



page 6

Museum Tour



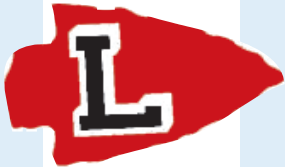
page 8

Fashion Show



page 9

Lowell Area
Schools Sports



page 10, 11 & 14

\$1.00



Rookies Free Comic Book Day
Mini-Comic Con a success despite rain

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Free Comic Book Day is a yearly promotional event, organized by Diamond Comics Distributors, to attract new readers to independent comic book stores. This year, the event fell on Saturday, May 6, and Lowell's local comic shop, Rookies Sportscards Plus, celebrated with its yearly mini-comic book convention. Participants enjoyed free comics, deals, special guests, and cosplayers dressed in their favorite superhero getups.

Matt Roth ran the cash register at Rookies during the 10 am to 5 pm event. "It's been pretty steady all day," Roth said. Roth's spirits were high, but already, by 1 pm, he was in



Comic Book Day, continued page 2

Rookies owner, Jack Reedy, joins an A-list lineup of superheroes, and even a couple of villains, for the traditional Free Comic Book Day cosplay roundup photo.

Pickleball at park
paused for patch-up project

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Those who have visited or driven by Lowell Township's North Grand Riverfront Park off Bowes Road recently may have noticed the park's pickleball court torn down and in disarray. The apparent destruction was not the result of

vandalism, plate tectonics, or a localized tornado—if it were, one would not find the fencing properly coiled and the poles lined up for easy inventorying—but of the township's desire to rehabilitate and resurface the pickleball court. Jerry Hale is the Lowell Township supervisor.

"There are a lot of things that went wrong," Hale said in reference to the reason for the renovation.

The concrete slab beneath the rubberized surface began to crack over time, which caused the surface itself to crack

Pickleball,
continued page 2



Coils of chain-link fabric and piles of poles, at North Grand Riverfront Park, await kinder weather for the completion of the pickleball court renovation.

Swisslane Farms
biodigester to
convert manure into
renewable energy

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

On Monday, March 20, 2023, the Bowne Township Planning Commission held a hearing on draft zoning amendments to allow for construction of a manure management biodigester at Swisslane Farms. When public comment overflowed the space and time allotted to this matter, the Planning Commission agreed to reconvene for a public hearing at Alto Elementary School on the evening of Tuesday, April 18, 2023, with approximately 100 members of the public in attendance. The Planning Commission voted unanimously, with one abstention/recusal, to recommend the zoning amendments for approval by the Township Board.

The whole thing started when representatives from

Swisslane Farms reached out to Consumers Energy. The historic dairy farm traces its roots back to Swiss farmer, Fredrick Oesch, who traveled to the United States in 1904 and bought the 91-acre plot, that the farm now sits atop, in 1915. Today, the farm is still owned and operated by the Oesch's, who wished to partner with Consumers in order to reach their own private sustainability goals, while also seeing what they can do to be part of the clean-energy revolution across the state.

Joshua Paciorek is the media contact for Consumers Energy operations in Kent County. "We know that Michigan is going to need natural gas for years to come," Paciorek said. "Renewable natural gas is an exciting

Biodigester,
continued page 3

Biodigester, continued

opportunity to help the environment and the economy.”

There’s a palpable feeling of excitement that comes from everyone at Swisslane Farms, and Consumers Energy, who is involved in the project. Though cow manure is technically a waste product, farmers have been using it to their benefit for years as a crop fertilizer and a soil amendment. This is because cow manure is high in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, nutrients that are key to the facilitation of plant growth. The excitement surrounding the manure biodigester comes from the possibility that the same substance might be used to heat homes in the community without the use of non-renewable resources or problematic processes like fracking, and knowing that this form of energy is solvent so long as there are cows on the earth.

The problem with manure now is the same as it has been for hundreds of years; cow manure stinks, and some neighbors have cited concerns about the Swisslane Farms biodigester, due to problems that beset a biodigester in Lowell. The Lowell biodigester, located at the

Litehouse salad dressing production facility, was eventually closed down, due to a smell of rotting food that wafted throughout the residential neighborhood surrounding it.

Dana Kirk, assistant professor of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University, explained to the crowd at the April 18 Planning Commission meeting that the Swisslane Farms biodigester is different. The design specifications are novel, technology has improved in the years since the failure of Lowell’s unit, and the Litehouse biodigester was not a manure biodigester; the terrible smell emitted from the facility resulted from taking a variety of different food byproducts and pumping them into the public sanitary sewer systems. The proposed zoning amendments would only allow manure biodigesters in Bowne Township, not food-waste biodigesters.

“We’re relying on the biology and the system to take that organic waste and convert it into methane or carbon dioxide and biogas,” said Kirk. “When you don’t feed it a balanced diet, it’s going to perform just like

you or I would.”

The zoning amendment that would allow Swisslane Farms to have an on-site manure biodigester will be presented before the Bowne Township Board on Monday, May 15, 2023. Though the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance does not explicitly address manure management biodigesters for farms, such facilities would likely only be allowed in industrial zoning districts. If Bowne Township were the entity responsible for the construction and use of the manure biodigester, it is likely that the Michigan Right to Farm Act would preempt any township zoning ordinances. However, since Consumers Energy Company is responsible for building and operating the proposed biodigester, it would be fully subject to zoning ordinance.

Michigan law prohibits townships from being arbitrary, unreasonable, or exclusionary in their zoning decisions, and there is a concern that prohibition of non-industrial farm biodigesters could open the township to legal action. An amendment to Bowne Township zoning



Once installed, the joint Swisslane Farms/Consumers Energy manure biodigester in Bowne Township will turn waste from dairy cows into renewable natural-heating gas for nearby Consumers customers, and the only thing standing in the way, currently, is Bowne Township zoning ordinance.

ordinance could prevent such problems, and the Planning Commission has been working on such an amendment since August 15, 2022.

Beyond the May 15 board meeting, the project’s timeline is unclear. “As we look ahead, I don’t have any news to share on the timeline,” Paciorek said, “but we’re continuing to work with Bowne and the local community to bring this to fruition.”

Consumers Energy is the state’s largest energy provider. A manure biodigester, like the one proposed for construction at Swisslane Farms, could produce enough renewable gas to heat about 1000 homes on a cold winter day. According to a clean energy plan approved in the summer of 2022, Consumers Energy intends to be one of the first power companies in the country to close all of their coal power plants. In addition to renewable natural gas from cow manure, the energy utility intends to purchase tens of thousands of acres of farmland in Michigan for the construction of solar farms, amounting to less than 2% of existing farmland in the state.

The manure biodigester, at Swisslane Farms in Bowne Township, is just one of many similar proposed facilities across the state. Many are already under construction, and some will begin operation shortly. As for the Swisslane Farms facility, construction cannot begin until the people of Bowne Township agree to the changes in local zoning ordinance. Those interested in expressing their opinion on the matter may do so at the upcoming Bowne Township Board meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7 pm.

Council probes into profanity at Lowell Pride

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council met on Monday, May 1, 2023, after the conclusion of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting held at the council’s regular 7:00 pm time slot. Though the docket of old and new business was brief, the council held a lengthy conversation regarding the use of profanity at Lowell

Pride, on the Riverwalk main stage, and this discussion dominated the meeting.

The conversation began when Lowell Pride board president, Nicole Lintemuth, requested the closure of 216 N. Monroe’s parking area, from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, June 3, 2023, the day of Pride. In response to the request, council member, Cliff Yankovich, expressed concerns to Lintemuth about foul language on the stage and a vendor’s sale of pipes in the form of realistic sex organs. Yankovich noted that he had expressed the same concern to Lintemuth previously at a Lowell Pride board meeting.

“We have created guidelines for the main stage,” Lintemuth said. “As for the vendors, we make sure everyone knows

this is an open area. We’re not going to police what everyone brings.”

Lintemuth suggested that different people have different standards for what kind of language is appropriate or not, and that the term “family-friendly” is defined differently by different people, as well. Yankovich was not satisfied with what he termed Lintemuth’s “vague” and “political” answers, and Mayor, Mike DeVore, shared frustration regarding her lack of interest in answering direct questions. Though Lintemuth noted there were guidelines, she would not clarify whether or not those guidelines addressed any of the council’s concerns or how Lowell Pride would act to enforce those guidelines.

Yankovich, who claimed his business, Chimera Design, is a sponsor of Lowell Pride, expressed concerns that bad actors might use the foul language as an opening to tank future pride gatherings. He noted that he has attended outdoor concerts in Lowell for over 20 years, and he’s never heard the type of

City Council, continued page 7



Lowell Pride Board President, Nicole Lintemuth, explains that the organization has guidelines for performers on the main stage.

COPY SERVICE

High speed
black & white & color

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell
897-9261

West Michigan
HOSPICE

Lowell’s Only Local Hospice!

“I wish we had called sooner.”

1-616-258-2680 | westmichianhospice.com

Book Corner

How to Sell a Haunted House

By Sierra Heishetter
contributing writer

How to Sell a Haunted House, by Grady Hendricks, is a mildly confusing, unnecessarily gorey, and pretty ridiculous book, with a cute emotional core and a wildly entertaining plot. If you think that sounds more than a little crazy, you'd be absolutely correct, but despite these interesting elements, the book was still somewhat enjoyable. Louise is happy with her life in Southern California. She loves her daughter, sees her parents when she can, and does not talk to her deadbeat, no-good brother, Mark. But when her parents die unexpectedly in a car accident, Mark and Louise must work together to sell their parents house. This task becomes harder than it seemed at first, as the house (and their family)

have secrets that start to present real and dangerous challenges to the siblings as they battle grief, each other's wills, and some killer puppets.

How to Sell a Haunted House is a ridiculous book. There are plot points that seem to come out of nowhere and take you completely off-guard, and there are events in the story that are just plain wacky. However, these shortcomings simply added to the entertainment value of the book, and while I can't say it was my favorite thing I've ever read, I certainly had a good time while reading.

Plot Details (via Goodreads)

When Louise finds out her parents have died, she dreads going home. She doesn't want to leave her

daughter with her ex and fly to Charleston. She doesn't want to deal with her family home, stuffed to the rafters with the remnants of her father's academic career and her mother's lifelong obsession with puppets and dolls. She doesn't want to learn how to live without the two people who knew and loved her best in the world.

Most of all, she doesn't want to deal with her brother, Mark, who never left their hometown, gets fired from one job after another, and resents her success. Unfortunately, she'll need his help to get the house ready for sale because it'll take more than some new paint on the walls and clearing out a lifetime of memories to get this place on the market.

But some houses don't want to be sold, and their home has other plans for both of them...

Louise is a very interesting protagonist to follow. She is, at times, very sympathetic, and at other times, borderline annoying

and hard to root for. The most beautiful part of the story is her relationship with her daughter, and even that part of the story felt lackluster and oddly skewed, at times. The most disappointing part was Louise's relationship with her brother, Mark. Their story started in a promising place, with their relationship fraught with tension over a sordid family history, but even as the siblings go on a harrowing journey, discovering the secrets of their pasts and becoming vulnerable with each other, the emotional core of their relationship seems to always revert back to how it was at the beginning. The pair continue to snipe at each other and fail to see their common ground. Eventually, they do find a resolution and a harmony, but it felt more cutesy than emotionally impactful.

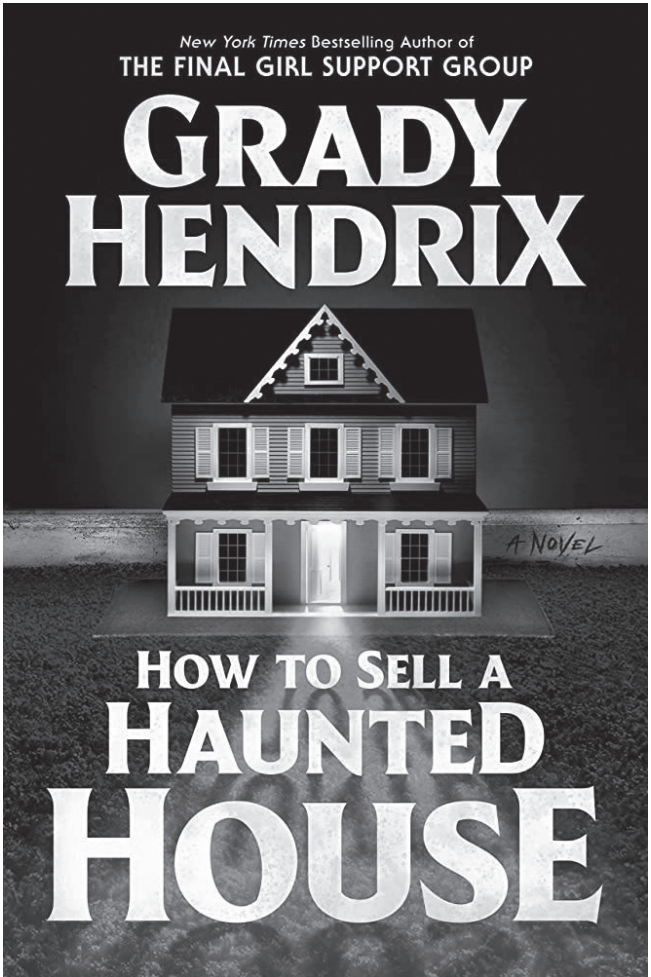
The other main issue I had with this book is the wildly chaotic tone. While I found it entertaining to follow such a wacky story, I also got whiplash from the way this story would move between moments of levity, wit, and general good humor to gritty, serious, emotionally vulnerable moments and back again with no transitional time in between them. This flip-flopping made the humor feel uncomfortable and unfunny, and the emotional moments fell flat with less impact than they could've had. The gritty serious moments also usually contained some really intense, frankly, gross moments of gore and violence that I had to skip

over at points to continue my reading experience. They were quite off-putting for me, and I almost put the book down multiple times because of them.

I picked up this book because I loved Grady Hendrix's last novel, *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Killing Vampires*.

disappointment for me was because I enjoyed her previous book so much! I think the main disparities lie in the characters, as I just never connected to, or felt sympathy for Louise and Mark in the way that I wanted to.

Despite all of my harsh words, I would still



That book also contained moments of levity, combined with gore and emotional vulnerability, but the balance of those elements worked in *The Southern Book Club* in a way that entirely missed the mark in *Haunted House*. Another reason this read was such a

recommend this book, if it feels interesting to you! I genuinely had moments of great joy during the reading process, most of them coming from the antagonist figure—Pupkin, Mark and Louise's dead mother's childhood puppet toy. Pupkin was an incredibly visceral character, honestly one of the most compelling of the bunch. He has uncertain motivations, but he is so absolutely terrifying that it doesn't matter. About halfway through the story, we learn about some truly messed-up events from the siblings' past and how Pupkin has orchestrated many moments in their lives. That was one of my favorite parts of any thriller I have ever read, not just my favorite part of this book.

I will admit to not being a huge fan of violent thrillers, but if you are, then this is probably a book you'd enjoy. It was just a little too uncanny for me to truly dive into the story, uninhibited. I also listened to this book on audio, which heightened the entire experience, and probably contributed to my uncomfortability with the book. It was a fantastic audio, just maybe a tad too realistic!



FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS PODCAST
with host **EMMA PALOVA**
Listen in for a chance to win a signed copy in the podcast book giveaway
<http://emmapalova123.podbean.com>,
and major podcasting apps

MAY SCHEDULE
Chloe Holiday, TBA May 5
Doug Kelly, Influencing, May 12
Hilton, Moore, North of Nelson, May 19
Victor Volkman, U.P. Reader 7th Volume

Sponsored by Doc Chavent & The Lowell Ledger

business directory



**RISNER'S
ROOFING
& HOME IMPROVEMENT**

SHANE RISNER • 616-897-1080
email: risnersroofing@gmail.com
website: risnersroofing.com



897-4123

**Arctic Inc.
Heating & Cooling**

• Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters
• Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems
• Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers

SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES

website: www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com e-mail: info@HeatingCoolingOnline.com



Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair
Dryer Vent Cleaning

INSURED • 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

Washers • Dryers • Refrigerators
Garbage Disposals • Stoves
• Dishwashers

RICH CURTIS • 897-5686
209 E. Main St., Lowell

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant

**W.J. WHEELER**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, MI 49331

897-7711



**ROGERS
NEIGHBORHOOD
REALTY** **UPSIZE
downsize
RIGHTSIZE**

*Buy with Confidence,
Sell with Success!*

RogersNeighborhoodRealty.com
317 E Main St, Lowell, MI - 616.644.0784

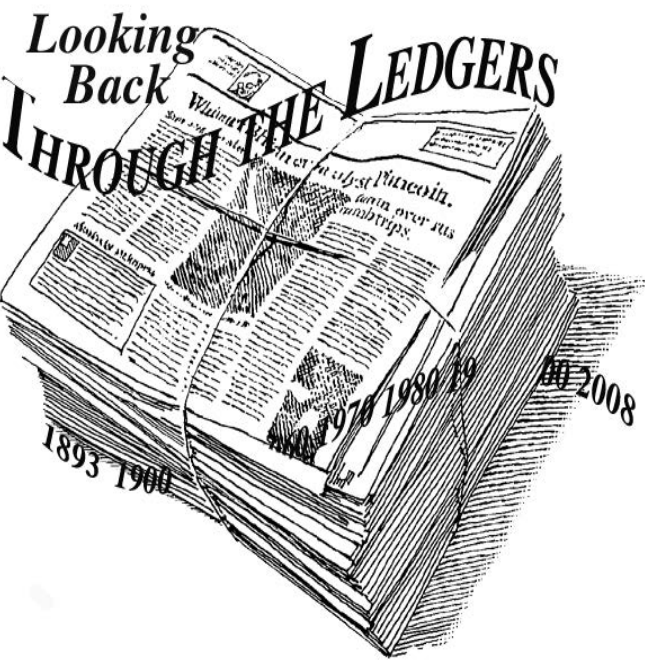
**JERRY'S LAWN MAINTENANCE
& SNOWPLOWING**

Spring Clean-Up Fertilizing
Lawn Maintenance Mosquito Spraying
Mole Control Bark

616-822-4168



viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 12, 1898

The following Lowell boys have volunteered to serve in the war with Spain: Clarence Long, Maurice Lang, Walter Gibson, Charles Dickerson, Sherman Reynolds, John Clark, Ulman Hawk, Tilden Employ, Hayes Rolf; and there may be others.

L.W. Cogswell and his son, W.A. Cogswell, were driving through the city with a load of furniture, when the horses became frightened and ran away. The horses smashed-up the wagon pretty badly before they stopped and both occupants were thrown out. They were badly shaken-up but no bones were broken.

The man who kicked on paying \$1.50 for a job of printing at this office one day last week, and then went to the other office and had to pay \$2.00 because he was ashamed to come back after having made an ass of himself, probably knows more now. Next time he is offered a good thing, perhaps he will have sense enough to take it.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 10, 1923

The people of south Lowell were shocked by the death, at her own hand, Mrs. Will Kilgus, whose body was found hanging in the basement of the Kilgus home. She had been in ill health since the birth of her little daughter, 3 1/2 years ago. Last fall, she suffered much with ulcerated teeth, which she had extracted in Grand Rapids and is believed to have been treated with cocaine. Since that time she has been despondent and did not seem like her naturally cheerful self.

Brother Maltman was well pleased with his audience Sunday afternoon. Preachers don't like to talk to empty pews; but when he has a bunch of pretty brides to talk to, well, that's different.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 13, 1948

The new income tax law, which became effective May 1, provides for more take-home pay for most workers, regardless of when they were earned.

Bonnie Lee, the 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Atkins, is being treated in the Ford Hospital, Detroit, for chronic diabetes.

The Alto American Legion has purchased the Curley School for their new home. In the near future,

the post will sponsor dancing every Friday night.

A good way to fight high prices is to keep your money off the market, that is, if you are able to save any after paying current living expenses. Many people can manage a budget to include a savings account and these are the folks who can find cash to invest in U.S. Savings Bonds.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life May 10, 1973

The Lowell City budget set at record \$652,940. Even though the new city budget will exceed that of the 1972-73 fiscal year, it is planned to cut the millage from \$16 thousand per assessed to \$15 per thousand.

Cherie Fay McKeage, Sharon Doyle and Angie Lynne Swan have entered the 1973 Miss Lowell Showboat Pageant.

Eight (8-track) tapes were taken from a a car on N. Hudson Street, sometime during the night of May 4. The larceny complaint is being investigated by the Lowell Police Department.

A 17-mile canoe race, for members of scouting organizations, will be held Saturday, June 9. The race begins at Chief Hazy Cloud Park in Ada and ends at Riverside Park.

Construction starts next week on the Storm Water-Sewer Separation project, and residents are warned about lots of flying dust.

State Rep. Martin Buth introduces a bill to abolish township annual meetings: lack of interest, and no provision for absentee voting on the annual budget.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 13, 1998

Marsha Wilcox and John Timpson were the recipients of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's "Person of the Year" award.

In the Lowell Area Schools preliminary budget

report for 1998-99, early estimates indicate that the district will overspend by \$374,00.

Sandy VanWeelden is retiring from Lowell School District, where she has been a teacher for 39 years. VanWeelden plans to do volunteer work for the school, Metropolitan Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House.

Junior Christie Johnson, broke the school record in the 400-meter run on Friday at Forest Hills Central, with a time of 59.1 seconds.

Construction has moved to the bridge on Main Street over the Flat River. Motorists on Main Street will find M-21 is reduced to one lane, with a temporary traffic signal. It is estimated that it will take four to eight weeks to complete the south half of the sluiceway/bridge.

outdoors

Fly Rod Gills

Dave Stegehuis

Fly fishing can be very interesting, as well as a challenging style of fishing. The process involves casting a floating or sinking fly line to a location which is likely to hold a receptive trout. The fly usually imitates the current insect-hatch on the river. Overhead tree limbs, log sweepers in the river, and overhanging brush requires accurate casting, without getting the fly or line hung up on the obstacles.

Trout are fussy eaters and tend to be a bit spooky, so the fisherman must present an acceptable lure with stealth. A knowledge of entomology is helpful in selecting a fly to match the hatch. Often the timing of the insect-hatch occurs after dark, which presents another challenge for the fisherman. In spite of, or because of, all these challenges, fly fishing for stream trout draws a large fraternity of avid anglers. There is great satisfaction in experiencing the best of nature on a personal level.

As inland lakes warm up in the spring, bluegills (gills) and crappies (specks) move into the shallows for comfort, food, and spawning tasks. The hungry fish become aggressive when defending their spawning beds, and therefore, will readily attack a well-placed lure. This presents a great opportunity for accomplished, as well as beginning anglers, alike, to experience exciting and productive fishing.

Casting off a dock or from a boat is not as perilous as dealing with brush and tree limbs on a fast-flowing river. Working the shoreline, while looking for fish activity and the light-colored circles of fanned-out spawning beds, will locate the panfish. A good tackle combination consists of a manual or automatic reel spooled with a weight forward fly line and a matching fly rod. A foam spider, tied to a long monofilament leader on the weight forward line, will be easy to cast, even against a stiff wind. Beginners can quickly learn basic casting techniques online or get coaching from an experienced fisherman.

Keep in mind, the larger fish are spawning, so release the big ones for seed and keep enough of the others for a great fish dinner. Fly fishing is sometimes perceived as too sophisticated for the casual fisherman. However, catching panfish on a fly rod is relatively easy and a whole lot of fun.

We love to hear from you!



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

The requirements are:

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

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



At Your Local Library

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

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, May 18, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. For adults 18+

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, May 24, 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

Summer Wonder Teen Crew Orientation

Saturday, May 27, 11 am - noon. Enthusiastic and energetic teen volunteers are wanted to help with Summer Wonder at KDL. Fun times are guaranteed, with the added benefit of service experience. Registration is required via a paper application available at your branch. Spaces are limited; contact your branch for more information. For ages 11-17.

to the editor

Dear Editor,

Recently, I experienced an unexpected moment. As I left Meijer check-out last Friday, a young man strolled by carrying two bunches of roses. He pulled a pink rose from one of the bundles and handed it to me. So unexpected. A random act of kindness.

He kept on walking and continued to surprise others with a rose. Just want him to know, it put a smile on my face and joy in my heart to know there are good, young people who never are recognized or thanked for the good they do. It made my day.

We all could use more random acts of kindness. You never know what a difference it might make in someone's day, by giving a smile or a "friendly hello" to someone you don't know. We all can use an extra kind word or deed.

Maybe next time, someone will be handing out \$20 bills! Who knows? Perhaps a 'Christmas in July' thing! Have a great day and be a blessing to someone.

Glad Fletcher
Lowell Township

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 220 W. Main
Date Built: 1902
Builder:
Vard S. Raymond
1st business: H. W. Hakes, undertaker

There was a small building at this site by 1885. It was a saloon (1885) and George Fuller's harness shop (1892-1900).

In 1902, Vard Raymond built a new, larger building to be a funeral parlor for H. W. Hakes. Hakes had been a traveling salesman for 20 years and now decided to change vocations. He bought out McConnell Furniture and Undertaking in April 1902, and immediately went to Embalming School. He earned his Embalming license and opened before the end of 1902. In 1906, Hakes leased the front of the building to U. B. Williams, Jeweler, and retained the rear and upstairs.

Orlo Yeiter Furniture occupied the building from c. 1918 to 1927 and Brezina & Roth, then Roth Furniture, Mortuary & Ambulance, from 1927-1937.

F. J. Hosley purchased the building from Vard Raymond in 1920 and Al Hermans purchased it in 1944. Originally, the building had three stories. A fire, in January 1945, destroyed the top floor and it was never rebuilt. At the time, Mr. Hermans was getting ready to open a Gambles store in February. The fire raged up the elevator shaft setting the entire rear of the building ablaze. It was during a snowstorm and a strong wind from the East, which made fighting the fire difficult. After five hours, the fire was put out. Smoke and water, damaged



Orlo Yeiter bagged a moose and hung it between his furniture Store and McQueen's Chevrolet. The hunting party included Orlo Yeiter, to the left of the moose, and E. D. McQueen, to the right. V.E. Ashley was the photographer.

the furniture stored on the second and third floors by Roth Furniture. Servicemen, who were stationed overseas, also had belongings stored here that were damaged. Neighboring businesses, R. E. Springett and Hill's Shoes and B. A. McQueen Garage, sustained damage too.

This building housed Gouls Self-Serve Grocery (1938) and Van's Supermarket (1940s). Al Hermans repaired the building after the fire and opened his Gambles Store in December, 1945, operating it for twenty years, until 1965. Next it was Pat & Neals' Antiques (1971), Gray's Carpet & Upholstery (1975-1986), Lowell Waterbeds (1985-1995), D & L Tax (2000), and The Lily Pad, a candle business, joined D & L in 2005. D & L Tax Service has continued at this location since 2000. There is an apartment on the second floor.



Photo taken after the fire of 1945 destroyed the 3rd floor. Van's Super Market had moved out and Al Hermans was trying to prepare for a Gambles store. The front reads "American Dealers M.F.G. Co."

area churches

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

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

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

"Praying and studying together"
Saturday service begins at 10:30 AM
10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell
616-987-0567
www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

10305 Bluewater Highway
(Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
Sunday Services - 10:30 am
www.gslc.church
Richard Boshoven, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

St. Mary Catholic Church

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org
Pastor Alyssa Anten
Pastor Shannon Jammal-Hollemans
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 6 PM
Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive
616-897-5906

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 • www.fbcloell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

discover. grow. share
621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance
WORSHIP
Traditional Service: 9 am
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



MAY 11

Carol Briggs,
Joel Uzarski, David
Kaczanowski, Gary Hoag,
Benjamin Hoag, Brad
Janowiak.

MAY 12

Michele Lindhout -
Barber, Jessica Covell,
Carrie Kiczenski, Ian
Duiven, Ryan Timmers,
Christine Vickers.

MAY 13

Melanie Ligman, Jean
Daverman, Ed Roth III.

MAY 14

Kathy Thomas.

MAY 15

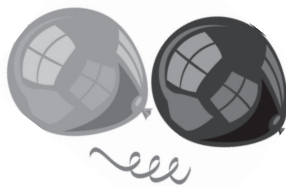
Maxine Gasper, Kass
Milanowski.

MAY 16

Richie Ford, Kristi
Ford, Angela Dixon, Ryan
Phillips, Janet Boerema, Lila
Crandall, Tess Milanowski.

MAY 17

Andy Dibble, Shawn
Witherell, Blake Yeiter.



City Council, continued

language used on the stage that he heard at the 2022 event. He also explained that vendors are policed at the Fallasburg Festival, and some vendors have been sent home because the wares they sold were not what they represented them to be.

"It's not just offending the people that are in attendance. It may be offending people who didn't attend but may be hearing," Yankovich said. Several citizens in attendance attested to how far sound carries over the river into residential areas.

As the argument began to devolve, Craig Fonger, of the Fallasburg Historical Society, took to the microphone and

provided some clarity to the conflict. Though Lowell Pride has been personally very important to Fonger, he expressed concerns about being a vendor at an event that is marketed as a family-friendly event but not held to those standards.

"I want Fallasburg Historical Society's brand to be protected," Fonger said. "I can't have our organization there this year."

Council members, City Manager, Mike Burns, and City Attorney, Jessica Wood, discussed clarifying the city's position on proper behavior for permitted outdoor events on city property, and council member, Marty Chambers, requested Lintemuth return with a copy of the guidelines

Lowell Pride distributes to performers. This prompted dissenting words from council member Leah Groves, who clarified that the permitting process was not actually on the agenda for the meeting.

“We’re changing the guidelines when we’ve already given her the permit for this year,” Groves said. “What’s on the agenda is the road closure. Are we going to close the road for the event or not?”

Though other legislative bodies have entertained, and even passed legislation prohibiting LGBTQ+ activities, events, and even their right to exist, as was seen with the recent passage of the anti-trans bill SB 254 by the Florida

House of Representatives, which opponents call “legal kidnapping,” each of the members of the Lowell City Council showed support for the continued existence of Lowell Pride. Though exchange occasionally became heated, the city council showed no evidence of prohibiting Pride’s mission to promote solidarity within and prevent discrimination against the greater LGBTQ+ community, and Lintemuth committed to following all applicable city ordinances when she applies for permits to hold Lowell Pride in 2024. Following Groves’ interjection, the city council voted unanimously to approve the closure for the already permitted 2023 Lowell Pride event.

In addition to the discussion of Lowell Pride,



Council member, Leah Groves, clarifies that Lowell Pride 2023 is already permitted to take place and that Lowell Pride Board President, Nicole Lintemuth, is only asking for a road closure for the event.

Police Chief, Chris Hurst, invited officer Ian Shears to stand as he offered Shears a Meritorious Service Citation. Those present at the previous city council meeting, on Monday, April 17, 2023, may remember that Hurst presented detective Aubrey Culver the Distinguished Service Award that evening. Shears, who Hurst described as a “triple threat” because of his training as a police officer, EMT, and firefighter, earned this citation for handling three difficult situations during the past year: a dangerous car theft, a suicide attempt, and an attack on his person during a well-being check.

The council also returned to the issue of right-of-way permit fees, which Greg Canfield brought up at the previous meeting. As part of Canfield's argument, he cited a statute without source that limited government fee costs, but attorney Wood noted that this statute applied to county, not city, fee structures. Department of

Public Works Director, Dan Czarnecki, proposed the city change the structure to a three-tier plan of \$50 for curb cuts, sidewalks, and driveway approaches, \$150 for water and sewer utilities, and \$250 for franchise utilities, and the council approved the change.

Before switching to closed session for discussion of state or federally exempt items, City Manager, Burns, announced that Czarnecki will retire from his position as Director of DPW on July 21, 2023.

The Lowell City Council meets the first and third Monday of each month, barring Monday holidays, which often delay the meeting until the following Tuesday. This means the next council meeting will take place on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 7 pm. Those interested in watching the May 1st meeting can find it on the City of Lowell YouTube channel, [@cityoflowell](#). The agenda can be found at the City of Lowell home page, [lowellmi.gov](#).

Slam the scam with Social Security

By Hillary Hatch,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

The Social Security Administration, and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG), continued to raise public awareness about Social Security



Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. "We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to protect the public and their critical benefits. We urge Americans to remain

vigilant, do not give out personal information or money, and report any scam attempts.”

Scammers use sophisticated tactics to trick potential victims into disclosing personal and financial

information. Typically, they use the five P's – Pretend, Prize or Problem, Pressure, and Payment. For example, scammers pretend they are from Social Security, in phone calls or emails, and claim there is a problem with the person's Social Security number. The scammer's caller ID may be spoofed to look like a legitimate government number. Scammers may also send fake documents to pressure people into complying with demands for information or money. Other common tactics include citing "badge numbers" and using fraudulent Social Security letterhead to target individuals for payment or personal information.

We will never:

- Tell you that your Social Security number is suspended.
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment.
- Threaten you with arrest.
- Ask for your credit or

debit card numbers over the phone.

- Request gift cards or cash.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information or money.

Our employees do contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, we call people who recently applied for benefits, are already receiving payments and require updates to their record, or requested a phone call from us. If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, we will mail a letter.

“Working with our law enforcement and private sector partners, to inform consumers about scammers and their deceptive practices,

remains a priority for my office. We will continue promoting National Slam the Scam Day to help protect consumers from these predators. Slamming the scam begins with consumers quickly taking a step to hang up the phone, or delete suspicious texts and emails, without responding to the scammers,” said Gail S. Ennis, Inspector General for the Social Security Administration. “That remains the easiest and most effective method to avoid falling prey to these vicious scams.”

To report a scam attempt, go to oig.ssa.gov. For more information, please visit www.ssa.gov/scam and www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts.



Local Newspapers are

←

IMPORTANT

▶▶▶

Any Way You Look At It



We keep you informed on
Community Events,
Lowell Area Schools, Sports,
Local Government,
Local Businesses and Much More!

▶▶

Support Your Local
News Source -
The Lowell Ledger

the ^{lowell}

— ledger —

Call To Begin Your Subscription Today!

105 N. Broadway • 897-9261 • ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com



Spring into the Past Museum Tour 2023

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

On a beautiful May weekend, hundreds of people explored the museums of the Tri-River Museum Network, which covers West Michigan's small town's museums located along the Flat, Grand, and Thornapple Rivers.

Special displays, on the theme of this year's Spring into the Past Tri-River Museum Network tour "Feeding the Family",

covered everything from pioneer-era kitchen utensils, and cookies to beef stew with carrots, made from scratch by a mother and daughter team, Katherine Krugger and Zellie, 9, who were re-enacting in front of the schoolhouse,

Approximately 30 area museums participated in the annual tour that received the 2021 Historical Society of Michigan State Award for Special Events. It is always held on the first weekend in May.



Saranac soda fountain display.



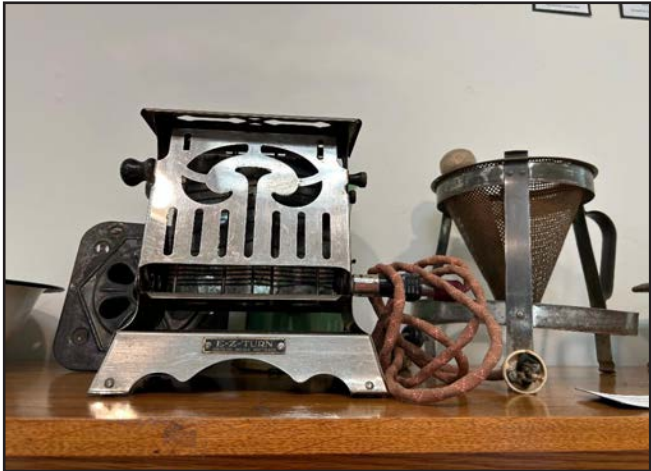
Wicker at Fallasburg.



Katherine Krugger and Zellie at Bowne Township.



Pat Nugent in front of a display at Grattan township.



Cooking utensils on display.

capitol matters



Sen.
Thomas Albert
R-Lowell

A better plan for Michigan schools and students

There's nothing more important than supporting and investing in our kids. That is why I crafted a comprehensive plan to consider as the Michigan Legislature finalizes a new state budget.

My plan shares some common ground with the proposals introduced by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her Democratic colleagues in the Legislature. But overall, my proposal would do more to improve outcomes for kids and put our schools in a better financial position moving forward. I am hopeful there will be opportunities to work together as the final budget takes shape.

Let me start with some key areas of agreement. I support raising the per-student foundation allowance by at least 5% — a minimum of \$9,608. I also am pleased that a Senate budget subcommittee included a proposal to fully fund special education, which I have fought for, consistently, during my time in the Legislature. The governor's initial proposal would shortchange these kids with a funding level at 87.5% — not the 100% clearly expected for the upcoming budget year.

My plan supports children before they enter the K-12 school system. Over the past two years, I was proud to help lead sustainable steps to boost the Great Start Readiness Program — helping 4-year-olds, with "at-risk" factors, get ready

for school. I propose raising funding to \$14,000 per child so providers can hire staff and add space. Democrats, on the other hand, have a misleading proposal they call "universal preschool", with no real strategy or plan supporting it.

My proposal includes \$286 million for grants to help improve building security in K-12 schools, along with \$150 million for universities and \$50 million for community colleges to do the same. I also would double funding for K-12 school resource officers, compared to Democratic plans that would remove state funding specifically for school resource officers.

We all know students are behind academically because of the school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. My proposal contains \$300 million to provide more personalized and flexible instruction, such as tutoring and summer school initiatives. Many schools are challenged by teacher shortages, which is why I would continue the "Grow Your Own" initiative with a \$100 million investment. This well-received program helps non-certified K-12 personnel become certified teachers.

I also propose reducing debt and leaving money unallocated on the balance sheet so schools can weather a likely recession and remain financially stable. My plan also helps universities and community college finances by paying down debt, which will better prepare them for potential enrollment declines caused by demographic shifts. Additionally, the higher education funding is shifted entirely to the state's

general fund - which would help allow for the elimination of community college districts and the need for separate in-district and out-of-district tuition rates. My education budget proposals are contained in Senate Bills 304-307.

We also have differences when it comes to policy. Democrats have advanced several changes that — whether they acknowledge it or not — will ultimately shortchange Michigan children by abandoning accountability and standards.

I voted against legislation that undermined Michigan's law aimed at ensuring students read at a satisfactory level before advancing beyond third grade. Kids learn more when they are expected to learn more. Lowering expectations does not help them.

Legislation is advancing to repeal the A-F letter grade-ranking of how schools themselves are performing. And it is possible that Democrats will again promote plans, as they did last year, to no longer tie teacher performance evaluations to student growth and achievement. Those changes don't help kids. They help adults and special interests at the expense of kids.

We cannot go back to the failed policies of the past. We must continue to evaluate problems and try to solve them. That includes maintaining accountability and focusing investments to truly help kids succeed.

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

BUY
LOCAL
OR
BYE-BYE
LOCAL

Educating
Readers
On Why To
Buy Local
Is Up To You!

Buyer's
Guide and News

105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331

displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com

616-897-9555

Spring styles shine at Showboat Fashion Show

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Three competing clothing shops in Lowell gathered in the spirit of collaboration to throw a Spring Fashion Show aboard the Lowell Showboat VI on Sunday, May 7, 2023. The participating shops included Tap House Boutique, Bella Grace Boutique, and Lavendar & Lace Boutique.

Attendants dressed to the nines for the special-ticketed event. The \$10 ticket covered attendance for the fashion show, drinks, appetizers, and access to exclusive shopping opportunities.

Owners, Martha Davis (Tap House Boutique), Michelle Halvorsen (Bella Grace Boutique), and Emma Matthew (Lavendar & Lace Boutique) were all present for the event, sporting

their own wares and often walking the catwalk with the other models.

On display were some of the most exciting spring fashion statements the people of Lowell will be seeing across town, from tank tops to dresses to jumpsuits. Though bright, floral patterns welcome warm weather, models were prepared for the inevitable chilly mornings promised by a West Michigan spring, displaying jean jackets, cardigans, and crocheted pullovers. Accessories included necklaces, backpacks, and beach shoes.

The event had a fun tone. An instrumental version of Madonna's "Vogue" played on repeat in the background. A whole lot of clothing was modeled by only a couple of models, including Bella Grace owner, Michelle

Halvorsen, who welcomed the crowd to laugh with her as she rushed from outfit to outfit. The light tone was facilitated by the lack of the male gaze, save for one reporter and an elementary school boy in a sharp suit and tie, which allowed the women present to be themselves.

The boutiques did a great job distinguishing the unique flavor of their offerings. While there may be some overlaps in inventory between shops, shoppers can expect a different style wherever they go.

Tap House Boutique models itself after a French Boutique. Davis boasts organic items, like the palm-nut necklace shown at the fashion show, and sizes ranging from small to 3x.

Bella Grace Boutique

is trendy and fun, like the navy and white jumpsuit described as "the perfect prodigal daughter look." Shoppers can also show their Lowell pride by picking up a T-shirt with the 'Lowell Exit 52' (off of I-96) sign on it.

At Lavendar & Lace, there's a balance between cute and practical. Shoppers can find clothing that's both eye-catching and comfortable to walk-around in, and even items with no pockets can be complemented by a HoneyComb double-zip backpack.

Those who missed the Spring Fashion Show can still pick up all of the hottest spring styles at these three shops. Simply take a stroll down Main Street in Lowell's historic shopping district, or, if you're more of a homebody, each store has a high-quality website with beautiful pictures of the clothing and other items they sell.



Tap House Boutique owner, Martha Davis, was one of three MCs for the spring fashion show, and a clothing model, to boot.

American Pickers to film in Michigan

The American Pickers are excited to return to Michigan! They plan to film episodes of The History Channel hit television series throughout Michigan in July 2023.

American Pickers is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on The History Channel. The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques.

They are always excited to find historically significant or rare items, in addition to unforgettable characters and their collections. As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics.

Along the way, they want to meet characters with amazing stories and fun items. They hope to give historically significant

objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America's past, along the way. The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

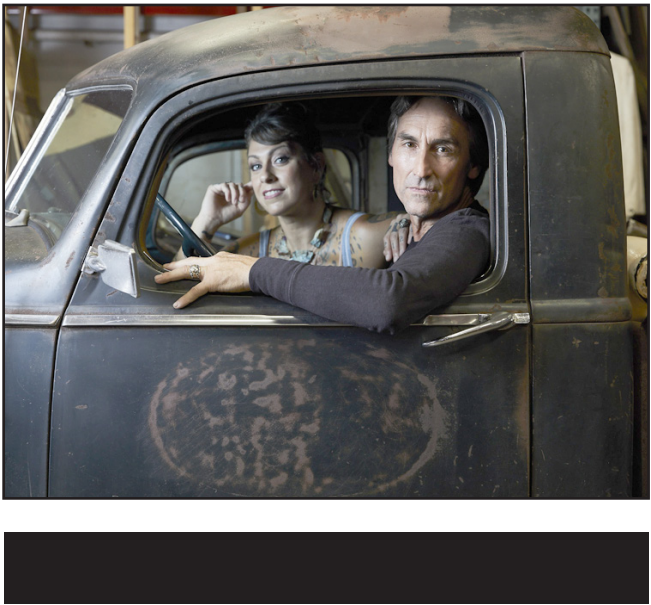
American Pickers continue to take the pandemic very seriously and will be following all guidelines and protocols for safe filming, outlined by the state and CDC. Nevertheless, we are excited to continue reaching the many collectors in the area to discuss their years of picking and are eager to hear their memorable stories!

The American Pickers TV Show is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you, or someone you know, has a unique item,

story to tell, and is ready to sell...we would love to hear from you! Please note, the Pickers do not pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public. If interested, please send us your name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cineflix.com or call (646) 493-2184 facebook: @GotAPick



All the best of spring fashion from Tap House Boutique, Bella Grace Boutique, and Lavendar & Lace Boutique was available for purchase on the second story of the Lowell Showboat VI.



HONOR YOUR 2023 LAS GRADUATE

The Lowell Ledger will be honoring the LAS 2023 Graduates in the May 31 edition.

This section will include senior photos of all graduates (which are provided by the school). If you would like to celebrate your graduate with a personalized ad - please contact our office via phone or email.

Deadline is Wed., May 24

Ad Sizes & Prices

business card - \$20 • post-it note size - \$30
post-card size - \$55 • 1/4 page size - \$95

the lowell

ledger

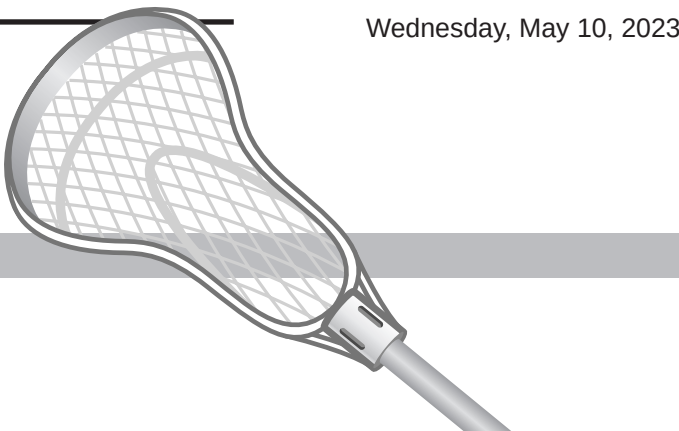
Phone: 897-9261
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

A close-up photograph of a red graduation cap with a white and red striped tassel. The cap is worn by a person whose eyes are visible in the foreground, looking upwards.

Red Arrow

- LACROSSE

SPORTS



Boys lacrosse racking-up the miles

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Lake Michigan is still pretty cold so it's not quite beach season, but lately, the Lowell boys lacrosse team has been traveling everywhere on the lakeshore.

Last week the boys were at Grand Haven, then played at Muskegon Mona Shores in back-to-back games. In those games, Lowell bested Grand Haven 11-6, before losing a close game 11-8, to Mona Shores.

Face-offs were a big part of Lowell's victory over the Buccaneers of Grand Haven. The Red Arrows went 16 for 20 on face-offs, which in lacrosse is where possession means plenty of goal-scoring chances.

Weston Godbold led the offense with four goals and two assists. Andrew

Rogers and Teige Bredin each had two goals, while Caden Cone, Connor Lixie, and Jackson Roudabush each had one. Tevin VanderBoon had eight saves and a 57 percent save percentage in the win.

On Thursday, Lowell headed to Muskegon for a game with Mona Shores. Rogers kicked-off the scoring with a solo run from the left side. Rogers had two goals, dishing-out five assists over the contest, as well.

Lowell made it 2-0 on a Godbold goal assisted by Rogers. Rogers again was the assister on the next Lowell goal, stopping a short 2-0 run by the Sailors. He faked a pass, which threw off the Sailor defense, before finding Jackson Roudabush to make it 3-2. Godbold and Roudabush, would score again in the

first half, as Lowell trailed 6-5. Both players led the Lowell offense with three goals a piece.

Both teams were tied at seven, entering the last quarter, where the Sailors went on a run that would be the difference, as they closed off an 11-8 win. The Red Arrows went nine for 21 in face-offs; Tevin VanderBoon had 18 saves in what was a game with plenty of offense and back and forth on both sides.

Lowell is at Spring



Jackson Roudabush gets a shot off against Mona Shores.

Lake on Tuesday, concluding their road trip, before hosting senior day on Saturday, with the first face-off taking place at 1:00 at the LHS North Athletic Complex.

Golfers visit Katke in regional tune-up



By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Two runner-up finishes were the results of this week's boys golf competitions. Both runner-ups came at the hands of fellow OK White schools.

Saturday was a big one for the boys golf team, visiting Katke Golf Course, home of the Ferris State University Bulldogs. Big Rapids served as the host for the tournament, which featured 11 teams, including an A and B squad from the hosts.

Katke will be the hosts of the regional on May 31st, where Lowell will look to punch their ticket to the team state finals. Golf courses are unique. If you have played the course, you have a better idea of where to hit the ball, where to avoid, and how to navigate the course. It also allows you to get a feel for the putting greens. So, playing a golf course numerous times is going to help, and Lowell is looking for every advantage they can get heading into regionals.

Lowell placed second, with East Grand Rapids (328) leading the way. The

Red Arrows finished 10 strokes behind the Pioneers and well ahead of third place, New Boston Huron (354). Cedar Springs, Whitehall, Ludington, Big Rapids A and B, Sparta, Whitehall B, and Hart rounded out the leaderboard.

For the Red Arrows, it was senior, Cam Sluss, who was the only Red Arrow in the 70's with a 79. Drew Veldman had an 84. Daniel Mitchell broke into the top four with an 86. Patrick de Voest rounded-out the scoring with an 89.

"We struggled with the little things and gave away a few strokes here. We have been working on these details. Golf is a game of making progress," Lowell boys golf Head Coach, Tom Koert, said of the tournament.

Sluss' 79 tied for second, overall, Veldman tied for seventh, and Mitchell finished in 10th, overall. Mitchell and Sluss each had a birdie on the scorecard.

On Wednesday, Lowell was at Kent Country Club, where they bested the Pioneers, but was well

off the pace of first place, Grand Rapids Christian, who finished two-over par as a team.

"GR Christian is talented. We are a real good team and the guys knew we had an off-day. The guys all are aware they can play well. This helps a lot to be able to get them to focus on scoring needs," Koert said of his team.

Sluss again led with a 39. De Voest (41), Veldman (41), and Mitchell (49) rounded-out the scoring. Evan Bray notched a varsity round, along with Nicholas Lothian, who also competed. De Voest had two birdies on his card, while Sluss had a consistent round with three bogeys and six pars.

The Red Arrows shot a 170, GR Christian won with a 146, then it was EGR (176), Byron Center (177), Northview (181), and Greenville (196) rounding-off the leaderboard.

Mark Russell to be inducted in MHSFCA Hall of Fame

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Longtime Lowell Area Schools coach and educator, the late Mark Russell, will be inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, next month, after a career spanning five decades in Lowell.

stadium, where plaques for each of this year's inductees will be displayed.

"Coach Russell was and is very deserving of this selection to the Hall of Fame," Jack Carlson, historian for the MHSFCA said.

Russell passed away in 2020, at the age of 64; his plaque on the LHS Wall of Fame, where he was inducted in fall of 2022, reads: "Mark Russell started teaching in Lowell in 1979 after graduating from Olivet College. He taught elementary PE and coached baseball, and coached Lowell football over five decades, from 1979 to 2019. Mark meant so much to the Lowell community. He was a great friend, mentor, teacher, colleague and coach, but most importantly, Mark was a great person. Anyone who spent time around Mark was a better person because of his influence and character."

To be eligible for the MHSFCA Hall of Fame, coaches must have over 100 varsity victories or have coached at the junior high, middle school or high school level for 20 or more years. The MHSFCA Hall of Fame is located at the University of Michigan football

Russell was nominated a couple of years ago, but the pandemic meant the 2021 and 2022 classes were already chosen, pushing Russell's induction date to 2023.

Other nominees include Kevin Bartz (Edwardsburg), Larry R. Orr (Monroe Catholic Central), Mark Carlton (Sand Creek), Joe Quesnelle (Cardinal Mooney), Thomas Arthur Ellinger (Middletown), Pat Hinke (Cadillac/Mesick), Jim Schaak (GR West Catholic), Craig "Bubbs" Hnatuk (John Glenn/Canton), Troy Schelke (Harbor Beach), Joe Hoskins (Detroit Southwestern/Detroit Henry Ford), Mike Smith (Lapeer), David J. Mariage (St. Johns), and Mark Tamminga (South Christian).

This year's Hall of Fame banquet and induction will take place Friday, June 23rd, 2023, at the Detroit Marriott Troy. Doors open at 5:30 pm, with the banquet at 6:30 pm, and induction ceremony at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at mhsfca.com



L

Go Red Arrows!

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell

ledger

Red Arrow

- SOCCER

SPORTS

Youth Night highlights busy week for soccer

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Three games and three different uniforms were required for the girls soccer team last week. On Monday, against EGR, was the cold weather gear. The jackets and sweatpants for the sidelines, along with the long sleeve jerseys. You know normal attire for May 1st. On Wednesday, a nice spring jacket. On Friday, leaving the jacket at home, and back to short sleeve jerseys. Michigan spring weather doesn't care about consistency.

Lowell won one, lost one, and tied one during a rollercoaster week last

week. The Red Arrows recorded a confidence boosting draw against the East Grand Rapids Pioneers in the bitter cold wind and rain last Monday, the Pioneers coming in at fourth in the state.

Against the Pioneers, Lowell struck first as Emily Ake sent a ball past the EGR defense to Ally Seevers who buried it past the Pioneers keeper to make it 1-0. EGR equalized on a penalty kick just before halftime, then would score again early in the second half to take a 2-1 lead. The Arrows equalized and scored the last goal of the game when sophomore, RJ Wagamon

sent a beautiful ball to Seevers who placed it past the keeper to tie the game at 2-2. Lee played great in net as she had 17 saves.

On Youth Night, Lowell hosted the teams from the Lowell Area Select Soccer Organization, the premier youth soccer program in the area that has been a feeder for a majority of players that have played high school soccer in the past decade at LHS.

Carmen Mika scored the opening goal assisted by Wagamon. Lowell controlled most of the game, but only found themselves up 1-0 late when the Red Arrows were awarded a

penalty. Wagamon's spot kick was saved but she followed up on the rebound and scored to finish off a 2-0 win. Lee had seven saves and the shutout in goal. The Red Arrows outshot the Wildcats 14-7.

On Friday, Lowell fell to the OK Red's Jenison Wildcats by a score of 3-2. The Red Arrows continue non-conference play at Allegan and home against Coopersville for senior night.

Olivia Blood goes for goal against Northview.



TRACK

Regular season comes to an end against EGR

Submitted by Coach, Paul Judd

Lowell won nine of the thirteen individual events, but came up six points short from the magic number, to capture the win against EGR. Many say that relays win meets and EGR used their relays to get the win. In addition to the wins, Lowell also saw 27 PR's on the day, as the kids took advantage of both the competition and weather to get some great marks. Lowell had

two multiple winners, as Isabel German captured the three sprint events and Leah Krieger captured both hurdle events. Record board highlights included Isabel German moving to No. 6 on the board in the 400m, with a time of 60.53, and Leah Krieger moved to No. 7 in the 100H, with a time of 16.09.

Lowell is off until next week where they will be at Byron Center for the OK

White Conference meet.

Team Scores were: EGR 74, Lowell 63

First place finishers for the Arrows were: Isabel German, 100m, 13.27; 200m, 27.18; 400m, 1:00.53 and pole vault, 11-00; Katrina Sandman, 800m, 2:21.33; Annika Sandman, 3200m, 10:53.17; Leah Krieger, 100H, 16.09 PR and 300H, 49.61; Aubriegh Oswald, shot put, 36-06 PR

Second place finishers

were: Audrey Latchaw, 800m, 2:36.36; Annika Sandman, 1600m, 4:59.01; Aubriegh Oswald, discus, 101-05; Brooklyn Wobma, pole vault, 8-06; Leah Krieger, long jump, 13-09.75

Third place finishers were: Katrina Sandman, 1600m, 5:14.95 and Claire O'Boyle, long jump, 13-00.75

Boys nail PRs to close season against EGR

Submitted by Coach, Paul Judd

The Lowell track team came to compete in the dual meet against EGR, and as such, they hit 57 personal records in the loss to EGR. Conditions were near perfect and a lot better than the wind and rain that the week started with. Highlights of the meet were in the 100m, where Xavier Young ran 11.45 to move to No. 5 on the LHS record board. Young's time was the fastest FAT time ever at LHS. Thirty minutes later, Levi Mills lowered his 400m PR and bettered his No. 7 time on the board. In the throws, we had two record board marks, as Drew Weber won the shot put in 45-05, which puts him at No. 8 on the board and Ben Bromley threw a PR 135-10, to take second in the discus and move him on to the record board at No. 10.

Lowell will be at

Byron Center for the OK White Conference meet.

Team Scores were: EGR 79, Lowell 57

Placing first for the Arrows were: Levi Mills, 400m, 51.57 PR; Benjamin Bromley, 800m, 2:07.10 PR; Christopher Wigger, 110HH, 16.86 PR and 300H, 43.35; Drew Weber, shot put, 45-05 PR; Noah VanLaan, high jump, 5-08 and Ramsey Ponchaud, pole vault, 12-06

Second place finishers were: Xavier Young, 100m, 11.45 PR and 200m, 23.91 PR; Ramsey Ponchaud, 110HH, 17.09 and 300H, 44.28; Isaac Graham, shot put, 41-00 and Benjamin Bromley, discus, 135-10 PR

Third place finishers were: Levi Mills, 800m, 2:10.82 PR; Avery Elmhirst, shot put, 41-00 PR; Isaac Graham, discus, 133-11 and Wyatt Baker, long jump, 17-04.25

McDowell off to Northwood

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The Lowell lacrosse programs are very familiar with seeing their guys on the next level, with players in recent years playing at Trine, Concordia-Ann Arbor, Calvin, Northern



Conor McDowell's senior lacrosse photo. McDowell has committed to Northwood University for lacrosse.

Michigan, Hope, among others.

Another one will be playing at the next level, this time at Northwood, as Conor McDowell has committed to play for the Timberwolves next season.

The game is one that the LHS senior has been involved with for years. McDowell started off as a baseball player, but needed a sport that played at a faster pace. "I went to a practice ten years ago and immediately fell in love with the sport," said McDowell who

currently wears number 22 for the Red Arrows.

The Arrow defenseman also received interest from Malone, Calvin, Alma, Tiffin, and Beloit, but decided to opt with Northwood, located in Midland here in Michigan. "Lacrosse at Northwood is a brand new program, it's going to be a challenge to get where we want, but I'm always ready to take a challenge, head on. So I really think that's what sold me," said McDowell, who will be studying entrepreneurship with a minor in digital marketing.

"Lacrosse is more than catching, cradling, and scooping. It requires level-headed players who exhibit confidence, leadership, perseverance, and dedication — traits embodied by all of our students at Northwood University," said Northwood University

President, Kent MacDonald when announcing the addition of the men's and women's lacrosse programs in October of 2022.

In December, the school added Jacob Fredal, out of high school power Detroit Country Day, as head coach. While lacrosse is new at Northwood, starting next year, the school did have a program from 1992-2000. The school announced they would participate in scrimmages and exhibitions during the 2023-2024 school year, then the following year there will be a full-fledged regular schedule.

Until then, you can see McDowell in action on senior night for the boys lacrosse program, which will take place at the Lowell North Athletic Complex on May 13th, and as the Red Arrows look to make a push in the state playoffs afterwards.





Jason Aaron’s Punisher finally holds Frank Castle accountable

With Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) on the horizon, Saturday, May 6, to be precise, a number of series are wrapping-up some really big story arcs in preparation for new stories to be teased in FCBD issues. The following April 2023 highlights should hold readers over until FCBD celebrations, at their local comic shop, commence.

- *Nightcrawlers* #103 (Marvel Comics, 4/19/23) and *Sins of Sinister: Dominion* #1 (4/26/23) wrap-up the thousand year *Sins of Sinister* alternate universe X-Men crossover, bringing a fan favorite new character into the normal X-Men continuity, for the first time.
- IDW publishes the last three entries in the *Armageddon Game* event - *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Armageddon Game - The Alliance* #6 (4/19/23), *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* #139 (4/26/23), and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Armageddon Game* #7 (4/26/23) - prior to the grand finale in June.
- *She-Hulk* #12 (Marvel Comics, 4/19/23) is the 175th issue, according to legacy numbering, and writer, Rainbow Rowell, celebrates it properly - with a book club!
- With Beast missing in action from *X-Force*, the team is now under new management, and some new membership too, in *X-Force* #39 (Marvel Comics, 4/19/23).
- *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* #107 (4/19/23)

features a number of transformations, including an all-new Rita Repulsa and an all-new Lord Zedd. Things are about to get really interesting over at Boom! Studios.

FCBD is going to get a lot of people into comic book stores, maybe even some folks who have never picked up a comic book before. Here are the top three comics published in April for those folks looking to spend some money to supplement their FCBD collection.

Punisher #11 (Marvel Comics, 4/19/23)

Jason Aaron’s run on *Punisher* has been interesting. The twelve-issue miniseries, concluding in May, has been a real mixed bag. At times, it reads as a companion book to the final act of Chip Zdarsky’s run on *Daredevil*. Afterall, Frank Castle is now the leader of the Hand, and he’s become something of the heel to the Fist, which Matt Murdock now commands. However, it’s important not to reduce this run to a *Daredevil* back-up, and that’s largely because Aaron explores, interrogates, and innovates the classic Frank Castle story. He’s not just a super cool Vietnam veteran who loved and lost his family. He’s a haunted soul, who was marked, at an early age, to become the most powerful murderer the world has ever seen, and the way Aaron presents this is through the eyes of Frank’s wife, Maria.

The eleventh issue of the miniseries is particularly

powerful, because it challenges a comic book trope called ‘fridging’. Punisher’s back story is an early and powerful example of fridging, or killing off a woman in order to provide motivation for a man, but it certainly is not the only one. In fact, the term was coined by writer, Gail Simone, in response to a *Green Lantern* run, in which Kyle Rayner’s girlfriend was killed and shoved into a refrigerator by villain Major Force. To date, Maria’s role in *Punisher* comics has been to justify Frank Castle’s righteous killing spree, but not anymore. With a stare that could topple kingdoms, a resurrected Maria asks Frank what he’s done in her name, and the names of their children. Next year, the Punisher will celebrate 50 years since his debut in *Amazing Spider-Man* #129, in February of 1974, and every geek publication is going to have a list of best Punisher moments. Though brand new, this issue will likely show up on all of the lists.

A couple of years ago, Marvel Comics editor, Tom Brevoort, was confronted with a difficult question. What was Marvel’s plan to confront the fact that the Punisher had been co-opted by white supremacist, fascist bad actors in the United States. Brevoort responded that Marvel was working on something that should address that. The Punisher has been named a psychopathic murderer, his origin story has been revealed as a self-aggrandizing myth, and his wife has held him accountable for his crimes. Also, according to promotional material, *Punisher* #12 marks the end of the Punisher. Maybe this is what Brevoort was referring to.

Behold, Behemoth #5 (Boom! Studios, 4/26/23)

DC and Marvel Comics are often referred to as the ‘Big Two’, because they control such a commanding swath of the comic book market, and this is a fact that

often sweeps indie comic creators under the rug. However, Boom! Studios has come into the limelight over the past few years for delivering one of the most stunningly good series on the market with its ongoing *Power Rangers* franchise, and this has brought more attention to indie comics like *Behold, Behemoth*. The series, written by Tate Brombal, one of a couple great writers never to have written for either DC or Marvel, follows a small cast of characters, who allow their own moral compasses to lead them through a clash between angels and demons.

Behold, Behemoth is a little difficult to describe. There is certainly a post-rapture feel, and there are certainly powers presented as good and evil, but there are enough hints that things aren’t quite so simple to undermine the seemingly Christian eschatology presented in the pages of this book. The final issue sticks to the comic’s core principle, that motivation is everything. Wren is a girl with terrible powers who just wants to be a kid. Grey has a power that’s out of control, and all he wants to do is find a solution less black and white than Kavita’s perspective, which is to kill a young girl. The resolution... well, folks will have to actually read this miniseries to get to that, but one thing is for certain - the proclamation on the final page that this is the end of book one is a welcome message, because there’s clearly more story to tell.

Action Comics #1054 (DC Comics, 4/26/23)

A viral video made its rounds a few weeks ago, featuring a militant older man who looks like he’s going to attack a child over false claims that the school is secretly teaching critical race theory, or that critical race theory is somehow wrong. A number of commenters on the video wondered why the other adults present did

not take this man down, and there was no good answer. Phillip Kennedy Johnson’s run on *Action Comics*, like many before it, presents a Superman who knows how to answer that question. Month after month, Superman opposes the myth of redemptive violence, and it’s all the more powerful because of the book’s emphasis on family. Teachers and custodians chose

not to confront this hateful man with violence because they wanted to teach children that violence is not a tool to be used to solve all of their problems.

On the flip side, millennial and zoomer culture has often been accused of being light on consequences. All of the Disney villains now have backstories, and children are challenged to show compassion for them. *Magneto*, *Apocalypse*, and all of the *X-Men*’s greatest villains sit on the quiet council of the mutant nation of Krakoa. What of their victims. What of the family members left behind, who must sit and watch these murderous criminals as they are held on the shoulders of others, to the cheers of all surrounding.

Action Comics #1054 answers this conundrum, which feels as complicated as the Gordian Knot. Superman defeats Metallo, who has done some really horrible things, but he does not kill Metallo. On the one hand, there are two super-powered children watching. On the other, Superman does not kill. He knows how the world would react if he did. Instead, he holds Metallo accountable for his crimes, but also addresses the root cause. Metallo’s sister is in

danger, and she needs all the help she can get. Punishment is, by definition, punitive, and, according to social science, it is one of the least effective ways to teach and reinforce good habits. The kindness Superman embodies, however, that kind of ethic is transformative.

Other Noteworthy April 2023 Comics

- *Adventures of Super-*



- man: Jon Kent* #2 (DC Comics, 4/5/23)
- *Batman* #134 (DC Comics, 4/5/23)
- *Batman/Superman: World’s Finest* #14 (4/19/23)
- *Captain America: Cold War Alpha* #1 (Marvel Comics, 4/12/23)
- *Captain America: Sentinel of Liberty* #11 (Marvel Comics, 4/5/23)
- *Captain America: Symbol of Truth* #12 (Marvel Comics, 4/26/23)
- *Daredevil* #10 (Marvel Comics, 4/26/23)
- *Fantastic Four* #6 (Marvel Comics, 4/12/23)
- *Immoral X-Men* #3 (Marvel Comics, 4/5/23)
- *Saga* #63 (Image Comics, 4/5/23)
- *Silver Surfer: Ghost Light* #3 (Marvel Comics, 4/12/23)
- *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Last Ronin - The Lost Years* #3 (IDW Comics, 4/26/23)
- *Wolverine* #32 (Marvel Comics, 4/5/23)
- *X-Men* #21 (Marvel Comics, 4/12/23)

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

Call or email the Lowell Ledger Crew!

Phone: 616-897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

When it comes to Business, the

EXPERIENCE MATTERS.

Call Mark Johnson today!
(616) 940-8181
MarkJohnsonAgency.com
6151 28th St. SE, Ste. 10,
Grand Rapids

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

A Company

office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Closed Fri., Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks.^{TFN}

LOCAL HASTINGS FARM raised organic pork. No inoculations- All Natural. Mangalitsa/Duroc cross. Processing May 14th. Call 616-299-6563. Reserve Now.

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

FISH FOR STOCKING - Most varieties, ponds and lakes. LAGGIS FISH FARM, 269-628-2056 days or 269-624-6215 Eves.

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.^{TFN}

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

WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

misc.

PORK STEAK DINNER - Fri., May 12, 5-7:30 pm. Alto American Legion, 6056 Linfield, Alto. Public welcome.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-866-495-1709

misc.

ATTN: MEDICAL STUDENTS - If you are enrolled in medical school (that grants a M.D. or D.O. degree) or soon to be, and are a graduate of Lowell High School, this is for you. The Donald Gerard MD Honorary Medical Scholarship is granted for your four years of medical education. Please call Victoria Pratt at Lowell High School at 616-987-2908 for an application or for more details. Deadline is June 1, 2023.

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

ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We are meeting at various places for lunch or dinner most Mondays. All are welcome. Questions on location, call Elaine 616-856-8022 for more information.

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

help wanted

IMMEDIATE OPENING - for a walking route carrier to deliver the Buyers Guide on the weekend in the city of Lowell. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. No phone calls accepted regarding this position.

sales

PORCH SALE - Mostly furniture: chairs, bookcases, side tables, sewing machine cabinet, 11' wool rug, bikes. 3125 Montcalm Ave. SE, Lowell. Thurs. - Sat., May 11-13, 9 am - 6 pm.

Annual MURRAY LAKE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE! Located 8 miles north of Lowell; something for everyone! Fri., May 19, 9 am to 3 pm & Sat., May 20, 9 am to 2 pm. Please no early birds!

Subscribe NOW!

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

the lowell ledger

897-9261

services

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

WORK WANTED - Double D's tree service Plus 70' & 40' bucket trucks. Tree trimming and removal, brush chipping, Stump grinding. Free estimates and Insured. Call Dave Delinsky 616-212-3008.^{TFN}

PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER - needs work. Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE - Lowell & surrounding areas. On road repairs. Rob's Towing & Auto Salvage. "CHEAP HOOKER" 616-292-7649 or 616-295-8820.

STUMP GRINDING - Call Dan for free estimates. 616-970-3832.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dumpster rental, 10-20 yards. Mention this ad for \$10 to \$20 off. Call or text Doug for estimates at 616-295-6640.^{TFN}

services

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees...I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: Flat fees only, no hourly billing. FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

COPY SERVICE,
(black & white & color!)
FAX SERVICE,
LAMINATING
PRINTING
BANNERS
POSTERS
& MUCH MORE
AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER
105 N. Broadway
HOURS
M-Th. 8-4 p.m.
Ph. 897-9261
Fax 897-4809
email:
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!

Find Out What The Buzz Is All About with a subscription to the lowell ledger

Call to start your subscription 897-9261

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

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

obituaries



RIPLEY

Robert “Bob”Ripley, age 61 of Lowell passed away unexpectedly Monday, May 8, 2023. He was preceded in death by his father, Lyle Ripley; and sister, Angie Scharaswak. Bob is survived by his wife of 42 years, Michelle; children, Aaron Ripley, Samantha (Tadd) Johnson, Tara Ripley, Adrienne (Travis) Cook; grandchildren, Trinity & Tré Johnson, Raegen & John Cook; mother, Rosalie Ripley; brother, Ronald (Patricia) Ripley; sister, Teri Bonell; brother-in-law, Samuel (Christine) Milton; sisters-in-law, Julie Modaressi, Teresa (Marc) Trumpower; several nieces and nephews; and longtime friends, Paul Farley and Neal Fonger. Bob worked as a diesel mechanic for 40 years. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, fishing, and hunting. Bob was known for his huge heart, always willing to help family and friends. Interment St. Mary’s Cemetery. Celebration of life to be held Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 1:00pm at the Lowell Moose Lodge, 1320 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331.

gerst

FUNERAL CARE

Roth-Gerst

THIS AD FOR SALE!

More than 50% of adults have a positive perception of ads in print newspapers.*

Want to be next to trusted content? Place your ad in this newspaper and a network of newspapers in the state!

Call this paper or 800-227-7636

www.cnaads.com



**Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018*



The Tree Care Experts!

Certified Arborist!

Identification and treatment of tree and plant diseases and pests.

Oak Meadow

TREE SERVICE INC.

616.970.0048

oakmeadowtreeservice.com

Right coverage.
Right price.
Right here in town.



Here's the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I'm the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.*

Deborah Wilks Ins Agency Inc

Deborah Wilks, Agent

11827 Fulton St E

Lowell, MI 49331

Bus: 616-897-9237

State Farm

Bloomington, IL 2001292



the lowell ledger

Red Arrow

- SOCCER

SPORTS

Boys soccer coach hired at LHS



Elena Barriger has been named the new boys soccer coach.

Elena Barriger has recently been named the boys varsity soccer coach at Lowell High School.

“Coach Barriger is newer to coaching varsity soccer in the United States but is definitely not new to the sport. She was a highly-talented national soccer player in Canada before moving to the United States. She brings a strong technical knowledge of the game and is passionate about the game of soccer,” said Dee Crowley, Athletic Director.

After high school, Barriger moved to the United States to play soccer in college, on an athletic and academic scholarship. It was there that she discovered her passion for coaching and began to pursue a career in that field. She obtained her technical and practical 1 and 2 licenses in Canada before moving to California.

Coach Barriger has been involved in soccer coaching at Lowell High School; the past two seasons as an assistant coach to the girls soccer team and was an assistant to the boys soccer team last Fall. Coach Barriger shares that her dedication and enthusiasm for coaching thrived with the Red Arrows, and she felt deep roots growing in the Lowell community.

“I am committed to helping players develop, on and off the field. I believe that the skills and values learned through soccer, such as teamwork, perseverance, and discipline, can translate into success in all aspects of life. I am driven to provide well-rounded coaching to the program and bring the team to the next level,” says Coach Barriger.

Coach Barriger and her husband have lived in the Lowell community for five years with their family and love that “Lowell loves Lowell”. She believes that the community support is imperative in the success of both the boys and girls soccer programs.

Short trip for clay target team

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

At Madison Square, the Lowell clay target program took on both skeet and trap in the Rockford Schools Skeet and Trap Invitational.

In the trap portion of the event, Jacob Johnson’s 95 led the way for Lowell, only missing five targets. Hunter VanSpronsen (90), Alanna (Lannie) Wester (89), David Johnston (87), and Tyler Weller (87) followed closely after.

Blaine Knorr, with a 65, finished in the top ten among entry-level competitors.

Isaac Johnson paced Lowell with a 47, out of 50, in the skeet portion of the event. He was followed by Jacob Johnson (46), Weller (43), and Logan Steffen (42).

Knorr and Madison Joyce finished in the top-ten for the entry levels.

Despite being a club sport, the program has enjoyed solid numbers, since their creation a decade ago. Shooting fast moving targets is certainly a challenge. The team will be in Mason this weekend for their next event.

Team Results:
Trap
Varsity - fifth place
JV Trap - second place

Intermediate
Advanced - third place
Intermediate Entry - fourth place
Skeet
Varsity - fifth place
JV - third place
Intermediate
Advanced - first place
Intermediate Entry - third place

Wildlife moms don’t need our help

Springtime in Michigan marks the arrival of babies! It’s an exciting time of new beginnings, particularly for wildlife. As baby birds, rabbits and deer start to make their grand entrance, it’s important to be respectful and mindful of their space.

All wild mothers have strategies for how to best raise and protect their babies. If you come across young wildlife, do your part by simply leaving them alone. They may look abandoned, but mom is just away avoiding scary predators – like you! – until it’s time to feed them again.

An egg-citing surprise
Bird nests are found in all kinds of places, so don’t be surprised to find one in a flowerpot, downspout or elsewhere in your backyard. Mallard ducks often build nests in unexpected places near people in cities and suburban neighborhoods. The mother duck will lead her ducklings to water soon after they hatch. If you spot a nest, be a good neighbor: Leave it alone and keep pets and children away.

Remember, too, that bird nests and eggs are protected under federal law. It is illegal to touch, move or possess any part of the nest or eggs without the proper permit.

Watch your step
A mother deer’s best survival strategy for her fawn is to leave it unattended for several hours a day. She might leave the fawn near your home, or you may stumble upon it in your backyard, garden or patio.

These babies are not forgotten; the mother carefully selects a location and will return periodically to feed her baby. By staying away, she avoids drawing attention to its hiding place.

Young fawns have exceptional camouflage, almost no scent and remain still, making it difficult for predators to spot them. If you find a fawn – don’t touch it. Admire it quietly from a distance to increase its chance of survival.

Only licensed wildlife rehabilitators may possess abandoned or injured wildlife. Unless someone is licensed, it is illegal to possess a live wild animal, including deer, in Michigan.

Find more tips about springtime wildlife at Michigan.gov/Wildlife or contact the DNR Wildlife Division at 517-284-9453.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

Guess Who?

I am a professional skateboarder born in California on May 12, 1968. I am nicknamed “The Birdman” for my aerial stunts, and I was the first skater to successfully land a 900-degree spin out of a half pipe.

Answer: Tony Hawk

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21					22						
23						24	25						26	27
		28				29				30				
31	32					33		34	35	36			37	
38				39	40							41		
42				43						44	45			
46		47	48					49		50				
51				52	53	54				55			56	57
		58							59					
60	61							62	63				64	
65						66							67	
68						69							70	

EYES ON HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

- EYES ON HEALTH
WORD SEARCH
- COLOBOMA
COLOR BLINDNESS
DRYNESS
EDEMA
EYE
FLOATERS
GLAUCOMA
- GRAVES
HYPEROPIA
LOW VISION
MYOPIA
PINK EYE
PRESBYOPIA
REDNESS
- RETINOBLASTOMA
STARGARDT
UVEITIS

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to vision.

S A H L

--	--	--	--

Answer: Lash

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Midway between south and southeast
4. Fathers
9. Wine grape
14. Al Bundy's wife
15. Organic compound
16. Venezuelan state
17. Interest term
18. Experts
20. Central cores of stems
22. Smooth and glossy
23. One-time S. Korean city
24. One from Damascus
28. Short message at the end of an email
29. It cools your home
30. Oh, God!
31. Intestinal pouches
33. Men
37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
38. Former CIA
39. Arrange in steps
41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
42. The Great Lake State
43. Dog-__: to mark a page
44. Stop moving
46. Ancient Dead Sea region
49. Of I
50. Clerical vestment
51. Songs sung to a lover
55. Charges
58. Popular design program manufacturer
59. Where to park a boat
60. One who values reason
64. Slang for cigarette
65. Sailboats
66. Actress Zellweger
67. Screen material
68. Country music legend Haggard
69. Puts together in time
70. When you hope to arrive
- CLUES DOWN
1. An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
2. Philly's rail service
3. Leaves a place
4. No longer be a part in
5. Guitar players use them
6. Cease to exist
7. General's assistant (abbr.)
8. Shaking of the earth
9. Strong winds
10. For each one
11. A bog
12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
13. Affirmative
19. Pie __ __ mode
21. Nonclerical
24. Inspirational football player Hamlin
25. Learning environment
26. Khoikhoi peoples
27. Bring out or develop
31. Shows up
32. Theatrical device
34. Loads
35. Popular Hollywood alien
36. Distinguishes
40. College dorm worker
41. Secondary or explanatory title
45. Resembling wings
47. One who delivers a speech
48. In the middle
52. Loop with a running knot
53. Airborne (abbr.)
54. Beloveds
56. Ordain
57. Breed of small cattle
59. Very small period of time (abbr.)
60. Revolutions per minute
61. They __
62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
63. A place to stay

2023

FOOD FIGHT

NOW THROUGH JUNE 1!

FROM FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

FROM FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

FROM the heart

Matching Sponsors

Total match has increased!

Total Match: \$43,750.00
Match Used: \$25,855.00

FROM FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Lighthouse

MAGNA

IMPACT

All-Weather Seal

BettenBaker

Herbruck's

king flour

River Valley Credit Union

ROGERS NEIGHBORHOOD REALTY

Common Cents Rare Coins

Mercantile Bank of Michigan

ENWORK

PARTNERS

Lowell United Methodist Church, Timpson Transport, Chimera Design, Greenridge Realty, Edward Jones, Kaminski Chiropractic, Fuller Septic System, William and Diane Wieland, John and Deb Houweling, Sandy Graham, Bill and Dottie Roth, Joe and Mary Bommarito, Ralph and Virginia Haga, Metric Manufacturing, Jim and Chris Hodges, Brian and Cheryl Doyle, Margaret DeVoest, Patrick and Kati Doyle, Centrie Concrete Cutting and Drilling

BARREL LOCATIONS

North Locations:
Lighthouse 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

MEDIA SPONSOR

the lowell ledger

Please enclose payment
(checks payable to FROM) with the form below

DONATION FORM

or donate online at www.fromlowell.org

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

ADDRESS

DONATION AMOUNT \$

NORTH TEAM

SOUTH TEAM

Visa/MasterCard #

Expiration Date

Security Code

Please mail to FROM, 11535 Fulton Street East, Lowell, MI 49331

2023 FOOD FIGHT FROM the heart

WEEKLY BOX SCORE

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	TOTALS
NORTH	15775	4730	0	0	0	20505
SOUTH	13465	26490	0	0	0	39955

Helping In A Time of Need



When Nick and Judy found out their church's food donation program was going to be interrupted due to COVID-19, they started volunteering at FROM to help make sure those who were in need didn't go without. The couple, both retired, found themselves eager to serve in the food programs.

"We found ourselves collecting and delivering items for the resale store, food for the pantry, working in the pantry as well as the various food distribution opportunities," Judy shared.

Nick was excited to put his handy man skills to work, sharing his experience in redesigning, building, and installing the new pantry.

"I would say that both Judy and I are addicted to helping this organization." Nick expressed.

For Judy, choosing to give back to the community was a very personal decision.

"I know how it is to not be sure if you will have enough money to feed your family and to keep the house heated," she said. "I am blessed beyond measure that I am in a position now to be able to give time, money, resources and talents to this marvelous organization."

Together, they have volunteered many hours in FROM's food programs, and in other administrative needs FROM has. With their church, Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, they're involved in FROM's Mobile Food Pantry.

"We will continue to volunteer as long as FROM will have us!" Nick promises.