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The Wild Honey Collective plays Lowell Arts Gallery

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

The Wild Honey Collective (TWHC) played to a near capacity crowd at Lowell Arts Saturday night. They provided a nice musical escape for everyone, from the falling temperatures and rain going on outside, with their mix of original music and covers. In a world of musical genres and sub-genres, one wonders how to best describe TWHC. How about: Traditional String Band Music with a side order of Punk? Better yet: These Folks Have a Great Time Singing and Playing. Is that a sub-sub-genre?

TWHC is much easier to listen to than describe. Tommy McCord, Dan O'Brien, Timmy Rodriquez, and Danielle Gyger, all contribute vocals interchangeably as lead, solo, and/or harmony. Their vocals are tight. Adam Aymor lets his steel guitar do the singing. The crowd showed their appreciation of his skills when he cut loose with a couple of lovely solos. The rest of them are constantly switching instruments, with Timmy and Dan playing banjo, electric and stand-up bass, acoustic guitar, and harmonica. Danielle's main



Left to right: Dan O'Brien, Timmy Rodriquez, Danielle Gyger, Adam Aymor, Tommy McCord

instrument is the fiddle, but she picks up a guitar now and then, and even treated us to what I believe was a melodica on one tune. (FYI – the melodica is a reed instrument with a keyboard that one plays by blowing in the mouthpiece.) Tommy's mainstay is the acoustic guitar which he switches out with a mandolin from

time to time. To the best of my recollection, Adam kept focused on his steel guitar all night. TWHC was formed during the pandemic, when venues were closed and performances canceled. At one point, after explaining how the band started playing together as kind of a lark, Rodriquez joked, "I never

touched any of these people for almost a year." They started playing together because the other bands they were in had no where to perform. What started as a side project for fun has really caught on. The show in Lowell was positioned between several dates all over the Mid-West in April, and they hit the road this

week for a ten-date tour of the east coast with gigs in New York, Massachusetts and Vermont. If you enjoy traditional American music with a little twist, TWHC will make you smile. In addition to playing

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Fundraising for Lowell Skatepark remodel approaches goal

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The City of Lowell considers the Lowell Skatepark, along with the Lowell Dog Park, as part of the community's Stoney Lakeside Park. Skaters



This is what Lowell Skatepark currently looks like, prior to the possible remodel.

can see Stoney Lake to the south and the towering water tank of the Lowell Water Treatment Plant to the west, as they traverse two mini ramps, a hubba with a handrail, and a flat rail atop a concrete slab. The existing skateboard park was constructed when a number of youths and their parents, raised funds by selling t-shirts for the equipment and enlisted the help of the City to install the concrete pad. Years later, Bob Rogers has coordinated a fundraising campaign to remodel the skatepark with upgraded equipment. One would imagine Rogers as an avid skateboard aficionado, or, at least, a contractor with years of construction knowledge, but, in truth, he's a project manager for Impact Church, who has accumulated the knowledge and skills for completion of projects, such

Skatepark,
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YMCA offers extracurricular activities for Lowell youth

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The Litehouse Family YMCA is tucked away in a cozy neighborhood off, of North Hudson Street in Lowell, and it offers a wide variety of equipment and services to its members. The facility help neighbors in the community work-out and stay physically healthy, but the organization has also partnered with Lowell Area Schools for a number of before and after school and summer programs, which, since the pandemic, have become a boon for the health of children in the community. Tyson Hoffman is the Lowell Childcare Director.

"The best thing is just getting the kids active, giving them time to be together, and teaching them how to be healthy adults," Hoffman said. Those who detect a subtext in this quote are keen to have found it, because Hoffman is not just talking about physical health. A number of studies have proven negative consequences for the mental health of young people during the pandemic, and Hoffman takes pride in the fact that the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, in general, and Litehouse Family

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Skatepark, continued

as these, through continued volunteer work over the years.

"I joked about picking up a skateboard," Rogers said. "My wife says I'm not going to start skating, though."

Rogers entered the business of skateboard park construction a couple of years ago, when he was approached in the summer of 2021 by Jessica Barney and Dan Lixey, two local citizens who wanted to see more from the Lowell Skatepark. Rogers has been in communication with a number of skateboard designers, including the Los Angeles organization Spohn Ranch Skateparks, who has already provided a concept design for the future upgrade.

The Spohn Ranch design provides a number of varied obstacles. On one end is a broad quarter pipe that would dwarf the current feature. Across from this quarter pipe is a pair of smaller quarter pipes, joined together at the top. Between the two is a funbox with a curved hip, handrail, and ledge. Also featured in the

design mockup are a flat rail, a manual pad, and a number of connected ledges of differing heights.

Rogers' goal had been to complete the project in 2022. *Lowell Ledger* reporter, Bill Lee, even did a write-up, in March of 2022, to this effect. However, the project has not yet reached its \$120,000 funding goal, and that is the primary bottleneck in Rogers' efforts. Rogers recently posted to the Lowell Community Chatter Facebook group that fundraising had reached \$82,951 of the \$120,000 goal.

"I'm waiting for two grants to respond to my request for the remaining funds," he wrote. "We're trying very hard to reach our goal, but fundraising is not an easy task."

The primary source for the remaining funds is the Skatepark Project, formerly the Tony Hawk Foundation, which skateboard icon, Tony Hawk, started in 2002 to help children across America have a safe and legal place to skate. The foundation has awarded millions of dollars to fund

more than 600 public skateparks in all 50 states, and, through international partner Skateistan, a number of similar skateparks in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa, as well. Rogers has requested \$40,000 from the Skatepark Project, enough to complete the project according to current projections.

There are complications with the Skatepark Project grant, however. The fund traditionally favors low-income neighborhoods outside of large metropolitan areas. For example, if Lowell were situated closer to Detroit, there would be a better opportunity for funding. As it stands, there is a good chance the Lowell Skatepark will qualify for a maximum of \$10,000. Interestingly enough, a representative from the Skatepark Project asked Rogers how he intended to complete a project that large with a budget of just \$120,000. He explained that it's possible because the cement pad is already there.

“It lowers maintenance costs, makes it safer, quieter, and more fun,” Rogers said,



A concept design mockup of what Lowell Skatepark could look like by Spohn Ranch Skateparks.

"I've heard, but I'm not a skater."

Rogers was not ready to disclose the name of the second source until the details have been sorted out. He stated that the funds would come from a friend, who has a family endowment, and that the project may benefit from a grant of “tens of thousands” of dollars from this fund, if all works out.

Rogers noted that the Lowell Skatepark remodel could benefit from a number of other fundraising sources, like the sale of wristbands and t-shirts, but Rogers has focused on writing grants with larger dollar amounts associated with them. As coordinator for Impact Church's community service efforts under the name of Love Our City Week, formerly Love Week, Rogers will oversee 24 projects this summer alone. He has no lack of leaders and volunteers for these projects, but his commitment to their success only leaves him with so much time to raise money for the Lowell Skatepark. He has started a Go Fund Me page for

the project, and the City of Lowell website offers instructions for those interested in donating, but significant small dollar donation drives would take a lot of time that Rogers does not currently have.

Another limit to fundraising efforts is the specificity of the project. If the city were to create a new playground, for example, it would provide services for a wide variety of people, from young children to teenagers, and a variety of different skill levels, and a project like this might benefit from a vast array of grants because of its general use. However, for an upgraded skatepark, there may be only 20 to 30 skaters in Lowell who take advantage of the resource, and these demographics limit the number of applicable grants and the amount of money the project might receive.

Rogers does not merely wish to serve the existing skater population in Lowell, though they certainly served as the original inspiration. He wishes for the final design to include obstacles fun to navigate atop scooters, skateboards,

and BMX bikes, as well. Furthermore, he wishes to see the same success that Lowell Township's pickleball court, at nearby North Riverfront Park, enjoyed, which brought pickleball players into town from across West Michigan and inspired some local citizens, who had never played, to pick up the new sport. The Lowell Skatepark remodel may be able to do the same thing for extreme sports.

Once Rogers has reached the \$120,000 goal, there are a number of steps before the completion of the skatepark remodel. He would have to choose which designer to work with and write up a contract. The designer would likely send someone to meet with the community and determine what is needed obstacle-wise. The final design would have to be approved by the city before the design firm could hire contractors to do the work. Rogers would like to finish up fundraising by the end of this year, so the upgrade can take place in 2024.



This is what Lowell Skatepark currently looks like, prior to the possible remodel.



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GSRP helps meet the educational needs of four-year-olds

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Bushnell Elementary is one of four elementary schools in the Lowell Area School district; the others being Alto Elementary, Cherry Creek Elementary, and Murray Elementary. Children who attend school at Bushnell start out as Bushnell Bears, then transform into Lowell Red Arrows when they make it to middle and high school. They grow to learn, make friends, and carry Pink Arrow pride in their hearts, and this is well known in Lowell. What is less well known is that Bushnell Elementary has dedicated three classrooms to the Great Start Readiness Program, or GSRP, which provides preschool education to families in need.

Originally called the Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP), the program began in 1985 with \$1 million in state funds to assist four-year-olds with factors that may place them at risk of educational failure. At that time, the funding supported 694 children in the state. Fast forward to the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and the GSRP had become a \$243 million investment to support 37,500 children. Ashley Karsten is the director of early childhood education at Kent Intermediary School District, and the point person for GSRP activities in Kent County.

“I think we have a big gap in early childhood programs,” Karsten said.

GSRP provides three options for preschool for four-year-olds in the community: (1) a part-day schedule of three hours per day, four days per week, and 30 weeks per year, (2) a school-day schedule of 6.5-7 hours per day, 4 days per week, and 30 weeks per year, and (3) a GSRP/Head Start blend consisting of school-day hours, with the highest standards from either

GSRP or Head Start, applied at all times. However, even as the pandemic increased funding for GSRP, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer has committed to further expansion, there are clear needs in the community that the program does not currently meet.

When asked how she would prefer to expand the program, Karsten had some clear areas of improvement. For example, Karsten would like to see the number of classrooms increased. During the pandemic, GSRP programs received funding for a full classroom, even if the classroom was only partially filled with students, and that provided reliability in terms of staffing, scheduling, and forecasting. Since pandemic funding ended, current GSRP funding is now calculated on a per child basis, which means some classes with only three or four children in them will have to be closed, and those families will have to search for another option.

Karsten would like to see the four day a week program expanded to five days a week, since this would allow for working parents to commit to the program. Other needs include expanding the program to younger children and increasing before and after school programs. Not only do children need the best opportunity to get a jump start on their education, but low income households need an alternative to costly daycare programs.

In other parts of the state, the change in GSRP funding has created significant problems for the system. On an episode of Michigan Radio’s Stateside, originally broadcast on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Dr. Hadassah McKnight, the director of Child Star Development in Detroit explained that post-pandemic funding can be received by any organization who applies. This created competition for McKnight,

when a recreation center across from her 7 Mile campus was offered a GSRP classroom, which forced McKnight to close one of her classrooms. Karsten explained that Kent County’s approach to GSRP avoids problems like this.

“All GSRP classrooms run through the ISD,” she said.

Since Kent ISD gathers all of the funding for GSRP in the county and distributes it strategically to make sure classrooms meet the needs of the community, there is not the same problem with competition seen on the other side of the state. This left Kent County much better prepared to adapt to the change of funding amount, type, and stipulations. Instead of losing classrooms, Bushnell has been able to keep three classrooms during the transition from pandemic to current funding, and Karsten expects there may be a fourth classroom in the works for the upcoming school year.

Studies suggest that GSRP provides decades worth of better results for children, from increased imagination, initiative, and retention in Kindergarteners, to higher MEAP results in 4th graders, to higher graduation rates from high school seniors, and all of these details contribute to a reduction in the achievement gap. Koby Levin is a reporter for Chalkbeat Detroit who covers GSRP and other early childhood education issues.

“It’s really a high-quality program,” Levin said during his interview with Stateside. “The care is great, and Governor Whitmer has talked a lot about expanding it, even, maybe within a few years, all the way up to universal access, so that every four year old in the state gets free preschool.”

For Karsten, one of the most important things is getting the word out about the current program, which



Bushnell Elementary is home to three of the state’s nearly 3000 Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) classrooms.

is open for intake through next year. Anyone who believes they might benefit from the program should complete an intake form, and many of those who apply may qualify for free GSRP services. She acknowledges that some families may see a stigma associated with GSRP, since it is a state-funded program. To those families, Karsten had words of encouragement.

“Unlike many tuition-based programs, GSRP has to meet a certain standard monitored by the Michigan government,” Karsten said. “We don’t have a choice but to be high quality.”

Any child who will be four years of age by December 1, 2023, may qualify for GSRP. Lowell Area Schools held an open house at Bushnell Elementary on Friday, April 28, from 9am to 2pm. Families, who missed the event, need not worry. Those interested in GSRP can head to Kent ISD’s web page kentisd.org, hover over Early Childhood on the top banner, and then select Great Start Readiness

Program from the drop down menu that appears. From there, folks need only choose a link, based on whether the child will be four before the beginning of the school year on September 1, 2023, or not. Since each accepted applicant increases the funding Kent ISD receives

for GSRP, there is no reason to pass up the opportunity because a family is not poor enough, or a child does not have a great enough need. Rather, each family who experiences GSRP has the opportunity to spread news of the program to other families in need.

Concert, continued

their own music, we heard them cover a punk tune about a dying dog, as well as a classic cheatin’ and hurtin’ Country tune by Hank Williams. The band is very comfortable with the different music and with each other. They switch instruments, change from lead vocals to harmonies, and interact with each other with ease. It is easy to understand how they are becoming more and more in demand. You can follow them on Facebook or Instagram. They have recorded two albums that are available

as digital downloads, CD, or vinyl. You can find information on them at: <https://gtgrecords.net/thewildhoneycollective> Lowell Arts has one more gallery concert left before the music moves outside to the Showboat stage for the Sizzlin’ Summer Concerts in June. This Saturday, Edye and Mike will be performing at 7 pm. Edye Evans Hyde and Mike Hyde have been performing jazz music together for over forty years. Learn more at: <https://www.lowellartsmi.org/event-details/edye-mike>



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Worth the Popcorn?

By Bill Lee

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret: A Spirited Classic

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret. - PG-13, 1 hour and 46 minutes.
Starring: Rachel McAdams (Barbara Simon), Abby Ryder Fortson (Margaret Simon), Benny Safdie (Herb Simon), Kathy Bates (Sylvia Simon), and Elle Graham (Nancy Wheeler).
Director: Kelly Fremon Craig
Writers: Kelly Fremon Craig and Judy Blume

Normally, I would not go to a movie about pre-pubescent girls coming-of-age, but I have a daughter, and although she is only four years old, I want to be as prepared for what is to

come in about seven years. Also, I heard good things about *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* based on a 1970 novel by Judy Blume, the famed author of young adult literature of the 1970s-1990s. The movie did not disappoint.
Are You There God? It's me, Margaret begins in 1970 and it follows the lead character, Margaret Simon, 11, through her entire sixth grade year. After Margaret arrives home in New York City after summer camp, her grandmother, Sylvia (played by Kathy Bates), spills the beans by announcing that her parents have decided to move the family to the New

Jersey suburbs. Margaret's parents, Barbara and Herb Simon (played by Rachel McAdams and Benny Safdie), are not happy with Sylvia's nosey approach as a grandmother, but they tell a very upset Margaret that they are indeed moving.
The Simon family finds out right away that the suburbs are different from the city, but they plan to make the best of it. Mainly, the story is about Margaret as she transitions into her teen years, coming face-to-face with some adult themes like puberty, religion, identity, independence, and the opposite sex. A secondary storyline follows Margaret's mother, Barbara, who gave up a job as an art teacher in the city to become a housewife in the suburbs. McAdams shines on screen with her performance as a caring mother trying to support her daughter through a challenging time.
Margaret's first few days in New Jersey begin when she meets her precocious neighbor, Nancy (played skillfully by Elle Graham), who invites Margaret over to run through the sprinkler.

After they dry off and go up to Nancy's room, Nancy begins talking about adult things as though she wrote the book. She is obsessed with anything relating to becoming a woman – bra size, menstruation, boys – including a hilarious kissing scene where Nancy shows Margaret how to kiss by practicing on a bedpost. One of the first lines out of Nancy's mouth, when she meets Margaret is, "You're still flat. I'm going to have a really big chest... have you kissed a boy?" Margaret is overwhelmed by Nancy's candor. All these concepts are fairly new to her, but because they seem important to Nancy and her other two friends, Janie and Gretchen, she becomes obsessed, as well.
Writer-Director Kelly Fremon Craig and Judy Blume do a wonderful job of capturing an important year of a girl and her relationship with her family – most importantly, to her mother – and the rest of the outside world. One scene that symbolizes the movie is when Margaret desperately wants to buy her first bra so she can be accepted into the girls' club where everyone has to "wear no socks, tell everyone when they get their periods for the first time, keep a 'boy journal', and also wear a bra." Her

mother brings her to the store to buy a bra, and after a few hours of wearing it, her mother inquires how it is going. Margaret says, "I can't wait to take it off" and her mom replies, "Yeah, welcome to womanhood."
The best scene in the movie, that also represents the awkwardness of sixth grade, is when one of the boys invites his sixth-grade class to his birthday party. The party has its anxious moments of quiet and excitement, especially when the party games begin - "Spin the Bottle" and "Two Minutes in a Closet." We can all remember those right?
The actors are all wonderful in portraying their characters, especially the movie's main star, Abby Ryder Fortson. Fortson's depiction of an innocent Margaret on the edge of her teenage years is exceptional, capturing the naivete of an 11-year-old beginning to question and confront adult concepts. Also, the other young actresses, especially



Elle Graham, bring a wonderful spirit to the movie. Graham's portrayal of Nancy Wheeler, who is bold on the outside but a scared little girl on the inside, is noteworthy.
The movie will touch and delight younger and older people. The movie may help preteens address their own coming-of-age, while the adults will most definitely reflect on their awkward times in sixth grade. I couldn't help but remember my first time playing spin the bottle too. I give *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* three and a half, out of four, popcorn kernels. I would recommend that you take your 11-year-old daughter/son to this movie (if they will let you!).

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The Lowell Police Department launches new technology

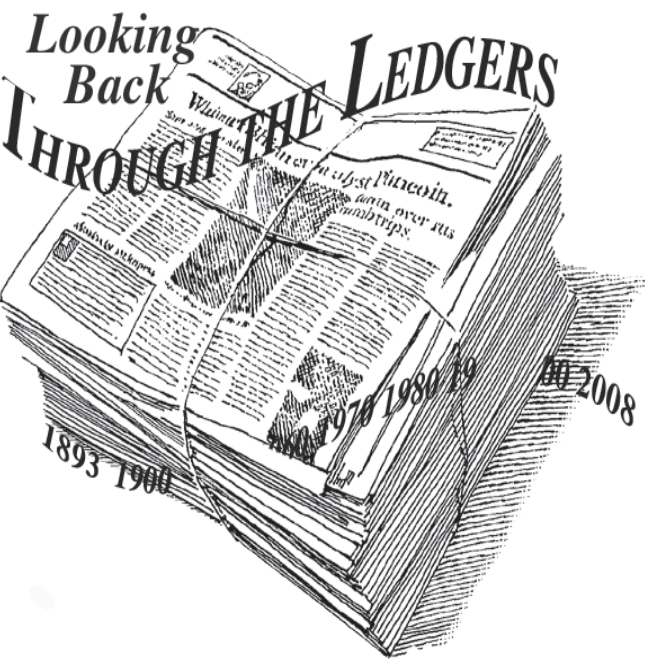
Lowell Police Department (LPD), has announced the launch of a new program that will help officers avoid use of force when responding to calls for service. Starting in April, eleven officers from the Lowell Police Department will carry the BolaWrap 150, a handheld remote restraint device that discharges a Kevlar® cord to restrain uncooperative suspects or nonresponsive persons in crisis, from a distance. When used early in an encounter, the BolaWrap can help achieve de-escalation, thereby reducing the amount of force used and the potential for injury to both the individuals and officers. LPD is the latest department to join over 600 other domestic law enforcement agencies currently using the BolaWrap technology.

"The Lowell Police Department has always looked for new technology that can assist our officers in doing a great job for our community. Purchasing Axon Body Cams, over 10 years ago, is a great example

of the support we receive from our city leaders," said Sergeant Gordy Lauren.
The Lowell Police Department currently has eleven officers that include a Chief of Police and a Sergeant that patrols a community of about 4,000 citizens in Kent County.
About Wrap
Wrap Technologies (Nasdaq: WRAP) is a global leader in innovative public-safety technologies and services. Wrap develops creative solutions to complex issues and empowers public-safety officials to protect and serve their communities through its portfolio of advanced technology and training solutions.
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Wrap's headquarters are in Tempe, Arizona. For more information, please visit wrap.com.
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BolaWrap, Wrap and Wrap Reality are trademarks of Wrap Technologies, Inc. All other trade names used, herein, are either trademarks or registered trademarks of the respective holders.

viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 5, 1898

Clare Ford had the misfortune to have his barn burned Thursday evening. He had put his horses in the barn and gone to supper when he heard the bell ringing. He looked out and saw Mrs. Bliss, who had rung it, went down to the barn and found it afire. One horse broke loose and got to the door but fell dead. The other one was burned in the barn. There was two tons of hay and 50 bn. of grain in the barn.

Vanderbrock lost a sheep Sunday by the dog route. D. Church's dog was caught eating of it and was killed.

Orin Ford's barn burned to the ground Thursday evening, with a span of horses. Insured for \$300; origin of the fire unknown.

J.W. Murphy was arraigned before Judge Adsit at Grand Rapids Tuesday, charged with keeping his saloon open on Sunday. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and costs.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 3, 1923

Little Martha Wiers, while playing in the barn, got her hand in the cutting box, nearly severing the little finger. She was immediately taken to a doctor at Lowell who took out a piece of the bone.

Miss Hester Yeiter, Frances and Carrol Klahn were vaccinated for smallpox one day last week. So there are several sore arms in this vicinity.

Clarence Dollaway was seriously injured Tuesday morning, when the automobile in which he was riding, left the road on the Watts hill and rolled over several times. He was pinned under the car and his chest and lungs were injured, causing hemorrhages. He was taken to Blodgett hospital, where word was favorable, hemorrhages lessening, and generally, doing as well as could be expected.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 6, 1948

In the past week, seventy Legionnaires have loaned \$7,000 to the Community Memorial Building fund, as this figure will be doubled as the confidence and unified spirit of the Legion men indicate.

Pupils of St. Patrick's School, Parnell, will present a Variety Show on Saturday evening, May 10, in the Lowell high school auditorium. Singing, dancing, pantomiming and dramatization will be offered in

interesting numbers. Local color will also play its part. All interested in forming a Fallasburg ball team are requested to meet at the diamond in Fallasburg Park next Sunday at 2 pm.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life May 3, 1973

For the second time in three years the Lowell High School Band has emerged from the State Band Festival with a No. 1 rating.

The Lowell Area Jaycees announced their third contestant for this year's Miss Lowell Showboat Scholarship Pageant, Karen Sue Stephenson.

Deer Run Golf Club's new facility is beginning to take shape. The new Clubhouse will include lockers rooms with showers, banquet rooms, a bar lounge with dancing, a sauna, and restaurant which will serve luncheons, dinners and breakfast. Owner, David Potter, expects the new unit to be completed sometime in June.

A Michigan State University professor, who plans to buy a bicycle and learn to ride it, foresees a gasoline shortage ahead of the proportions that brought rationing in World War II. The shortage will be primarily due to the failure of refining capacity to keep pace with increasing consumption demand.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 6, 1998

Earned income from the \$12 million bequest to the Lowell area from Harold Englehardt Lowell Community Fund will make between \$500-\$600,000 available to the community. The advisory committee will have to choose from 22 grant request applications this year.

Lowell High School will lose one the the state's finest English teachers this fall. Jill VanAntwerp announced that she will take a teaching position at Grand Valley State University.

Lowell boys track team claimed just two firsts at its Lowell Invitational. It made up for it, however, by having 25 different people score points for it. The team took top honors with 87 points.

Sen. Albert welcomes Lowell wrestling to Michigan Capitol

Sen. Thomas Albert welcomed the Lowell High School wrestling team to the Michigan Capitol, honoring the Red Arrows for winning their tenth straight state championship last Thursday.

Albert, R-Lowell, introduced Coach R.J. Boudro and his team during Senate session. Albert also met the Red Arrows in the Capitol rotunda. He presented a legislative tribute that also is signed by Reps. Gina Johnsen and Bryan Posthumus.

"The culture of success Coach Boudro has built within his program is impressive," Albert said. "I am thrilled to see this team honored for its incredible achievements."



State Sen. Thomas Albert, R-Lowell, Coach R.J. Boudro (center right), members of the Lowell High School wrestling team and Lowell students look up from the floor of the Capitol rotunda last Thursday before Albert presented a special tribute to Boudro in recognition of the Red Arrows winning their tenth straight state championship.

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

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At Your Local Library



Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

Toddler Time

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Nurture your toddler’s love of books through music, movement and stories while helping to develop their language, motor and social skills. For ages 0-5.

Storytime

Thursdays, 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.

Teen Zone

Thursdays, 3-4 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For ages 11-17.

Mahjongg

Fridays from 1-3 pm. American Mahjongg, a game of skill, strategy and calculation. All skill levels welcome.

Bookworms Book Discussion

Tuesday, May 9, 10 - 11 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride. For adults 18+

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, May 17, 4-5 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts. For ages 5-10.

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ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 218 W. Main
Building known as Hill building
Built: 1867
1st business: Sherman & Mills, Boot & Shoe and Dry Goods

This is the westernmost store of the five-storefront building in the center of Union Block. It was first known as the Hoag building because Artimus R. Hoag, a farmer in Vergennes, had owned it. In 1870, Sherman & Mills, Boot & Shoe and Dry Goods was the first known business. J. M. Weatherwax, Dry Goods, Boot & Shoe could have been next, 1876-1881. McGee & Rosbach opened a Saloon from 1883-1888.

In 1888, Mrs. Orton Hill (Adella Hoag Hill) purchased the building from her father for \$1500 and renovated it by painting, penciling, adding stone landings, and adding a plate glass front. They also had beautiful antique ash



Inside Art Hill’s Shoe Store. Notice the two hanging kerosene lamps. They can now be found in the Museum parlor.

shelving put in, 1889. In 1922, her son, Artimus Hill bought it for \$3,000; he took in rent from R. E. Springett, Attorney, whose office was on the second floor (1902-1950), and the Gospel Hall rent, to pay for it. The City

Shoe Store of E. Y. Hogle opened in 1890. In 1892, it was Dan Murray’s Shoe Store.

City Bank was organized by stockholders, with Orton Hill as president and W. A. Watts as cashier, about 1900. It was reorganized under State Charter as “City State Bank” on January 31, 1907, with Orton Hill as president and R. W. Slayton as cashier. The bank home was this building. A large vault was installed (and remains in the building). In July, 1907, a burglar-proof system was implemented. “The system consists of several large gongs located within the building, and a large gong on the outside, and is operated by electricity from storage batteries, so arranged that each part operates independently of the rest, and the slightest tampering with any part

of the system or the wiring outside the vault sets the gongs ringing, and they cannot be stopped except by going inside the vault and turning off the current.”

In 1917, the City State Bank traded locations with Orton Hill’s sons, Artemius Hill’s Shoe Store. The bank moved to the former location of the Chas. J Church & Son Bank building at 207 W. Main and Art Hill moved his shoe store here.

From 1917 to 2002, a total of 85 years, this was Hill’s Shoe Store. First it was Art Hill’s Shoe Store and then it became his sons, Gordon Hill’s Shoe Store. The Hill family sold to King Milling Co. after Gordon’s death. The store was rented to Roger Ackerson for his Collector’s Corner hobby business from 2006-2020.



Gordon Hill sitting among shelves of shoes.

area churches

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Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm

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MAY 4
John Borton, David Rhodes, Jerre Sue Smith.

Mooney, F.J. Johnson Jr., Emily Milstead.

MAY 5
Scott Carpenter, Kevin Vezino, Kerry Vezino, Brenda Erickson, Robert Dalziel, Kaitlyn Kovacs, Lani Brown.

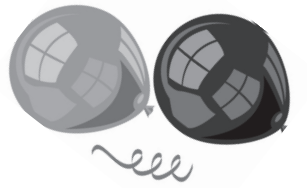
MAY 9
Tasha Brand, Ashley Reinbold, Hillary Briggs, Eric Witherell, Bobbie Clouser, Amy VanDuinen.

MAY 6
Jace Bellah.

MAY 10
Dee Korb, Rebecca Boruta, Jim Lindhout, Eric Swift.

MAY 7
John Schalow, LeAnn VanDyke, Duane Rasch.

MAY 8
Rhoda Greenman-Batt, Rhonda Timmers, Mary



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One Day Closer to Death tells story of cancer survivor

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

In her fantasy debut book, *One Day Closer to Death*, author Jen Rinaldi tells the story of a cancer survivor, Alex, who almost dies on the operating table. While she lingers between heaven and earth, she hears a voice that beckons her to stay, only to lose that voice when she is brought back, feeling as though she is missing more than her breast.

After Alex recovers, she takes a vacation while delivering the artwork for her boss. It is then that she hears a mysterious voice connected to the SUV that she has rented. Alex and ‘Bec’ as the voice asks her to call him, set out on a

the fate of mortals, recording and erasing their names at their birth and death.

The book opens with the patient in the surgical room with Azrael waiting to take her with him. However, Alex wasn’t ready to go yet. It wasn’t her time. Instead, the patient and the angel, become friends.

According to the book, Alex and Azrael were destined to meet, so the story can be told. The story occurs during extraordinary times between two worlds that have grown complacent about God.

Alex, the middle-aged breast cancer survivor, could barely find the will to live life outside of work, much less to look at herself in the mirror, until she met the Angel of Death, Azrael.

“Despite all that baggage, Azrael and I find each other twice. Our journey will nearly destroy us but will lead us to a place where our battle for partnership between angels and mankind, will outweigh our own struggles, allowing us to find a cause much greater than our own lives. Along the way, we find like minds and souls that will join us on our quest,” Rinaldi writes.

Rinaldi studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, and UW Milwaukee. “I have worked as an artist in some capacity in almost every job I have ever had,” she said.

“Along with my artistic endeavors, I have always been active, locally, by volunteering in community events; from Grass Ridge Horse Trials as lead jump judge, a position I held for eight years, to being a board member for numerous

organizations that have called me and held my dedication,” Rinaldi said. “From 500 to 5,000 people, no group is too large or non-profit too small. My passion is helping in whatever capacity is needed.”

One Day Closer to

Death is the first book in the Axis Mundi series. on <http://emmapalova123.podbean.com>

Listen to For the Love of Books Podcast for a chance to win Rinaldi’s book Sponsored by Doc Chavent, The Lowell Ledger, and author Jen Rinaldi.



cross-country adventure that involves a jewel heist and an evil stalker who will attempt to kill Alex, for the artwork she carries.

Rinaldi, who studied art under a nun, weaves into her stories elements of Christianity, as in the case of her first book. One of the protagonists in the story is the voice of Archangel Azrael, who is also known as the Angel of Death, responsible for transporting the souls of the deceased after their death. He is said to hold a scroll concerning

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Lowell Charter Township, under 24 CFR Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Community Project Funding (CPF) Grants under grant number B-22-CP-MI-0483. The proposed project is located at 13955 Cascade Rd SE 49331 in Lowell Charter Township, Kent County, MI. This notice comes as a follow-up to the initial notice dated March 1, 2023.

As stated in the initial public notice, the proposed project is being led by grant recipient Kent County Youth Agricultural Association (KYCAA) and involves development of The Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan, a new fairground facility and agricultural exposition center intended to be the home of the annual Kent County Youth Fair. The site is approximately 140 acres and is located on Cascade Rd between Pratt Lake Ave and Hastings Rd. Proposed development will occupy approximately 105 acres with the remaining acreage to be left for future development and wetland preservation. The proposed upgrade allows KYCAA to address significant size, facility, and flooding concerns at the current fairgrounds while looking ahead to future growth.

Wetland delineations conducted in August 2022 revealed 13 acres of regulated wetlands onsite, including both natural and manmade areas. Onsite wetlands are hydrologically connected to Trout Creek to the north and Pratt Lake to the south. The proposed project will directly impact 0.53 acres of emergent wetland and 0.15 acres of scrub-shrub wetland through excavation and filling.

Lowell Charter Township has considered the following site alternatives:

Selection was based on predetermined criteria including proximity to existing operations, site size, municipal support, zoning support, and site availability.

Alternative Site #1 – NE Corner Alden Nash & Cascade Road.

This property is composed of several parcels totaling nearly 500 acres owned by Kent County for development into a regional park. Although this site would have been ideal due to the possibility of the land being donated to the KYCAA, ultimately there were significant challenges resulting from topographic relief and wetlands. The site is also slated for future use by Kent County Parks, and it was therefore determined that this alternative location would not be a feasible or prudent option to pursue.

Alternative Site #2 – NW Corner Alden Nash and 40th Street (11995 40th Street SE).

This site is approximately 76 acres in size. This site was on the lower end of the size criteria with significant challenges and limited available acreage resulting from topographic relief and wetlands. Therefore, it was determined that this alternative location would not be a feasible or prudent option to pursue.

Alternative Site #3 – Proposed Project Site – 13955 Cascade Road SE

The subject site is approximately 142 acres in size and is located on the former Deer Run Golf Course property. This large and relatively flat property meets all site selection requirements and was determined to be an ideal location for this project. The Lowell Township Planning Commission has approved the proposed location.

Additionally, several site layout designs were considered for this project. These included a no-impact alternative, which was deemed not feasible due to numerous isolated wetland pockets and an elongated wetland feature that bisects a portion of the site, as well as an initial, fully designed site plan that was ultimately scrapped due to unacceptable wetland impacts.

Finally, the “do-nothing” alternative was considered, as was the possibility of expanding and upgrading the

current fairground site. These alternatives were found to be impracticable due to severe limitations of existing facilities, location of current site in the floodway, and lack of suitable expansion opportunities at the existing site. Only a new project site will allow KYCAA to meet all project needs and goals.

The action must take place on a site containing wetlands due to a lack of suitable alternate project sites. After much consideration, it was determined that the selected project layout utilizes the buildable upland to the greatest extent possible while avoiding and minimizing wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable. Both the selected site and development layout meet stated project needs and goals. The selected site is located at 13955 Cascade Rd SE, Lowell Charter Township 49331 and the site plan is available for review at the Township office.

The following mitigation measures are to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

In keeping with EGLE permit requirements, only those wetland impacts which can be shown to be unavoidable are allowed. Numerous layout changes were made in an effort to maintain all developments upland and away from wetlands while keeping people at a safe distance from water features. These site plan adjustments represent primary steps to minimize wetland impacts and are laid out in detail in the 8-Step Process document.

Secondary steps to minimize wetland impacts include pretreatment and regulation of stormwater flow via sediment forebays, vegetated filters, bioswales, and detention basins. In a further effort to protect wetlands, stormwater is discharged upland wherever feasible and all runoff from cattle areas will be sent to the sanitary system.

Finally, remaining wetland impacts will be mitigated through the purchase of credits from a Michigan wetland bank. The project directly impacts approximately 0.68 acres of wetland, through excavation and fill, so credits for 1.02 acres of wetland will be purchased. The money will fund creation of wetlands within the same Grand River watershed.

Lowell Charter Township and KYCAA will continue working with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to obtain a Part 303 Wetlands Protection Permit. No wetlands will be impacted until a Part 303 Wetlands Protection Permit has been obtained. All proposed actions in the wetland shall follow the conditions outlined in the Part 303 Wetlands Protection Permit and are subject to change per comments from EGLE regulatory staff. Additional changes will be available for review in a future EGLE public notice. KYCAA is also working with the Lowell Township engineer to meet stormwater treatment and storage requirements.

Lowell Charter Township has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and has determined that there is no practicable alternative to the action. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11990 are available for public inspection, review, and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

Written comments must be received by Lowell Charter Township at the following address on or before May 11, 2023. Lowell Charter Township, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell, MI 49331, Attention: Jerry Hale, Supervisor. Please call (616) 897-7600 for more information. A full description of the project, location maps, and supporting documents may also be reviewed from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Thursdays at the Lowell Charter Township Office at 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell, MI 49331. The Lowell Charter Township office is closed on Wednesdays and Fridays. Comments may also be submitted via email at supervisor@lowelltwtp.org.

Date: May 3, 2023

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YMCA, continued

YMCA, specifically, were two of the first organizations to reopen and continue programming, following the initial wave of pandemic business closings. The summer program was back in action during the summer of 2020, in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was very important to get those kids back,” he said. When the children

returned to YMCA programs, Hoffman noted that masking, social distancing, and other safety standards were still in effect. The need for these programs was clear. The children returning to the program, many of whom had not had interaction with other children for months at this point, exhibited a lot of behavior issues. One thing that helped bring them back

into social interaction with their peers was a strict “no screen time” policy at the YMCA.

Hoffman believes Litehouse YMCA has been able to provide a high level of stability in the lives of these children because of the high quality staff involved. Hoffman has worked at the Litehouse YMCA for five years, but he has been a YMCA employee

since 2013, and many of his fellow staff members have been around as long, or longer, than he has, which he notes is very uncommon. In most programs, the most highly experienced team members have been around for two to three years. This also means that the staff at Litehouse YMCA was not scared off by the pandemic. Hoffman believes that his peers saw the pandemic as an opportunity to step-up and make a difference for children in the community, and they put themselves at higher risk for the betterment of the lives of these kids.

The YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids has a streamlined process connecting each of its eight local branches with the school systems in the communities they serve. In Lowell, before and after school care takes place at Alto Elementary, Cherry Creek Elementary, and Murray Lake Elementary, with Bushnell Elementary students bussed to and from Cherry Creek. Each school has one coordinator overseeing trained and qualified staff who are held to state and YMCA standards of excellence.

Just as an example of how many lives are touched by this program, Cherry Creek serves 45 students with their before and after school program, which provides academic support, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) projects, and healthy, outdoor activities. There is also a ‘Cook It Up’ program where students learn about food preparation and healthy eating.

The summer day camp is held at Cherry Creek Elementary. “It’s a great campus for us to run a day camp on,” Hoffman said, citing both the playground and equipment at the school itself and the nearby trails and parks. Students also enjoy a weekly field-trip to places like the Ionia County YMCA for swim lessons, John Ball Zoo, Gerald R. Ford International Airport Viewing Park, LMCU Ballpark for a West Michigan Whitecaps game, and Pickerel Lake Park, where students can go fishing.

The summer day camp program is currently capped at 80 kids, and this is based on staffing. The camp has a strict one staff-member to ten-kid ratio to make sure

in 1912. Manitou-Lin activities are coordinated by the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids.

YMCA’s School Age Child Care before and after school programs are available to children from five years of age through eighth grade, depending on the location, and YMCA membership is not required to qualify. The program runs from 6:30 am to 8:30 am and 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at Alto Elementary, Cherry Creek Elementary, and Murray Lake Elementary, with Bushnell Elementary students bussed to and from Cherry Creek. Programs vary from \$46 to \$75 per week, depending on whether children attend a two-day, three-day, or five-day program throughout the year, and there is a \$25 registration fee per child. Registration opened for the 2023/24 school year on Monday, April 24, 2023.

YMCA’s Summer Day Camp runs from Monday, June 12, 2023 through Friday, August 18, 2023, and is open to children, ages five through twelve. Though morning and afternoon snacks are provided to participants, children will need to pack a



The Litehouse Family YMCA coordinates after school and summer programs with Alto Elementary, Cherry Creek Elementary, and Murray Lake Elementary, with Bushnell Elementary students bussed to and from Cherry Creek.



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Cherry Creek Elementary hosts YMCA before and after school programs for Cherry Creek and Bushnell students, and hosts YMCA summer day camp for Lowell Area Schools children.



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all kids have a safe, fun, and educational experience. As a result of this limit, a number of children in the area are on a wait-list for the camp. Hoffman noted that the program could serve up to 100 kids, with the addition of a couple of volunteers, but those volunteers would have to pass state standards, meet education expectations, have a background check, and be fingerprinted.

In addition to these programs, Lowell children may attend Camp Manitou-Lin, a 40-acre campus, founded in Middleville as a permanent camp site,

lunch. Day camp at Cherry Creek Elementary costs \$200 for members, and non-members alike, who wish to attend five days a week, or \$165 for three days a week, and financial assistance is available to those who qualify. Registration is open now and ends ten days prior to the start of each camp week. Summer Day Camp is currently on a wait-list.

For more information on School Age Child Care and Summer Day Camp through Litehouse Family YMCA, check out the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids web site and select either Child Care or Camp.

STEM meets music making at Lowell High School

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

When we think of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), the memory of struggling through the challenges of Geometry is top of mind. In ancient days, this reporter recalls begging his teacher for help and doing all he could to pass the course. Fast forward to 2023 and STEM students in Lowell now have the opportunity to apply their knowledge in the creation of electric guitars. What?

Technology teacher, Chris Phillips, is a multi-

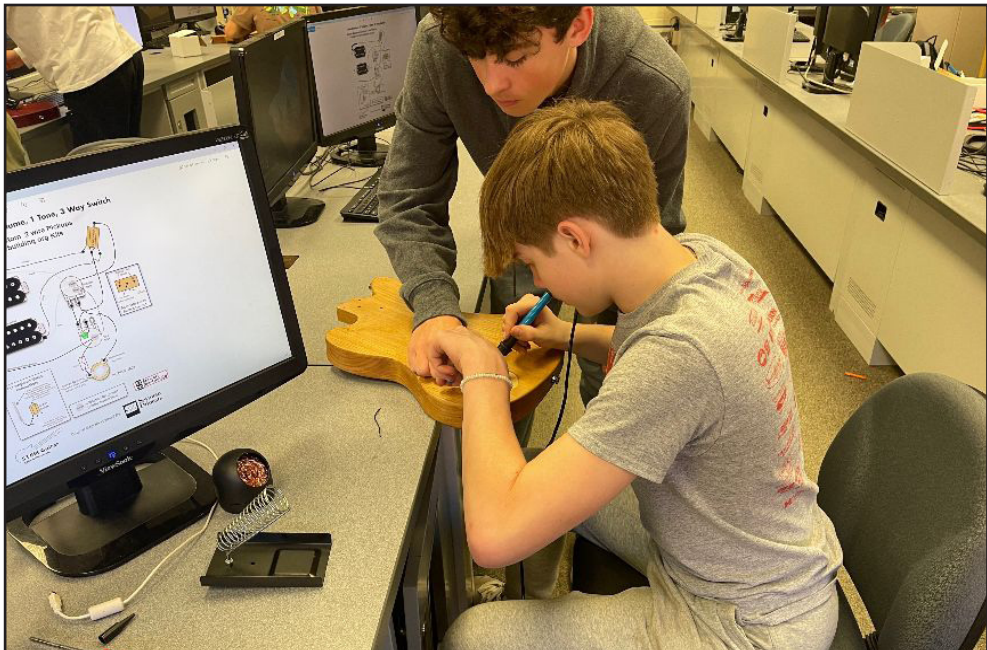
building guitars,” Phillips told us. “I came across a site that had a guitar curriculum and looked into it. Last summer I attended their workshop in Ohio and learned more about it.”

The workshop he attended was at Sinclair College in Dayton, OH. The program for guitar-making was started by Thomas M. Singer in 2008. Singer is a professor of mechanical engineering technology. His 15-year-old program, supported in part by the National Science Foundation, is responsible for producing well over 10,000 guitar making kits

students.

His class of 15, work on their guitars five-days-a-week. Phillips is not aware of any other High School in Michigan that offers guitar-making as a part of their curriculum. He related that most of the schools offering the class in Michigan, and other parts of the country, are colleges and universities.

The guitars being made are all six-string electrics. (Singer has also developed a similar course for the creation of acoustic guitars.) They are loosely patterned after the Fender Jazzmaster



Wyatt Remar and Hunter Chick. Photo courtesy of Chris Phillips.



Wyatt Remar, Avah VanderMeulen, Jacob Davidson, and Hunter Chick. Photo courtesy of Chris Phillips.

disciplinary for sure. He has been teaching at Lowell schools for 18 years. He also coaches both boys and girls varsity tennis. His classes involve all manner of technology, engineering, and the application of math and science in our lives. In addition, he is a musician. This year, he is combining several of these elements and guiding 15 Lowell students in his Engineering 2 class, as they design and assemble electric guitars.

“I’ve been playing guitar all my life, but during the pandemic I started

that have been used by students all over the country. Here is the course description for Sinclair College’s class MET 1151: “Guitar Manufacturing using Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) Concepts. Solve math problems on fret-board layout. Develop a head stock on a CAD system and have it manufactured to the design specifications. Apply design and assembly skills to achieve a playable instrument.” This is what Chris Phillips brought to his

or Jaguar guitars. Phillips confirmed the wide array of skills involved in the making of an electric guitar, from the precise layout of the fret-board, to the sanding and finishing of the wood. Soldering skills are needed to connect the tone and volume switches to the pick-ups that translate the vibration of the strings into electrical signals, sent along to the amplifiers, used to broadcast the notes and chords being played.

Only two or three of his students actually play guitar. Noah Sternisha has

already made plans to give the guitar he is making to a musician friend ,when it is done. Chris told us the finished products will be the equivalent of manufactured guitars selling for five to six hundred dollars or more.

“The kids are very excited about this class,” Phillips said. “In fact, we have a huge waiting list right now.”

As you might imagine, there is a cost for the wood for the body and neck of the guitar, the electronics, strings, and other assorted

hardware needed, for any student taking this class. Phillips was given enough money through a grant from the Lowell Community Fund to cover the \$230.00 materials cost for two class sessions. The inaugural one and another one in 2024.

We have to celebrate the cool factor of this class on several levels. First, kudos to Chris Phillips for going the extra mile and offering Lowell students an opportunity to do something very unique, while applying math and technology. He

translated his passion for guitar playing and STEM into a course with a waiting list. What a great way to make LHS even better. A tip of the hat to the Lowell Community Fund for supporting the vision to bring the program to life.

(Cue my old codger voice:) Why, if they would have let us build guitars back in my day, I would have done much better in Geometry. Well, a guy can dream, right?



Rhys Sandman. Photo courtesy of Chris Phillips.



Tristan Braun and Chris Raymor. Photo courtesy of Chris Phillips.

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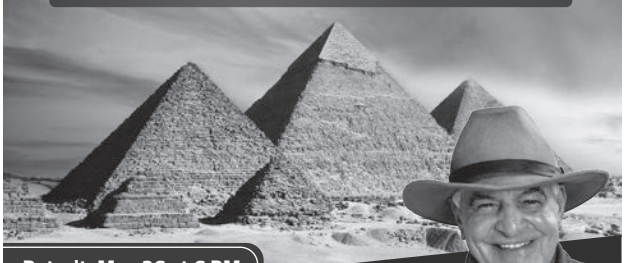
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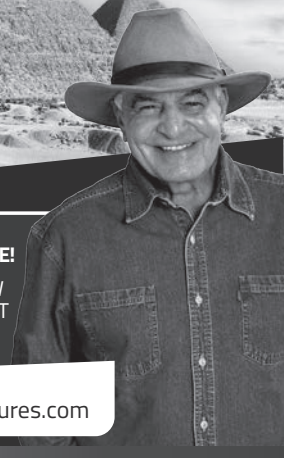
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Red Arrow

- GIRLS TRACK

SPORTS

Lowell cruises to wins over Greenville and Northview

Submitted by Coach Paul Judd

Lowell scored in all events, and in many cases, had multiple athletes hit performances that put points in the bag, as the Arrows scored wins against both Northview and host Greenville, in a tri-meet last Wednesday. Many athletes also had big days with both personal records (PR) and multiple wins. Isabel German won the pole vault and swept the sprint events, which was highlighted with a season best time in the 400m. Leah Krieger swept both hurdle events and then capped it off with a win in the long jump. Annika and Katrina Sandman took one-two in all distance events,

with Annika winning the 1600 and 3200 while Katrina took the win in the 800m. Aubriegh Oswald won both the shot put and discus, while Ivy Mcdonald grabbed third in both. Lowell kicked the meet off with wins in the high jump and in the 3200m relay, as Ivy McDonald jumped a PR of 4-08, while Annika Sandman, Audrey Latchaw, Mia Kinney, and Katrina Sandman ran a 10:41.58 in the relay. Final scores were: Lowell, 95, Greenville 40 and Lowell 98, Northview 38 Placing first place for the Arrows were: Isabel German, 100m, 13.38, 200m, 27.45 and 400m,

1:02.1 and pole vault, 11-06; Katrina Sandman, 800m, 2:26.17; Annika Sandman, 1600m, 5:07.00 and 3200m, 11:05.86; Leah Krieger, 100H, 17.27, 300H, 50.60 and long jump, 15-02; Aubriegh Oswald, shot put, 32-09 and discus, 102-01; Ivy Mcdonald, high jump, 4-08 and the 3200m relay team of Sandman, Latchaw, Kinney, Sandman, 10:41.58 Second place finishers were: Annika Sandman, 800m, 2:29.15; Katrina Sandman, 1600m, 5:20.00 and 3200m, 11:40.82; Leah Krieger high jump, 4-06; Brooklyn Wobma, pole vault, 8-00 Third place finishers were: Audrey Latchaw,

800m, 2:40.38; Anna Seddon, 300H, 56.17; Ivy Mcdonald, shot put, 28-03.00 and discus, 71-05. The Red Arrows finished fourth on Saturday at the GR Elite Invitational. Lowell took advantage of some great competition to score some nice PR’s, grab some hardware, and post some national leading times at the Grand Rapids Elite Invitational. The meet was separated by open events but also had ELITE events that required qualifying marks to participate. Annika and Katrina Sandman opened the elite action in the mile, with two great races, as Annika took silver medalist honors in 4:59.34 and Katrina set a

new PR going 5:04.38. The meet had timing cameras at the 1600m mark which captured Annika at 4:57 and Kat at 5:02. Katrina hit the track an hour later in the elite 800m and raced a PR time of 2:18.83, which was less than a second from Rachael Walters school record, and an hour after that, Annika set the new school record in winning the 3200m going 10:31, which is the 53rd best HS time in the US. Leah Krieger fit in a great 100H race, as she took runner-up honors in a PR 16.55. Lowell’s pole vault team led the way for the field events, as Isabel German won the event going 11-06 and just missing her attempts at 11-

09, while Brooklyn Wobma hit a new PR going 9-00. Placing first for the Arrows were: Annika Sandman, 3200, 10:31.45 (school record) and Isabel German, pole vault, 11-06. Second place finishers were: Leah Krieger, 100H, 16.55 and Annika Sandman, MILE, 4:59.34 Other placers were: Katrina Sandman, 800m, 4th, 2:18.84 and mile, 5th, 5:04.38; Brooklyn Wobma, pole vault, 5th, 9-00; 3200m relay team, Latchaw, Kinney, Perfitt,Young, 8th, 11:01.39; SMR: Seddon, Huhn, German, Kreiger, 8th, 2:37.59

- GOLF

Golf team takes tee at PGA course

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Not many Lowell golf teams get to play a course that stages a PGA Tournament, but this year’s is among the lucky few! The Red Arrows competed last Monday at the UD Jesuit Invitational hosted, at the Detroit Golf Club, host of the PGA’s Rocket Mortgage Classic.

“It was quite the trip;

snow, wind, traffic jams, a change from the north course to the south course due to some green damage, and also a few small bumps in our golf game. Overall, we had a great time, but we wanted to show Michigan we were better than we showed,” head coach, Tom Koert, said of Monday. The Red Arrows placed 11th out of 20 teams, most of which reside in Division

1. Drew Veldman shot a 73 on the unusual par 68 layout, tying for seventh, overall, and medaling. Cam Sluss (79), Patrick de Voest (81), and Trevor Mead (85) followed. Nicholas Lothian (91) was the fifth score, but no tiebreaker factored in on Monday. Grand Rapids Christian went low and shot a 285. An impressive 13 over par as a team. “G.R. Christian



The boys golf team enjoys the hospitality at the famed Detroit Golf Club (Elyse and Tara Veldman)

is a powerful team and it shows with the rankings,” Koert added of Lowell’s conference rival. UD Jesuit, the Traverse City Schools, East Lansing, Grosse Pointe South, and Spring Lake all beat Lowell. Lowell defeated Livonia Franklin, Lansing Catholic, Detroit Catholic Central B, Lutheran North, Tawas Area, Grosse Ile, Royal Oak Shrine, Fraser, and Livonia Churchill. Thursday, Lowell traveled back to Bedford Valley for the Gull Lake Invitational, and despite a higher overall score, Lowell shot better, to par in a third-place finish behind champion and host, Gull Lake, as well as runner-up

Vicksburg. The Red Arrows paced by Cam Sluss shot a 324, seven strokes off first. Sluss had a 77. Veldman (80), de Voest (82), and Lothian (85) followed in order. Lowell knocked off GR Catholic Central, Byron Center, Portage Central, Otsego, East Lansing, Charlevoix, Kalamazoo Hackett, Plainwell, Marshall, Edwardsburg, Zeeland West, Thornapple Kellogg, Stevensville Lakeshore, Zeeland East, Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo Central, Three Rivers, Portage Northern, BC Lakeview, and BC Pennfield. “It’s a state finals course, so we were happy to beat-out some really good programs, but we all

know we can play with most anyone. We’re currently ranked 14th in all Divisions in MI. Cameron Sluss earned a T - 5th to medal here, he and Drew Veldman both have taken home three medals in our tournaments and this is still April. Patrick and Nicholas have also earned a top-ten tournament medal, as well. This shows we have depth as a team,” Coach said. Lowell is at Watermark and Kent Country Club for conference jamborees this week before heading up north to Big Rapids for the Katke Invitational, home of Ferris State University’s golf program. It will be an important tune-up for regionals on May 31st, also hosted at Katke.

- CREW

Crew team takes on Grand River

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The Lowell crew club competed this past weekend at the GRHS Invitational Regatta hosted, at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids. “There were 15 teams present, 3 from Illinois, 1 from Ohio, 2 from the east side of the state and the rest were from west Michigan. A very competitive field of teams, head coach David Cadwallader and I are very proud of how our team performed,” crew club coach, Sam Stoner, said afterwards. The following results are available from the crew club; it should be noted that qualifying for the finals is extremely difficult given the nature of the competition. Varsity Womens 4x -

7:13.32 did not qualify for the finals. Rowers - Mara Carbines, Maya Kemp, Gianna Gates-Duprey, and Elizabeth Plank Juniors Mens 4+ - 6:36:17 did not qualify for the finals. Rowers - Conner Rapson, Gabriel Selover, Seth Harvey, and Jaydon Franks. Coxswain - Anderson Stoner Varsity Womens 1x Final - 8:46:60 4th Place. Rower - Maya Kemp Varsity Mens 2x - 7:22:52 did not qualify for the finals. Rowers - Max Stoner and Harper Postema Varsity Womens LightWeight 4+ - 7:39:71 did not qualify for the finals. Rowers - Gianna Gates-Duprey, Gabs Stodola, Brooke Shellenbarger, Elizabeth Plank Coxswain - Ania Fleszar

Varsity Mens 1x - 6:36:73 did not qualify for the finals. Rower - Patrick Hoke Varsity Womens 2x - 8:32:38 did not qualify for the finals. Rowers - Mara Carbines and Gwen Hoke Varsity Mens 4x - 6:04:56 did not qualify for the finals. Rowers - Patrick Hoke, Max Stoner, Harper Postema, and Gabriel Selover Novice Womens 4+ - 9:26:90 did not qualify for the finals. Rowers - Brooke Shellenbarger, Gwen Hoke, Lumoon Franks, and Gabs Stodola. Coxswain - Ania Fleszar Novice Mens 4+ - 6:44:65 did not qualify for the finals. Rowers - Conner Rapson, Seth Harvey, Jayden Franks, and Hiyori Elderd. Coxswain - Anderson Stoner.

Red Arrow

- LACROSSE

SPORTS

Boys lacrosse keeping busy with loaded schedule

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Seven games in 11 days has made for a busy stretch for the Red Arrow boys lacrosse team. Starting with a 10-6 win over the Zeeland co-op and ending with Saturday’s home stand against Forest Hills Eastern, the Red Arrows have seen plenty of action.

The boys were having fun during their home game against Reeths-Puffer, an 18-6 win where the Red Arrows were in control throughout. The fourth quarter was full of smiles for the boys team, after a three-game tournament just last weekend, where Lowell lost a one-goal game to Portage Northern but bounced back with two comfortable wins over Portage Central and Holt.

Jackson Roudabush, CJ Steinebach, and Andrew Rogers gave Lowell opening

goals and a 3-1 lead over the visiting Rockets. A turnover allowed Connor Lixie to go airborne and get an interception that he fed to Roudabush for his second of the game and a 4-1 lead. Rogers slung his second of the game in, during the second quarter, to make it 5-2, and Lowell wouldn’t look back.

The lopsided nature of the game allowed Lowell plenty of opportunity to rotate players. Tevin VanderBoon had a good night in net at the goalie position.

Early last week was another home victory, this one a bit narrower in a win over the co-op team from Zeeland East and Zeeland West. Zeeland struck first making it 2-0.

Prior to the game, the coaching staff, led by head coach, Austin Buckius, made note of how big the game

was for the team, looking to bounce back after a loss to Grand Ledge the weekend prior.

Lixie got the scoring started on a fake-out moving and slung a cross-body shot toward the net, where contact was made, and Lixie went tumbling to the turf as the ball hit the back of the net. Following a third Zeeland goal, Andrew Rogers scored the next two to tie the game.

Lowell took the lead on a Roudabush goal, as he sat on the left side and got a well-timed pass from Weston Godbold. It was Godbold’s turn to score next, as he was assisted by Rogers from behind the net, to give Lowell a 5-3 lead from which they never relinquished the lead in a 10-6 win.

Last Thursday, Lowell was on the road at Byron Center, where Rogers and CJ Steinebach scored goals in the 8-3 loss.



Andrew Rogers celebrates a goal late against Reeths-Puffer.

Lowell closed out the run of games with a 12-6 loss to FHE and 12-9 loss at West Ottawa.

The girls team fell to Grandville 14-9 and Grand Rapids Christian 19-6 in last week’s results. They are 2-7 with their Hero Game this upcoming weekend at LHS, where each player will play in honor of a Hero in their lives. If there’s one girls lacrosse game you should get to, it’s definitely this one. Game starts at 12:00 against Hudsonville, with the honoree ceremony taking place prior.

- SOCCER

Soccer digs in against FHC

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Two quick goals had the rest of the OK White on notice as Lowell led defending state champion, Forest Hills Central, on the road 2-0, thanks to RJ Wagamon and Ally Seevers.

The Red Arrows held that lead into halftime, hoping to notch their first win against the Rangers since 2015. Forest Hills Central has always had a strong girls soccer program, and their 35-2 record, historically, against the Red Arrows, is proof of that.

Then, FHC flipped a switch and seemed to find a groove to their game, winning 50-50’s and controlling possession. The home squad dominated the

second half, scoring the first, before having a goal disallowed for offsides. It was a big moment, as FHC thought they had tied the game with plenty of time left, but one of their players obstructed Lowell goalkeeper Aubree Lee’s line of vision, and even though not directly involved in the goal scoring, it was enough to draw the offsides flag. Lowell would cling to their lead as long as they could, before the Rangers eventually equalized, with just ten minutes to play and the game ended 2-2. The draw was the first ever in 38 games between the two programs.

Wagamon and Emily Seevers were credited with

assists. Aubree Lee had 20 saves in goal. In the late week game, Lowell held Grand Rapids Christian to a scoreless draw. It was just the second tie in 22 games between those two programs.

The Red Arrows will debut their individual player banners, as well as their team banner hanging on the fence of the North Athletic Complex. Home games this week are Monday and Wednesday against East Grand Rapids and Northview, then they travel to Jenison for a non-conference game on Friday. The Pioneers are ranked third in the state, in Division 2, in the latest round of rankings.

- BOYS TRACK

Lowell grabs two at Greenville double dual

submitted by Coach Paul Judd

Balanced scoring was the recipe for success, as the Lowell boys track team scored wins against Northview and host Greenville. There were some giant personal records (PR), in addition to the scoring, as Ramsey Ponchaud won the pole vault going 13-00, while Benjamin Bromley had a ten-foot PR in the discus going 131 feet. Lowell also received a couple of wins in the relays, as they ran season best times in the 800m and 1600m, respectively. Other first place finishers were Chris Wigger in the 300H and Isaac Graham in the discus.

Final team scores were: Lowell 77, Greenville 59 and Lowell 80, Northview 58

Placing first for the Arrows were: Levi Mills, 400m, 52.97; Christopher Wigger, 300H, 43.13; Ramsey Ponchaud, pole vault, 13-00; Isaac Graham, discus, 139-04; 800M relay team of: Wigger, Wittenbach, Mills, Young, 1:35.27 and 1600m relay team of: Polczak,

Simmet, Wittenbach, Mills, 3:38.28

Second place finishers were: Xavier Young, 100m, 11.70; Rhys Sandman, 3200m, 11:12.67; Ramsey Ponchaud, 300H, 43.21; Isaac Graham, shot put, 43-07 and Benjamin Bromley, discus, 131-00

Third place finishers were: Dannion Simmet, 800m, 2:11.94; Benjamin Bromley, 1600m, 4:56.64; Antonio Casarez, 3200m, 11:22.34; Ramsey Ponchaud, 110HH, 17.09; Drew Weber, shot put, 42-05.75 and Noah VanLaan, high jump, 5-06 and long jump, 18-02.25.

On Saturday, the Red Arrows had a chance to compete against the best West Michigan had to offer at the GR Elite Invitational. The Arrows started the day with PR’s across the board in the open 1600m and capped the morning off with a third-place finish in the shuttle hurdle relay, with a team of Ramsey Ponchaud, Christopher Wigger, Rasmus Rewitz, and Noah VanLaan. The afternoon was highlighted with a

runner-up finish by the SMR team of Brady Smith, Xavier Young, Brenden Wittenbach, and Levi Mills going 2:05.32.

Placing for the Arrows were: SMR team of Smith, Young, Wittenbach, Mills, second place, 2:05.32; shuttle hurdle relay team of Ponchaud, Wigger, Rewitz, VanLaan, third, 1:02.55.

Other placers were: Ramsey Ponchaud, pole vault, sixth, 11-06; 800M relay team of: Wigger, Wittenbach, Mills, Young, sixth, 1:34.66; 3200m relay team of: Byrne, Sandman, Hekman, Morrell, eighth, 9:40.43; DMR team of: Bromley, Polczak, Iakiri, Casarez, seventh, 12:05.85.

GO
TEAM,
GO!



Leah Davidson heads the ball away at Forest Hills Central.

obituaries

BERGY

Donald “Don” Bergy, age 88 of Lowell, passed away Thursday, April 27, 2023. He was preceded in death by his son, Mike Bergy. Don is survived by his wife, Sondra Bergy; children, Tim (Alana Valentine) Bergy, Tom (Tammy) Bergy; daughter-in-law, Susan (Jay) Block; grandchildren, Travis, Kari, Dakota, Montana, Blake; great-grandchildren, Wesley and Lyla; brothers, Dale (Cindy) Bergy; sister, Lois Bergy; several nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Army as Military Police. After serving his country he came home to run the family dairy farm in Lowell until he retired. Don and Sondra enjoyed wintering in Florida together and spending time with their grandkids. His hobbies included woodworking, golf, fishing, and he was active within the Lions Club and 4-H. The family would like to give a special thanks to Karis, Rita, and the entire staff of Faith Hospice for their care and compassion. Visitation with the family will be from 6-8 pm on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services will take place at 11 am on Monday, May 1, 2023, at the funeral home with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Nancy Patera officiating. Memorial contributions can be made to Helen Devos Childrens Hospital, <https://give.spectrumhealth.org/donate> or Faith Hospice, <https://faithhospicecare.org/donate/>.



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State Senator Albert honored as Legislator of the Year

The Michigan Municipal League has named State Senator, Thomas Albert, as the League’s 2023 Legislator of the Year.

Senator Albert, R-Lowell, received the recognition this week during the League’s 2023 CapCon in Lansing.

“Senator Albert’s experience and insights have been critical on a variety of issues regarding municipal finance reform, water, and housing. His leadership has been pivotal for our local communities,” said Dan Gilmartin, CEO and Executive Director of the League. “We’re grateful for his expertise and his strong advocacy, on behalf of his district, and on issues important to local governments across the state.”

Albert was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2016. Once elected, he earned the trust of his local community by serving as their State Representative in the Michigan Legislature the past six years. He served as House Appropriations Chair during the 2021/22 legislative session. In November of 2022, he was elected to his first term in Senate where he continues to serve on the Appropriations Committee. He is also the top-ranked Republican on the General Government budget.

In 2022, in his role as House Appropriations Chair, he championed some of the largest investments in communities in recent memory. He helped negotiate a state budget and supplemental appropriations that invested nearly \$2 billion in water infrastructure—the largest increase in revenue sharing in the last decade—and hundreds of millions of dollars for placemaking grants and housing.

Among his signature achievements is championing a \$750 million investment in a Municipal Pension Debt Relief Grant Program, which will provide direct assistance to municipalities to help pay down municipal pension debt. This targeted investment, in our most-underfunded communities, will address one of the key-cost drivers within their municipal budgets. This is a historic investment that will undoubtedly increase the collective strength of communities across Michigan.

“I am deeply honored to be recognized with this award from the League,” Albert said. “Strengthening the finances and infrastructure of local communities is an important part of making Michigan an even better place to live, work and raise a family.”

Senator Albert received the Legislator of the Year honor, along with Senate Majority Leader, Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids.

About the Legislator of the Year Award: The honor is presented each year to lawmakers for their instrumental actions in the Michigan State Legislature on behalf of local communities. These individuals are recognized for their efforts in the passage of legislation that will benefit local governments or who have fought consistently to support local government.

About the League: Michigan Municipal League is dedicated to making Michigan’s communities better by thoughtfully innovating programs, energetically connecting ideas and people, actively serving members with resources and services, and passionately inspiring positive change for Michigan’s greatest centers of potential: its communities. The League advocates on behalf of its member communities in Lansing, Washington, D.C., and the courts; provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed municipal officials; and assists municipal leaders in administering services to their communities through League programs and services. Learn more at mml.org.



Your personal my Social Security account is for every stage in your career

By Hillary Hatch, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Your personal my Social Security account is here for you at every stage of your career. You don’t have to be retired or even close to retirement to take advantage of it. With an account, you can conduct much of your Social Security business online. For example, you can request a replacement Social Security card (in most states and the District of Columbia) whether you receive benefits or not.

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Court telephone no.
616-632-5480

Estate of MARY ANN WESLOW, Deceased. Date of birth: 11/10/1929

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, MARY ANN WESLOW, died 3/18/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims

against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kent County Probate Court, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 4/27/2023

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misc.

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

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

T L T C B W T E T E R C N O C B S E C A
K M S S N G A Y A D M I W S G O L B S A
R A S E T G P R I N A D P A E K K P K M
O E S U E B I N C H A N G E O R D E R W
W B U R A A P S T H S L O D U Y B M W N
E R L S O S U W E K I U I I R Y T Y L I
S B I T B E N S P D N T T E N O O E R Y
A K A R I M C A P T C S E O K W P T O H
C R H L D E H U D G L L I C N N Y N U R
L T U M S N L L A O G T Y I T A D A G A
W A M N W T I C A K C T L C T A G C H T
Y U B C S U S D B U R A W R G B K G I R
P R T O B B T D R E S C D G W E N S N O M
L N U H R W R T P I O Y R G T I I U O M
P Y U I P Y S O A S W E T R K L R P M I
A Y C L W N R R T G G P O L O U T P T S
C H N A O P P G H A I P U I K B N O H R
I T L C Y P O G T H E A B B M U G R A U
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- GIRLS TRACK

SPORTS



Grading the Detroit Lions draft

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Overall Grade - B

Do you trust Detroit Lions general manager, Brad Holmes, or do you not? That’s the easiest way to break down this year’s NFL Draft for the Detroit Lions, who had some questionable reaches, but also filled important team needs and brought in guys who will make an impact on day-one. The broad consensus from experts was the Lions day-one selections were a bit of a stretch, but they made up for it the following two days. Let’s take a look at the Lions picks.

R1 (12): RB Jahmyr Gibbs, Alabama - Grade D

The Lions, moving back from pick six to 12, and the trade with Arizona, made sense. The pick itself didn’t quite make sense though. Gibbs fills an immediate hole with the departure of D’Andre Swift, traded to the Eagles. There’s no doubting Gibbs’ ability, however, this felt like one of the bigger reaches of the first-round with Gibbs’ projected in the second-round.

Detroit likes Gibbs for his versatility and ability as a playmaker, forming a duo with new Lions RB David

Montgomery. This was just too big of a reach for a player who almost certainly would’ve been available at pick 34.

R1 (18): LB Jack Campbell, Iowa - Grade B-

Analysts thought Campbell was also a bit of a stretch, the best linebacker on the board, but many thought he would be available at 34. He did have the second highest grade of any linebacker in college football last season, on an Iowa team with a stout defense. Linebacker isn’t a popular first-round pick, but Detroit needed this position

filled and got the best guy for the job. It’s just a value thing; does reaching up pay off in the long run?

“I’m so excited to be teammates with Jack again; phenomenal football player, even better human. I can’t wait to be back in the building with him again,” fellow draft pick, Sam LaPorta, said of Campbell.

R2 (34): TE Sam LaPorta, Iowa - Grade B+

Another Iowa pick and Iowa TE. The Lions find TJ Hockenson’s potential long-term replacement from the exact same college. This one was all about choice. Detroit had the option to pick Notre

Dame TE Michael Mayer with this pick, but felt LaPorta was the better fit.

It seemed as though the Lions had their list of guys and stuck to it, even if mock drafts seemed to think Mayer was the better player. With WR Jameson Williams out for the first part of the season, due to a suspension for gambling in the team’s Allen Park facility, an added weapon for Jared Goff will be of huge importance. He’s an average blocker but offers plenty of athleticism. Brock Wright, Shane Zylstra, and James Mitchell all saw field time last year, filling-in for Hockenson, so it will be interesting to see this year’s depth chart.

R3 (96): DI Brodrick Martin, Western Kentucky - Grade D+

This one felt like another reach, as Martin wasn’t projected to go until day three, and the Lions gave up a lot of draft capital to get this one. They clearly targeted Martin as somebody for the nose-tackle position at 6-foot-5, 337 pounds, with 35-inch arms. It’s just highly probable Martin would’ve been available if the Lions hadn’t traded-up, but Head Coach Dan Campbell clearly wanted Martin to be selected.

R5 (152): OT Colby Sorsdal, William & Mary - Grade B

Not a flashy pick at 6-5, 304 lbs, but round-five selections rarely are. Add in an FCS school and a trench position, and most people were probably wondering who this guy was.

Depth is never a bad thing on the offensive line and Sorsdal hasn’t allowed a sack since 2019.

R6 (219): WR Antoine Green, North Carolina - Grade A

It’s hard to be critical of a late-round pick. These are all about potential. There are always some diamonds in the rough, like Tom Brady, and even Amon Ra St. Brown, drafted at 112 by the Lions in 2021.

The Lions could use wide receiver depth, especially early in the season, so Greene is worth a shot.

Aidan Fitzpatrick commits to Davenport

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Michigan is a hotbed for Division 2 college football, and Davenport is at the heart of that growing trend. Impressive for a team that started their first season in 2016. One Lowell football player will be a part of that next fall, as Aidan Fitzpatrick has committed to play for the Panthers next season.

“You know, I didn’t think I’d get any offers after my senior year, but once the season was over, I got a lot of D3 offers. I received offers from Hope, Adrian, Alma, Albion, Kalamazoo, and Calvin. I reached out to Davenport recently, sending the coaches my film and my stats from my senior season. The coaches evaluated my film and met me in person at their spring game. A week later, I was offered a Preferred Walk On (PWO) spot. Once I researched Davenport’s programs and tuition, I decided to commit,” Aidan told the *Ledger*.

Fitzpatrick played primarily cornerback for the Red Arrows last season, where he earned all-conference honors. He is looking to major in marketing while at Davenport.

“What sold me on Davenport University is their great business school and affordable pricing. Another reason is that I am

a very competitive person, so playing for one of the best Division 2 schools in the nation really interested me.”

Davenport is in a state of Division 2 football powers. Grand Valley State and Ferris State each have national championships to their name and have cemented themselves among the powerhouses of Division 2. Davenport found themselves ranked fifth in the region at the end of last year, behind the Lakers, Bulldogs, Pittsburg State, and Ouchita Baptist. They finished the season 8-3.

Like many Lowell football players, Fitzpatrick started young, at the age of eight, through the Lowell youth program and football summer camps, and stuck with it ever since.

“I enjoyed playing the game of football from the very beginning and I couldn’t get enough of it! My parents pushed me to be the best I could be and were very supportive; this made it easy to keep pursuing the game of football,” Fitzpatrick said of his time as a youth player. Aidan participated in football, basketball, lacrosse, and track during his time at LHS. He’ll be wearing red jerseys again, soon enough, as he takes the field at Davenport.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD

On Thursday, May 25, 2023, the Bowne Township Board will hear public comments about the following Zoning Ordinance proposed amendments. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Bowne Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Ave SE, Alto, concerning the following:

1. Amendment to Section 2.05(d), Article 3.47, Section 5.04(r), and Section 14.05Z of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance to add Utility Anaerobic Biodigesters

The Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing to add a new Section 3.47 to Article 3 – General Provisions and amend Section 2.05(d) – Definitions, 5.04(r)- Agricultural (AG) District Special Land Uses, and 14.05Z – Special Land Uses to the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. This amendment would permit the installation of utility anaerobic biodigesters for private third-party entities on farms in the AG – Agricultural Zoning District. This amendment would allow a third party to use resources from the farm to generate natural gas to be piped off-site into the utility distribution network. A utility anaerobic biodigester is proposed to be permissible as a special land use only in the AG district. As a special land use, any applicant would have to seek approval from the Township Planning Commission before any utility operation could commence.

The Draft Ordinance amendment is available for review, inspection and purchase, and written comments will be received by 4:00 P.M. Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. All interested parties will be heard at the meeting.

...

I'd rather regret the risks that didn't work out than the chances I didn't take at all. ~Simone Biles

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

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 Jersey on May 5, 1983. My first acting experience came in school plays, and I made my television debut in 2002. I am perhaps best known for my action roles, including a witcher and a man of steel.

Answer: Henry Cavill

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
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31			32		33		34					35	
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	41				42				43		44		
		45						46		47		48	
49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64				65				
66					67				68				

CONSTRUCTION WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

CONSTRUCTION
WORD SEARCH

AGGREGATE
APPRAISAL
ARCHITECT
BASEMENT

BEAM
BID
BUILD
CASEWORK
CAULKING
CHANGE ORDER
CONCRETE

PROPERTY
PUNCHLIST
REPORT
ROUGH-IN
SLAB
SUPPORT

CONSTRUCTION
COST
DESIGN
DRYWALL
LABOR
LOAD
MORTAR

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to building.

A H M R E M

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

Answer: Hammer

CLUES ACROSS

1. Dull and flat

6. Baking measurement (abbr.)

9. Education-based groups

13. Not behind

14. Runners run them

15. Japanese ankle sock

16. Grave

17. Japanese industrial city

18. People of southern Ghana

19. Particular designs

21. Device fitted to something

22. Infections

23. Pirates' preferred alcohol

24. Expression of sympathy

25. Rock guitarist's tool

28. Neither

29. Ancient city of Egypt

31. You __ what you sow

33. Ruined

36. Narrations

38. Body art (slang)

39. Fencing sword

41. Apartment buildings

44. Type of missile

45. Fathers

46. Extremely high frequency

48. Type of school

49. Incorrect letters

51. Two-year-old sheep

52. Nasty manner

54. One who accepts a bet

56. Indian prince

60. Asian country

61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music

62. "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann

63. Detailed criteria

64. Son of Shem

65. Talked wildly

66. Discount

67. Not good

68. Growing out

CLUES DOWN

1. Actor Damon

2. A call used to greet someone

3. Part-time employee

4. Emaciation

5. "Westworld" actor Harris

6. Gains possession of

7. Relaxing spaces

8. 23rd star in a constellation

9. Northern grouse

10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh

11. Manila hemp

12. Unites muscle to bone

14. Makes deep cuts in

17. 18-year period between eclipses

20. Member of a people

inhabiting southern Benin

21. Synthetic rubbers

23. Unwelcome rodent

25. Expression of creative skill

26. Some is red

27. Seems less in impressive

29. Harry Kane's team

30. Gland secretion

32. Action of feeling sorrow

34. Disallow

35. Deceptive movement

37. More dried-up

40. Crimson

42. Actress Ryan

43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam

47. Accomplished American president

49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier

50. Sheep breed

52. Appetizer

53. Broadway actress Daisy

55. Influential film critic

56. NY Giants ownership family

57. Type of script

58. Assist

59. London park

61. Bar bill

65. In reply indicator

2023

FOOD FIGHT

FROM the heart

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Match Used: \$5,175.00

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2023 FOOD FIGHT FROM the heart

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	TOTALS
NORTH	7025	0	0	0	0	7025
SOUTH	11375	0	0	0	0	11375

BARREL LOCATIONS

North Locations:

Litehouse Family YMCA, Fifth Third Bank, Alpha Care Center, Arby's, BC Pizza, Family Dentistry of Lowell, Grand River Orthodontics, Lowell Chamber of Commerce, Lowell City Hall, Lowell Light and Power, LowellArts, New Image Sun & Spa, North Star Antiques, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Red Barn Market, Retro Electric Arcade, Showboat Spirits and Fine Wine

South Locations

Ace in the Lowell, AHA of Lowell, AutoZone, Bella Grace Boutique, Bettie's Pages, Chicken and Fish Express, Fish & Finn Outfitters, Heidi's Farm Stand, Huntington Bank, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Lavender and Lace Boutique, Lowell Chamber of Commerce, Lowell Fire Department, Mane Salon & Company, Mi Hometown Furnishings, Milo's Kid's Consignment, Schneider Manor, Senior Neighbors, The Moose Lodge, Three Brothers Pizza

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Security Code

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It's May and that can only mean one thing for FROM - the launch of our annual Food Fight Campaign!

Now through June 1 we're encouraging everyone in our community to give from the heart in this friendly but fierce competition to see who can raise the most resources!

The 14th annual campaign divides the Greater Lowell community into two teams - North and South with M-21 splitting the teams. Each dollar and food item that is donated to FROM counts as a point for that team.

For the last Food Fight Campaign, nearly \$143,000 was raised and more than 11,000 food items were donated!

To get involved you can make a financial donation, drop off food to barrels around town, or eat at a participating restaurant during their FROM Food Fight Benefit Night!

There will be four benefit nights: May 2 (Big Boiler 4-9PM), May 9 (Flat River Grill), May 17 (BC Pizza) and May 30 (Culver's 5-8PM).

Thank you for joining the fight!