



page 6

Graham Building celebrates 150

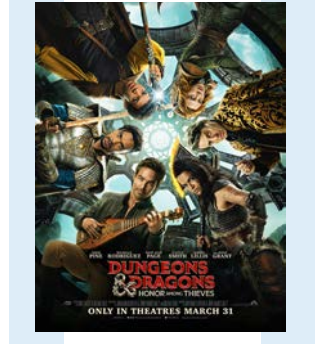


page 8



page 9

Movie Review



page 7

Lowell Area Schools Sports



page 10

\$1.00



Lowell family to be featured on Family Feud

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

From Richard Dawson to Steve Harvey, at one time or another, all of us have watched the Family Feud. The game show, nearing 50 years of entertainment, started in 1976, and since then, has captivated audiences around the country. It has made us all wonder how our family might fare?

Well, one Lowell family got to experience the excitement and will be featured on an episode of the Family Feud, which will air on Tuesday, April 18th.

Longtime Lowell residents, the Kaczanowski family, got to test their mettle against another family, last July in Atlanta, where the studio of the Family Feud is located. Five family members are able to play on the Family Feud, perfect for The Kaczanowski's, with five members in the nuclear family, consisting of Dan and Chris Kaczanowski, their two daughters Kate



The Kaczanowski family, David, Chris, Dan, Beth and Kate competed on Family Feud last summer. The episode will air on April 18th at 7 pm on My ABC WOTV 4.

and Beth, and their son David, the youngest of the bunch. "In college, the Family Feud was always on late at night," said

Kate Kaczanowski, who graduated from Grand Valley State and now works in marketing in the Grand Rapids area. "Once I started watching, then my siblings

got really into it. One day, a friend showed me a post on Facebook that the Family Feud was looking for new contestants, and so, I jumped at that chance," she added.

Kate submitted a profile of their family to the show, not expecting a response, **Family Feud, continued page 2**

Spring Fling & Cookie Adventure hits the streets of Lowell on April 15

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

The fourth Annual Spring Fling & Cookie Adventure will take you through more than 30 participating merchants and it is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, from noon to 5 pm. "Spring Fling creates an opportunity to visit new Lowell businesses or

locations you haven't been to in a while," said Chamber Director, Shannon Kennedy. "Spring Fling gives you a chance to see what's new and discover a new favorite." The events were created by a group of Lowell merchants and supported by the City of Lowell DDA.

"These events are meant to welcome residents and visitors to shop everything Lowell has to offer," Kennedy said. The merchants are constantly updating their inventory, adding new services, or adding new items to their menus. The Spring Fling postcards will be available at each participating location, including the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. You take the postcard to each stop and get stamped for a chance to win one of four shopping bags filled with Lowell goodies and gift certificates. This year, there are eight new participants in the Spring Fling. They are: Annette Chambers/Opulenza Designs, Dairy

Swing into Spring at Green Acres

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

The Swing into Spring interactive community event, at Green Acres of Lowell, will feature a variety of activities including a petting zoo, crafts, games, prizes, and First Responders, with their service vehicles. There will be hot dogs, chips, and snow cones for lunch. Staff and volunteers who are giving back to the community will run the exciting event. The facility can always put more volunteers to work. "It's sure to be a great time for our community to gather and have an afternoon celebrating the start of spring after a long winter," said Jane Ringler, life enrichment coordinator. "Let's cross our fingers for a lovely day." The event will be held in front of the Lowell Green Acres Retirement

Living Community, and in case of non-favorable weather, the event will be held inside. "It will be a wonderful day to bring the community together," said Ringler. The main purpose of the event is community involvement, which offers an opportunity to tour the facility. "We're looking forward to having a good time and fun," said Ringler. Similar events have been offered in the past at Green Acres. The community celebrates Fall Fest in October, and a car show is coming up in the summer. Swing into Spring will take place on April 22, from 2 to 4 pm, at Green Acres, located at 11530 Fulton Street in Lowell.

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Spring Fling continued page 16

Family Feud continued

but they ended up being called back for a formal interview over Zoom. In January 2022, they were added to the active file, and eventually were notified in late May they were chosen for a taping in July.

The family has been in the Lowell area for around 30 years. All three kids went through the Lowell school system. Kate graduated from Lowell High School in 2013, Beth in 2015, and David in 2022. All three played tennis during their four years of high school; additionally, Katelyn played volleyball, Beth participated in gymnastics and volleyball, and David participated in two years of basketball.

“The show covered flight and hotel; it was nice because we were able to

space out our flight and see a lot of Atlanta, as well, outside of the show’s taping,” Kate added.

David would text the family questions, and the family watched prior shows to prepare as well as they could.

“We were pretty nervous, but David and Beth are pretty fearless. They were excited the whole time. For the rest of us, though, it was kind of overwhelming, but once we were there we had fun with it. Everybody there was so nice, and that helped with the nerves.”

Family Feud is well-known for the comedy that happens during the show, and often, the light-hearted segments that happen throughout. The hosts of Family Feud have driven that since its inception, and

their current host, Steve Harvey, has been on the show since 2010. It’s not uncommon to scroll through TikTok or other social media apps and come across clips from the show.

“Steve was amazing, he helped with audience participation, and is always out there with the families and the crowd, even during breaks. Hearing him speak and his story was very interesting,” Kate said.

The goal of the show is to beat the family you’re paired against, by trying to match the answers given to survey questions asked to groups of people. They can range from humorous questions to social questions to even the randomest of questions, like “Name a place where you need to wait in line.” If you beat



the opposing family, you get a chance at a bonus round called ‘fast money’, where two family members get their chance to answer questions for a bonus apportioned amount of prize money.

Kaczanowski is a polish surname, and even with good knowledge of world language, it’s not the easiest to guess the pronunciation of. “They have cue-cards, but he did say our name differently a couple times. He had his own way of saying it, which was funny,” Kate concluded.

When they weren’t playing, they were able to be a part of the live audience, an added incentive for show participants.

Of course, results for the April 18th airing are closely guarded. So, we’ll have to watch to find out how the Kaczanowski’s did. The Family Feud airs on My ABC WOTV 4 in the Grand Rapids area.

Celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day and Earth Day with LL&P

Lowell Light and Power is celebrating National Lineworker Appreciation Day (April 18) and Earth Day (April 22) with its customers the week of April 17 - 21.

Customers may stop in the office for a FREE Energy Saving Kit, containing various light bulbs and nightlights, valued at over \$50 (limit one per address). Plus, there will be giveaways for kids of all ages.

National Lineworker Appreciation Day is celebrated each year on April 18th and honors the

men and women who work around the clock to keep the power on. Congress passed a bill designating April 18 as National Lineworker Appreciation Day in 2013, after the devastation of 2012’s Hurricane Sandy.

To honor Lowell Light and Power’s lineworkers, we invite customers and community members to take a moment to thank a lineworker for the work they do. Use these social media tags: #LowellLightAndPower, #ThankALineworker, and #Lineworker

AppreciationDay or say thank you to a lineworker out in the community.

Kids in the community are invited to visit Lowell Light and Power’s website (www.lowell-light.org) to print out a Lineworker Appreciation Day fun sheet, coloring page, or thank you card. LL&P would love for kids and parents to visit the office and drop off thank you cards that the kids have colored to decorate the office.

“Lineworkers work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions, away from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their community,” said Charlie West, General Manager. “They work under dangerous conditions on a daily basis. Our lineworkers, as well as lineworkers across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition.”

Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22nd,



marking the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970 and highlights environmental consciousness.

Lowell Light & Power has been a municipally-owned electric utility since 1896. In the early 1900’s, as cities and towns moved into the electric age, most communities developed and operated their own municipally-owned electric systems, making their own local decisions about how their system should be operated.

Over time, many communities sold their systems to holding companies that grew into large investor-owned corporations. These electric utility conglomerates now serve large areas and are operated with the priority of generating profits and growing the corporation’s value for its stockholders.

Like 40 other cities, towns and villages in Michigan, Lowell resisted the temptation to sell its electric utility. Your community continues to own and operate Lowell Light and Power, for the benefit of the citizens of Lowell; the system’s owners and customers. It’s a tradition that’s worked for over 120 years.

CITY OF
LOWELL
KENT COUNTY,
MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY WITHIN CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN, AMENDING AND RE-STATING CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO ANIMALS AND CONFIRMING KENT COUNTY JURISDICTION TO ENFORCE ITS ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE WITHIN THE CITY.

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 23-04 amending Chapter 5, “Animals,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on April 3, 2023. Ordinance No. 23-04 amends and restates certain prohibitions relating to animals and confirms that Chapter 5 should not be construed to supersede Kent County’s jurisdiction to enforce its animal control ordinance within the City limits. A copy of Ordinance No. 23-04 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street, in the City during regular business hours of the City.

Ordinance No. 23-04 is effective 10 days after this publication.

Susan Ullery
City Clerk

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Water Authority tabled by council

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council called to order their Monday, April 3, meeting with all council members present. Instead of a longer community discussion regarding a hot community topic, discussion was largely held between council members and key decision makers. The council approved common sense parking ordinance wording to restrict overnight parking on Main Street, from November 1 through April 1, and voted to align city animal-control ordinance with Kent County's specifications, among other things.

Representatives from the City of Lowell and

pump station, located on Foreman Street, his offer came in at \$2.775 million. In a memo directed to Lowell City Manager, Mike Burns, Hale specified that this offer was for one half interest in the water plant and the pump station serving the township's water tower. "That, to me, is not the number," said Mayor Mike DeVore. "I don't know what the number is, but that's not it."

The council clarified that the estimates were based on a valuation of the standing plant, not what it would take to build a new one. The valuation also did not include the pumping station and piping, which the Township makes use of, as

During public comment, Perry Beachum expressed a concern that the city is at its growth limit, while the township could see much higher usage during the next 20 years. His worry is that an agreement of control, based on water usage, could make the township the controlling entity of the water system, which he explained, does not feel good for a City of Lowell citizen. Burns clarified that the city has stipulated a minimum of 50 percent control as their buy-in for this plan.

The council consulted director of public works, Dan Czarnecki, about water plant expansion. Discussions of a joint water



City Manager, Mike Burns, breaks down details of the city's discussion to establish a joint water authority with Lowell Township.

treatment; any solution that does not address how much water the city can treat will not address the root cause. "You're going to have water restrictions again until something is done," Burns said.

The council was not motivated to make a decision on Hale's offer during this session and decided to add it to old business for the next council meeting.

On the topic of water, Annie Schaver approached the council with a proposal to rent city land in order to put up a boat launch for kayak rentals. She and her husband, Kyle, run Flat River Kayaks. The lease agreement, in question, would give the Schavers 350 square feet of grass, where they could set up their truck, kayak trailer, and a pop tent with a table for customers to sign waivers. Schaver would pay \$160 per month to use the land. This is based on a valuation of the land at \$286 per month. City Manager, Burns, decided to charge the Schavers \$10 per day for an average of 16 days per month to get to this number. "I think the idea is fantastic," said Eric Bartkus, co-owner of Ability Weavers. "I totally support it."

The city's agreement with the Schavers has a number of stipulations.

The space rented would be an entirely grassy area, including none of the city's paved space. Additionally, Flat River Kayaks may not interfere with the boat launch, which is where the set-up was originally proposed for. During Riverwalk and other festivities, where the city needs the space, the Schavers may not operate. It is also understood, as weather permitting, with the Schavers responsible for

all insurance. The council voted yes on a three-year lease agreement with the Schavers.

Those interested in watching this 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. The council will hold their next meeting on Monday, April 17, at 7:00pm. Public attendance and comment is welcome.



Eric Bartkus of Ability Weavers, supports leasing 350 square feet of city land to Flat River Kayaks.

Lowell Township have held meetings for a number of months regarding the possibility of a joint-water authority. While discussing resolution 6-23 to issue municipal water bonds at the March 28 special council meeting, Mayor Mike DeVore, asked for clarification whether these bonds would leave them the flexibility to establish a water authority. This week, the council discussed an offer made by Lowell Township Supervisor, Jerry Hale, to purchase half of the City of Lowell Water Plant and pump station.

Hale based his offer on an assessment performed several years ago that places the value of the water plant at somewhere between \$4.5 and \$6 million. Taking half of the average value and adding in \$150,000 for the

well. The general consensus was that this is a low offer, and the city ought to seek out an estimate of what the insurance company would value the utility as if it were a total loss.

"I do jewelry appraisals," said council member, Cliff Yankovich. "A new watch is \$500. Is it worth \$500? No. Someone might give me \$200 for it. But, if you're replacing it, it's a \$500 watch."

Burns noted some details he would like clarification on. For example, it's currently unclear exactly what a Water Authority would look like and where responsibility for plant expansion would lie. "We don't need the plant expansion," Burns said. "We don't need to sell. There is no sense of urgency on the city's part."

advisory began in earnest, following water restrictions placed on customers in both the city and the township during the summer of 2022. Since the current agreement for the city to provide water to the township does not end until 2033, the two entities need to find a way to address this problem together. Czarnecki noted that a second tower would hold a lot more water, but it would not address the capacity issue. The bottleneck in the whole process is water



Mayor Mike DeVore does not support Lowell Township's \$2.775 million offer for half of the city's water infrastructure.

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Guest Column

By Devin Potrykus

I have been working as a Collections Management Intern for the Fallasburg Historical Society and the Lowell Area Historical Museum. I am currently attending Calvin University in Grand Rapids, and am pursuing Bachelor Degrees in History and Geography. Now you might be wondering, what does someone who works in Collections Management do? Well, to put it simply, I take artifacts that have been donated to the Fallasburg Historical Society and digitally input information about them into an online system. This means that anyone with internet access can examine and learn more about Fallasburg and its history.

Throughout this experience, I have had many hands-on experiences with objects from Fallasburg's past, and have grown fond of the small village and the rich history behind it.

Throughout my visits and tours of different parts of this historic village, one thing that really stuck out to me is a display model of the entirety of Fallasburg Village that is found within the Fallasburg Schoolhouse. This model piqued my curiosity, and so I asked about the man who created it, Bill Barber. Bill Barber is the name of a man who spent his life as a beloved member of the Lowell community. When he was not working his job at Root Lowell Manufacturing, he spent his time as a craftsman doing what he loved, building model-train sets. I recently had the opportunity to have an interview with Mr. Barber's wife, Ardis Barber, about his life and the passion he had for being a model craftsman.

Throughout my interview, Ardis mentioned on multiple occasions how much she had admired her husband's craftsmanship

and said that "He could do anything," and anything is right. From being the head of sales of Root Lowell Manufacturing, to owning and operating the McGee Homestead as a Bed and Breakfast, it truly did seem like anything was possible for Bill Barber. Although always busy, Mr. Barber always found a way to return to his passion for building model-train sets. When asking about his passion, Ardis remarked that "We never had a car in the garage," because that was the place where his model sets would be stored. Also, when looking for a home, Mr. Barber wanted an older house with a "Michigan Cellar," or a basement made out of a crawl space that had a cement shelf around its perimeter. That is the place where the sets he would build would eventually end up. Mr. Barber made his sets out of the normal HO scale for model trains, which had a 1:87 ratio in size. He also crafted buildings and other features out of an easily pliable material called balsa wood.

Throughout his life,

Mr. Barber always had a strong fascination with the Village of Fallasburg and its history. In 1971, when Mr. Barber was only 26 years old, he was commissioned by Leonora Tower, the first President of the West Central Michigan Historical Society (Now the Fallasburg Historical Society), to make a scale model of Fallasburg Village for the Fallasburg Covered Bridge Centennial, which was happening that same year. He quickly took measurements of several of the buildings and looked at old photographs, to get the best sort of representation of the village that he could gather, and then went to work. He built the Fallasburg Village Model in the same HO scale as he built his model train sets and even used the same kind of balsa wood. Once he was finished, he gave the model to Leonora Tower to display for the Centennial

Celebration. Afterwards, the model was set-up in the Fallasburg Schoolhouse and there it has been on display since. During your next visit to Fallasburg, make sure to visit the Schoolhouse to see Mr. Baber's model for yourself.

You can also see his passion in the Lowell Area Historical Museum, where he helped create a model replica of the Lowell Showboat, that is on display on the main floor. Barber's brother-in-law, a general contractor and home builder, Ivan Blough, was tasked to build a new Lowell Showboat after the previous had been destroyed by a series of severe weather in 1979. In order to do so, he needed a scale model of the boat, of which he did not have the skills to create and commented, "I build houses, not models." After seeing Bill's craftsmanship, Blough asked him if he would be willing to create

a replica model, to which he agreed. You can see Mr. Barber's scale replica of the Lowell Showboat, and learn the history behind the vessel, at the Lowell Area Historical Museum today!

Bill Barber was a highly creative man who spent his life using his many talents to do what he loved. He, sadly, passed away in 2016, but the legacy from his passion still lives on in Lowell and Fallasburg today. Modeling was one of his many crafts, but perhaps his most passionate, and he used these skills, not only for his own benefit, but for the benefit of others.

To learn more about the Lowell Area Historical Museum and its partnership with the Fallasburg Historical Society, or more about the history of Fallasburg Village, visit www.fallasburg.org and www.lowellmuseum.org today!

Lowell Area Historical Museum to present stories from Maple Grove on April 13

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Adam Oster, Community Engagement Librarian for the Library of Michigan, will present "Stories from Maple Grove - A History of the County Poor Farm" this Thursday at Vergennes Township Hall.

Before the advent of modern social welfare, county governments in Michigan maintained poorhouses or poor farms, to care for Michigan's poor, elderly, and destitute, under the umbrella of the Kent County Poor Farm program.

Maple Grove was the Kent County Poor Farm, located between Kalamazoo and Breton. "We hope that the public learns about the poor farm system and the people that lived within it," said Lisa Plank, Lowell Area Historical Museum's, executive director.

Records were kept at these poor farms; Oster used these records to piece together the stories of the people who lived there, referred to as inmates; "People who had nowhere else to go in a society before social safety nets," said Plank.

In 1855, the county purchased its Poor Farm, on Section 16 in Paris Township, 80 acres of land, at a cost of \$1,800, and the paupers were moved there on December 1, 1855. It was located on 32nd St. between Kalamazoo and Breton. In 1892, a new

building was built. By the end of the 1800s, nothing much had changed for this establishment. The poor farm served the county's mentally-challenged and poor citizens, with no other means of support and care. In 1896, the poorhouse showed 238 men, women, and children in residence. Health care was provided to them on the basis of which doctor bid the lowest for the job.

The grounds of the poor farm also included a cemetery for residents, who were buried at county expense. This cemetery is now known as County Home Cemetery. Use of the poorhouse continued into the early 1900s and became known as the Kent County Infirmary in the 1920s. In the 1950s, the institution became Maple Grove Medical Facility and its purpose evolved to serve individuals with chronic illnesses.

By 1968, the county facility became Kent Community Hospital, when it was moved to county-owned property on Fuller NE, within the City of Grand Rapids. By this time, the old Paris Township site had been sold to the Lutheran Church of America. Today, Luther Village occupies the former poorhouse site.

Adam Oster is the Community Engagement Librarian for the Library of Michigan. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History

from Grand Valley State University with a minor in Political Science and Secondary Education Certification. He also has a Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University. Adam's interests include genealogy and local history research.

"We look for experts



Speaker, Adam Oster

on a variety of local history topics," said Plank. "The goal is to bring experts to our community to share a portion of the wide range of local history that has shaped our community."

The LAHM program is supported by a grant from the Michigan History Alliance Grant program. The Lowell Area Historical Museum presents 4-5 public presentations each year. Topics are selected by the museum's Program Committee.

Oster will present Stories from Maple Grove at 7 pm, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 69 Lincoln Lake.

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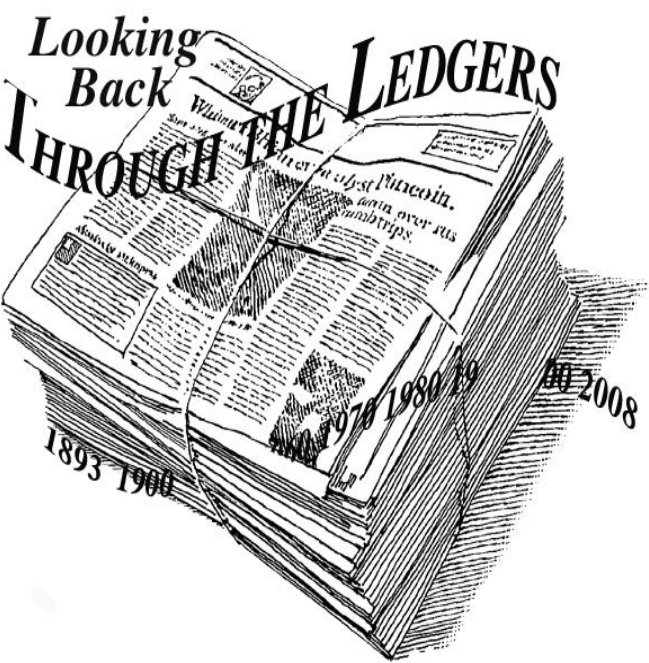
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viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 21, 1898

The improvements now under way on the Baptist Church promise to alter that building so that its old friends will not recognize it. The plans include raising of the recent building, to admit of a basement and the erection of a lecture room.

The sentiment of the voters at a special school meeting, as far as expressions were made, was largely in favor of erecting a new ward building. A new ward building of brick would cost about \$3,000.

Billy Barber has been released by the Grand Rapids ball team manager, not for poor playing, for that was satisfactory; but for making himself "sick." Too bad.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 19, 1923

Clinton D. Hodges, familiarly known as "Clint," is now sole owner of the grocery store where twenty-two years ago he began clerking for R. VanDyke.

The Lowell High basket ball boys finished a successful season by defeating Sparta by a score of 29-7 at the Grand Rapids Y.M.C.A., Saturday, March 31. This game also decided the county championship making three successive years that the Lowell boys have been Kent County champions.

A posse of eight of the sheriff's deputies raided the place of Clayton Grant, who has been living in the Advent Chapel house on Hudson Street, and captured one 30-gallon still in operation, five gallons of liquor, 40 gallons of mash and a three-burner oil stove. Grant was arraigned and received a sentence of 90 days in jail or \$100 fine.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 15, 1948

The Lowell PTA is sponsoring a music concert, directed by Orval Jesup, Wednesday, April 28, at 8 o'clock, at the school gymnasium. The concert is being given for the purpose of raising money for the L.H.S. music department.

Maryan Ashley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Verne E. Ashley of Lowell, was recently appointed manager of the Wyandotte, Mich. radio station, WJJW, of the Wyandotte News.

Addie Rose Tower celebrated her seventh birthday with a party at school, Tuesday afternoon. Judy

Posthumus of Lowell and Sharon Vandenburg were her birthday supper guests.

For an evening of hilarious entertainment, be sure to see "The Womanless Wedding" which will be presented Tuesday, April 20, in the Lowell High School gymnasium. You will enjoy hearing Norma McCaul, of radio fame, with her magic guitar and other special attractions.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life April 12, 1973

The Lowell Ledger-Suburban Life offices, at 105 N. Broadway Street, have been designated as the new Traffic Bureau Headquarters for the 63rd District Court. All traffic violation tickets issued in the 63rd District, not requiring a mandator appearance, can now be paid here.

Although not in complete agreement, the Lowell Board of Education, Monday night, took a step toward returning to single bus runs for the next school year when they okayed the purchase of three new buses.

A fifty dollar (\$50) reward has been offered by Paul Erickson, of the Showboat Restaurant on East Main Street, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of vandals who destroyed the outside lights at his business last week...for the second time!

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Roth of Lowell were among more than 100 farm couples who attended national farm business conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, last week.

Firemen were summoned to a home on Woodgate about 6 p.m., Monday evening, where fire caused an estimated \$5,000 in damages. A seven-year-old playing with matches was the reported cause.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 22, 1998

The Lowell Rotary Auction raised approximately \$20,000 in its second year. There were roughly 240 people who attended the social event.

Jim White, director of curriculum and instruction, presented the school district with a new plan for kindergarten students. Under this plan, students would be grouped into two sessions. The first group would meet Mondays and Thursdays, and in the morning on Wednesdays. The second group would meet Tuesdays and Fridays, and in the afternoons on Wednesdays.

Eastgate subdivision residents were in attendance at the Lowell Charter Township Board meeting, April 20. Citizens are seeking intervention to safeguard children and pedestrians from speeding traffic in the residential Eastgate areas.

outdoors

summertime Dave Stegehuis

Southern destinations are popular with Michigan residents during the spring break period as they pursue recreational activities in warmer latitudes. There is still plenty of things to do outdoors in our state in winter and spring, but summer is when throngs of visitors and residents head to venues all across both peninsulas for fun and relaxation.

There are hundreds of recreational vehicles going somewhere on major highways during a summer weekend or holiday. Remember that many campers use handy tent type shelters that may not be visible on the road. One has to wonder where all of the campers will find a place to set up camp. The answer is that there are over a thousand campgrounds in Michigan.

The Department of Natural Resources maintains over 14,000 campsites in state parks, forest campgrounds, and recreation areas. Then there are national forest campgrounds, plus municipal, county, and private campgrounds. There is all kinds of information on-line regarding campground locations, as well as details

about amenities, services, and costs.

We have camped at many state parks over the years and recently have spent a lot of time at a municipal campground to access local fishing opportunities. Other campers need a place to ride horses, some require boating opportunities, hiking trails, or simply hanging out with friends and family. There is something for everybody,

If you are spooked by air travel, congested traffic, gas prices, or expensive resorts, camping may be a good alternative for summer fun. Camping units and equipment can be as simple as a tent, cooler, and cooking utensils. If you can manage or prefer off grid camping, there is very little cost and no crowds. On the other end, a six-figure motor coach may be more your style. There is a large selection of camping alternatives in between. In any case, everyone can go to their favorite places, doing what they enjoy.

Camping in Michigan provides an opportunity to get outdoors and be active in a natural setting, separate from a busy, artificial, and sometimes stressful world. It appears that a lot of folks are doing that, so it may be time to find out if you are missing something.

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.

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, April 20, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *Coop* by Michael Perry. For ages 18+

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, April 26, 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.

★ In The Service ★



Melissa Hawks, Lowell High School Class of 2008, was just promoted to the rank of Major in the Air Force. She is a Civil Engineer, stationed at Joint Base Lackland in San Antonio, Texas.

Nicholas Hawks, Lowell High School Class of 2012, was just promoted to the rank of Technical Sergeant in the Air Force. He is a Weather Forecaster, stationed at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany.

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 212 W. Main (part of 216 W. Main)
Built: 1865-1867
1st business: Rix Robinson’s Grocery

This two-story, center section of the block was built between 1865 and 1867 as a single building with five separate owners, each with a storefront. This is the second store from the left.

Rix Robinson Grocery is the first known business. The fur trader, Rix Robinson, lived in Ada but had business dealings all over West Michigan, including Lowell. He had three brothers and other family living in, or near, Lowell. The L. B. Lull and Co. Grocery followed in 1871. The Mitchell and Donovan Grocery, 1877, and the Wingler Grocery, 1884, advertised that they operated in the Union Block, so they may have been at this location. This store remained a grocery until 1893, when Ben Doyle’s Saloon opened here.

From 1908-1930, J. W. Rutherford and his wife operated The Bargain Store, which was a Bazaar or variety store featuring china, crockery, glassware, dry goods and novelties. They sold souvenirs of Lowell, Michigan. During the homecoming celebrations of 1908, 1913, and 1926, this was the place for out-of-towners to get their souvenirs. T. A. Gazella purchased the variety store, 1930-36, and again, this was the place to get souvenirs during Lowell’s Centennial Celebration in 1931.

In 1936, Haner’s Furniture Store sold furniture and appliances. He held “Hot Point Cooking School”



Inside The Bargain Store of J. W. Rutherford, and his wife, Mary, 1908-1930. They sold a variety of items such as postcards, Lowell souvenir cups and mustache cups, crockery, China, glassware, scarves, and handkerchiefs.

cooking lessons for the Hot Point ranges, which he sold. Ralph Townsend purchased the building in 1937 and moved Ralph’s Tire and Radio to this location. He later operated The House of Townsend, a furniture and

appliance store here until 1983.

In November, 1958, fire damaged the store. After it was renovated, Rittenger Insurance moved from next door into a corner of the House of Townsend. This

building became part of the Flat River Antique Mall in 1987. Currently, it is Flat River Antique Emporium, featuring antiques and vintage collectibles. The second floor has been transformed into a condo.



Left: Exterior of 212 W. Main, the second from the left, in the row of five storefronts, in the Union Block. The architecture features arches above the front door and windows.

area churches

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

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616-987-0567
www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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10305 Bluewater Highway
(Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21

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www.gslc.church

Richard Boshoven, Pastor 897-8307
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897-7060

Pastor Ryan Landt

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Morning Worship.....10:00 AM

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402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820

Website: www.stmarylowell.com

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Confession: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm
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Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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Pastor Shannon Jammal-Hollemans

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Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor

Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship

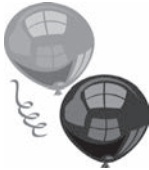
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)

LIFE GROUPS 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)

Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

happy birthday



APRIL 13

Addie Abel, Pete Baker, Marv DeVries, Carol Brzezniak, Melissa Quada.

William Mitchell, Rayce Darby, Olivia Foster.

APRIL 17

Elsie Franks, Heather Vezino, Dennie Ryder, Joe Merriman, Jill Harris, Betty Erickson, Gary Pieroni, Candice Bowne, Jace Eliason.

APRIL 18

Rick Warner, Angela Vezino, Doug Anchors, Jon Kinsey, Jason Borton.

APRIL 19

Heidi Barber, Ruth Harris, Karrie Akers, Krissie Akers, Shaun Thompson, Lisa Allchin, Sharon Bowden, Michelle Billingsley.

APRIL 14

Dennis Rasch, Joshua Anderson, Nichol Gurney, Bernie Boersma, Brenda Stuart, Cole Wade, Stephanie Ossewaarde.

APRIL 15

Craig Yeiter, Margaret Yoder, Charles Behnke, Fred Oesch Jr., Dave Carpenter, Terry Kinsley.

APRIL 16

Kathleen Zywicki, Jack Ryder, Jacob Billingsley, Lori Gerard, Steve Kropf, Angie Farrell, Kristin Lee,



Worth the Popcorn?

By Justin Tiemeyer

Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves

Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves is a comic adventure featuring an ensemble cast of adventurers. Chris Pine is Edgin Darvis, a bard who just wants to reunite his family. Michelle Rodriguez plays Holga Kilgore, a barbarian with a penchant for halflings. Justice Smith portrays half-elf Simon Aumar, a sorcerer with confidence issues. Rounding out the crew is Sophia Lillis’ Doric, a tiefling druid who can transform into any beast she wishes. The team gathers to confront two former allies, the rogue Forge Fitzwilliam (Hugh Grant) and his wizard friend Sofina (Daisy Head), who intend to bend Neverwinter to their own wills.

The film is based on the tabletop roleplaying game with the same name (D&D), first published in 1974. Though actor Chris Pine only recently stumbled upon the hobby, he’s already become one of the game’s all-time biggest supporters, and the fans eat it up. In an interview with Slash Film, Pine proposed that every child should play D&D as part of their regular school curriculum. Co-star

Hugh Grant, who has never played D&D, noted that Pine often tried to get him to join games while shooting.

Pine’s curiosity and passion toward D&D is evident in the movie. In the beginning of the film, as Edgin recounts his past struggles in hopes of getting himself and Holga out of forced labor on good behavior, he feels like the new player who brings forty pages of backstory to his first session. By the film’s climax, however, he has the calm confidence of a wise and generous dungeon master. Grant, on the other hand, is a consummate professional. He has no prior or current connection to the game, and yet fans benefit just as much from his performance as Pine’s.

The dichotomy of Pine and Grant delivers a powerful message. This is not a movie that uses the source material as a crutch and holds the tabletop gaming community hostage in its delivery. It’s a film for all audiences that uses the setting, character archetypes, and mechanics from D&D to flesh out a human story. It’s good because Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley worked

hard to balance comedy, drama, and adventure, just like they did in their 2018 film *Game Night*. It’s good because the cast had great chemistry on screen and off. It’s good for the same reasons any other film is good.

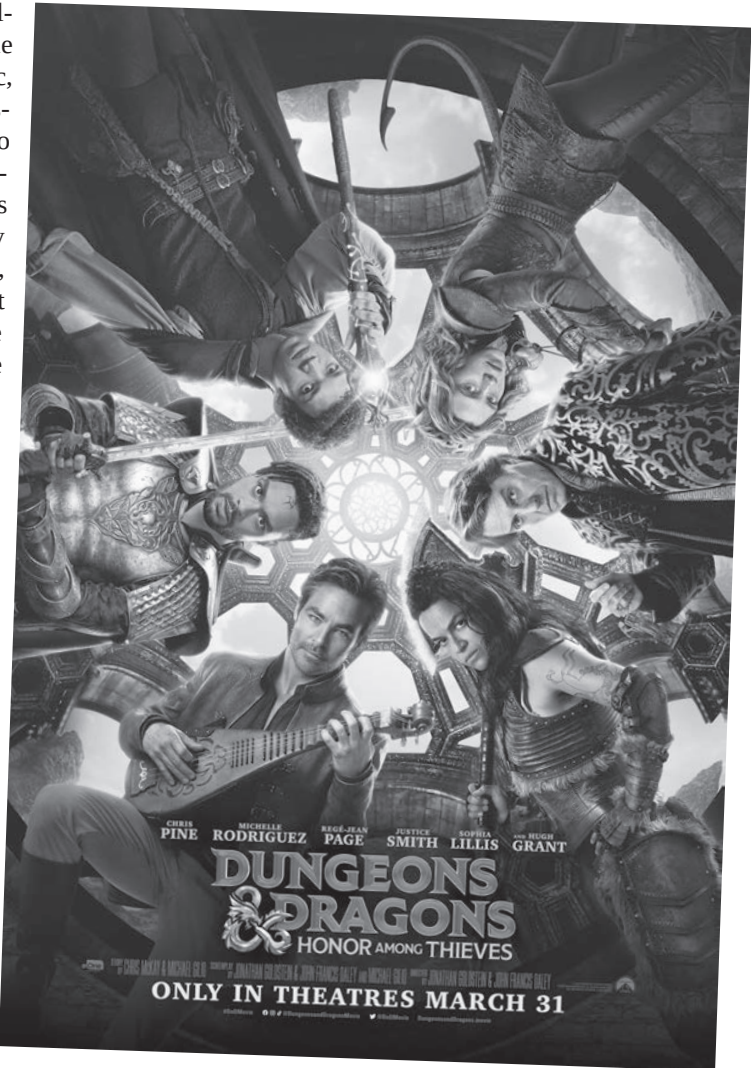
Unlike *Game Night*, however, *Dungeons & Dragons* will naturally be compared to the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, despite leaning towards an *Ocean’s Eleven* heist theme. This is a favorable comparison for *Dungeons & Dragons*, a movie that flawlessly incorporates fantasy creatures and magical effects into its story. Fan favorite Aarakocra (birdfolk, for the uninitiated) Jarnathan was presented using only practical effects and costume magic, for example, and this was just one of the myriad fictional peoples presented in the film.

As it leans hard into humor, *Dungeons & Dragons* gains another favorable comparison with *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. The touted graveyard scene in particular was one for the books. It’s important, however, not to put the film in any particular comedic box, because the humor was varied and nuanced. The comparison to *Monty Python* merely illustrates just how high the film’s comedy soars. It would not be surprising if *Dungeons & Dragons* provides a number of viewers with their first honest belly laughs in a movie theater in years.

The real strength of *Dungeons & Dragons* is the emotional depth that seems to come out of nowhere. The film is about a group of peo-

ple who feel like failures, and after hostile politics, a pandemic, and too many recessions to count, who doesn’t feel like a failure these days? This is why people play role playing games, not just to escape, but to escape to a place where they can make a difference, and, maybe, in so doing, to come back and make a difference in the real world. *Dungeons & Dragons* is as profound as what it feels like to come to the same table week-after-week with your best friends to create a world together.

It is hard to imagine anyone disliking *Dungeons & Dragons*. Rules lawyers, a group that often dovetails with toxic fandom, noted problems with the film as early as the first trailer. According to rules as written, for example, a druid cannot wild-shape into an owlbear because owlbears are monstrosities, not beasts, and this somehow ruins the movie. Not only does this ignore the fact that perfect adherence to the latest edition of a tabletop game has never been criteria for the success of a film, but it also ignores the fact that most players have always played with homebrew rules that circumvent issues like this. If there’s any shortcom-



ing to the film, it is that the druid Doric never really gets fleshed out. She exists for the spectacle of her wild-shape powers and as a possible love interest for Simon, but this is a problem that can be easily ironed out in a sequel or prequel.

Dungeons & Dragons is a really great film that’s likely to become a really great cinematic universe. There are so many lands to tread and stories to explore, even if focus never returns

to Edgin or Neverwinter. It doesn’t matter what experience you have had with the source material. Whatever it is, it’s enough. The only thing that matters is making sure you get enough tickets for you, your friends, your family, or maybe even your D&D playgroup. *Dungeons & Dragons* is best watched with your favorite people, as it’s likely to result in some great memories.

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APRIL SCHEDULE
Matt Lubbers-Moore, ReQueered Tales, April 3
Preethi Saravanakumar, Pearls of My Mind, April 7
Lori Hudson, Ghost on Beale Street, April 7
Mandy Jo Rindhage, A Stormy Travel Through Time,
April 14
Jen Rinaldi, One Day Closer to Death, April 21
Wendy Thompson, April 28

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LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals
must be submitted online by
May 5, 2023.

**Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell
to submit your application.**

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell Area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

Graham Building celebrates 150 years

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

The word for today is sesquicentennial – yes, I had to ask the all-knowing interwebs how to spell it properly. A sesquicentennial is the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of a particular event. One Lowell event celebrating one hundred and fifty years is the construction of the Graham Building at 325 West Main Street. This great-looking building, across from the Shell station, is the home of the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

There is no one more qualified to provide historical information about the Graham building than the Director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, Lisa Plank. The first thing we wanted to know: Who is Graham? “Robert Graham was a local farmer and businessman,” Plank answered. “He was born in England and came here in his twenties. He had a farm south of town and he was trained as a mason; he

built buildings out of brick. Robert built a number of buildings around town and he built this as a home in 1873. And it was built as a duplex, which was kind of unique at the time. So on the west side of the building was a home for himself, his wife, Emma and their three kids. And the east side of the house was for her parents, Joseph and Julia Post.”

From what Lisa told us, Robert Graham was one busy man. He was the first librarian in Lowell, he served on the School Board and was very active in all kinds of community activities and efforts to make Lowell a better place. I have to confess that prior to my interview with Lisa, I had Robert Graham mixed up in my head with his son, Ernest. Ernest took one of his father’s activities, building, to the next level by becoming an architect. You can find examples of Ernest Graham’s work in Washington DC, New York, Cleveland and even overseas in London. However, a visit to Chicago really allows

one to appreciate the skills of someone born and raised in Lowell.

Buildings in Chicago, designed by Graham, have stood the test of time and serve as major markers in the Windy City that have been visited by millions. They include: Union Station, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum of Natural History, Merchandise Mart, Marshall Fields Building, the Civic Opera House, several of the major bank buildings and a host of others.

Lisa shared that the Graham building in Lowell is unique for a couple of reasons. First, it was built as a duplex, with the two residences sitting side by side. Robert and his family lived on one side and his in-laws lived on the other. She also pointed out the architecture itself is different from other Main Street buildings with all the rounded edges and other features that set it apart. Note to readers: If you have not visited the biggest, little historical museum in Michigan, you should plan a visit soon. Not only is the building a treat, but



library and the east side of the downstairs contained the offices of the Lowell YMCA. When the YMCA and the library both got their new buildings in the 1990s, the Graham building became available. In the meantime, a local area Historical Association had been formed. This was a group in town, actively collecting and preserving local history, but they had

second phase was officially opened to the public in September of 2004. The second phase includes the Victorian Parlor, Porch and the Garden. These areas of the museum are available to rent for parties, showers, weddings, or any other type of get together.

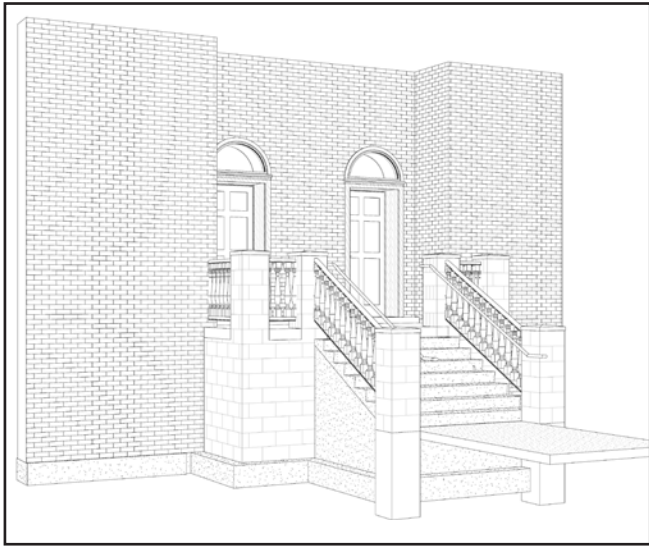
Several things are marking the sesquicentennial of the Graham building this year. One of the most noticeable is that the front steps are being completely overhauled. When we interviewed Plank, the crew was finished with removing the old ones and just getting started on creating the foundation for the new ones. Lisa explained that the stairs being replaced were not the original ones and that they were in very bad shape. They were pulling away from the building, which allowed water and ice to collect in the gaps, which made them age even faster. Plank was quick to thank the City, the Historical District Commission, the LCTV Fund and the Downtown Development Association for their help in making the new front stairs a reality this year. The plans call for making the new ones look more like the originals by incorporating some design elements from the second

story of the building.

The sesquicentennial will be the central theme of the annual Summer Fest fundraiser that will be held at the museum in August. Think of it as a big birthday party for a building! Summer Fest is always a good time with music playing, seating in the garden and lots of food, beer, and wine from local restaurants and pubs to sample.

One of the best ways to stay in touch with everything going on at the Museum is to become a member. “The Museum has a goal of recruiting 150 new members this year. The entry level membership is only \$15,” Lisa stated. “We thought it was a good time to try to promote the museum. Members get newsletters and updates on what we’re doing and free admission all year.”

The Museum has a very strong presence on the internet. You can follow them on Facebook or just spend some quality time at their website: www.LowellMuseum.org. They have many learning events, speakers, and educational opportunities throughout the year. The sesquicentennial is the perfect time to become a member and be a part of the future of the Graham Building.



they have a very impressive collection of artifacts on display inside.

Things got interesting when we inquired as to how the building came to house the museum. “So, it’s sort of a long story. After their parents passed away, the children of Robert Graham had moved on and started their own lives,” Plank began. “They donated the building to the city of Lowell, to be used as a library in the 1920s. Their father was the very first librarian and their cousin was the librarian in town at the time, so they had an interest in promoting a local library.”

And so, it became the town library for many years. At the same time, there were apartments for rent, as well. The apartments were upstairs, and the west side of the downstairs, housed the library. By the 1960’s, the west side was still the

no real home-base. The items they had collected were stored, here and there, in various places. The City and the Historical Association got together and decided that using this building as a museum would be an appropriate use of this space. The Historical Association changed their name to the Lowell Area Historical Museum in 2000 so that people knew there was a physical place to come and visit.

The museum opened in two phases because they took their time in planning out how the building could best showcase itself, as well as display the ever growing collection of artifacts, currently numbering 15,000 or so. The first phase, the west side, opened in 2001. And then the





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Amber Sturgeon

Position: Pizza Maker and Preps/Runs the Buffet at BC Pizza
Residence: Saranac
Education: Lowell High School
Experience: On and off at BC for over 10 years.
Family: Fiance Reese Mason and a first-grade son at home
Hobbies: Gardening
Pets: 3 cats

Behind the Scenes with Amber Sturgeon of BC Pizza

by Bill Lee
Contributing writer

Amber Sturgeon has worked for BC Pizza, located on 1335 W. Main Street in Lowell, on and off for about ten years. Recently, she and her fiancé, Reese Mason, began working there again, last fall, in hopes of reestablishing the pizza restaurant’s place in the Lowell community. Sturgeon and Mason, who have been together for 11 years, are also raising a son together. They are residents of Saranac but graduated from Lowell High School. “We love Lowell,” said Amber Sturgeon. “My son goes to the Lowell schools.”

The couple worked at BC Pizza when they were still in high school and then left for other jobs a few times but always seemed to come back to the restaurant. “It was my second or third job,” said Sturgeon. “I’ve always loved working with food, especially pizza. I’ve gone back and forth with different restaurant jobs but I always come back to pizza, especially BC. It’s a fun atmosphere, and I enjoy making pizzas.” She works Monday through Friday, from 9-3, setting up and managing the buffet and making pizzas.

Besides working with

food, there are other reasons Sturgeon loves working there. She enjoys the friends she works with and the new owner, and it has provided a flexible schedule for her so she can pick up her son after school. “It’s nice to be able to help out friends and work for friends, and they’re really caring and help out with anything you need,” said Sturgeon. “There’s never any stress or worry if you need something for yourself. The flexibility is great. I am able to work while my son is in school, and I can get him and don’t have to worry about child care.”

She and Reese are excited to provide great food for the Lowell community. The new owner has done a number of renovations on the building. Also, they have brought the buffet back to the restaurant and rekindled the Sarge Pizza contest, a timed eating challenge where contestants have to finish an entire Patrolman’s Deluxe Pizza. Winners will get their names engraved on a plaque, along with winning other prizes.

In the end, Sturgeon and Mason enjoy their jobs and working with people. When asked what an important skill is in her line of work, Sturgeon said it was communication. “I’ve worked at other places, as well, and have come into conflict with other employees,” said Sturgeon. “Talk with your co-workers, especially in food, things can be miscommunicated, things get stressful. Communication is key in a job like that. Once you talk with that person, you can get things flowing again.”



Reese Mason and Amber Sturgeon

MDARD acting director tours Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Acting Director, Kathy Angerer, recently toured the Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative in Grand Rapids and continued celebrating Michigan Food and Agriculture Month by participating in an egg-cracking contest, hosted by McDonald’s in Ionia.

“Farmers, processors, and suppliers across the state of Michigan take tremendous pride in their work to help feed our families,” said Angerer. “From here in Ionia, to the Upper Peninsula, and everywhere in between, the care, commitment, and passion our farmers have for the quality of product they produce for Michiganders is on display in any restaurant or grocery store you visit.”

All of the eggs served in McDonald’s restaurants in Michigan come from Herbruck’s Poultry Ranch in Saranac. In 2021, the McDonald’s system purchased 56 million dozen eggs from Herbruck’s and \$162 million in raw supplies from Michigan producers.

“Michigan egg, chicken, and turkey farmers are committed to providing safe, high-quality, and nutritious food for consumers. Today highlights the importance of our industry and what food and agriculture mean to our state,” said Dr. Nancy Barr, Executive Director at Michigan Allied Poultry Industries. “Michigan Allied Poultry Industries is proud to work alongside MDARD to ensure the advancement and prosperity of Michigan’s thriving poultry industry.”

The Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative (MTP) was founded as a cooperative in 1998 by 15 growers who wanted to bring their birds to market locally. The vertically-integrated cooperative sells 45 percent of its products at the food service level, while 40 percent of its sales are at the retail level. The remaining 15 percent are export sales.

For the past 25 years, MTP provides nutritious, good-tasting, quality turkey products by growing, processing, and delivering

a consistent, reliable, value-added commodity source for industrial food service and retail customers.

“Michigan is home to 53 turkey farmers, who work incredibly hard to create a safe and quality source of protein for Michiganders and local businesses in the food service industry,” added Angerer. “Our farmers produce high-quality food and help support and maintain Michigan’s food-supply chain. Governor Whitmer’s executive budget recommendation highlights her commitment to make sure that Michigan is the place to be when it comes to our growing food and agriculture industry.”

Throughout 2023, MDARD will meet with Michigan’s food and agricultural businesses to discuss how they can continue to succeed and how the department can best assist their continuous growth and expansion.





Live the Life You Want

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

Causes of Mental Health Issues

Next month is mental health awareness month, which got me thinking about the basics of mental health and questions I'm often asked. One of the top questions is what causes mental health issues? I know I have written about this before but it's a good reminder to stay self-aware and to practice good self-care.

Main causes of mental illness

There is a common debate about nature (genetics) vs nurture (environment) as the cause for mental health issues, but it is much more complex than this. Mental disorders can, and often are, caused by a combination of things such as genetics, the environment, physical conditions, and psychological factors.

Below are the most common causes.

• **Inherited traits (genetics).** Some disorders like bipolar, depression, and schizophrenia tend to run in families. Some genes can increase a persons risk of developing a mental illness.

• **Environmental influences.** This can include learned traits from living with parents or others who abuse substances and/or have a mental illness and life choices. Situations like poverty, unsafe living conditions, abuse, bullying, critical parents, trauma, divorce, loss, and neglect may also play a role in developing mental health issues. Physical issues ,including chronic physical illness, disability, and accidents, may also affect mental health.

• **Environmental exposures before birth.** The mother being anxious or stressed is believed to increase the risk of a child

developing depression, ADHD and other mental health issues. A mother taking drugs or using alcohol has also been linked to mental health and development issues in children. Environmental toxins, certain prescribed medication, inflammation and other health issues, the mother has while pregnant, are also known factors.

• **Brain chemistry.** Impaired neural networks can lead to depression and other mood disorders.

Takeaway

Mental illness is more common than many realize. The incidence of mental health issues in the U.S. are eye-opening. According to NAMI, in the U.S alone:

- 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 20 adults experience serious mental illness each year
- 1 in 6, youth aged 6-17, experience a mental health disorder each year
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24

• Suicide is the second leading cause of death among those, age 10-14

<https://www.nami.org/mhstats>

Mental illnesses (MI) can be mild to severe, and most diagnosed, continue to function in their daily lives, but some with severe mental illnesses may need to be hospitalized. MI can be long lasting or temporary. The most common mental illnesses are anxiety disorders, depression, eating disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia,

and substance-use disorders.

Mental illnesses don't typically improve without help from a professional. When left untreated, MI will most likely get worse and cause serious problems. So, don't wait until your symptoms are causing serious negative effect on your life and you are having problems functioning. Reach out and get help. I hope you find this information helpful but it is not intended to diagnose or treat. I hope everyone stays safe, healthy!



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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Investment ideas for business owners

By definition, business owners put a lot of their financial resources into their enterprises. But as an owner, you may need to invest in more than inventories and payroll to help achieve the future you've envisioned.

Here are a few investments you may want to consider:

Retirement account – Depending on the nature of your business and how many employees you have, you can choose from a variety of tax-advantaged retirement plans, such as an owner-only 401(k), an SEP-IRA and a SIMPLE IRA. By contributing regularly to one of these accounts, you can avoid being entirely dependent on the sale of your business to pay for your retirement years. To fund your 401(k) or other retirement plan, you'll have many investment options — stocks, bonds, mutual funds and so on. And if you "max out" on your retirement plan, you may even be able to build a separate investment portfolio. In any case, keep in mind that you're already putting a lot of money into your business, so, to achieve a level of diversification, you may want to concentrate your investment choices in areas outside your industry. However, while

diversification can help reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio, it can't guarantee profits or protect against losses in a declining market.

Property – Your physical space is a key part of your business' success. So, you may want to invest some time in comparing the pros and cons of renting versus owning. Of course, owning your building may require a big financial commitment, and it may not be feasible, but it could free you from worrying about untimely rent increases.

Disaster protection – If a fire or a weather-related disaster should strike your business, would you be prepared? It's important for you to create a disaster recovery plan, which can include business interruption insurance to pay for your operating costs if you're forced to shut down for a while.

Emergency savings – While a disaster protection plan with appropriate insurance can help keep your business afloat, it's unlikely to cover other types of emergency needs, such as a major medical bill or an expensive repair to your home. For these unexpected costs, you may want to build an emergency fund covering

at least a few months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. Without such an emergency fund, you may be forced to dip into your 401(k), IRA or other long-term investment vehicle.

You'll also want to invest the time and energy into creating a business succession plan. Will you keep the business in your family? Sell it to outsiders or a key employee? If you do sell, will you do it all at once or over time? Clearly, the answers to these types of questions will make a big difference in your ultimate financial security.

Finally, invest in help – Enlist the services of a financial advisor and business-planning professional, so you'll be able to make the decisions that work best for your business and you.

Your business may well be a lifelong endeavor — so make sure you're investing whatever it takes to earn a lifetime of benefits.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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By Hillary Hatch,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist
April is Financial Literacy Month. Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan. Our online tools can help you

understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial future.

You should periodically review your Social Security Statement (Statement), using your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Your Statement is an easy-to-read summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivors' benefits.

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tool, in your personal my Social Security account, allows you to check various benefit estimate scenarios. You can compare how different future earnings and retirement benefit start-dates might affect your future benefit amount.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Oswald to play for Eastern Michigan

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Ypsilanti will be the home of the next Lowell Volleyball player to play Division 1 volleyball. LHS senior, Aubreigh Oswald, has committed to Eastern Michigan University.

“What sold me about Eastern was the incredible coaching staff and team; I immediately felt welcomed by everyone! The competitive atmosphere was also a huge draw for me because I know I will be pushed in both the gym and the classroom,” Oswald said of her commitment.

Oswald has been a part of the volleyball program all four years of high school;

two of those teams were state runners-up, led by one of Lowell’s other Division 1 volleyball players, Jenna Reitsma, now playing at Marquette University. She also played alongside Emily Struckmeyer, playing at Charleston Southern, also a D1 program. A three-sport athlete in volleyball, track, and basketball, Oswald is considering exercise science or something related to sports so she can help athletes along their journeys.

Oswald, herself, suffered a knee injury her sophomore year, which along with the COVID-19 pandemic, pushed the recruiting process back, but

Oswald is very excited to continue to play volleyball at EMU.

“I started playing volleyball through my church and Lowell summer camps when I was younger. I fell in love with the sport when I started playing competitively in middle school. Playing in high school has helped me grow and appreciate volleyball even more by pushing me as an athlete, leader and teammate,” Oswald concluded of her time growing up in the sport.

Eastern plays in the Mid-American Conference with fellow Michigan mid-majors Central Michigan and Western Michigan.



Aubreigh Oswald hits it over the net against Lakewood.

Baker earns elite honor

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Lowell junior girls basketball player, Braxcynn Baker, joined elite company by being named to the Associated Press’ Division 1 1st-Team All-State girls basketball team, along with nine other players across the state.

Baker became Lowell’s all-time leading scorer while surpassing the 1,000 point mark this past season, helping lead Lowell to an 18-7 record.

Baker averaged 22 points a game for Lowell, while shooting 36 percent from three and 83 percent from the free-throw line.

Other area basketball players to join the first team all-state team were Macy Brown (EGR) and Lily Zeinstra (Byron Center).



Braxcynn Baker was named to the AP 1st Team All-State Team.

Lowell graduate records hole-in-one

Davenport University golfer and Lowell class of 2019 graduate Tyler Kapcia recorded his first hole in one this past weekend while competing for the Panthers golf team.

The ace came at the University Club of Kentucky, on the par-3 hole 17, during a practice round for the Findlay Spring Invitational. It was a 205 yard shot with a 5-iron.

Tyler was a four year member of the varsity golf team during his time at LHS, and has broken into the

starting five for the Panthers with consistent rounds in the 70’s for 18 holes.

He joins a growing list of current and former Lowell golfers to record the unique feat. The odds of recording a hole in one for an average golfer are around 1 in 12,500. The LHS Hole-In-One Wall is currently an ongoing project, and any former Lowell High School golfers that have achieved the feat not already on the wall can email jscott@lowellschools.com with information about their ace.

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RED ARROW SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

VARSITY SOFTBALL

** Denotes a home game at LHS softball field*
4/15 at 10 am at East Kentwood - Bosma Invitational
4/17 at 4:15 pm Byron Center - doubleheader*
4/19 at 4:15 pm at Calvin Christian - doubleheader

BASEBALL

** Denotes a home game at LHS baseball field*
4/14 at 4:15 pm at Lakewood
4/17 at 4:15 Byron Center*
4/18 at 4:15 pm at Byron Center

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

** Denotes a home game at LHS tennis courts*
4/15 at 9:30 am Lowell Varsity Quad*
4/17 at 4:15 pm at Greenville
4/19 at 4:15 pm Byron Center*

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

** Denotes a game at LHS North Athletic Complex*
4/14 at 6:45 pm Cedar Springs*
4/17 at 6:45 pm Byron Center*
4/19 at 6:45 pm Forest Hills Northern*

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE

** Denotes a home game at LHS North Athletic Complex*
4/15 at 11 am Jenison* (Youth Day)
4/17 at 7 pm at Mona Shores
4/20 at 6 pm Caledonia*

BOYS VARSITY GOLF

** Denotes a home meet at Arrowhead Golf Course*
4/14 at 10 am TK Varsity Invite at Yankee Springs
4/17 at 10 am Bedford Valley Open
4/18 at 1:30 pm OK White at Railside Country Club
4/19 at 3:30 pm OK White*

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK

** Denotes a home meet at Red Arrow Stadium*
4/15 at 9 am Soderman Relays at Caledonia
4/19 at 4:15 pm OK White Tri*
4/22 at 9 am Kathy Talus Memorial*

More information can be found at
www.redarrowsports.com

obituaries

BOTTRALL

Robin "Rob" Scott Bottrall, of Lowell, passed away on April 3, 2023, after a long illness. He was preceded in death by his son, Christopher Bottrall; parents, Robert Hilton and Betty Jean (Switzer) Bottrall; and sister, Sharon Faurot. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Carlene; sisters, Roberta Jean Osmolinski, Madelyn (Mike) Spriggs, Terry (Doug) Meany; brothers, Robert Hilton (Deb) Bottrall Jr., Rick Bottrall, Randy Bottrall; brother-in-law, Roger (Brenda) Hendrick; and



many nieces and nephews. Rob loved and enjoyed his yard and maintenance business. He was a great barbeque cook, especially when cooking his ribs. Celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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HORSTMAN

Ronald Jerome Horstman died at home October 14, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Lois; sons, Michael and Steven; and beloved dog, Scooby. He was preceded in death by son, David. He retired from Bay City Chevrolet after 33 years as a journeyman electrician. He was an accomplished woodworker and many family and friends benefited from his work. He loved walking in the woods with his wife and dog. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Wittenbach Agri Science Center, 11715



Vergennes St SE, Lowell, MI 49331 on April 22, 2023, from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Friends are welcome.

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CRANDALL

Sharon Crandall, age 87 of Ada, passed away peacefully on April 2, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Fredrick; and son, Stanley. She was survived by her children, John (Rose) Crandall, Brian Crandall, Allison (Scott) Covell; grandchildren, Cory and Casey Heykoop; great-grandchild, Elijah Heykoop; several step-grand and great-grandchildren; sister, Judy Morgan; and brother-in-law, James Crandall. Sharon absolutely loved the outdoors, which included going up north with her husband to their cabin. She had a passion for trout fishing (Brookies) and enjoyed cooking them even more. There wasn't a lake close by that didn't have her line in it a time or two. Sharon always seemed to roll out the red carpet for the holidays, cooking and baking for her family. She adored people! She loved to talk and if it was on her mind, it was on her tongue, she had a quick wit about her. Sharon would play music loud and dance around, especially if Neil Diamond was playing. From the 1970's up through the 1980's, she was well known in the Lowell restaurant community where she worked at Paul's Showboat, Keiser's Kitchen, Larkins Saloon, Lucchesi Pizza Place, The Afterdock, and for a time, she went into fine dining industry and worked at Thornapple Village Inn in Ada. Sharon was a long-time member of the Lowell YMCA, where she loved getting together with "the girls" and going to lunch afterwards.

Especially at Vitales after getting her hair done at Heidi Christine's. The most important thing in her life was her faith. Sharon admired her church, which she and Fred raised their family in and attended for over 50 years. She worked hard, fished often, and was always on her feet. Rest well dear Sharon, for we love you mom and all us kids will miss you very much. Until we meet again. Mass of a Christian Burial will be held at 11AM, Friday, April 14, 2023, St. Robert of Newminister Catholic Church, 6477 Ada Dr., Ada, MI 49302, with visitation one hour prior. Luncheon to follow. Interment Findlay Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell Lighthouse YMCA at 1070 N. Hudson St., SE, Lowell, MI 49331 or Elara Caring Hospice at <https://support.elaracaringhospicefoundation.org/give/423737/#!/donation/checkout>



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EGLÉ awards \$2,037,771 for scrap tire market development

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy announced the funding of more than \$2 million in grants to develop new markets for used vehicle tires. When illegal dumping in the environment occurs, scrap tires pose both a fire hazard and a human health risk as a mosquito breeding ground.

These scrap tire grants support building sustainable markets for recycled tire materials in Michigan. Grants have traditionally included support for essential equipment and materials that aid in the establishment of new markets, including various manufacturing processes, implementation and testing of paving materials, energy generation, and other innovative approaches.

These grants contribute to a more sustainable

business model for the scrap tire industry through increased market opportunities for scrap tire processors, end users, and manufacturers. The 2023 funding will be used to support the following projects:

Cobalt Holdings, LLC (Cobalt), \$573,530: Cobalt will purchase equipment for processing oversized off-the-road tires (OTR). These are tires larger than for a passenger vehicle or semi-truck. In addition, equipment for making finished products, including agricultural mats, will be purchased. This equipment will allow Cobalt to process OTR, which is needed in Michigan, and make a product with the crumb rubber. Addition of agricultural mat production in the Midwest is also beneficial with current shipping costs.

Porous Pave, \$60,000: The grant will provide 50% of the funding for installation of a rock washing system (50% = \$30,000), and an additional funding of \$30,000 for Porous Pave/HydroBlox installation development and testing. HydroBlox and Goodwill Industries of West Michigan, Inc. (Goodwill), are working in partnership. Goodwill locations in Michigan will provide recyclable plastic materials, and HydroBlox will be produced in West Michigan. Porous Pave and HydroBlox used in combination will begin addressing many drainage issues at sites across the state.

Michigan Technological University (MTU)-Dixie Highway, \$418,814: MTU will work with the Saginaw County Road Commission to rehabilitate 2.3 miles of Dixie Highway with a dry process rubber modified asphalt overlay, which includes the use of a rubberized Stress Absorbing Membrane Interlayer (SAMI). The existing concrete pavement surface is 80 years old. An additional six miles of the project will be used as a control comparison section.

Michigan Technological University-Midland Road, \$482,549: MTU will work with the Bay County Road Commission to pave a one-mile section of Midland Road in Bay County utilizing dry process rubber technology. Midland Road is being upgraded in preparation

for the upcoming U.S. 10 repaving.

Ingham County Road Department (ICRD), \$37,931: This grant helps to fund an ICRD road rehabilitation project on Fitchburg Road (form Parman Road to 4,000 feet west), including installation of approximately 5,510 cubic yards of tire derived aggregate (TDA) in a 750-foot span of the project. Use of the TDA as lightweight fill over deficient subgrade soils will utilize approximately 250,000 passenger tire equivalents. The project will be funded with \$37,931 from the fiscal year 2023 Market Development Grant funds and a scope change for an ICRD Market Development Grant project funded in 2021 that could not be completed due to supply chain issues (FY 2021 grant funding of \$450,000). Total amount granted for completion of the project is \$487,931.

Rubber modified chip seal, \$464,947: Two projects for a total of 32 lane miles are being funded to expand the use of rubber modified chip seal throughout Michigan.

Bay County Road Commission: 16 lane miles, \$208,947

Joseph County Road Commission: 16 lane miles, \$256,000

For more information, call the EGLÉ's Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278, or visit Michigan's Scrap Tire Program: Mi.gov/ScrapTires.

Celebration of Life For Ray Strouse

Join us Saturday, April 22, 2023, 2-5 PM as we celebrate the life of our Dad, Husband, Brother, Grandpa, and Friend, who passed away on November 25th, 2022.

Share in the stories, memories, laughter, and tears with his family, as we remember a life well-lived! The celebration will be held at the Lowell Moose Lodge, 1320 E. Main St. Lowell, MI



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NEED AN AL-ANON MEETING? - Al-Anon is a fellowship of families and friends of alcoholics. Join us Sunday-Saturday at 10:30 AM and 7 PM on Zoom. Come learn the Steps, Traditions & Concepts of living and coping, in Serenity, with alcoholism. There are no dues or fees for Al-Anon. For Zoom meeting ID & Password, please call Joy at 616-901-7779.

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~ Michigan's Big Prairie Desert

by Martha Hayden

Near White Cloud, Michigan, in Newaygo County, there had once been the largest desert east of the Mississippi, the Big Prairie Desert. What? I had no idea! My husband, Chuck, always finds curious history. Starting in 1865, until the 1930’s, this 2,000-acre area had been an enormous sandy expanse. We headed north for a look-see.

Treaty of Fond du Lac. In 1849, John McBride scouted the area and quickly set up a homestead. Big Prairie Township was one of the first areas to be settled by Europeans in Michigan. John McBride soon sold his claim to Ephraim H. Utley. Many families followed Utley and built their homesteads along the perimeter of the 2,000-



as the short-lived settlement had been abandoned beginning in 1865.

1865 “The Blowing”
Starting in 1865, wind blew over the prairie, eroding the thin layer of top soil. Dorcus Hayes had been interviewed in the 1960’s

on maps. What does that mean? Well, Chuck delved into history and learned that the proceeds from the sale of these parcels would benefit the “State Institution for the Education of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind.” However, with the poor condition of the land, it had been decades before this

One area we planted was called Stearns Prairie, 20 or 40 acres, just West of the Prairie Cemetery.”

The Everett Big Prairie Cemetery
Some unsung heroes in this story were a group of women who called themselves, “The Old Social.” In the early 1900’s,

small plot had been planted in 1936, followed by yet another. Unfortunately, “The Blow” had continued and destroyed their hard work from 1938 through 1940. So, these men returned in 1941 and began toiling over this land with new seedlings. Conscientious Objector Camp had been formed in



A large sandy patch gave us a hint to what had once been a desert.

The Big Prairie Desert had once stretched three miles north to south and was two miles wide. What’s the story of this land? Why did picnics happen here? How did the pine trees evolve?
We found a small community church and township hall. But where was the desert? Was there still a desert? Join Chuck and I as we visit these acres. I’m always impressed with his curiosity and knowledge!

Big Prairie Township
For centuries, this vista had been nurtured by the Ottawa Nation. Then in 1847, the tribes surrendered their rights under the

acre Big Prairie. The top layer of soil, which was fertile and rich, had laid like a thin carpet over the sand. Settlers soon realized that the soil was shallow and drained quickly. This was not ideal for long term, sustainable farming. Many had turned their focus to lumber from the surrounding forests as a means to make a living.
So on March 20, 1852, the location officially became known as “Big Prairie Township.” Their first election was in April of that year. John Betts was named their first supervisor. Mind you, this was before the Civil War, (1861-1865) The second and last supervisor was John Barton,

and reported that her father had told the tale of “The Blowing” and getting lost on the prairie coming home from church. The swirling sand had caused a miserable lack of visibility. By 1867, homes and farm stands had been abandoned.

Hummocks
The eroding top soil gave way to continued sand storms. Hummocks of sand developed over grassy mounds. Some were 6-8 feet tall.

Asylum Land
By 1880, Big Prairie Township had succumbed to erosion and suffered from abandonment, so the land was reclaimed by the state and listed as “Asylum Land”



The pine trees still stand at attention, as they had for a century.

land brought in any revenue for the state school.
Big Prairie Desert – picnic destination
In the mean time, this desolate Big Prairie Desert continued to grow through the 1920’s-1930’s. People would come to the area on daytrips to enjoy picnics and recreation. There had

the Everett Cemetery was being covered by drifting sands. A significant mound had developed at the eastern entrance. With many of their relatives and community members having been buried there, the ladies wanted to preserve these gravesites.
First, the ladies used straw and hay, along with brush, to try to block the

1942. These men continued the process of planting trees in 1942 and 1943, then in 1946 and 1947. By 1965, over 13 million trees had taken root over 945 acres. In 1974, the first 75 acres were harvested for pulp wood.
Big Prairie Township
Currently, Big Prairie Township has a population of 2,400. Six individuals



On the corner of East 20th and South Elm Streets stands the Big Prairie Community Church and Township Hall.

been some talk of further developing this area as a tourist spot, however, the nearby locals were not interested.
Doran Ditlow
Doran Ditlow had been interviewed on November 29, 2011. She recalled, “During the 1940’s, I attended school in White Cloud, MI. At least one year, we went to Big Prairie Desert for last day of school. I recall hummocks with grass on top separated by large sandy patches. Most of the Big Prairie area was planted in pine trees during the late 30’s, through at least the early 60’s. I worked for USFS, in fall of 1961, planting red pine trees. We planted about 750,000 trees.

sand. But the sand blew right through the blockade. Next, the team transplanted trees and thick grasses. These trees proved to be helpful in fighting against the blowing sand. Then in 1922, that’s one hundred years ago, the women planted more trees along the eastern side. The grave sites were saved! Many of these trees are still here today!
National Forest Service
The National Forest Service took over ownership in 1933. The Work Progress Administration had been formed by the national government to put men back to work during The Great Depression. These workers began planting trees. A

currently sit on the township board. Harvesting timber has continued to be a main source of income in the region.
Thank you for joining Chuck and I on our investigation of the Big Prairie Desert. Visiting local museums can bring unique, first-hand accounts of an area. Keep being curious!
Resources
The Hub’s Article “Michigan’s Dust Bowl – The Big Prairie Desert”
Big Prairie Township Geological Trails – Howard Douglass and Velma Matson have organized history of the area.
Restless Viking merchandise is available. Visit restless-viking.com



No. 2-97 Tourists on Big Prairie Desert, Newaygo County, Mich.

Toursists picnicked on the Big Prairie Desert. Photo Credit: Ebay Postcard \$16.00

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in New Jersey on April 6, 1969. One of my first movie roles was in a “Halloween” franchise film. I’m particularly known as a comedic actor, but when I joined the Marvel franchise, I got to take on a superhero role.

Answer: Paul Rudd

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

MONEY & FINANCE WORD SEARCH

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

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

- MONEY & FINANCE
WORD SEARCH
- ACCOUNTING
APPLICATION
BANK
BANKRUPTCY
- CHECKING
CREDIT
DEBIT
DEBT
DEPOSIT
FINANCE
INQUIRY
- INTEREST
INVESTMENT
LOSS
MONEY
PAPERWORK
PROFIT
RATES
- RECONCILE
SALARY
SAVINGS
SOLVENT
STATEMENT
WITHDRAWAL

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to finance.

C D T I R E

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

Answer: Credit

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Atomic mass unit
4. Criticize mightily
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. Stand in for
11. Everyone has one
12. Brew
13. Rectify
15. Popular Dodge truck model
16. Beef or chicken intestine
19. Satisfy
21. Of a particular people or localized region
23. Movements in quick tempos
24. Able to pay one's debts
25. Fleshy bird beak covering
26. Dueling sword
27. Helps
30. Court is in it
34. Touch lightly
35. Airborne (abbr.)
36. Of one
41. Baked good
45. Jai __, sport
46. About aviation
47. Low oval mound
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. Compel to do something
55. A way to carve
56. Sao __, city in Brazil
57. Mustachioed actor Elliott
59. American Idol runner-up Clay
60. A way to soak
61. Car mechanics group
62. Born of
63. Time zone
64. Sea eagle
65. Even's opposite
- CLUES DOWN
1. Sharp mountain ridge
2. Thin, fibrous cartilages
3. Provides new details
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Ottoman military title
6. Banes
7. Horse-riding seats
8. Arms of a shirt
9. Narrow path along a road edge
13. Viper
14. Disfigure
17. Variety of Chinese language
18. Portray in a show
20. Wrongful act
22. No (slang)
27. State of agitation
28. __ Diego
29. One point east of due south
31. 007's creator
32. The NBA's Toppin
33. Midway between north and northeast
37. Examples
38. __ Gould, actor
39. The habitat of wild animals
40. Artful subtlety
41. Infielders
42. Keep under control
43. Herb
44. Distressed
47. A way to go down
48. Type of acid
49. Take by force
51. Collected fallen leaves
52. Shout of welcome or farewell
53. Monetary unit
58. Swiss river

Spring Fling, continued

Discovery, T.A.G. Beach Volleyball Club, Fish & Finn Outfitters & Consignment, Honey Suites, Milo’s Kids Consignment, Rio Plano Taqueria, and LoMI Studios.

Nearly every location is offering a discount, drink special, or giveaway to add even more excitement to the event.

To participate in the Cookie Adventure, you will need to get your passport for \$10 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce or at Lowell Area Historical Museum. The passports went on sale on April 11. As you travel along the 10 different Cookie stops, you will have your passport stamped and receive a specialty cookie made by Kim’s Gourmet Treat.

The Cookie Adventure idea originated with Christa Wetzel as a fundraiser for Alpha Care Center. Lowell merchants and the community were quick to embrace the idea, paving the way to repeat the event in support of other local nonprofits. “From a timing and capacity standpoint, it made sense to align the Cookie Adventure with Spring Fling to maximize efforts,” said Kennedy.

Proceeds from the 2023 Cookie Adventure will benefit the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The Graham building, home to the Lowell Area Historical Museum, is 150 years old



Station Salon



Spring Fling 2022 Tap House Boutique.

this year. “We are proud to celebrate the Museum’s work and support their fundraising efforts with this event,” said Kennedy.

There will be free admission to the museum from noon to 5 pm on April 15, and everyone is encouraged to make the museum one of their stops during the day.

A couple of years ago, the Lowell merchant group made the decision to change the springtime Girls’ Night Out from a Thursday evening to a daytime event, on a Saturday. “When paired with the Cookie Adventure, which is especially fun for kids, Spring Fling is a great time for families and friends of all ages to enjoy Downtown Lowell,” said Kennedy.

Girls’ Night Out will continue as a themed, Thursday night event in the fall. The next Girl’s Night Out event is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023.

For a complete list of participating businesses go to: www.discoverlowell.org/spring-fling-the-cookie-adventure

■ **SPRING...**

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If you have questions or would like to be included contact

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