hole round in program history.

Until spring though, you can probably find de Voest practicing at an indoor range or helping lead the Lowell student section during basketball games.

BOWLING

Witten punches ticket to state

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Beers was a state qualifier last year while Witten makes a return to state finals this year. They finished sixth in the field of 14 teams. Sparta, Northview, and Cedar Springs were the state qualifiers.

One more weekend is assured for Lowell senior bowler, Courtney Witten, after a strong performance at regionals this past week. Witten placed second, overall, in the regional held at Westgate Bowling in Comstock Park. In first place, by 23 pins, was Northview bowler,Courtney Delaney. Witten’s 223 high score was one of the higher games of the day.

Haylie Beers placed 19th, 63 pins away from the 10th place spot and final state qualification slot. Cadence DeWit (33rd) and Rowan Williams (35th) rounded out the regional bowlers for the girls.

Beers was a state qualifier last year while Witten makes a return to state finals this year. They finished sixth in the field of 14 teams. Sparta, Northview, and Cedar Springs were the state qualifiers.

In the field of 17, the boys bowling team beat Fremont, Reeths-Puffer, and East Grand Rapids, placing 14th, overall. Keith MacDermaid led the way, individually placing 47th, a high game of 176.

Gunnar Nelson, Andrew Mathews, and Caden Witten followed closely behind. Mathews rolled a 191. Caden Dennie and Jacob Rapelje rounded out the regional bowlers.

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obituaries

PITT

Ruth Maxine (Zuverink) Pitt, age 94, of Lowell, entered into the arms of Jesus on Thursday, February 23, 2023. Ruth loved spending time with her family and enjoyed cooking. She ran Auntie Ruth's Restaurant in Wayland, MI. Together, Ruth and Bob would sing at nursing homes to entertain the residence. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Pitt; son-in-law, Steve Rosso; stepchildren, Pearl Pitt, Cherry Watkins, Georgia Milligan, Robert Pitt; brothers, Wilfurd, Eldon, and Eugene Zuverink; sister, Adeline Rookus; granddaughters, Renee, Angela, and Roberta. Lovingly remembering Ruth are her children, Caren Fann, Mary Ann (Bob) Kerridge, Cindy Rosso; son-in-law, Jim Watkins; daughter-in-law, Sandy Pitt; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; sister, Esther Scherer; sisters-in-law, Donna Zuverink, Pat Zuverink; many nieces and nephews. The visitation and funeral were held at Stroo Funeral Home, 1095 68th St. SE, Grand Rapids, 49508, on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, with Mr. Scott Gardener officiating. Interment will be in Winchester Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Hospice.



DANIELS

Wesley C. Daniels went to be with his Lord and Savior after a long illness with Parkinson's on February 20, 2023. Preceding him in death were his parents; Stanley and Alice Jane; and his brother, Danny. Surviving is his loving wife of 46 years, Sue (Schutte-Daniels); daughter, Allison; sisters, Dianne Connell (Joe, Colleen and Danny), Sue Hoffman (Amy and Keirsten); one brother, John (Kris) Daniels; sister-in-law, Marilyn Schutte; brother-in-law, Rudie Schutte; sister-in-law, Sandy Schutte (Steve, Mark, Tim); brother-in-law, Darrel (Peggy) Schutte (Angie, Luke, Jodi); and sister-in-law, Louise Desotell (Pam and the late Penny). Wes also leaves behind nieces and nephews who were there for special occasions, who helped with Wes's care and cheered him up in spirit; Jason and Angie Sixberry (Travis and Sarah), Jared and Nellie Schutte (Brendan and Kirstie), Justin and Sarah Pratt (Maddie, Micah, Jon), Leanne Pratt and David Corradini (Jack, Evar), and Kyle and Alisha Schutte (Lyla, Liana). Wes worked for many years as a heavy duty truck salesman. He started his career at Weiland Sales in Midland and ended his career at Duthler Truck of Grand Rapids, he enjoyed his job immensely. Wes' joys in life were his Lord and church, family and country, and a little golfing and fishing. Visitation was held 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM, Friday, February 24, 2023, at the Alto Apostolic Fellowship Hall, 7700 Wingeier Rd, Alto, 49302. Funeral services were held at 11 AM, Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the Alto Apostolic Church, 7157 Wingeier Ave., Alto MI 49302. Committal service was at Bowne Center Cemetery. Meal following at the Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice, <https://www.spectrumhealth.org/foundation> The family would like to add a special thanks to Debbie, Sarah, and Richard of hospice care. The family would like to thank and is extremely grateful to all others who came to visit and care for Wes in his final days.



ROSKAMP

David Irwin Roskamp, age 78 of Lowell, passed away on February 26, 2023. He was preceded in death by 2 grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Martha; children, Mike (Donna) Roskamp, Lisa (Jeff) Boles; 4 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; brother, Jim (Kathy) Roskamp; and sister, Marybeth Ford. David graduated from Grand Rapids Union High School in 1963. He worked for 38 years at the Keebler Company and was very active in the Lowell Boy Scouts. David enjoyed hunting and fishing in his free time. A Mass of a Christian Burial will be held at 11 AM, Thursday, March 2, 2023, at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St. SE, Lowell, MI 49331, with a rosary at 10 AM. Fr. Michael Goodwin officiating. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital at https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=header-btn-donate-now



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OLIN

After a beautiful life spent dedicated to his family and friends, Dean Wade Olin passed away on Sunday, February 26, 2023. Dean excelled at his many pursuits, including being an avid woodsman and craftsman. He was happiest sharing his knowledge and selflessly helping others. His memory will be cherished by his wife of 35 years, Suzanne (Borg) Olin; children, Morgan (Douglas) Ford, and Dylan Olin; grandchildren, Auburn and Woodrow Ford; siblings, Sheila (Phil) Pachulski, Doug (Suzanne) Olin, Debbie (Greg) Bush, Joice Smith and husband Gary Stone, and Susan (Rick) Kempton. He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Auburn and Frances Olin. All services will be held at Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr. NE., in Lowell, MI. Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 2, from 3PM to 7PM and on Friday at 10AM with funeral services following at 11AM. www.plaisierfuneral.com



2023 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2910 Alden Nash Ave SE,
Lowell, MI 49331

2023 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2023 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 9 a.m. =
Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
&
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2023 assessments. **By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 13, 2023**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2023 are as follows:

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2023 are as follows:

Agricultural	49.02	1.0199
Commercial	46.83	1.1013
Residential	45.55	1.0976
Industrial	45.91	1.0890
Personal	50.00	1.0000

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.
Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE. 616-897-7600

Board of Review Members, Sandra Graham, Nancie Mathews & James Foerch and Alternate Jennette Stevenson
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

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Mr. Nick Hoff
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Nick Hoff is a nationally touring stand-up comedian who has been on MTV, co-hosts a weekly show on SiriusXM, and was a featured act in Netflix's Comedy Festival. His debut album "Baby Daddy" hit #1 on the iTunes comedy charts, and his new hour-long special "Front to Back" can be streamed on YouTube. When he's not on stage, Nick can often be seen in commercials for Miller Lite, Pepsi and Amazon.

Jeff Foxworthy and Larry the Cable Guy hand-picked Nick to open for them on their critically acclaimed "We've Been Thinking" Tour. He has headlined the "Pink Ribbon Comedy Tour" which made stops in 40 cities doing 65 shows all raising money for breast cancer research. He was also part of the "Walk of Shame" national comedy tour, which was not quite so noble a cause.

Box Office (616)897-0007

Lowell Police Beat

Cannabis stores break-ins

The Lowell Police Department received an alarm call at 4:51 a.m., on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the cannabis store, Joyology. When officers arrived, they saw that the front door was broken into and items taken from inside the store. Video evidence showed that five individuals driving a maroon Chevrolet Malibu, drove up to the front of the store, broke the door and made entry into the building.

On February 3rd, at 7:56 a.m., the Exclusive cannabis store, near the 2300 block of West Main Street, was also broken into. The two suspects, in this case, made entry from a broken window, were armed with handguns and took an undetermined amount of cash and products.

Both incidents are still under investigation. If you have any information regarding these incidents, please call the Lowell Police Department at 616-897-7123 or Silent Observer at 616-774-2345.

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

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misc.

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$37 per year and \$5 per month... start losing weight TODAY

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

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE 2023

The Board of Review of Bowne Township will meet in the Township Office Building located at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto Michigan on:

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023 – 1:00 P.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023 9:00 A.M. – NOON AND 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE- EVENING HOURS ON MARCH 15, 2023 ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

ALL APPOINTMENT REQUESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE TOWNSHIP CLERK AT 616-868-6846 OR clerk@bownetwp.org PRIOR TO 3:00 P.M. MARCH 10, 2023. IN LIEU OF AN APPOINTMENT, IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED APPEALS BE SUBMITTED BY MAIL.

THE TENTATIVE REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT MULTIPLIER REQUIRED BY PA 165 OF 1971 ARE:

	RATIO	MULTIPLIER
AGRICULTURAL	47.58	1.0509
COMMERCIAL	43.20	1.1574
INDUSTRIAL	45.73	1.0934
RESIDENTIAL	43.48	1.1500

DENNIS MCKELVEY-ASSESSOR
RANDY WILCOX-SUPERVISOR
TOWNSHIP OF BOWNE
COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLIC NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP 2023 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE TO: TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

The Vergennes Township Board of Review will meet on
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. for the Organizational Meeting
No taxpayer appeals will be heard at this meeting.

Public hearings will be held at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE Lowell, MI 49331:
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Board will meet for the purpose of reviewing the Assessment Roll and hearing objections thereto.

Appointments are required to appear before the BOR. Appeals may also be made by letter if you are unable to be present during meeting hours. Letter appeals must be received no later than March 14, 2023.

All BOR meetings and hearings are held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 297 of 1976, as amended, MCL 41.72a (2) and (4), and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Persons wishing to file for a Disabled Veterans Exemption or Poverty Exemption should have all required forms submitted to the Board of Review in advance of the meeting dates noted above.

The tentative ratios and factors for Vergennes Township for tax year 2023 are:

	Ratio	Factor
Agricultural	48.27%	1.03584
Commercial	51.60%	0.96899
Industrial	47.75%	1.04712
Residential	44.21%	1.13096
Personal Property	50.00	1.00000

All ratios are expected to be 50% and all multipliers are expected to be 1.00000 after 2023 assessment adjustments are made.

Cory Burns
Township Assessor

Guest Column

By Sen. Thomas Albert

Unsustainable, unfair proposals hurt Michigan taxpayers

An important part of my job representing you in the Michigan Senate is to make sure state government is financially responsible and fair to taxpayers. Gov. Whitmer’s most recent budget and tax proposals are making that job much tougher. There is a better way to do things than the careless strategies she proposes.

The state has a budget surplus of roughly \$9 billion on the books. The governor is acting like she just won the lottery. And like many lottery winners, I am afraid she’s planning a spending spree that would ultimately boomerang and leave our state broke.

Remarkably, in a single budget proposal, the governor has proposed eliminating 97% of the surplus by the end of 2024. I wouldn’t condone running a household budget that way with private money, and I certainly can’t condone it when it comes to spending your taxpayer money. Money appropriated in the state budget belongs to taxpayers — not the government.

The governor’s budget plan is unsustainable. We don’t know what the future holds for the economy. We cannot carelessly overspend and put the state in a precarious position, where cuts to fund essential

services might be necessary, if revenues come in below expectations.

We must be smart about utilizing the state’s budget surplus. We should do more to boost savings and pay down debt to provide more financial flexibility in the future. That is the best way to make sure the state has the resources needed to help Michigan families and communities thrive. I support investing more resources in schools, public safety and infrastructure — but it must be done responsibly and sustainably. That will be my focus as budget negotiations take place in the coming months.

Our state budget is always connected to tax policy. Unfortunately, the tax proposals Democrats are advancing through the Legislature in House Bill 4001 are also irresponsible.

I continually hear the Democrats’ plan referred to

as “tax relief.” Yet at its core, it ultimately is a tax increase on working Michiganders. Their plan seeks to avoid an automatic income tax rate reduction that should kick in under current state law — from the current 4.25% to around 4.05%. It’s a trap lying in wait for unsuspecting taxpayers — a one-time rebate check today, but income tax rates higher than they should be tomorrow and for years to come. It takes away money that should stay in your paychecks.

I continually hear this plan labeled as “inflation

relief.” In reality, it’s the “inflaming inflation” plan.

We must ask the question — why are we experiencing historically high inflation? The answer is simple: Government spending. This plan is the latest addition to the reckless, government-fueled spending that has sparked the high prices families across our state and nation are experiencing every day. If anything, the plan Democrats favor will prolong the very situation we are trying to end.

I proposed an alternative solution in Senate Bill 51 that would provide more

tax relief for everyone — including additional savings for retirees and lower-income families. My plan also would mandate a lower income tax rate so Michiganders would save money, both today and tomorrow.

Tax relief should be fair, simple, broad and permanent. It’s a better way to move our state forward.

State Sen. Thomas Albert represents the 18th District, which includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ionia counties.

Tips for dealing with tree damage from winter storms and ice

Many homeowners in southern Michigan will be looking at ice-covered trees and broken branches this week. Wind and ice have swept through lower parts of the state with the potential for significant tree damage.

Taking proactive steps, after a storm has damaged trees, can make the difference between losing them or giving them a good chance of survival.

Keep it safe.
“Your life is more important than your trees or your property,” said Kevin Sayers, who leads the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ Urban and Community Forestry program. “Be aware of downed power lines or trees touching power lines and stay at least 25 feet away. Immediately report any downed lines to your local

utility company. Never attempt to prune or remove trees near power lines.”

When trees are coated in ice, safety is the top priority. If you choose to work on your trees, always use proper tools. Don’t overestimate your abilities or use equipment inappropriately.

Delay tree work and clean up if possible.

Clearing downed trees and branches, to safely get into and out of your home and property, may be necessary. However, if trees are weighed down or broken, its best to delay work until conditions improve. In many cases, ice-loaded trees will recover on their own once ice melts.

Once it’s safe to get out and work on your trees, use these tips to prune, including any ground-level broken branches.

Hire a professional.
If large limbs are broken or hanging, or if climbing or overhead chainsaw work is needed, hire a professional. Find a qualified, insured arborist. Arborists are tree experts trained to evaluate damage. This is especially important when trees are leaning against wires, structures or other trees.

Consult your insurance policies.

Those affected by damage from falling trees or branches may be asking: Does my insurance cover this? It’s always a good idea to review your policy and contact your insurance agent, to clarify issues (such as a neighbor’s tree) in advance, if possible.

Otherwise, once conditions are safe, take photos or video of the damage and notify your agent before you do any work or repairs. If your car is damaged by falling tree branches, your auto policy may pay for damages. Lastly, beware of scam artists posing as tree care companies. Consult with your insurance company before signing any contracts and go over how they will handle any payments to you or a contractor.

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Lowell Charter Township, under Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Community Project Funding (CPF) Grants and grant number B-22-CP-MI-0483 is located in existing wetlands, and Lowell Charter Township will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in wetlands and the potential impacts on the wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed project, led by the grant recipient, Kent County Youth Agricultural Association, involves a redevelopment of the former Deer Run Golf Club into The Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan (The Grand). The Grand will be a new fairground facility and agricultural exposition center, intended to become the home of the annual Kent County Youth Fair. In addition to hosting the Kent County Youth Fair, The Grand is anticipated to become a facility that will promote the agricultural industry among youth and serve the West Michigan community by hosting diverse events such as equestrian competitions and livestock shows. The proposed project(s) is located at 13955 Cascade Rd SE in Lowell Charter Township, Kent County, Michigan. The site is approximately 140 acres and is located on Cascade Rd between Pratt Lake Ave and Hastings Rd. The project will involve construction of animal barns, exhibitor buildings, arenas, pavilions, track, grandstands, midway, and campsites. Also included are maintenance buildings, restrooms, parking lots, stormwater control basins, sanitary treatment lagoons, and other support facilities. In total, the development takes place over approximately 105 acres, with the remaining acreage to be left for future development and wetland preservation.

Kent County Youth Agricultural Association is working with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to obtain a Part 303 Wetlands Protection Permit. Onsite wetlands are hydrologically connected to Trout Creek to the north and Pratt Lake to the south. Wetland delineations conducted in August 2022 found approximately 13 acres of regulated wetlands onsite, including both natural and manmade areas. The proposed project will directly impact 0.53 acres of emergent wetland and 0.15 acres of scrub-shrub wetland, including both excavated and filled areas. During rain events, these wetlands are valuable for collecting and temporarily storing water onsite, which prevents flooding, allows for infiltration, and improves water quality. Water quality and erosion prevention is achieved by filtering through native plants which thrive in the wetland habitat. The wetlands also support a variety animal species, including reptiles, mammals, and fish.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Lowell Charter Township at the following address on or before Friday March 17, 202 Lowell Charter Township, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell, MI 49331, Attention: Jerry Hale, Supervisor. Please call (616) 897-7600 for more information. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Thursdays at the Lowell Charter Township Office at 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell, MI 49331. The Lowell Charter Township office is closed on Wednesdays and Fridays. Comments may also be submitted via email at supervisor@lowelltwp.org.

Date: March 1, 2023

BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLANNING COMMISSION

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hear public comments about the following request. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, concerning the following:

1. Amendment to Article 3 and Section 14.05Z of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance to add Utility Anaerobic Biodigesters

The Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to add a new section to Article 3 – General Provisions and Section 14.05Z – Special Land Uses of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. This amendment would permit the installation of utility anaerobic biodigesters for private third-party entities on farms in the AG – Agricultural Zoning District. This amendment would allow a third party to use resources from the farm to generate natural gas to be piped off-site into the utility distribution network. A utility anaerobic biodigester is proposed to be permissible as a special land use only in the district. As a special land use, any applicant would have to seek approval from the Township Planning Commission before any utility operation could commence.

The Draft Ordinance is available for review, and written comments will be received by 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.



Live the Life You Want

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

Don't ignore these relationship red flags

While I have always believed we have all we need inside of us to be happy we are also meant to connect with others to feel cared for and loved. This connection is an important part of our overall wellness (physical and mental). But being in a relationship that is unhealthy can negatively affect our overall wellness. So, regardless of which relationship state you are in (new to seasoned) or the type (romantic, friend, family, or professional), it's important to know and address red flags. Red flags can be a sign of a behavioral problem, a mental health issue, an abuser, a physical health issue, etc. Red flags are your intuition telling you something is off and needs to be further explored and questioned, not ignored. Being aware of typical red flags can help keep you safe and avoid the pain of an unhealthy, toxic relationship.

Common relationship red flags

Ideally, relationships will be supportive and good for our overall wellness. But not all relationships enhance our lives and some are toxic and harmful. I often hear from clients, the clues were there but they just overlooked or ignored the signs. Ignoring them can cause you harm, both physically and emotionally. So, it's important for you to recognize any potential red flags. Below are the most

common red flags to look for, and explore, to see if they can be worked out and resolved or if you need to remove yourself from the relationship.

Abusive/violent behavior.

Any type of abuse at any level (mild to severe) including, verbal, emotional, psychological, and/or physical is a giant red flag yelling "run". While an abuser can change his or her behavior, they typically don't want to and won't. They may promise to stop and show small changes, but that is to string you along and keep you in the relationship, but they rarely change their abusive behavior. If they are violent toward you, others in their life, or animals, this is a sign of a serious problem. If you are in an abusive relationship, don't stay in a dangerous situation. You are worth more. However, removing yourself from this type of relationship can be dangerous, so take steps to keep yourself safe and get help from someone you can trust.

Gaslighting.

I have written about this before. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary online: It's "psychological manipulation of a person" "that causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and typically, leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem, uncertainty of one's emotional or mental

stability, and a dependency on the perpetrator." It can be a very effective tool for the abuser to control an individual. It's done slowly so the victim writes off the event as a one off or oddity and doesn't realize they are being controlled and manipulated. It can happen in any relationship (friends, family, romantic partner). See more at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/gaslighting> or check out my full article on my Facebook page (Life Transitions Therapy). This is a form of emotional abuse.

Love bombing.

This is another form of emotional abuse, often seen in narcissists, abusive individuals, and/or those with borderline personality disorder. At first, the person is charming and provides a lot of compliments and affection (love bombing) to gain your trust. When they have it, they change their behavior working to tear you down so they can control and manipulate you.

Controlling behavior.

If someone is trying to separate you from others (friends, family, co-workers, etc.), this is often an early sign of an abuser grooming you. Making you choose between others in your life, and them, is not okay and is unhealthy behavior. Trying to control who you see, what you do, your decisions, your beliefs, what you eat, what you spend your money on, what you wear, etc. is a red flag. You are not a mindless drone to be controlled. Healthy relationships have compromise, not control.

Trust issues.

If you suspect, or find out your friend or partner, is not being honest with you, is lying or hiding things, is generally distrusting and

jealous, these are all red flags. If they have a history of betraying or cheating on romantic partners, or betraying friends or family, pay attention. They may be learned behaviors or something deeper. Don't ignore these issues, as trust is part of the foundation of a healthy relationship.

Lack of friends. If they struggle to connect with others and/or don't have lasting, close relationships, this is a red flag. If they blame this on others, without accepting any responsibility, this is likely what you will face if you continue in the relationship. Please don't believe you can change them, as it's very unlikely.

No emotional bonding. Part of having a close relationship (friend, family, romantic partner) is feeling comfortable being your authentic-true self. Being able to share deeper emotions/feelings is needed for a close bond. If someone doesn't show an interest in bonding, the relationship likely won't last.

Substance abuse issues. Using substances regularly (daily or several times a week) to control behaviors, mood, or to numb emotional pain is a problem. This shows the person doesn't know how

to deal with emotions or situations in a healthy way. It's a destructive habit and a sign of impulse-control issues and sets up a toxic situation for the relationship to eventually fail.

Breadcrumbing. This is another topic I have written about. The person gives you just enough attention to keep you interested, even though they have no interest in a relationship with you.

The blame game. Someone that doesn't take responsibility for their actions or behaviors will show the same in a relationship. If they constantly blame others, such as crazy exes, betrayal by friends, or can't hold a job but it's never their fault these are signs of a deeper problem. If you pursue a relationship, you may find that everything is your fault.

Below are a few other red flags worth mentioning.

- All their free time is spent with you due to a lack of other interests or friends.
- You have very different relationship goals (i.e., no interest in children but you want kids).
- They need to be needed. This is not a good foundation for a relationship.
- Anger issues. The angriest individuals tend to

be the ones in the most pain.

- Lack of communication and/or conflict avoidant because it's difficult to talk about issues or feelings.
- Lack of emotional intelligence which is the ability to perceive and manage emotions.
- Others close to you don't like the person. What are they seeing that you're missing?

When considering any type of new relationship, you can save yourself a lot of future pain and problems by asking "difficult questions," early on, to hopefully find out red flags or deal breakers. When asking the tough questions, be honest but also tactful. Knowing yourself along with your wants and needs is also critical. If you're not sure if it's a red flag, use this as an indicator: if it threatens your mental, emotional, or physical well-being or goes against your core values/beliefs, it's most likely a red flag that needs to be addressed.

I hope you find this info helpful. This article is not intended to provide advice, diagnose, or treat in any way. It is for informational purposes only. I hope everyone stays healthy!



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Wrestling, continued

Gaylord wrestlers on the bench tried to swipe at CJ,” Boudro explained, who during the match, went out to discuss the situation with the officials.

Another similar incident happened in another out-of-bounds tie up. Ultimately Gaylord was knocked a team point for unsportsmanlike behavior as Poole won the match comfortably in a lengthy match with several stoppages. The match was a bit of an anomaly, because the rest of the dual went off without issue.

Gaylord pulled a couple matches back after the dual was well out of reach, the final score was 52-7 Lowell and the Red Arrows moved their way to the finals.

For the state title, Goodrich, stood in Lowell’s way. Across from the Martians was a team that had won nine championships in a row, and a sea of red that stretched across not two sections as most fan bases had settled into, but three and a half sections. Possible thanks to the smaller crowd Detroit Catholic Central had

brought, and also Shamrock fans ability to set on the end of the stadium.

Even for a seasoned postseason team, it made for an intimidating atmosphere, and worse for Goodrich was the starting weight of 215.

“It forced them to show their hand early in their stronger weights,” Coach Boudro said. Even the Goodrich bench noted how it wasn’t their most ideal starting weight. The Martians needed bonus points at the top of their lineup to have a chance. It was quickly squashed as Ari McFarland came out and won a narrow decision, his second big win of the day.

“Given the situation, all we needed at 215 was to not get pinned, and for Ari to win and get us started like that was huge.” Boudro said.

Then Juan Acosta, ranked seventh in the state, wrestled hard against one of Goodrich’s top-ranked guys, nearly pulling off an upset. The score was 3-3 and a gauntlet was coming up for Goodrich.

“We just didn’t want to give up bonus points there. For us to almost win the



Young Lowell fans ask for a stalling call during the finals.



Head Coach, R.J. Boudro, lifts the trophy after the win over Goodrich.

match was big. The fact that Juan was upset he lost shows that he wants to get better.”

Jarrett Smith started things off with a major. Lowell brought out Cody Foss, who scored a pin. Carter Cichocki came out next, bumping up a weight to 120, grinding out a 2-0 win over a much bigger wrestler.

Logan Dawson and Jackson Blum scored back-to-back pins to pad the lead and energize the Lowell crowd. Owen Segorski added a major decision over

third-ranked Brady Orcutt bringing the lead to 32-3 in favor of the Red Arrows.

A major decision by CJ Poole mathematically clinched the title. Maddox Simcoe and Landon Miller delivered decision wins before Goodrich closed the dual with three straight wins.

Goodrich in the finals, there’s some bad news. The Martians return nearly their entire lineup next year, and remain the team most poised to beat the Red Arrows. Outside of that though, Division 2 teams may simply hope that Lowell is moved to Division 1. It’s not entirely unlikely, Lowell’s enrollment this



Ari McFarland was among the heroes over the weekend, scoring two wins early in both the semifinals and finals.

The ending was a consolation prize for Goodrich, scoring two falls and an upset decision at 175.

“We improved upon last year,” noted the coaching staff following the last whistle. “We’ve been state runner-up to them four of the last five years, and it’s frustrating,” Martians coach Kenneth Sirignano said. “We knew what we were up against, and we knew it was going to be a big challenge,” the Goodrich coach told the MHSAA.

Though if people are tired of seeing Lowell and year is 1106, with the top of Division 2 at 1134. It would take an enrollment shift, whether within Lowell, or on a macro scale in Michigan wrestling, to move Lowell up. The other option is a program like Goodrich or Plainwell or Gaylord catches up, or Lowell slows down. The latter doesn’t seem likely any time soon.

“We’re just going to enjoy this for now,” Boudro said on Saturday night. “We’ll be back in the room on Monday, ready to prepare for individuals this weekend.”



Appearing March 10 at 7:30 pm
at First United
Congregational UCC in Lowell
Mike Vecchione

Mike Vecchione is known for his “rapid-fire” comedic skills and has made numerous appearances on The Tonight Show, Comedy Central, Netflix, Sirius XM and more. He will be performing two shows on March 9 at the Gun Lake Casino in Wayland, and one show on March 10 at First United Congregational UCC in Lowell. Vecchione’s album, *The Worst Kind of Thoughtful*, was named comedy album of the year by Vulture and Sirius XM.



Tickets are \$25 each
Sold locally at Flat River Gallery,
219 W. Main, Lowell, 616-987-6737

Tickets are also available at laughfestgr.org or by searching LaughFest at www.ticketmaster.com.

