the lowell ledger

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

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ABC's OF LOWELL

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Grads



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Memorial Day



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Open Table



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Lowell Area Schools Sports

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$1.00

Class of 2023 crosses the stage in perfect weather

By Justin Scott
sports reporter



145 classes have now come and gone at Lowell High School, the first in the 1870's and the most recent, coming last Thursday, on the stage at Bob Perry Field.

The Class of 2023 represents the last class who was in high school when the COVID-19 pandemic began, losing their freshman year of spring sports, service learning, and plenty of other significant impacts over the next two years.

Superintendent, Nate Fowler, spoke of the perseverance of this particular class, noting that through remote learning and other challenges, the LHS class of 2023 consistently rose to the challenge. The rose, in hindsight, was a fitting choice for a class flower.

There were a record 62 Summa Cum Laude graduates, finishing with a GPA of over 3.95. Lowell High School has a GPA bump for advanced placement classes, which has helped that number grow.

Graduates began the ceremony, walking down the long winding hill at LHS, led by faculty of the school. The famous graduation song, "Pomp and Circumstance" played by members of the Lowell High School band, under the direction of Tim Haan.

Music students were able to get one last performance, with choir seniors able to perform the National Anthem and band seniors able to play "The Phantom of the Opera Medley", shortly after.

There were three student speeches, one by Summer Havey, one by Salutatorian, Jason Korzen, and one by Valedictorian, Kaden Gruizenga., as well as Superintendent Fowler, just before the presentation of diplomas by the board of education; assisting were LHS Principal, Steve Gough, Assistant Principals, Dee Crowley and Patrick Russell, as well as Class of 2023 President Emma Sage.

Including Unity High graduates and exchange students, 279 seniors became graduates over the course of the evening, which went on with the typical fanfare of a graduation. Plenty of laughs from student speeches to parents screaming in celebration for their kids, or shouts of "that's my brother" from the stands; beach balls in the sea of graduates that shouldn't be there, but always are, to the amusement of the kids. The wind though, played the role of fun-ruiner, sending the beach balls out of the graduates reach.

Over $100,000 in local scholarships were awarded to the outgoing Class of 2023, who enjoyed picturesque weather for the ceremony. Weather is always a question mark when it comes to graduation, the backup-plan, when it rains, is an indoor ceremony, with capped seating, less than ideal for families wanting to celebrate their graduates. This year, it was more than ideal, however, a beautiful evening celebrating the latest Lowell High School graduates.

14th Annual Food Fight ends on June 1, raises nearly $150,000

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

This year, the FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries) Food Fight has raised nearly $150,000 and collected 14,000 food items. The competition between the North and South teams, divided by M-21, started in 2009 as a way to raise funds for the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) programs and services that meet the needs of more than 1,000 households in the Greater Lowell Community.



"The campaign went really well and we are so thankful to the community for their support," said Arianne Hall of FROM.

The teams raised points either through financial donations, dropping off food in the barrels around town, or eating at a participating restaurant during their Food Fight Benefit Night. Each dollar and a food item that was donated to FROM counted as a point for that team. There is a $40,000

Food Fight, continued page 3

Bowne Township passes controversial biodigester zoning ordinance amendment

By Justin Tiemeyer
Contributing writer

The Bowne Township Board of Trustees met on Thursday, May 25, at 7:00 pm, for a public hearing on proposed amendments to zoning ordinance. The new wording would allow for Swisslane Farms to collaborate with Consumers Energy on an onsite biodigester, converting cow manure to natural gas energy for the community. The demeanor and body language of the board members, at the beginning of the meeting, gave a preview of how the vote would go. Township Clerk, Karen Hendrick, stood, smiling and greeting members of the public; the men congregated on one side of the table at the front of the room and chatted genially, and Treasurer, Bonnie Lent-Davis, sat at the far end with her arms crossed and a concerned look on her face. The proposed changes to township zoning ordinance passed, four votes to one,

Biodigester, continued page 3

Lowell observes Memorial Day

All photos courtesy of Bruce Doll













the lowell ledger

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Biodigester, continued

with Lent-Davis as the only opposition.

As Lent-Davis noted, there have been enough public hearings and investigations into the pros and cons of the zoning ordinance, in general, and the biodigester, specifically, over the past several months that it is no surprise that board members arrived at the meeting with their minds made-up ahead of time. However, this does not remove the validity of what community members, present for public comment, had to say.

In favor of the new ordinance were Dr. Dana Kirk from MSU's department of biosystems and agricultural engineering and Tom Oesch of Swisslane Farms. In a world where fossil fuel consumption has led to increased global temperatures and ecosystem collapse, governments have pushed for a larger percentage of energy portfolios to be made up of renewable sources like solar, wind, and natural gas, and the biodigester helps Swisslane meet the farm's sustainability goals.

"To keep the farm in the family and preserve the farmland, we have to be able to farm it in a progressive manner," said Oesch. If Oesch and family are not able to meet sustainability goals, he claimed the farmland will have to be converted into housing.

Kirk addressed comparisons to the Lowell biodigester, which had to be decommissioned due to the foul aroma it pumped into the air in the neighborhood surrounding the site. "There weren't ordinances that created visibility," Kirk said. "I applaud you for taking these steps."

With Kirk's educational efforts, comparisons to the Lowell biodigester no longer appeared to be of primary concern, and the visibility he spoke of was deemed questionable or insufficient by most members of the public present for the meeting. Of the nearly 30 residents who showed up, the vast majority either opposed the zoning ordinance change, outright, or asked that the issue be tabled, pending further information, amendments, and discussion, making the board's passing of the proposed amendment a Pyrrhic victory for the community, at best.

Many of the people in the audience compared the zoning ordinance changes with similar ordinance regarding solar energy farms, claiming that the township's biodigester ordinance lacks many of the safeguards present in the solar ordinance. Whereas, the township can inspect a solar farm with 24-hours notice, inspection for a biodigester would require a minimum of 7 days advance notice. Concerns about aesthetics, sound, roads, home values, and groundwater pollution have been discussed at public forums on both solar and biogas, and safeguards were introduced into the solar policy but not the biodigester policy. Township supervisor, Randy Wilcox, noted that another community had adopted the same solar ordinance, and it has been in effect for years, but they have not had a single application for solar in their community, likely because of how restrictive their policy is.

An issue that arose often was the fact that this is not just a Swisslane Farms project but a Consumers Energy project, as well, opening the small rural community to the whims of a large corporation. Steven Hurtuk addressed this concern during the second of his three public comments. "It's Consumers, a big utility," Hurtuk said. "It's not the same as having a local farmer."

Others, echoing this sentiment, questioned what benefit Bowne Township gets from the proposed change in zoning ordinance, beyond simply appeasing Consumers Energy, and answers from the board were scant. Lent-Davis spoke to the lengths she has gone to get answers about the question of liability, and she expressed her concern that the change to zoning ordinance would do nothing to prevent litigation against Bowne Township. If the project were a disaster, the consensus was that Consumers could just cut its losses and leave, whereas, Bowne Township and Swisslane Farms could face potential ruin. Many present spoke of support for Swisslane but not for Consumers.

Township attorney, Cliff Bloom, spoke to the issue of liability, claiming that the suggested zoning ordinance wording is necessary to prevent preemption. In other words, if Consumers Energy believed that their organization was being discriminated because they are a large corporation and not a small local farm, they could take control of the situation by appealing to a state or federal body. There is no reason to believe that Bloom brought up the concept of preemption in order to intimidate stakeholders into adopting Consumers-friendly wording, but his explanation offered only two options: (1) the township adopts zoning ordinance that appeals to Consumers Energy, or (2) Consumers Energy can take things into their own hands.

With the change to the Bowne Township zoning ordinance passed, the township expects Swisslane Farms and Consumers Energy to submit an application for the biodigester project. Attorney Bloom advised that this does not mean the project has a rubber stamp and explained that further public meetings would take place before the project commences. Changes to the ordinance can also be made following adoption.



The Thursday, May 25 meeting of the Bowne Township Board of Trustees drew a crowd of 30 residents to address zoning ordinance amendments that will pave the way for a joint Swisslane Farms/Consumers Energy biodigester project.

Food Fight, continued

match to all financial donations.

"We are thankful to everyone who took part in Food Fight this year and to everyone who was involved that helped make it happen," Hall said.

The fierce, but friendly, competition has grown from collecting a few boxes of food to a big month-long community event that started on May 1. Four benefit nights offered points for eating at local restaurants, including Flat River Grill, BC Pizza, and Culver's.

The food fight benefits the entire community, but mainly, the families and individuals that FROM serves in the Greater Lowell area throughout the year. "We love that Food Fight really brings the community together for such an important cause," Hall said. "Funds and foods raised from this event help us provide programs and services all throughout the year, and keep our food pantry stocked with healthy and nutritious food."

At the heart of it, the food fight has not changed over the years. The focus has always been on meeting the needs of the families in FROM's Lowell Area School District service area by collecting food items, and financial gifts. "Both help comes alongside our neighbors in need and ensures they have access to nutritious as well as fresh food," Hall said.

The Food Fight has taken place every year except for the pandemic in 2020. The winner will be announced on June 2nd on social media, in The Lowell Ledger, and in the Buyer's Guide & News.

"We are so thankful to our community who has come together year-after-year to make such an impact and a difference," Hall said. "We plan to continue Food Fight and are always looking for new ways to invite the community to be involved in creative and fun ways."

The last Food Fight Campaign raised $143,000 and 11,000 food items were donated.

LHS Class of 1963 reunion

The Lowell High School Class of 1963 is holding their 60th Reunion on Tuesday, June 6 at the Big Boiler Brewery from noon to 4:00 pm. No charge for guests, who will only have to pay for their lunch and drinks. Contact Tim VanderVeen at timhvv@gmail.com or 906-346-2259 for more info.



NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

Budget & Taxation Hearing
Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN; The Board of Education will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2023-2024 budget. The Board may not adopt its proposed budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the administration building. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

DATE OF MEETING: June 12, 2023

PLACE OF MEETING: Administration Building
Board of Education Room
300 High Street
Lowell, Michigan

HOUR OF MEETING: 6:50 p.m.

TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION: (616) 987-2501

Board minutes are located at the office of the Board of Education, Administration Building, 300 High Street or on the district website.

Upon request to the Office of the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting.

Teenagers celebrate final One Shot RPG session of season

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Two boys, Nathan and Alex Shaffer, saunter into the Englehardt Library meeting area, their mother close at hand. It is 6:00 pm on the dot, and they have arrived for One Shot RPGs. Laid out on the table is a large, colorful sheet of paper, covered by twelve sheets of printer paper, a map whose contours will be revealed as the story progresses. On an adjoining table is a black binder serving as a game master's (GM) screen to obscure any plot details the players may stumble upon. To one side lay piles of color-coded dice of every denomination—D4s, also known as caltrops because of how much it hurts to step on them: D6s, what people traditionally refer to when they say dice: D8s, D10s, and D20s, the preferred dice of many roleplayers; on the other side is a ThinkPad laptop. Behind the screen is Madelyn Besaw. The kids who come to the One Shot RPGs group, on Monday nights, from 6:00 pm -7:45 pm, know her as their trusty GM. Her coworkers at Kent District Library's Englehardt Branch know her as the teen-focused librarian.

Normally, there are six or seven players, ages 11-17, who show up to each event, typically, pairs of friends or siblings. Besaw has run games for as many as eight players, which is about the upper limit of a typical tabletop roleplaying game (TTRPG). With nine or more players, a game can get a bit unruly and it becomes a challenge to keep things rolling. "Obviously, too many people would be a great problem to have," Besaw said. If more players regularly showed up, she would simply run games two nights-a- week instead of just one.

This Monday night, it looks like it is just going to be the two Shaffers, until Evan Hudson slides in about five minutes after the advertised start time. With Evan's arrival, there are enough players to run the game without mom Shaffer sitting down at the table. It does not seem like she would be averse to playing—she claims that she has an old *Dungeons & Dragons* (D&D) gaming table that the boys' uncles used to play on in her basement—but she slips out the door when Evan arrives, giving her kids the freedom to be themselves without having to worry what their mom might say.

"Welcome to *Adventure Skeletons*," Besaw says. "The first thing that you need to know is that you are dead."

The group has played *Adventure Skeletons* in the past. However, tonight is the final session of the season, so Besaw has chosen to bring back a favorite. *Adventure Skeletons* is a one-page roleplaying game, where you play as a skeleton in a dungeon with the boring job of waiting for adventurers to raid the room. When a skeleton takes damage, parts of it—legs, pelvis, arms, torso, and even its head—fall off or even shatter, but it is not over until the head gets crushed. The game is available on itch.io, and gamers can pay as much, or as little, as they want, meaning that *Adventure Skeletons* can be downloaded legally for free.



Teenagers (from left to right) Nathan Shaffer, Evan Hudson, and Alex Shaffer playing *Adventure Skeletons* at Englehardt Library during One Shot RPG night

One of the benefits of playing one-shot/one-page RPGs is that players do not have to have any previous experience. If they choose, they can read the rules in their entirety and generate an original character in the first ten minutes of the session. Evan plays as a goblin skeleton named Sir Lancelot the Crispy, a knight who was struck by lightning 37 times and whose catchphrase is, "It's Crispy Time!". Nathan is Sans the Skeleton, named for the Comic Sans font. Nathan later learns that "sans" is French for "without," so his skeleton's name translates a bit ironically to "Without the Skeleton", or "Minus the Skeleton", conjuring up pictures of a pile of meat. Alex is an orc skeleton named Schmoe Joe, who says, "I got plenty of mojo, cuz I'm Schmoe Joe!"

Already at character creation, the players have begun to open-up and have a great deal of fun. Besaw's plan is working. This only ramps up over the next 90 minutes. Alex transforms into a pelvis with arms and legs to get through a gate; Evan pines for extra arms so he can finally fire both of the bow and arrow sets he randomly acquired at character creation (spoiler alert: he eventually finds an extra set of arms and pulls it off!); and Nathan solves every problem by throwing his comrades ahead as far as he can, calling it the "Sans Canon." At one point, the players have to acknowledge a literal, elephant in the room, as a team member acquired a chaotic magic wand with unexpected side effects.



Teen-focused librarian and game master, Medalyn Besaw, runs an exciting game of *Adventure Skeletons* for One Shot RPG night.

It is clear that some number of players would happily come to the library to play games throughout the summer, and Besaw has plenty of games to work through. There's *Crash Pandas*, where you play as raccoons trying to drive a car; *Skyfarer*, where you pilot a flying train through Victorian London; and *Honey Heist*, where you have two stats, BEAR and CRIMINAL, and these are just the games she has already run; she has a whole stack of other games in her cubby for future sessions. "I'm hoping next year to run through the summer as well," Besaw said.

For Besaw, playing TTRPGs is not just part of her job; it is part of her social life, as well. She is part of one Pathfinder group that meets every week and two others that meet infrequently. Pathfinder is a popular spin-off of D&D, created by Paizo RPG publishing company following a schism within the gaming community. Pathfinder's following has grown over the years, especially after some questionable licensing decisions in 2022 by D&D publisher, Wizards of the Coast, and parent company, Hasbro. Many of the games Besaw showcases at One Shot RPGs are games a friend's husband ran with her group for what he calls, his yearly New Years One Shot.

As the teen-focused librarian, Besaw is always looking for more opportunities to connect with teenagers in the community. When she was hired in 2022, the library struggled with bringing teens back in for programming following the COVID pandemic. One Shot RPG night has been one of her most successful attempts at doing so. "I'm pretty sure it's here to stay," Besaw said.

As 7:45 pm rolls around, it is clear that the skeletons are not going to make it through all of the content Besaw has prepared, so she forces a final confrontation, when a group of adventurers happens upon the skeletons. When everything finally wraps up, the library is already closed and the gamers are the last to leave before library staff retire for the night. From here, the teenagers will finish up their school year, and maybe play their own RPGs at home, as the Shaffer brothers already do. As far as the next season of One Shot RPGs is concerned, Besaw is about to return to the drawing board and make a plan, and maybe this next plan involves year-round gaming. Those interested in joining the group should keep their eyes on the Englehardt Branch web site's Upcoming Events calendar at kdl.org/locations/low for next season's kickoff.

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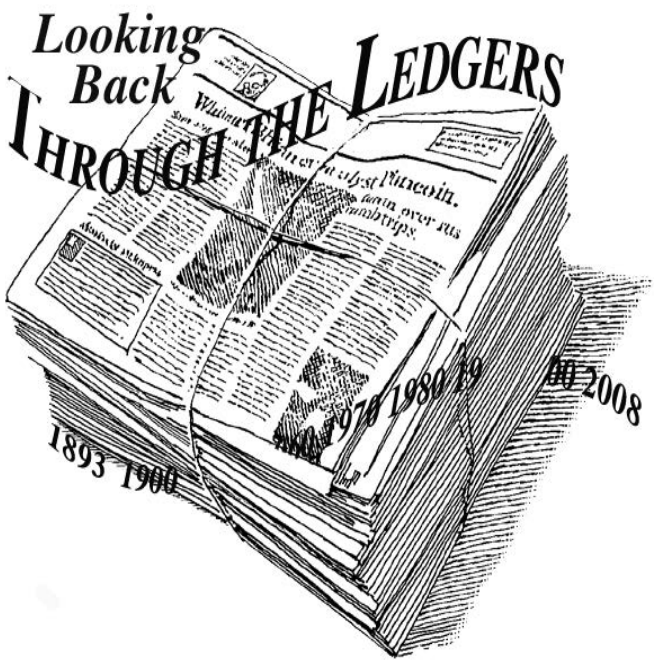
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125 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
June 2, 1898

We are pleased to note that Memorial Day I Lowell was not marred by sport or games; but was observed in the manner designed. The Fourth of July has degenerated into a day for horse racing and dancing. Let us have one day in the year sacred to patriotism and let that be Memorial Day.

Little Jan and Stanislaus Nowak, aged 9 and 12, arrived here today from Germany, consigned to their father. He left the country seven years ago, and two years later, his wife died. He saved enough money, and several weeks ago, sent for his children. They came with tags, giving their destination, attached to their collars and arrived here safely after their long journey.

A couple of farmer boys struck Hastings last week and allowed they'd beat the nickel-in-the-slot machines or know why. They had a lot of lead slugs, the size of pickles, and they worked the machines until the latter were nearly empty before they were caught at it and brought before a justice, who assessed them enough to make a permanent impression upon their minds.

100 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
May 31, 1923

Decoration Day is observed by a parade from West Side Park to Oakwood Cemetery, including scouts, veterans in decorated cars and school children, under the direction of the American Legion. This is also a homecoming day for former residents.

The editor reminds people that the unimproved road south of the river to Saranac is very beautiful, if slow going.

The Board of Trade gathers, 60 strong, at Hotel Waverly, and decides that committees need to be very active with events this summer.

The Vergennes Birthday Club meets at Maggie McPherson's, listens to selections on the gramophone, hears of Mrs. Reed's Florida trip, take a humorous apple quiz and has supper.

75 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
June 3, 1948

Michigan had fewer babies born last year, but births still exceeded deaths by almost 21,000.

People who bring home "lost" fawns are reminded that they are liable to prosecution and that the fawns are not lost.

Seniors had the Junior-Senior reception/banquet, the Alumni Party, and are looking forward to a trip to Milwaukee on the Clipper and class picnic at Lake Michigan. The largest class in history, the 89 will have a Baccalaureate next Sunday and Graduation on Monday (all seats reserved).

Residents of Vergennes road have known for a long time that speeding drivers on that street could not read the 25 miles-per-hour signs. This week, village employees confirmed that, when they spelled 'slow' four times in large letters S-L-O-W.

50 years ago
Lowell Ledger Suburban Life
May 24, 1973

Tornadoes killed 13 people in six states last weekend; Lowell sounded the alarm about midnight, Sunday.

The Campfire Girls will have a carnival, on behalf of Muscular Dystrophy, next weekend in Richards Park.

Showboat Pageant is slated for June 2. The last three contestants for this year's Miss Lowell Showboat Scholarship Pageant are: Peggy Elain Moore, Kristy Jo Kern and Pamela Sue Fratzke.

The Grand Rapids Kennel Club, a member of the American Kennel Club, will hold a dog show this Saturday at the Lowell 4-H Fairgrounds. 800 dogs have been entered and all dogs will be competing for championship points.

Janet Bailey was named Lowell's Woman of the Year.

25 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
June 3, 1998

With fallen trees all around them, Lowell residents avoided injury and major structural damage, after a large storm ripped through large portions of the state, Sunday morning. Neighboring communities are left with large cleanup tasks and utility repairs.

The Main Street bridge/sluiceway project, scheduled to take nearly two months, was completed in nearly a month.

Additional funds will be available to Lowell's Historic District to carryout "demolition by neglect" cases. The process will help prevent downtown buildings from incurring the same fate as the old Christiansen Drug Store building. It was town down nearly a year ago as a result of neglect.

Deb Canfield, Pat Nugent, Pete Gustafson and Paul Young are all running for two spots on the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education. Election Day is Monday, June 8.

FROM holds Annual Repair & Restore Spring Clean Up

FROM held their second annual Repair & Restore Spring Clean up Event, May 20-21. About a dozen volunteers helped out on outdoor projects throughout the greater Lowell community.

Volunteers worked on six projects throughout the day that included cleaning gutters and picking up yards, to prepare for summer. The biggest project of the day involved moving a large wooden shed 50 feet up a hill, in preparation for a future ramp installation project.

"It was great weather and everyone showed up fully prepared to get dirty and serve our community," Bob Rogers, the volunteer who leads the FROM Repair & Restore project, said.

The Repair & Restore program provides small home repairs throughout the year, with the Spring-Clean up event being a service-area-wide outdoor project that happens one Saturday a year in the spring.

If you are a homeowner in the Lowell Area School District and are in need of some small home repairs, please reach out to our Connections Office (616-897-8260, ext. 125), to talk to Monica about options available to you. If you love working outdoors and are looking for ways to give back to the community, be sure to sign up to volunteer for the next Repair & Restore event by visiting our website (fromlowell.org/volunteer/).



Jim Petrovich trims shrubbery.

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.

Lettters can be sent to emailed to
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Deadline is noon on Mondays



At Your Local Library

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

Gather 2 Grow! Lunches at the Library

Weekdays beginning June 6, 12:30 - 1 pm. KDL is proud to partner with Feeding America West Michigan to provide free lunches for students under the age of 18 or up to 26 years of age if the student is abled differently. (Easy pick-up, shelf-stable, nutritious meals are pre-packaged with several options available to fit almost any dietary need.) Ages 5-17

ToddlerTime

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

Night Owls Book Club

Wednesday, June 7, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue. For adults 18+

Storytime

Thursdays, beginning June 8, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Nurture your child's love of books and build early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, music and movement. For ages 0-5.

Teen Zone

Monday, June 12, 4-5 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For ages 11-17.

Program at the Park: Cup Stacking

Wednesday, June 14, 10 - 11 am. Sport Stacking has been one of the fastest growing competitive activities for many years. It is colorful, fast-moving and lots of fun for all ages! This hands-on presentation will include individual stacking activities and an opportunity to build larger structures with multiple stacks! Don't miss the fun. In partnership with Kent County Parks.

This event will take place at Fallasburg Park Open Shelter, 13565 Covered Bridge Rd. For ages 5-10.

Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!

ABCs of Lowell history

The ABCs of Lowell History is back for another round. This popular series explores a wide variety of topics, in Lowell area history in weekly online articles.

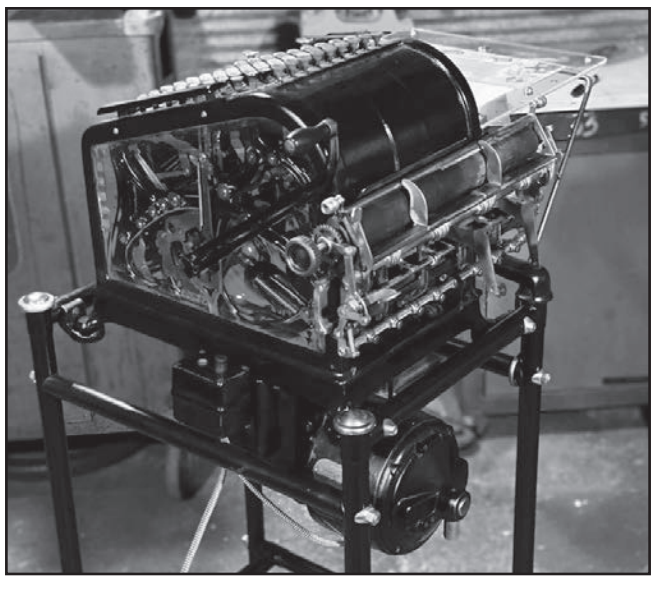
B is for Burroughs

Burroughs Road is north of Lowell, running between Lincoln Lake Ave NE on the west end and going east to Flat River Dr. While it is interesting to learn the names and stories behind places and streets, sometimes there is also a hidden gem.

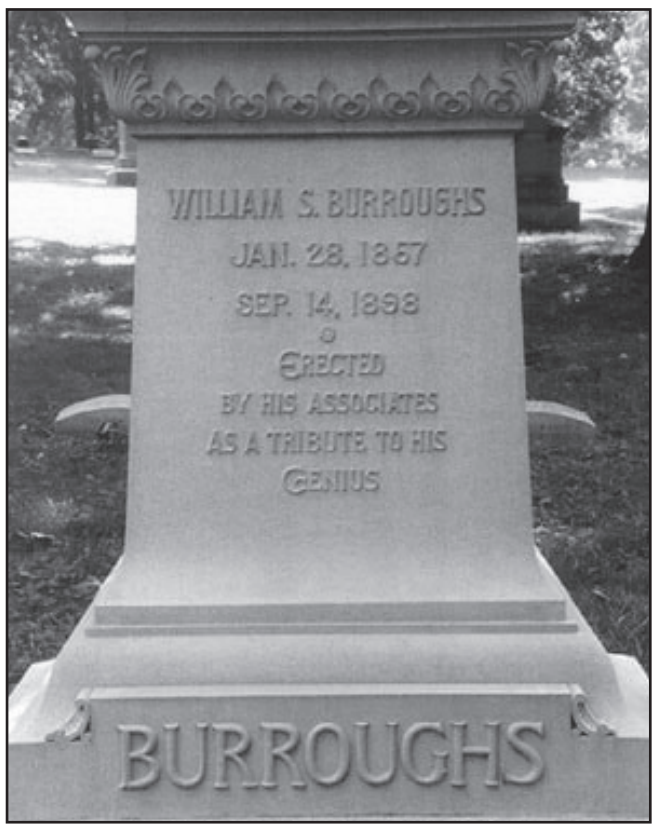
James and Rosetta Burroughs settled on 75 acres in 1848. He was a farmer, built a grist mill on the Flat River, and was one of the founders of the Lowell National Bank. He later sold to the Fox family, of "Fox's Corners" fame, which includes the area along Lincoln Lake Ave NE, from Vergennes north to Burroughs. The grist mill was on Flat River at Burroughs, and there was a schoolhouse on the northeast side of the Lincoln Lake and Vergennes intersection.

James and Rosetta's son, Edward, and his family, moved to Lowell in 1860. James died in 1865 and was buried in Fox's Corners Cemetery on Lincoln Lake Ave, just south of Vergennes St. Around 1871, Edward and his family, along with his mother Rosetta, moved back to Auburn, New York.

The hidden gem was the inventive genius of Edward's son, William. William was born in 1857 and spent his childhood on the banks of the Flat River, running around with the other boys of that era, including Bert Quick and Ernest Graham. According to an 1894 article, "he was educated in the Lowell area schools, and with an inventive genius inherited from his father, has made a successful stroke in the mechanical field." Bert Quick said of his childhood friend, "Will displayed his predominant talent early in life. As a young man, he constructed a rowboat with an oar device so that the oarsman could face the direction in which the boat was proceeding. In this craft, he took myself and other friends for rides on the Flat River."



Photos courtesy of Michael Hancock, at burroughsinfo.com



Back in New York, William worked as a clerk at the Cayuga County National Bank at Auburn, when he conceived the idea of a 'practical' adding machine to assist those in his profession. A Burroughs Company Employee magazine explains, "Burroughs didn't actually invent the adding machine, in the sense that he created it from nothing. Calculation devices had existed for centuries, at least since the abacus. But Burroughs combined existing technologies to build the first, practical adding machine. It could be mass-produced, and it promised to eliminate hours of boring human toil."

The first working model was completed in 1884 and the patent was granted in 1888. He founded the American Arithmometer Company in 1886 to market the machine. Later his company became the Burroughs Adding Machine Company.

In 1897, the Franklin Institute awarded William the 'John Scott' medal. The award is given to inventors who are particularly deserving because their invention contributed to the "comfort, welfare, and happiness" of humankind.

The Burroughs Corporation was built on the wisdom of William Burroughs' idea, that with the aid of precision office machines, men and women can accomplish more, with less effort, in less time. In 1986, the Burroughs Corporation merged with the Sperry Corporation to become the Unisys Corporation.

William had been in poor health, from tuberculosis, for many years. He ignored the advice of doctors by working in the machine shop to perfect his 'dream' machine. With the success of his machine and the Arithmometer Company, he retired in 1897 to Citronelle Alabama, a town known as a health center because of the pure water and high altitude. The whole town loved and respected Burroughs. After his death on September 14, 1898, the First Presbyterian Church had a stained-glass, memorial window placed in their new church, along with his favorite verse. To this day, this is the only memorial window in the church.

Burroughs was taken to St. Louis for burial, and a marble marker was erected by his associates in the Bellefontaine Cemetery. His wife, Ida, and sons, Horace and Mortimer, are buried there also.

Posthumously, Burroughs was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1986.

Though he was only here during his childhood, William Burroughs left his mark on the world. That generation of young people, including Bert Quick and Ernest Graham, also left their mark. Quick documented local history through photos and writings. Graham built, now famous, buildings in Chicago, London, and Washington D. C. Burroughs invented and mass-produced the first practical adding machine, radically changing banking and accounting.

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Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists
"Praying and studying together"
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10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell
616-987-0567
www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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Lowell's Open Table promises food and friendship

By Justin Tiemeyer
Contributing writer

Lowell's Open Table is a 501c nonprofit, started seven years ago by members of First Congregational UCC of Lowell, to serve a free community-meal every week, on Thursdays. Though the first movers all hailed from the same church, Lowell's Open Table is a separate organization focusing on radical hospitality. People of all religious backgrounds, including those with no religious background, are welcome to enjoy a meal without being bombarded by members praying for them, preaching at them, and driving them to join the church. Katy Mork is the president of Lowell's Open Table. "It's more about creating a welcoming space for someone to enjoy a nice meal," Mork said.

The idea for Lowell's Open Table stemmed from a free community Thanksgiving meal that First Congregational, and a number of other local churches, came together to provide, and it grew into a means of addressing the problem of food security in the community, year-round. According to Feeding America West Michigan, more than 290,000 people in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula do not have consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life, and Lowell's Open Table does what they can to address this issue.

Mork has volunteered with Open Table since its inception. Early on, she did social media and ran the organization's web site, tasks she continued to do even after she moved to Traverse City. When she returned to Lowell in 2019, she became a kitchen manager, a volunteer manager, and finally the president of Lowell's Open Table, in January of this year.

Lowell's Open Table differentiates itself from soup kitchens and breadlines by serving meals restaurant-style, as opposed to buffet. There are volunteer servers, who take orders and bring the food out to guests, who have an opportunity to relax and just enjoy the meal. Furthermore, nobody ever needs to eat alone. Volunteers pair solo diners with other solo diners or groups, or sit with diners themselves.

Though Open Table has not been able to fill its roster of volunteer staff as consistently as they would like, it has not hurt their mission. Any gaps are filled by members of the board of directors. A meal is prepared by a handful of volunteer cooks and brought to tables by upwards of ten volunteer servers. "We're always welcoming new volunteers," Mork said, "and we really appreciate the help."

These free community-meals are made possible by the generous donations of people and organizations within the community. Flat River Outreach Ministries joins Herbrucks and Sage Country Meats, out of Greenville, as some of the most consistent donors of food and drinks. Meijer has also participated by donating gift cards. With the help of other monetary donations, Mork and the other kitchen managers are able to plan the meals and do the grocery shopping. The staff is able to create delicious, meals at a cost of only $2 per serving, and serve them for free.

It is true that Open Table started with a Thanksgiving service seven years ago, but Mork's fondest memory with the organization actually took place during Thanksgiving of 2020. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization had stopped in-person service for months, in order to prevent spread of the disease and keep community members safe. When Lowell's Open Table switched to curbside service, a smaller group of masked volunteers were able to serve a larger portion of the community, with participation swelling from 100 to 150 community members. Thanksgiving that year was curbside, as well, and Lowell's Open Table was able to pull-off a much larger meal than they could have possibly expected, serving over 350 people in one day.



The volunteers for Lowell's Open Table serve free meals to anyone who chooses to stop by First Congregational UCC on Thursday nights at 5:00 pm.

"It's not just about food insecurity for us," Mork said. "We are also building a community."

Mork wants people to come to the table without feeling like there is a stigma attached to it. Many, who do not struggle with poverty or hunger, come to enjoy the free meals, from folks looking to make friends to busy parents stopping by for a quick meal that does not require them to spend hours in the kitchen. Mork has even invited those anxious about showing up for the first time to message Lowell's Open Table ahead-of -time, to talk it over and, if needed, a volunteer can greet them and act like an old family friend. Emotional support is just as important as taking care of basic physical needs.

"We're fully funded via donations," Mork said, "but we don't ask for donations, especially at the meal."

Because Lowell's Open Table would prefer to make people feel welcome and get their money elsewhere, there is no recommended amount of money people should pay for the meal. Those interested in donating to support this community resource may do so by emailing lowellopentable@gmail.com, messaging Lowell's Open Table on Facebook at lowellsopentable, or using the PayPal link on the Facebook page, but doing so should not be seen as a barrier to entry.

There are a couple of exciting changes coming up for Lowell's Open Table, one of which has already begun. Lowell's Open Table now shares a kitchen with both Senior Neighbors and Gilda's Club. The biggest challenge associated with this change was clearing off a shelf for Senior Neighbors in the pantry. Additionally, starting with the Thursday, June 8 service, Lowell's Open Table plans to have picnic tables set up, allowing for both indoor and outdoor dining throughout the summer. Everyone in the Lowell community, and beyond ,is welcome for dinner service on Thursday nights, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, and there are no prerequisites, payments, or commitments required.



Using donated food and the hard work of volunteers, Lowell's Open Table is able to provide delicious free meals to anyone who stops by.



happy birthday

JUNE 2
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JUNE 3
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JUNE 4
Becki Brown, Karen Sweigert, Dwight Nash

JUNE 5
Amanda Pfaller, Judy Rosenberger

JUNE 6
Daniel Thaler, Mark Newhouse, Greg Sherman

JUNE 7
Amber Pollema, April Wardwell, Zachary Beachum, Ray Kennedy

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Farmer's Market returns on June 15, chamber seeks variety of vendors

By Emma Palova
Contributing writer

The Lowell Area Farmer's Market returns this year to the same spot, in front of Impact Church on Fulton Street, on Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm, beginning on June 15, running through September 14.

"We're seeking a variety of farmer's market vendors," said Chamber Executive Director and Market Master, Shannon Kennedy. "The opportunity extends beyond traditional farmers."

Produce, baked goods, preserves, honey, herbs and plants, and a wide range of crafts are welcome, just to name a few. Vendors may register for the season, to save money, or choose the Thursdays they're able to attend, based on their harvest or personal schedule. The daily market rate is only $15 per booth. The seasonal rate is $130 per stall.

"It's great to have our regular, seasonal market vendors, like Starlight Farms and The Red Poppy, return for 2023," Kennedy said. "We look forward to the addition of some first-time vendors." So far, the market has the following vendors signed up and confirmed: Fruit Frenzy Popsicles, Mad Scientist Mushrooms, Mike's Pure Maple Syrup, Renewal by Andersen, Starlight Farms, and The Red Poppy. "We're just getting the word out," Kennedy said. "More produce farmers will join when crops are ready."



The chamber will continue to work with the vendors to determine how they want the market to grow in the future. "There's been plenty of informal comments about our hours and our location," Kennedy said, "but we need to understand what will work best for the community before we make any changes. Moving to a new location has been suggested, but space and manpower will need to be considered."

When people visit a farmer's market, they're looking for items that are fresh, grown, produced, or handcrafted locally. "Shoppers are delighted when they find unique items at a good price," Kennedy said. "Items they know they won't find at a big-box store."

The focus remains on this summer, according to Kennedy. However, everything will be on the table for discussion in 2024. For this year, Kennedy and Jessica Marks, both employees of the chamber, will share the responsibility of Market Master for the farmer's market.

"We look forward to continuing the tradition of a farmer's market right here in Lowell," Kennedy said. "We hope for new vendors to give us a try, and look forward to partnering with all our vendors, to support their business and bring new shoppers to market."

Market Applications and Rules can be found on the Chamber website at www.discoverlowell.org/farmers-market.



Celebration of Life

A celebration of the life of Heidi Greer will be held on Sunday, June 11 from noon - 3 pm at the Bunker Interpretive Center on Calvin University's campus. *(Calvin's Ecosystem Preserve and Native Gardens)*
Heidi was a teacher at Alto Elementary for 23 years. The public is welcome.

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college news

Isis Lett of Lowell and Shawn Beach of Alto are on the Winter 2023 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students, who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term, are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report, and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high-quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

Zachary Hudson, a sophomore Accounting major from Lowell, was among approximately 800 Bob Jones University students named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List. The Dean's List recognizes students who earn a 3.00-3.74 grade point average during the semester.

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education, purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading. BJU offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, health professions, and business.

Trine University students completed degrees at the end of the Spring 2023 semester. Students completing their degrees from the Lowell area were: Joslynn Battle of Lowell, majoring in Exercise Science and Ella Dougherty of Alto, also majoring in Exercise Science. Dougherty was also named to the President's List for the Spring 2023 term. To earn President's List honors, Trine University students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.750-4.000.

Trine University, an internationally-recognized, private, co-educational, residential institution, offers associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Trine is a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and offers 37 intercollegiate sports, 27 of which compete in NCAA Division III. Trine operates a 450-acre campus in Angola, Indiana, and the College of Health Professions in Fort Wayne, with education centers in Detroit, Michigan, and Phoenix, Arizona, and programs available worldwide through TrineOnline.

Olivia Peter from Lowell, majoring in Music Performance, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and online students, in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation, and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and high student engagement ranking.



Brianna Laux of Lowell, has been named to the President's List for the Spring 2023 semester at University of the Cumberlands.

To be eligible for the President's List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum term GPA of 4.0, receive an "A" grade in UC Engage, and be in good academic standing. (Note: All students who are named to the President's List automatically make the Dean's List, since the Dean's List requires a minimum term GPA of 3.5; however, Cumberlands only lists students on either the Dean's List or the President's List, to avoid overlap.)

University of the Cumberlands is one of the largest and most affordable private universities in Kentucky. Located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, Cumberlands is an institution of regional distinction, offering quality undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and online degree programs. Learn more at ucumberlands.edu.

Collier Kaufman, an Exercise Science major at Grove City College from Lowell, has been named to the Dean's List with High Distinction for the spring 2023 semester. Collier is a 2020 graduate of Lowell Senior High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kaufman (Eileen) of Lowell.

Students eligible for the Dean's List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean's List with Distinction a GPA of 3.60 to 3.84 and for the Dean's List with High Distinction a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0.

Grove City College (gcc.edu) is a highly distinctive, nationally-ranked, comprehensive Christian liberal arts college that equips students to pursue their unique callings through a Christ-centered, academically excellent, and affordable learning and living experience.

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, released the college's Dean's List for Spring 2023.

Included on the list are: Madison Tamminga and Megan Tamminga, both of Ada.

The Dean's List is Trinity Christian College's highest academic honor. It is recognized for traditional undergraduate students who achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or better in 12 or more credits with grade points.

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R C R E H O I O C P N M O A E S H E R A
E U C H I C K E N S K C O T A M O T Y I

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

TOSSED SALAD WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 9

TOSSED SALAD
WORD SEARCH

APPLES
ARUGULA
AVOCADO
BEANS
BEETS
BERRIES
CELERY
CHICKEN
CHICKPEA
CROUTONS
KALE
LETTUCE
NUTS
OIL
OLIVES
ONION
PEPPERS
RADISHES
SEEDS
SPINACH
SPROUTS
TOMATO
VINEGAR

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in California on May 29, 1989. I did runway modeling for Dolce & Gabbana as a teenager. I started in independent films and then went on to bigger roles. I am the granddaughter of a famous singer.

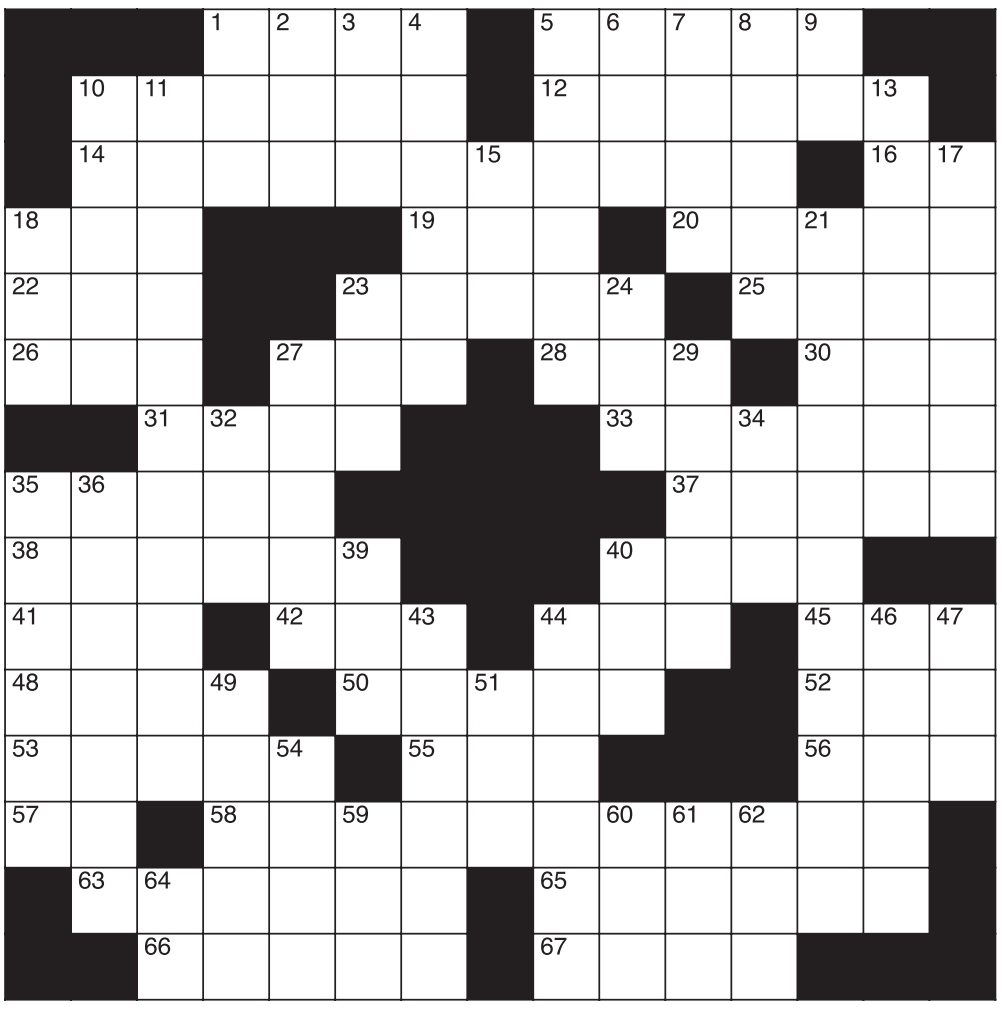
Answer: Riley Keough

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to salad.

Y C E R L E

Answer: Celery



CLUES ACROSS
1. Sloping position
5. Descendant of a notable family
10. Following accepted norms
12. Root vegetable
14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
16. Integrated circuit
18. Records electric currents of the heart
19. Used to anoint
20. Japanese city
22. After B
23. Muffles
25. Pass over
26. Vase
27. Soft touch
28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
30. Patti Hearst's captors
31. Israeli politician
33. Degrade
35. Type of wrap
37. Polyurethane fabric
38. Avoids capture
40. Vegetarians avoid it
41. Decay
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Vessel to bathe in
45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
48. Frosts
50. Dipped into
52. Controversial replay system in soccer
53. Comforts
55. Needed for yoga
56. Ands/__
57. South Dakota
58. Printing system
63. Dramatic works set to music
65. Highest points
66. Social division
67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

CLUES DOWN
1. Hill or rocky peak
2. Initial public offering
3. Type of light
4. Test
5. Flaky coverings
6. Former NFLer Newton
7. Part of the eye
8. Roman god of the underworld
9. Negative
10. Indiana pro basketball player
11. Replaces lost tissue
13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
15. Historic college hoops tournament
17. Hut by a swimming pool
18. Defunct European monetary unit
21. Feeds on insects
23. Adult male
24. Melancholic
27. Sheets of glass
29. Slang for famous person
32. Not good
34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
35. The "World" is one
36. Used to make guacamole
39. Midway between south and southwest
40. Wet dirt
43. Ancient Egyptian name
44. Set of four
46. Strips
47. Wife
49. More dried-up
51. Socially inept person
54. Clusters on fern fronds
59. Bar bill
60. Prefix indicating "away from"
61. Very important person
62. Fiddler crabs
64. Special therapy

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 Graduates!

Lowell High School class of 2023 Summa Cum Laude

VALEDICTORIAN
for the Class of 2023
Kaden Jacob Gruizenga - 4.462
Kaden is the sone of
Gregg and Helitha Gruizenga



SALUTATORIAN
for the Class of 2023
Jason Matthew Korzen – 4.438
Jason is the son of Peggy Korzen



Brooke Marie Tindall – 3.96
Brooke is the daughter of Rich and Ashley Tindall

Aubriegh Elise Oswald – 3.973
Aubriegh is the daughter of James and Rachel Oswald

Avery Marin Miles – 3.993
Avery is the daughter of Kim Miles and Chris Miles

Nicholas Michael Seddon – 4.007
Nicholas is the son of Mike and Angel Seddon

Abigail Marie Hewitt – 4.007
Abigail is the daughter of Brian and Kim Hewitt

Jadelynn Regina Ginsberg – 4.007
Jadelynn is the daughter of Jason Ginsberg

Lauren Elizabeth Visscher – 4.008
Lauren is the daughter of Jerry and Shannon Visscher

Stephanie Elizabeth Spinella – 4.013
Stephanie is the daughter of Ben and Mellisa Spinella

Dustin John Richardson – 4.021
Dustin is the son of Brad Richardson and Sandy Duram

Rhys Anthony Sandman – 4.032
Rhys is the son of Geoffrey and Melissa Sandman

Sophia Marie Flickinger – 4.033
Sophia is the daughter of Michael and Leslie Flickinger

Anna Leigh Seddon – 4.035
Anna is the daughter of Mike and Angel Seddon

Andrew Robert Veldman – 4.04
Andrew is the son of Craig and Tara Veldman

Lillian Marie Geelhoed – 4.04
Lillian is the daughter of Bessie and Matthew Streekstra

Hunter Aidan Stepanovich – 4.042
Hunter is the son of Luke Stepanovich and Denise Stepanovich

Olivia Grace Berg – 4.047
Olivia is the daughter of Ken and Sarah Berg

Riley Elizabeth Chapman Curnow – 4.052
Riley is the daughter of Kathryn Curnow and Alfred Curnow

Connor Eric Smith – 4.053
Connor is the son of Eric and Rebecca Smith

Jacob Phillip Davidson – 4.053
Jacob is the son of Jesse and Diane Davidson

Julian Scott Shafer – 4.056
Julian is the son of Nikole Shafer and Scott Shafer

Carson David Crace – 4.063
Carson is the son of Wendy Crace and David Crace

Grace Elizabeth Larson – 4.067
Grace is the daughter of Sarah Larson and Sean Larson

Gracie Anne Bassett– 4.073
Gracie is the daughter of Adam and Tia Bassett

Emma Jo McCormick – 4.077
Emma is the daughter of Brent and Tiffany McCormick

Steven Donald Skinner– 4.08
Steven is the son of Ken Skinner and Beth Skinner

Landon Jack Robidou Miller– 4.08
Landon is the son of Mitch and Sarah Miller

Gage Christopher Dutkiewicz – 4.08
Gage is the son of Christopher and Erika Dutkiewicz

Ryan Garrett Baker – 4.08
Ryan is the son of Nikki Baker and Brent Baker

Karina Beth Peplinski – 4.093
Karina is the daughter of Jim and Suzi Peplinski

Kevin Michael Topolinski – 4.1
Kevin is the son of Tim and Christen Topolinski.

Jack Alden Meier – 4.12
Jack is the son of John and Monica Meier

Alexander Robert Binns - 4.12
Alexander is the son of Rob and Holly Binns

Makayla Louanne Socall – 4.133
Makayla is the daughter of Rick and Jodi Socall

Dawson Patrick Huhn – 4.14
Dawson is the son of Pat and Christie Huhn

Emily Claire Ake – 4.14
Emily is the daughter of Max and Ronda Ake

Haylie Marie Beers – 4.147
Haylie is the daughter of Tony and Jodi Beers

Ethan James Krieger – 4.153
Ethan is the son of Eric and Kris Krieger

Taylor Lorraine Clark – 4.16
Taylor is the daughter of Scott and Sarah Clark

Noah James VanLaan – 4.163
Noah is the son of Steve and Kaily VanLaan

Emma Grace Sage – 4.163
Emma is the daughter of Kurt and Alisha Sage

Ilana Marie Rhodes – 4.17
Ilana is the daughter of Kedron and Amelia Rhodes

Ian Michael Berrington – 4.173
Ian is the son of Janel Berrington and Robert Joseph Berrington III

Maeve Louise Dougherty – 4.18
Maeve is the daughter of Philip and Jennifer Dougherty

Connor William Lixie – 4.187
Connor is the son of Tracy Lixie and Paul Lixie

Dawson Scott Douma – 4.193
Dawson is the son of Jason and Angie Douma

Kadence Lyn Tiede – 4.196
Kadence is the daughter of Matthew and Mindy Tiede

Leah Diane Davidson – 4.2
Leah is the daughter of Luke and Danielle Davidson

Katrina Kaye Sandman – 4.201
Katrina is the daughter of Geoffrey and Melissa Sandman

Keira Anne Sandman – 4.208
Keira is the daughter of Geoffrey and Melissa Sandman

Henry Kirk Vredevelt – 4.227
Henry is the son of Kirk and Marie Vredevelt

Alyssa Rose Spanbauer – 4.238
Alyssa is the daughter of Scott and Penny Spanbauer

Ramsey David Ponchaud – 4.25
Ramsey is the son of George and Sara Ponchaud

Krista Marie Jungblut – 4.267
Krista is the daughter of Michael and Rachael Jungblut

Evan Morris Blazo – 4.273
Evan is the son of Anne and Joel Blazo

Anthony Robert Havlik – 4.28
Anthony is the son of Bruce and Tamara Havlik

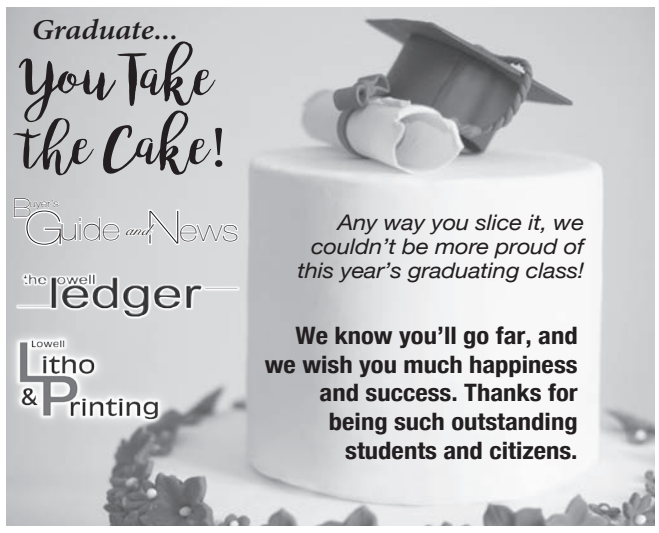
Colton Christopher Byrne – 4.282
Colton is the son of Chris and Karla Byrne

Ivy Jean McDonald – 4.307
Ivy is the daughter of Tracey and Beth McDonald

Benjamin Michael Bromley – 4.333
Benjamin is the son of Ryan Bromley and Jill VanWyk

William Donald Kolp – 4.365
William is the son of Kurt and Heidi Kolp

Annika Tess Sandman – 4.371
Annika is the daughter of Geoffrey and Melissa Sandman



Scholarships & Awards

Emily Claire Ake
The Peter and Evelyn Speerstra Scholarship, Cornerstone University Presidential Scholarship, Pastoral Scholarship, Soccer Scholarship and the Rural and Small-Town National Recognition Scholarship

Ryan Garrett Baker
The Edwin F. Doyle Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Cole Andrew Beach
KCTC Precision Machining Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

Hannah Christine Bechill
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Haylie Marie Beers
The Englehardt Scholarship-MSU, The Mandy Tichelaar Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Olivia Grace Berg
The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation Eva & Lee Lampkin Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Ian Michael Berrington
The Susan Burt Scholarship, Western Michigan University Bronco Merit Scholarship, String Area Scholarship



Alexander Robert Binns
The Peter and Evelyn Speerstra Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Jace William Clare Blakely
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Evan Morris Blazo
The Edwin F. Doyle Scholarship, The Grand Valley State University Presidential Scholarship, The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation Betsy Davidson Computer Science Scholarship

Benjamin Michael Bromley
The Alliance Financial & Insurance Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Lowell High School Iron Arrow Award, The Grand Valley State University Presidential Scholarship, The Thompson Working Family Scholarship

Logan Scott Buckingham
The LMS Chess Club Scholarship

Colton Christopher Byrne
The LEA Senior Leadership Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The University of Alabama Provost Academic Excellence Scholarship, UA Presidential Housing Scholarship, UA Presidential Diversity Scholarship, College Board National Recognition Award for Rural and Small-Town Scholars

Eleanora Marie Cheers Clark
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Taylor Lorraine Clark
The Red Arrow Family Spirit Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Spring Arbor Academic Scholarship and Athletic Scholarship

Samantha Marie Conrad
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Carson David Crace
The Alto American Legion Scholarship, The Phillip V. and Sylvia M. Frederickson Foundation – Teachers Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Lowell High School Iron Arrow Award, Lowell High School Athlete of the Year

Leah Diane Davidson
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Patrick Bennett de Voest
The Yeiter Family Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Kelton Reese DeVito
The Lowell Bus Drivers Scholarship

Maeve Louise Dougherty
The Alto American Legion Scholarship, The Phillip V. and Sylvia M. Frederickson Foundation - Heroes Scholarship, The Thomas A. Stahr Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Michigan Allied Poultry Industry Scholarship

Dawson Scott Douma
The Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson & Dickinson, PC Accounting Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Gage Christopher Dutkiewicz
The Margaret Court Memorial Scholarship, Grand Rapids Community College Scholarship

Reid Michael Eldred
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Sophia Marie Flickinger
The Peter and Evelyn Speerstra Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Arizona State University-New American University Provost's Award

David Grant Foster
The Edwin F. Doyle Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Alfredo Garcia-Tinoco
The Yeiter Family Scholarship

Lillian Marie Geelhoed
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Ian James George
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Audrie Leigh Gessler
The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation Donald & Ellura McPherson GRCC Scholarship

Rebecca Lynn Gray
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Kaden Jacob Gruizenga
The Alliance Financial & Insurance Scholarship, The Englehardt Scholarship, The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation King & Marie Doyle Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship Program Certificate of Merit

Tate Andrew Hare
The Lowell Bus Drivers Scholarship

Landon Matthew Hart
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Summer Michelle Havey
The Yeiter Family Scholarship

Anthony Robert Havlik
The Alto Lions Scholarship

Abigail Marie Hewitt
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Central Michigan University Gold and Maroon Scholarship

Lily June Hornik
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Grace Catherine Hough
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Alexis Kaye Howell
The Phillip V. and Sylvia M. Frederickson Foundation – Teachers Scholarship, The Kathy Talus Memorial Scholarship, The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation Jim & Bobbie White Education Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Dawson Patrick Huhn
The Englehardt Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Curt Cummings Award, Michigan Tech Distinguished Leader Scholarship, Michigan Tech Excellence Award, Michigan Tech Presidential Platinum Scholar

Delaney Marie Huizinga
The Yeiter Family Scholarship

Nolan John Jannenga
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Rylee Mae Jannenga
The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation Donald & Ellura McPherson GRCC Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

David Robert Johnston
The Ivan K. Blough Vocational Scholarship, The Byrne Family Scholarship, The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation Betsy Davidson Trade School Scholarship, The FFA Wittenbach Scholarship

Krista Marie Jungblut
The Wyntjes Medical Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Western Michigan University Bronco Merit Scholarship

Gwendolyn Elizabeth Kinney
Grand Rapids Community College Scholarship

William Donald Kolp
The Patricia Fox-Harberts and Robert A. Harberts Scholarship, The LEA Dependent Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship Program Certificate of Merit, Western Michigan University Bronco Merit Scholarship, WMU Irving S. Gilmore School of Music Keyboard Area Scholarship

Jason Matthew Korzen
National Merit Scholarship Program Certificate of Merit, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Ethan James Krieger
The Edwin F. Doyle Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Michigan Tech Platinum Scholarship

Alexis Lucille Lamoreaux
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Autumn Rose Lamoreaux
The Edwin F. Doyle Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Grace Elizabeth Larson
The Kathy Talus Memorial Scholarship, The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation King & Marie Doyle Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Megan Christine Liddle
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Connor William Lixie
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Elly Grace Looman
The Betty Jastifer Memorial Scholarship, The Kathy Talus Memorial Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Ava Jae Mallindine
The Yeiter Family Scholarship

Gavin Walter Mazarka
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Scholarships & Awards

Emma Jo McCormick
The Peter and Evelyn Speerstra Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Cornerstone University Presidential Scholarship, MI Achievement Scholarship

Augustus Allan McDonald
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Ivy Jean McDonald
The Edwin F. Doyle Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Jack Alden Meier
The Peter and Evelyn Speerstra Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Avery Marin Miles
The Peter and Evelyn Speerstra Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Dean Scholar Saint Mary's College Scholarship

Landon Jack Robidou Miller
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Levi Christopher Mills
The Lowell High School Iron Arrow Award

McKenzie Lucille Munson
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Gunnar Spendlove Nelson
The LAS Athletic Boosters Scholarship, The Thomas A. Stahr Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Aubriegh Elise Oswald
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Lowell High School Iron Arrow Award, Lowell High School Athlete of the Year

Karina Beth Peplinski
The Andrea Herrera Memorial Scholarship, The Lowell Women's Club Scholarship, The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation King & Marie Doyle Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Commendation, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Ramsey David Ponchaud
National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Commendation, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Chucka Jamar Poole
The Junior Achievement of Northwest Ohio Scholarship

Ilana Marie Rhodes
The Lowell Women's Club Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, LMCCOA Scholarship for Cheer, Scholarship Award for Cheer, Palm Beach Atlantic University Presidential Scholarship

Easton Todd Rich
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Dustin John Richardson
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Jack Charles Rickert
The Louise Harper Memorial LowellArts Scholarship, Kent County Education Association Sandy Wilson Dependent Scholarship

Jazmin Rios Soriano
The Tera Beran Spirit Scholarship, The Edwin F. Doyle Scholarship

Hope Elizabeth Rummelt
The Alto American Legion Scholarship, The Shelby Tomczak-Offrink Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Emma Grace Sage
The Englehardt Scholarship, The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation King & Marie Doyle Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, National Small/Rural Town Recognition, MI Achievement Scholarship, Alma Presidential Scholarship

Annika Tess Sandman
The Bob Perry Memorial Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Katrina Kaye Sandman
The Thomas Wilcox Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Keira Anne Sandman
The Kathy Talus Memorial Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Rhys Anthony Sandman
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Anna Leigh Seddon
The Earl and Lola Posthumus Memorial Alto Lions Scholarship, The Lowell Women's Club Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Nicholas Michael Seddon
The Guardian Scholarship, Wildcat Merit Scholarship, The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Odin Merrick Sever
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Julian Scott Shafer
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Maddox William Simcoe
The Junior Achievement of Northwest Ohio Scholarship

Dannion Thomas Simmet
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Steven Donald Skinner
The Margaret McMahon Scholarship, The Gary Rivers Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Central Michigan University Merit Scholarship

Cameron Jack Sluss
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Connor Eric Smith
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Appointment to United States Air Force Academy

Andrew Christian Snell
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Makayla Louanne Socall
Western Michigan University College of Engineering Applied Sciences Leadership Scholarship, Western Michigan University Paper Technology Foundation Scholarship

Alyssa Rose Spanbauer
The Englehardt Scholarship, The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation King & Marie Doyle Scholarship

Stephanie Elizabeth Spinella
The Peter and Evelyn Speerstra Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, River Valley Credit Union Scholarship, KCTC Certified Green Industry Professional Certificate

Olivia Grace Staley
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Hunter Aidan Stepanovich
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The University of Alabama National Recognition Scholarship

Kadence Lyn Tiede
The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation Hahn/Rotary Club of Lowell Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Commendation, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Calvin University Trustee's Scholarship

Kevin Michael Topolinski
OK Conference Scholar-Athlete

Kiera Maureen Troost
The LMS Chess Club Scholarship, The Lowell Women's Club Scholarship, The LowellArts Scholarship

Noah James VanLaan
The Jeff Sweet LASSO Community Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Commendation, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Eastern Michigan University Emerald Scholarship and Presidential Scholar Finalist Scholarship

Grace Nadine VanTimmeren
The C. H. Runciman Scholarship, The FFA Siler Scholarship

Andrew Robert Veldman
The Edwin F. Doyle Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, Spring Arbor University Academic Merit Scholarship

Lauren Elizabeth Visscher
Grand Valley Award for Excellence, Lakers Go Abroad Scholarship, River Valley Credit Union Scholarship

Henry Kirk Vredevelt
The Shari Miller Scholarship, Aquinas College Audrey E. Mohler Music Scholarship

Mason David Wade
The Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Ryleigh Lynn Marie Wilder
The LAS Athletic Boosters Scholarship

Courtney Marie Witten
The Austin Lancaster Memorial Scholarship, OK Conference Scholar-Athlete, The Lowell High School Iron Arrow Award

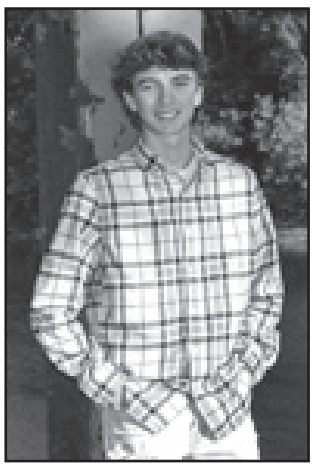
Gabrielle Caitlin Yeary
The Lowell Women's Club Scholarship




Alyssa Aguilar


Emily Ake


Jordan Alcala


Brady Alexander


Hayli Allchin


Gabriela Amoroso


Wesley Ash


Colin Baas


Ryan Baker


Robert Bardwell


Gracie Bassett


Landon Battle




Cole Beach


Hannah Bechill

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”
~ Henry David Thoreau


Haylie Beers


Olivia Berg


Ian Berrington


Kayla Bibbler


Alexander Binns


Jace Blakely


Collin Blattner


Evan Blazo

Class of 2023
CONGRATULATIONS
The future
is yours, graduate!
We wish you health, happiness
and success today
and always.
FULLER
SEPTIC SERVICES
2051 Bowes Rd., Lowell, Michigan
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We match all competitors coupons
ASK US ABOUT
OUR GROUP DISCOUNT

Honoring
Our Graduates
We'd like to extend our
sincere congratulations
and best wishes to the
Class of 2023.
As you celebrate this milestone
achievement, please know
you have made your community
and your loved ones proud!
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Heating & Cooling
Call Arctic Inc. Heating & Cooling:
616-897-4123
INFO@HEATINGCOOLINGONLINE.COM

































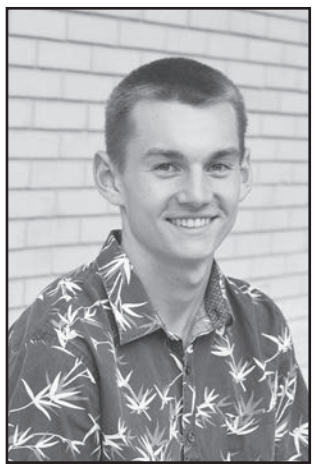

Vivianne Bledsoe


Kyra Boersma


Brenden Brandt


Tristan Braun

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."
~ Mark Twain
(1835 - 1910)


Benjamin Bromley


Alonzo Bruinekool


Abbey Brummel


Logan Buckingham



Tristan Bulthuis


Joclynn BurKholder


Colton Byrne


Katie Camphouse


Sophia Campos

CLASS OF 2023 YOU DID IT



Samantha Cazier


Zachary Chambers


Wei-Ting Chang


Madison Clarida


Alaina Clark


Eleanora Cheers-Clark


Madison Clarida


Alaina Clark


Eleanora Cheers-Clark


Taylor Clark


Alexander Compton


Samantha Conrad

Carson Crace

Keara Crawford

Riley Chapman-Curnow

Celebrating
This Year's Graduates



We're wishing the Class of 2023
a fun-filled graduation and summer!
There's so much to look forward to,
so please remember to make safe decisions
and celebrate responsibly as you mark this
milestone achievement.

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Jacob Davidson



Leah Davidson



Patrick deVoest



Wyatt DeBard-Slater



Emma DeGlopper

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."
~ Benjamin Franklin
(1706 - 1790)



Josalyn Deible



Aidan Dennings



Kelton DeVito



Gavin DeVries



Tayshaun Donald



Maeve Dougherty



Dawson Douma



Brooklynn Dusendang



Gage Dutkiewicz



Reid Eldred





Brooke Ellsworth



Christopher Elwell



Grace Fassett





Drew Ferrill





Isabelle Field



Aidan Fitzpatrick



Ezekiel Flentje



Sophia Flickinger



Lucinda Foreman



Kyleigh Foss



Aidan Foster



David Foster



Hannah Fountaine



Noah Franz



Alfredo Garcia-Tinoco



Grant Gasper



Fauna Gates



Lillian Geelhoed



Ian George



Abigail German



Audrie Gessler



Jadelynn Ginsberg



Ryan Goggins





Isaac Graham



Braden Granholm



Rebecca Gray



Kaden Gruizenga



Amelia Hancock



Alexander Hare



Tate Hare



Landon Hart







Summer Havey



Anthony Havlik



Honey Hernandez-Hernandez



Mason Hesche



Abigail Hewitt



Kendra Hoffert



Lily Hornik

“Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

~ Martin Luther King Jr.



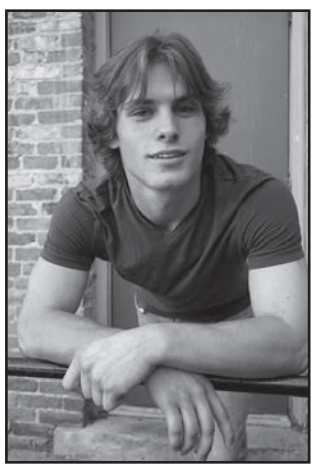
Grace Hough



Alexis Howell



Dawson Huhn



Case Huisman



Delaney Huizinga



Faith Hyrns



Nolan Jannenga



Rylee Jannenga



Daniel Johnson

Nice Work,
Graduates!



As you turn the page to the next chapter, we hope you find success, satisfaction & meaning in your future endeavors.

Keep up the great work, and enjoy your big day!

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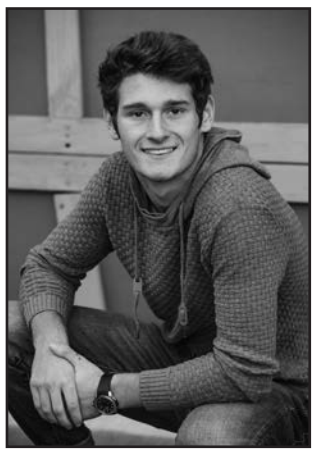


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David Johnston



William Johnston



Chloe Jones



Garrett Jones

"Don't underestimate the power of your dreams. "

- Corinna Konga



Krista Jungblut



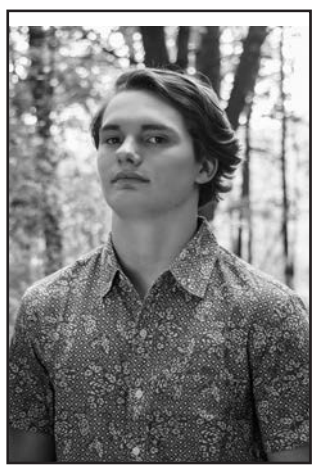
Payton Karle



Ashlyn Karp



Gwendolyn Kinney



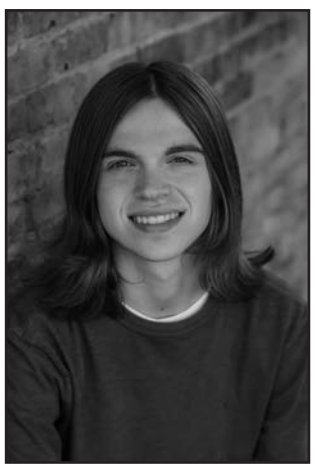
Josiah Kissinger



Morgan Kistler



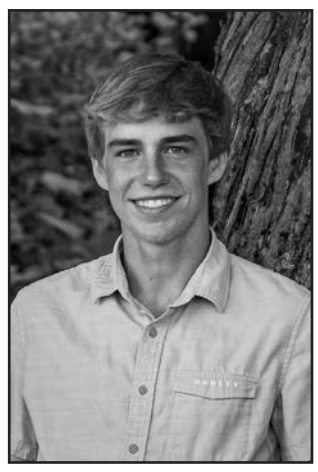
Jonah Kniss



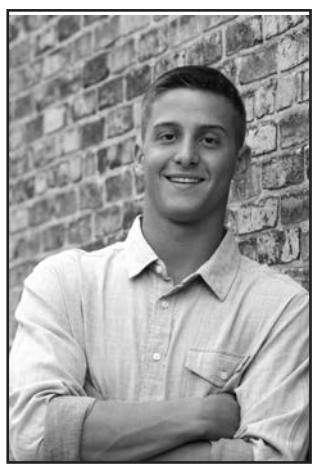
William Kolp

"High School is a lot like toilet paper, you only miss it when it's gone."

~ Anonymous



Jason Korzen



Ethan Krieger



Makayla Kyes



Jaylin LaForce

LOWELL
Rotary

The Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation would like to congratulate all of the Lowell Class of 2023. We would also like to recognize the recipients of the Foundations' scholarships.



Kadence Tiede
Hahn/Rotary Club of Lowell Scholarship



Grace Larson
King & Marie Doyle Family Scholarship



Emma Sage
King & Marie Doyle Family Scholarship



Kaden Gruizenga
King & Marie Doyle Family Scholarship

Alyssa Spanbauer
King & Marie Doyle Family Scholarship

Karina Peplinski
King & Marie Doyle Family Scholarship

Kate Nelson
Dorothy & Clinton Christoff Scholarship

Olivia Berg
Eva & Lee Lampkin Scholarship



Alexis Howell
Jim & Bobbie White Family Scholarship



Audrie Gessler
Donald & Ellura McPherson Scholarship



Rylee Jannenga
Donald & Ellura McPherson Scholarship



Evan Blazo
Betsy Davidson Computer Science Scholarship



David Johnston
Betsy Davidson Trade School Scholarship

Congratulations Trevor!

We are so proud of all the accomplishments you have made, and look forward to supporting you on your next chapter. You have turned into a wonderful young man. Keep being you, work hard, and don't give up and you will succeed.

Love you so much -
Mom, Dad, Tori, Grandma & Grandpa



Congratulations

Ryan Goggins

We are so proud of you and love you so much!

Grandma Linda & Scott
Great-Grandma Carrol
and all your family

CONGRATULATIONS



Alyssa Spanbauer

Mom & Dad
Brett & Sydney



Alexis Lamoreaux



Autumn Lamoreaux



Grace Larson



Rhyan LeBarre



Riley Lester



Megan Liddle



Beatriz Lima-Freires



Connor Lixie



Elly Looman



Macy Luce





Easton Lyons



Keith MacDermaid



Murphy Malcolm



Ava Mallindine



Samuel Martin



Rafaella Martinelli-Pozzeborn Cavalcante



Unai Martinez-Salcedo

The tassel's worth the hassle!
~Author Unknown



aidance Martino



Elana Mauri



Congratulations;
you've succeeded with flying colors!
May your education take you to new heights of success as you soar toward your goals.

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Gavin Mazarka



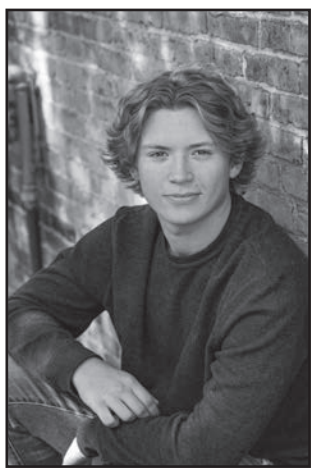
Emma McCormick



Augustus McDonald



Ivy McDonald



Conor McDowell

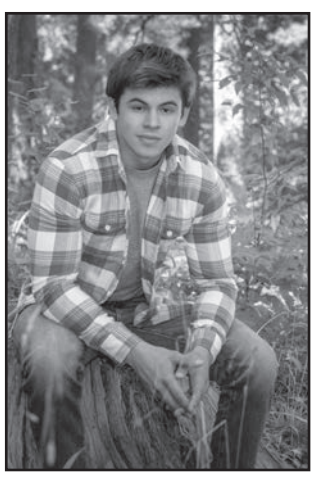


Luke McMillan



Janessa Mead

"To those of you who received honors, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the 'C' students, I say you too may one day be President of the United States."
~ George W. Bush



Jack Meier



Alden Merritt



Kaylee Meyer



Katelyn Meyers



Zoey Mierendorf



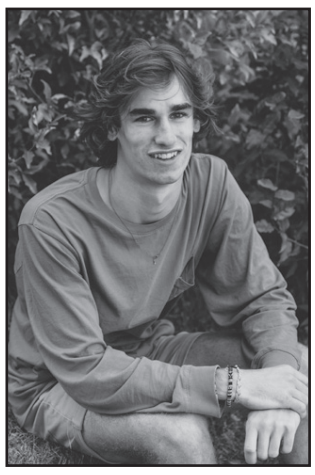
Avery Miles



Avery Miller



Conner Miller



Landon Miller

Levi Mills



Hayden Mitchell

Eva Morgan

Halie Morgan



Paula Morilla-Exposito

Wishing This Year's Graduates
Great Happiness & Success

Hats off to the students whose hard work and dedication have led them to this milestone achievement. May the classroom and life lessons you've learned from your peers, parents and teachers guide you toward continued success as you take the next step.

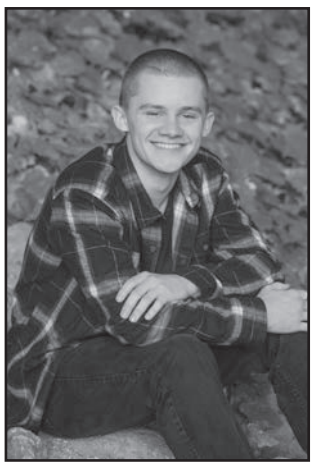
We're proud of your accomplishments, and we wish you all the best!



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Ivan Mosier



McKenzie Munson



Daniel Nagy



Gunnar Nelson



Logan Nunley





Ethan Orth



Aubriegh Oswald

"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.



Ryan Parsons



Liberty Parzyszek



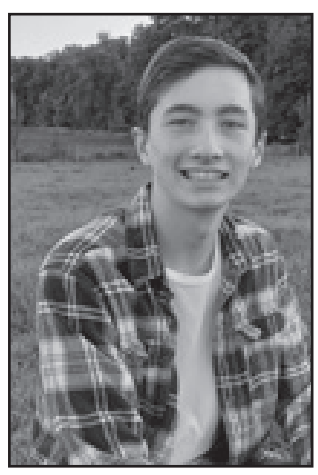
Michael Patrick



Caroline Peal



Lauren Pearson



Ayden Pellerito



Karina Peplinski



Elisha Peters



Jonah Phillips



Ramsey Ponchaud



Chucka Poole



Luisa Priolo

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."

~ Sir Winston Churchill
(1874 - 1965)

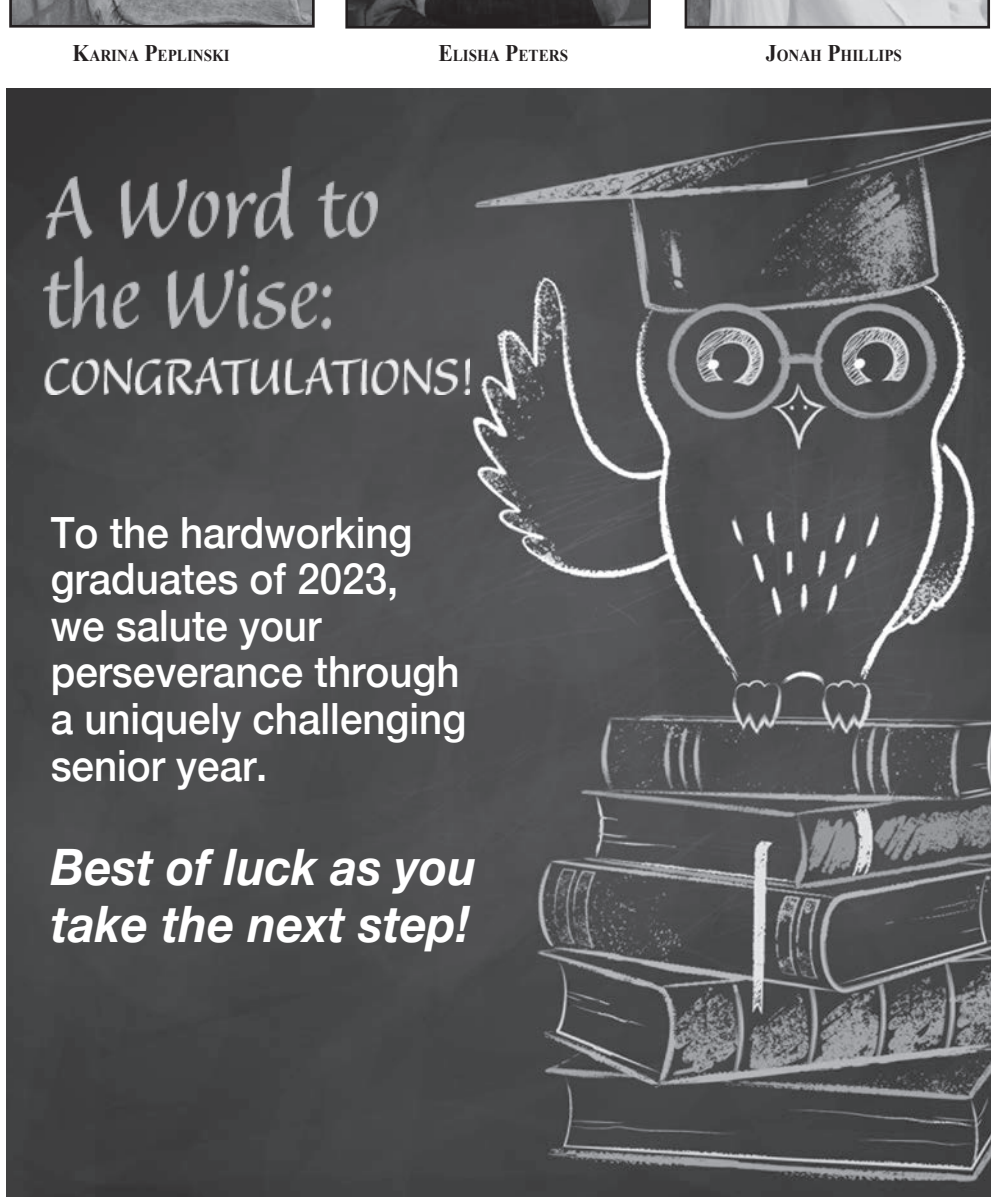
Emma Proctor

Alexander Proper

Savannah Redumski

Rasmus Rewitz

Ilana Rhodes



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Lane Rich


Jeffrey Richards


Aidan Richardson


Dustin Richardson


Grace Richmond


Jack Rickert


Jazmin Rios-Soriano

"Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning."
~ Orrin Hatch


Logan Rittersdorf


Addisen Rodriguez


Grayden Rooker


Hope Rummelt

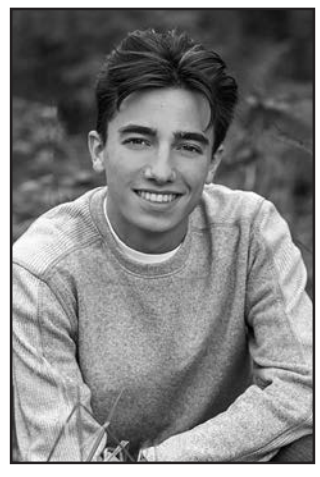

Zahna Rutz


Emma Sage


Annika Sandman


Katrina Sandman


Keira Sandman


Rhys Sandman


Anna Seddon

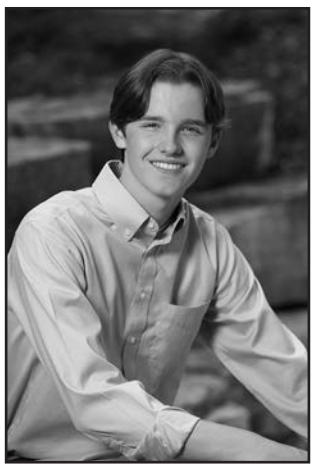

Nicholas Seddon


Allyson Seevers

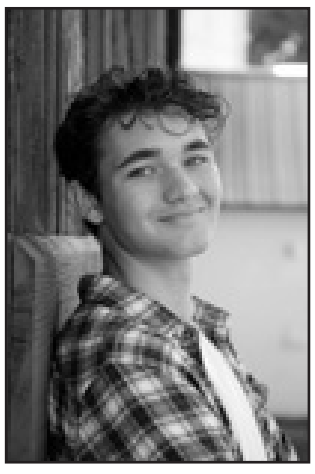

Alanee Selover

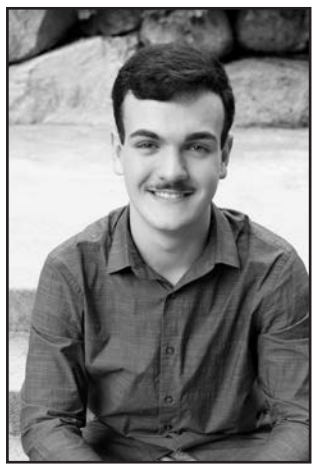



Odin Sever


Julian Shafer


Maddox Simcoe

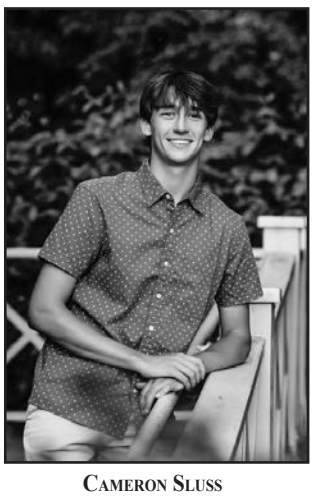

Dannion Simmet

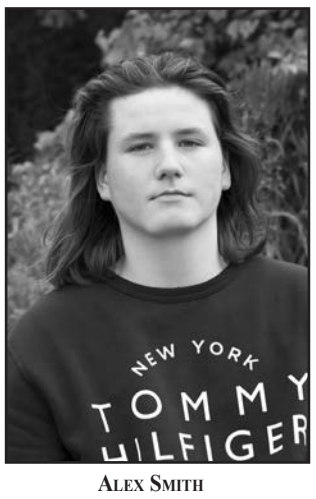

Nolan Simmons


Iris Skibbe

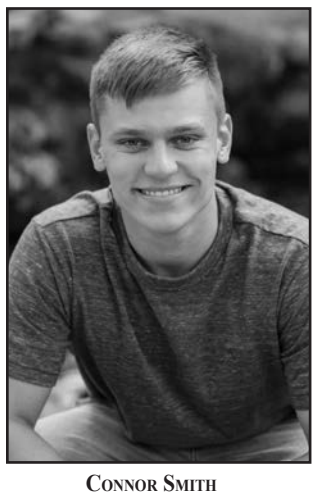

Steven Skinner


Ava Skoog


Cameron Sluss



Alex Smith


Connor Smith

"Keep in mind that neither success nor failure is ever final."
~ Roger Babson


David Smith



Kaitlyn Smith



Logan Smith



Andrew Snell



Kalea Sobie



Makayla Socall



Alyssa Spanbauer



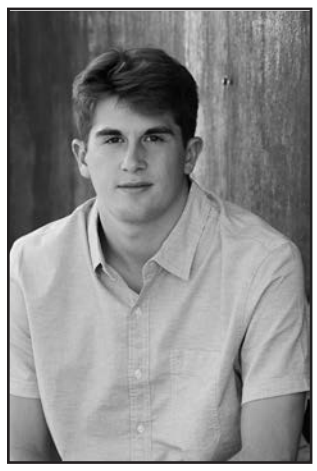
Stephanie Spinella



Olivia Staley



Katie Stauffer



Charles Steinebach



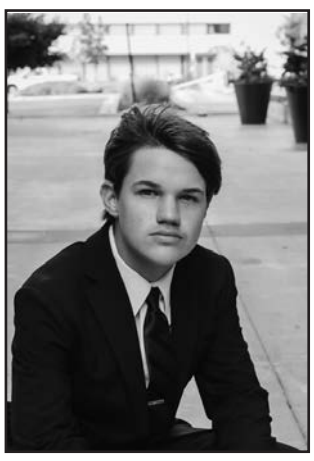
Hunter Stepanovich



Noah Sternisha



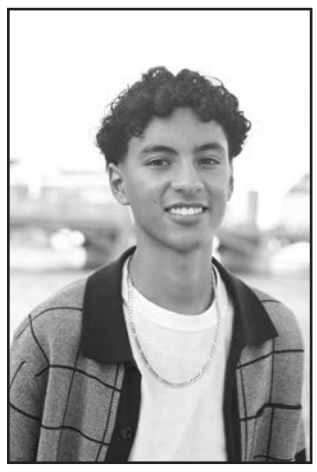
Trevor Stewart



Maxwell Stoner



Brady Strouse



Celso Tapia



Peyton Teachworth



Jacob Thomas



Wyatt Thompson



Kadence Tiede



Brooke Tindall



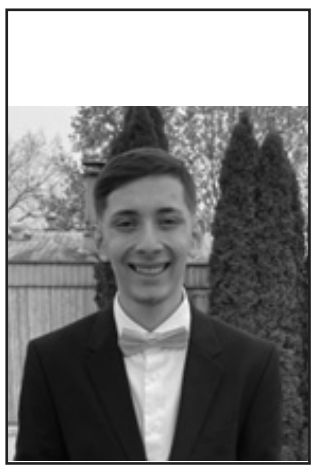
Phantouch Tiyavatcharapong

"All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them."

~ Walt Disney



Kevin Topolinski



Damian Torres



Kiera Troost



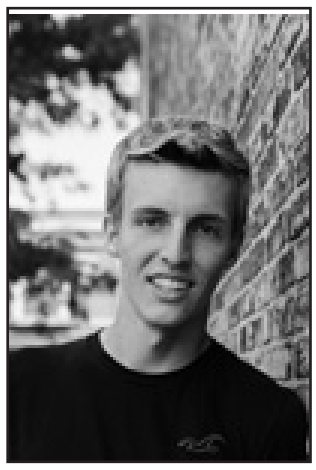
Alexis Tyler



Brady VanAlstine



Dylan VanGorp



Noah VanLaan





Kenadie VanSyckle



Grace VanTimmeren



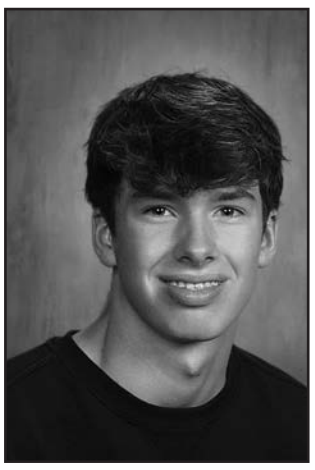
Andrew Veldman



Delaney Viewig



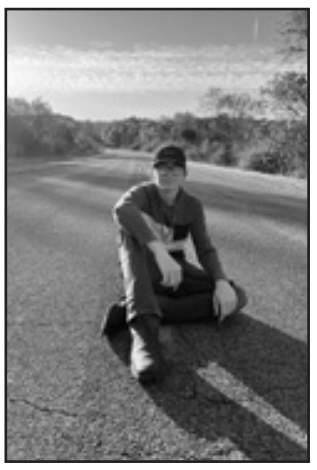
Lauren Visscher











"You can fail at what you don't want, so you might as well take a chance on doing what you love."
~ Jim Carrey

RYAN VISSER



HENRY VREDEVELT

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."
~ William Arthur Ward

MASON WADE



MAKAYLA WARDEN



TOBY WARDEN





LOUIE WASCIUK





JORDAN WATKINS



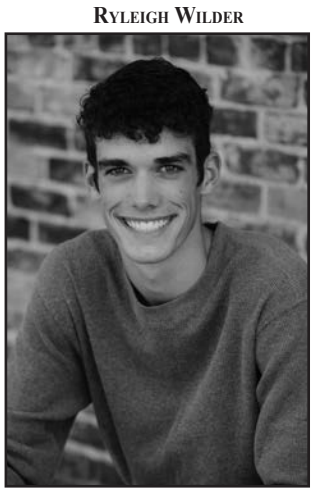
TYLER WELLER



TALLIN WESTRATE-CRITCHETT



RYLEIGH WILDER



ABIGAIL WINN

HANNAH WITHERELL

COURTNEY WITTEN



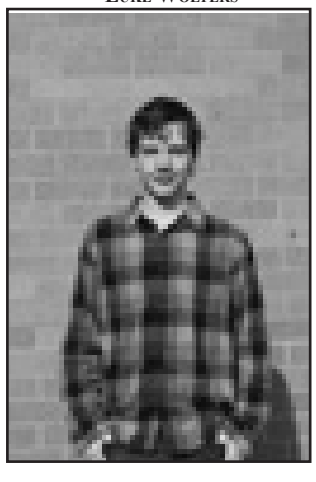
BRENDEN WITTENBACH

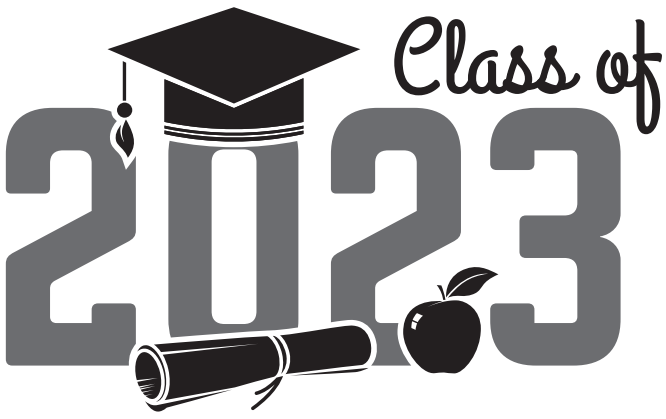


ALYSSA WOERN



LUKE WOLTERS





GABRIELLE YEARY

CALEB YOMTOOB

GAVIN YONKER

JACOB ZERILLI

CONGRATULATIONS
~
As you turn the page to the next chapter, the future is yours to write. Fill it with new experiences, good people and rewarding choices that help make the world a better place.

Best wishes to all of the dedicated seniors who are celebrating their graduation!

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Red Arrow
SPORTS
- LACROSSE

Boys lacrosse keeps dancing

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Winning when it counts, that's what it was for the Lowell varsity boys lacrosse team, who avenged a pair of 8-3 regular season losses to Byron Center, and won their second, consecutive upset-playoff win-in-a-row.

The six-seeded Red Arrows knocked off the two-seeded Bulldogs, 16-11, last week in the regional semifinal round.

It wasn't the start that Lowell was looking for in the game, though; the Bulldogs jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but Jackson Roudabush put Lowell on the scoresheet to get the Lowell offense going. Teige Bredin netted back-to-back goals to tie the game, and the Red Arrows took the lead through a surprising name; Graham Boonstra ran the length of the field and shot his shot to give Lowell a 4-3 lead. Defensemen don't often score goals in lacrosse, and it was, indeed, the first goal of the season for Boonstra. It wasn't just the first goal of the season, but the first shot of the season for him.

Mason Godbold broke the deadlock in the third quarter with the teams knotted at seven each. It was one of his five goals of the evening. It was part of a seven-goal run for LHS that broke the game open, trailing 7-5, then leading 12-7, a run that took the Bulldogs by surprise. A Case Huisman face-off win led to the 12th goal, by Teige Bredin.

Just like Caledonia last week, the Bulldogs would make a run to close the gap, down to 13-11, but this time a Godbold goal would slam the door on the comeback attempt at Memorial Stadium in EGR, giving Lowell a much more comfortable three-goal lead, and a lead they would never give up in the 16-12 final.

Lowell won 19 of 30 faceoffs and only had six penalties over the course of the game to Byron Center's 13. Staying out of the box in lacrosse is always important to finding success. Connor Lixie and Andrew Rogers combined for nine assists over the course of the game.

Upsets did not happen on the other side of the bracket, as top-seeded East Grand Rapids won their way to the semifinals. The six-seeded Red Arrows will play the Pioneers this Wednesday at 6:00 pm, also at Memorial Stadium in East Town. The winner moves on to the state quarterfinals.

Despite their close proximity, Lowell hasn't played the Pioneers much, in fact, only one time; a regional loss in 2007. Last year, the team also made a run to the regional finals, looking for their first regional championship in program history. But were defeated by Forest Hills Central.

Of course, both East Grand Rapids and FHC represent the past two state champions in boys lacrosse; the Red Arrows, who have embraced their underdog role this postseason ,will look to keep it going on Wednesday.



Lowell lacrosse junior, Chris Rogers, celebrates against Caledonia in a Regional round-one win.

Softball honors seniors

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Lowell softball Coach, Matt Dood, has mixed fixings about the 'runner on second base to start extra innings rule' that is also used in high school softball. It's also a rule used in Major League Baseball. Last week on senior day, Lowell delivered a thrilling win in extra innings and walked off, so for now, the rule will stay on Coach's good side.

"It definitely increases the stress of the game for sure," Dood told the *Ledger* after the win. Lowell swept a doubleheader from the visiting Northview Wildcats on senior day, winning 3-2 in extra innings, in game one, and then 11-5 in the nightcap. Both teams went into the seventh inning of game one, tied at one a piece. With the runner on second to start off the inning, Northview applied the pressure at the top of the eighth, scoring one run. Lowell was able to respond, scoring one of their own, to bring the game to the ninth.

There, Lowell kept Northview off the scoreboard, and with a masterful performance on the mound by Megan Lillie all nine innings, came away with a 3-2 win in extra innings. In the bottom of the ninth, Haylie Beers bunted in the game-winning run, sending the Lowell dugout to celebrate. Lillie struck out nine with no walks.Taylor Clark and Katie Hofman each had three hits to lead the way offensively.

A five-run first inning made things a little less stressful in game two. Taylor Clark hit a home run and four more runs came to give Lowell a solid cushion. Pitcher, Jordyn McClymont, helped keep the Wildcat bats at bay in the 11-5 victory. She had three strikeouts in the win. Amaya Jackson had three hits to lead the way offensively.

It was a great way to cap senior day, where six seniors were honored: Hope Rummelt, Haylie Beers, Alyssa Spanbauer, Courtney Witten, Taylor Clark, and Karina Peplinski.

Seniors were presented with framed senior jerseys and honored by retiring athletic director, Dee Crowley, along with incoming athletic director, Patrick Russell.

The Red Arrows kept their momentum going into the postseason with two lopsided wins over Forest Hills Central, later in the week.



Senior Karina Peplinski is presented with her senior jersey.



Courtney Witten makes a catch on senior day.

Red Arrow
- CLAY TARGET
SPORTS



Clay target team takes on KCCL

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Tucked away in the woods of Ada is the sprawling Kent County Conservation League, home of the KCCL Orange Crushers clay target team and a wide range of clay target sports, as well as, shooting and archery ranges. It's also where the Lowell clay target team found themselves a couple of weeks ago for the Conference Skeet and Sporting Clays Championships. The team shot sporting clays in the morning before hitting up the open skeet fields in the afternoon.

Jacob Johnson had a big day hitting 87 of his sporting clays to take first, overall, he took first in skeet, as well, with a 96 out of 100 hits.

There are several categories for participants, including varsity, JV, intermediate advanced, and intermediate entry, which allows for athletes to compete with other athletes more in their skill range.

Blaine Knorr, who competed in the intermediate entry group, had a good day, only five targets away from first place individually, both in sporting clays and skeet.

Isaac Johnson earned HOA honors, or high over all birds, and was only two targets off first place in skeet. David Johnston (varsity) was only four off of first place.

In intermediate advanced, Anthony Richmond took second in sporting clays and Eliott Newland took fourth.

Team results provided by the program can be found below:

Varsity - third and fourth place

JV - second and fifth place

Intermediate Advanced - first place

Intermediate Entry - third and fourth place

Skeet Results:

Varsity - third and fifth place

JV - first and sixth place

Intermediate Advanced - second place

Intermediate Entry - second and fourth place



Members of the clay target team take aim during skeet.

What conference realignment means for Lowell

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Long car rides. When Lowell already hasn't been able to provide bussing for away athletic events, now thanks to conference realignment, three trips to Muskegon are in order for LHS sports teams, starting in fall of 2024. While Lowell opposed the realignment, due to travel concerns, it passed anyway. There are some negatives, travel is the principal one. There are positives. We take a look at what Lowell's new athletics conference will bring.

OK Black
Mona Shores – 1,231
Reeths-Puffer – 1,150
Muskegon – 1,130
Lowell – 1,078
Cedar Springs – 1,078
Greenville – 1,071
Northview – 1,053
Kenowa Hills – 1,000

Travel - The most obvious problem for Lowell-based teams and fans is the travel time to three schools; Muskegon, Mona Shores, and Reeths-Puffer. Now, Lowell is not strangers to long conference commutes. Zeeland was 42 miles one-way, Fremont was 62 miles, when both schools were in Lowell's conference. Reeths-Puffer is 61 miles one-way, Muskegon is 56, and Mona Shores, a commute we just made for boys lacrosse, is also 56.

Lowell is one of the easternmost schools in the OK conference, and to pair them with three west-coast teams is interesting. Greenville faces similar difficulties. Northview, Kenowa Hills, and Cedar Springs are a bit more centralized.

As gas prices and transportation shortages grow, travel to Muskegon is a long-haul. It was the main reason Lowell opposed the realignment plan. Cedar Springs is also a bit of a drive, but all-in-all, the non-Muskegon travel isn't bad.

Competitiveness - While travel is a negative, it is competitiveness that may warm-up Lowell fans. The current conference quarter of FHN, FHC, Grand Rapids Christian, and East Grand Rapids, are generally speaking, more affluent districts. Some sports and the access to resources are hand-in-hand with how good the schools are. Those four dominate the more affluent sports, those are tennis and golf, particularly, but other sports such as soccer and lacrosse, that are really travel-based, are a part of that. Now, that's not a big issue, and the general trend we can see is, on average, conference championships for Lowell will be more likely.

You have a conference now that is composed of eight schools that, overall, are middle-of-the-road income districts. Income level and winning percentage in high school sports is highly correlated statistically. Based on historical data, across all sports, in the new OK Black, Lowell will have a 12 percent higher chance of winning any random athletic event than in the current OK White. Of course, this is sport-dependent, and we haven't played schools like Muskegon and Mona Shores a ton. Below, you can see our record against schools historically in the new conference.

Current OK White Opponents			
School	Wins	Losses	WIN %
EGR	461	668	39.57%
GR Christian	142	265	33.97%
Byron Center	74	68	49.33%
Northview	551	460	52.88%
Greenville	514	396	55.21%
FHN	236	294	44.03%
FHC	342	559	37.25%
TOTAL	2320	2710	46.12%

New OK Black Opponents (Fall 2024)			
School	Wins	Losses	WIN %
Cedar Springs	391	200	63.58%
Greenville	514	396	55.21%
Kenowa Hills	250	165	57.74%
Mona Shores	33	56	35.11%
Muskegon	15	6	71.43%
Northview	551	460	52.88%
Reeths-Puffer	50	18	67.57%
TOTAL	1804	1301	58.10%

These are also eight public schools, so there's no more public-versus-private discussion, at least in the new OK Black. There is only one private school in the current OK White, Grand Rapids Christian.

Overall, Lowell is likely to bring in more conference championships in the new OK Black than the current OK White. Winning isn't everything, but these statistics are at the very least, interesting.

Comparability - Rivalries, sports offered, enrollment size; these are all important parts of a conference. The new conference presents some interesting pairings. The first is the trio of Lowell, Northview, and Greenville. We're pretty well-acquainted. Northview and Kenowa Hills, as suburban GR schools, make for a good pairing. They had the exact same enrollment this year, both have adopted a small town, hard work ethic, and multi-sport push mentality that is at the core of their athletic programs.

The three Muskegon schools are obviously good pairings, particularly the suburb rivals of Reeths-Puffer and Mona Shores.

So with the five Grand Rapids area schools and the three Muskegon schools, you essentially have a conference of two well-aligned groups of schools. Just when you try to align the two groups, you have some differences. Muskegon is the only school located in a more urban area, the rest being suburban or rural.

What this means for specific programs

Not Affected - lacrosse, hockey (under Caledonia), gymnastics, skiing, swim & dive (Under CLS), sideline cheer, and the club sports (ESports, equestrian, shooting, boys volleyball).

Lowell Tennis - This is a game-changer for both the Lowell boys and girls tennis programs, at least, as far as conference competitiveness. Shuffling out are FHC, FHN, EGR, Byron Center and GR Christian. The two Forest Hills represent tennis juggernauts that every year are competing for state championships. There isn't a lot of parity in tennis. The top schools are miles above even average programs, and upsets in tennis are extremely rare. This is typical of tennis, in general. It should be noted that Muskegon does not field golf and tennis teams according to their school website. Mona Shores does bring in a strong program, but compared to what is leaving, the new OK Black is likely to be much less daunting.

Table below - Historical data does not necessarily predict future performance, however, Lowell has been trending up. Lowell's win percentage since 2000 is 56.7 percent. Prior to 2000, it was 49.75 percent. Meaning the last decade, Lowell has improved in sport-win percentage.

Lowell Golf - Golf will benefit tremendously from this conference change. The current boys golf team would win in the 2024 OK Black, and it wouldn't be relatively close. GR Christian's presence in the OK White will keep Lowell from their first OK White championship in over four decades. For both the boys and girls teams, the conference will get easier. Travel will not be significantly impacted, given the lack of dual meets

Realignment, continued next page

Red Arrow
SPORTS

Realignment, continued

in golf over the last decade.

Lowell Football - For football there's a lot of interesting things here. Mona Shores and Muskegon are the current state powers and form a natural rivalry. Lowell, on the rise, along with Cedar Springs are right on their heels. So that duo with Muskegon and Mona Shores, they make for quite the quarter of their own. Kenowa, Greenville, Northview, and Reeths-Puffer are likely the bottom four, at least, going in. Lowell and Muskegon together is a treat for fans who remember Lowell's high-profile games with the Big Reds in the 2000's and 2010's. If you like old school natural grass, both teams have that, as well.

Wrestling - Unless Detroit Catholic Central is joining the OK White soon (obviously not), there really wasn't an alignment that threatened Lowell's vice grip on their conference. Lowell reloads next year, and certainly, will be strong into 2024. Greenville will continue to be their closest competition. A renewed Lowell-Greenville rivalry would be welcome news in the conference. Travel isn't as big of a deal for wrestling, who already travels plenty, and has done away with old school conference duals, lately, in favor of more tournament-style duals with multiple teams in the same gym over one full day.

Boys basketball - Muskegon is the powerhouse here in the OK Black. They're the defending state runner-ups and that success wasn't a one-off, having seen players get selected in the NBA draft. It is a change from the revolving door of powers in the OK White, where FHN, Northview, FHC have all made runs in recent years. Mona Shores has struggled in recent years, Reeths-Puffer up and down, Kenowa and Cedar have both been middle-of-the road. You should see a lot of competitive games in this conference, and if Muskegon does have a rare down year, it's anybody's conference.

Girls basketball - Muskegon has had solid girls basketball teams for the better half of the last decade. This past year, Lowell had a strong year, but finished behind outgoing GR Christian and Byron Center (who went undefeated in conference).

Below table - Lowell's top five opponents, historically, are all currently in the OK White, meaning, while FHC, EGR, and FHN are departing, we could see them again in future realignments.

Track and cross country - Success in track and cross country do have a good deal of correlation. For track, Lowell finished above Northview and Greenville in boys and girls track the last two years, and every team above them will end-up leaving the conference.

Bowling - Both the boys and girls bowling programs, having to travel to Muskegon, isn't ideal, but it is a trip they've made for tournaments and regionals on numerous occasions. This is one of the few sports that, competitively, the OK Black might be harder than the OK White. Both the Lowell boys and girls have well-over .500 records, historically, and the outgoing OK White schools weren't consistently good at bowling. Cedar Springs has been very good the past few years on the girls side.

Comp cheer - Cedar Springs and Reeths-Puffer enter after regional qualifying last year and nearly making it to states. FHN, a state-qualifier this year, cycles out. There are only four schools with competitive cheer in the current OK White presently; Lowell, Byron Center, FHN, and Northview.

Volleyball - Lowell has played the three Muskegon schools eight times in their history, so there's no real historical trend we can take from their addition. No, past performance doesn't always indicate future performance, but it does give us an idea. Lowell and Kenowa Hills have gone nearly .500 against each other, historically, and Lowell went 29-5 against Cedar Springs, historically. The Red Arrows were 9-21, 21-44, 12-31, and 16-44, respectively, against GR Christian, FHN, FHC, and EGR. They have good programs, and losing them from the conference does make it easier. Mona Shores, in particular, had a strong volleyball season last year.

Boys soccer - Soccer's a big winner here from a competition standpoint. EGR, FHN, FHC, and Grand Rapids Christian leave a big-talent void. The talent coming in is just not as good. Shores and Puffer have average boys programs, while Muskegon will struggle. Cedar has had some recent success (2019) while Kenowa Hills has also struggled. Lowell has perennially been able to build strong soccer teams with the LASSO feeder program, and they can compete for championships in the OK Black.

Softball - History tells us little about how softball will fit in the new conference. That's because Lowell really hasn't played any of the Muskegon schools in softball. They have, historically, been dominant over Cedar Springs and have relatively good records against Northview and Greenville. Reeths-Puffer's team is having a good season this year. Time will tell how Lowell will settle into the OK Black in softball.

Girls Basketball Historical Opponents Through 2021-2022

School	LHS Wins	LHS Losses	TIES	Win Percentage	Total Games
Greenville	51	37	0	57.95%	88
FHC	34	46	0	42.50%	80
Northview	48	28	0	63.16%	76
EGR	40	31	0	56.34%	71
FHN	35	26	0	57.38%	61
Ionia	28	30	0	48.28%	58
Sparta	30	19	0	61.22%	49
Belding	28	19	0	59.57%	47
Cedar Springs	22	21	0	51.16%	43
Lakewood	18	17	0	51.43%	35

Lowell Win Percentage By Year (All Sports) Since 2000

	Wins	Losses	Win %	Enrollment
2000-2001	163	154	48.22%	1083
2001-2002	180	143	53.41%	1125
2002-2003	179	127	56.65%	1163
2003-2004	237	111	64.05%	1300
2004-2005	224	149	58.49%	1226
2005-2006	237	159	58.66%	1233
2006-2007	215	145	59.23%	1271
2007-2008	197	121	60.24%	1289
2008-2009	179	144	53.92%	1329
2009-2010	200	148	56.50%	1297
2010-2011	196	155	52.41%	1257
2011-2012	225	146	58.29%	1227
2012-2013	133	193	38.78%	1177
2013-2014	173	172	48.46%	1146
2014-2015	171	170	47.24%	1145
2015-2016	194	167	51.87%	1168
2016-2017	253	140	62.94%	1165
2017-2018	210	150	56.45%	1195
2018-2019	223	152	56.74%	1168
2019-2020	134	82	58.26%	1152
2020-2021	202	150	56.27%	1153
2021-2022	179	209	45.78%	1107

Soccer season ends



The Lowell girls soccer team saw their season come to an end this past week in districts, a 5-0 loss to FHC. We'll have a full recap of an eventful soccer season in next week's Ledger!

Pictured is Aubree Lee making a save against FHC.

2023 FOOD FIGHT

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2023 FOOD FIGHT
FROM the heart

WEEKLY BOX SCORE

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	TOTALS
NORTH	15775	23400	15,556	14372	4872	73975
SOUTH	13465	34180	13182	21024	5022	86873

The People Helped Us Too

I first came to FROM in the early 2010's as a struggling divorced mom of two. I was working a part-time job that wasn't meeting my financial needs, and my girls and I shopped in the Thrift Store for clothes.

In 2015, my husband Scott and I married, after meeting through our kids, and had to provide for our five kids.

FROM helped fill the gaps. Mobile Food Pantry and other food programs helped provide food. The Backpack Distribution and Christmas Toy Store and Food Basket helped fill other gaps.



We were sad that we couldn't buy enough food and get new clothes for the kids. FROM helped us, and not just the tangible items like food and school supplies.

The people helped us too. We felt kindness here, not pity. We were not seen as broken people, hopeless or useless. We found friends and neighbors who were volunteers and program participants just like us. We received a warm greeting with smiling faces. There was hope that life would get better. It meant a lot to not feel alone or defeated for a while. We kept working and learning and, eventually, life did get better.

Even when we had nothing, we volunteered and donated what we could. Today, we continue to volunteer, as do our kids, and I joined FROM staff in 2021. Giving to others has always been a big part of who we are, as individuals and as a family. We do it to be kind, and to share a mission of hope.

A giving spirit stokes the fire of hope in others. We wish to inspire people to keep trying and moving forward. Because there is always hope for you too.

Today, I'm glad to work at FROM because I can relate to families facing struggles. I understand that sometimes it's still not enough even when you're doing the best you can. While FROM can't fix everything, we can help with basic needs, fill a gap or make someone's day a little brighter simply by listening.