

ABC's
OF LOWELL

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Comic Book
Review

FANTASTIC
FOUR

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Retirement
after 44 years



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Lowell Area
Schools Sports



page 10 & 11

\$1.00



Retro Electric Arcade hosts Pinball Tournament

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Retro Electric Pinball Arcade normally opens at 12:00 pm on Sundays, but the door was unlocked on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 11:00 am. Inside were a number of women wearing the same black t-shirt, reading, “Belles & Chimes Grand Rapids, MI.” These women belong to Belles & Chimes, an international network of inclusive women’s pinball leagues, run by women, for women. Founded in 2013 in Oakland, California, the organization has chapters across the world. Karen Cummings is the head of the Grand Rapids Chapter of Belles & Chimes.

“There were no chapters in Michigan at all,” Cummings said, so she took things into her own hands. “Well, let’s start a chapter and see if we can get more women interested in pinball.”



The Belles & Chimes Grand Rapids crew is ready for a Sunday morning pinball tournament at Retro Electric Pinball Arcade.

Cummings founded Belles & Chimes Grand Rapids, in 2017, with four to six regular tournament participants. Six years later, the league has ballooned to 20 or more members, and Cummings hopes to expand membership. Tournaments typically take place at Retro Arcade in Lowell or RLM Amusements on Plainfield, but there are occasionally special events elsewhere, including at the homes of some of the participants.

Nicole and Carl Crocker are the owners of Retro Electric Arcade. Nicole and nine-year-old daughter, Lily, typically participate in the monthly tournaments. Lily missed the May 21 tournament because she had her first dance recital the night before and needed some rest. Nicole showed up on Sunday to perform double-duty as both a tournament participant and the head-of-operations at the arcade.

“I like it because it’s competitive, but it’s not competitive,” Crocker said. When she said the second

Tournament,
continued page 9

Lowell Light & Power visiting Storytime and Safety Town

Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) values electrical education and safety for young children and engaging with their community. As part of their education initiative, LL&P will be coming, this month, to the Englehardt/ Lowell Library for a special

Storytime, and to Impact Church for Safety Town!

LL&P,
continued page 2



Odd-even outdoor water restriction implemented

The City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township have announced an odd-even outdoor water restriction for municipal

months. The new limit was prompted by a recent double-digit spike in water demand due to the recent dry, hot weather and the

Municipal water customers asked to follow landscape irrigation restriction through Sept. 30

customers that goes into effect immediately through Sept. 30. The restriction limits when residents and businesses can water their lawns and landscaping to minimize the burden on the city’s water treatment plant during the warmer

township’s continuing growth; it does not affect water used for drinking and bathing purposes. Under the restriction, outdoor watering is allowed for properties in

Restriction,
continued page 4

LL&P, continued

Kids are invited to the Englehardt/Lowell Library on Thursday, June 8, at 10:30 am, for a special Storytime. Lineworkers will be reading the children's book *If I Were a Lineworker*. Plus, there will be a bucket truck outside for kids to see and touch! Storytime is oriented towards kids 0 to 5 years old, with parents and siblings welcome to join.

LL&P will also be a guest speaker at Safety Town on Thursday, June 15, at Impact Church, talking about electrical safety with kids going into Kindergarten.

This summer, LL&P plans to have educational

information for kids on their Facebook and Instagram, educating kids, of all ages, on electrical safety and conservation.

Lowell Light & Power has been a municipally-owned electric utility since 1896. Public power utilities are like our public schools and libraries: a division of local government, owned by the community, run by boards of local officials, accountable to the citizens. Like all public power utilities, LL&P works hard to provide its customers with safe, reliable, not-for-profit electricity at a reasonable price.



Douglas Kelly offers voice acting for audiobooks, marketing strategies

By Emma Palova
Contributing writer

Douglas Kelly, of Lowell, has been a partner at Evolve Solutions since 2002, when the company was founded. Evolve Solutions is an experienced, web design and development firm, specializing in website design, marketing strategy, eCommerce application installation, and Internet business development.

Currently, as the principal at Evolve Solutions, he directs web development and consults on everything from social marketing to user interface design. Evolve Solutions has created and collaborated on hundreds of internet and intranet projects for small firms to multi-billion-dollar corporations.

Kelly considers himself to be a social media influencer. During Covid, he discovered the social media Clubhouse app to use as a platform for his diverse projects. The app already had three million users, including Elon Musk. "I have to get in on this," he said. At the time, it was by invitation only, which is not the case anymore.

"You have to create diverse engaging content," he said. "If you just sell,

sell, sell, you're not going to do well." This translates into finding your voice, putting together a plan, developing a marketing strategy, and being efficient, according to Kelly. He recommends Clubhouse, to authors and any content creators, to use as a platform to talk about their books and read excerpts. "It's all about creating a relationship with your readers," he said. "Get a good following and you will soar."

In that aspect, authors may need to change their persona for their audience. And the best way to fight the fear of public speaking is to practice and take voice lessons, Kelly suggested. "I've learned to develop my own voice and to think ahead of time," he said.

To combat social media algorithms, Kelly suggests posting diametrically-opposed content. "Put in some CNN once in a while to get other things in your feed," he said. "Algorithms serve up the content to get you to interact. They create a filter bubble." He also suggests using long-tail keywords, with several words between the commas, to ensure Search Engine Optimization (SEO). "Make sure you utilize more words, not just slightly different



Douglas Kelly, principal at Evolve Solutions offers his voice for audiobooks.

words," he said.

Kelly, an art director, has been offered to work as the Assistant Director (AD) in a documentary slated for streaming. "I said, what, who watches documentaries?" he laughed. Well, the

In the rooms of Clubhouse, he has played a lube salesman, a Cajun chef, and a leprechaun. "It just started snowballing," he said. "We get 150 to 200 people coming in the rooms."

You get a different audience. You want more sticky eyes with electronic billboards. We all have to drive.
- Douglas Kelly, principal, Evolve Solutions

producer's short answer was. "Everybody."

Currently on hold, the project has a GOFUNDME page and the producers are exploring different avenues of funding, investors, and distribution. "It will be a series of questions, not a script," he said. "Anyone can push the envelope."

Recently, Kelly has acted in a series of old-time radio dramas bound for YouTube. Douglas also has done a series of comedy improv events, hosted on a social media application called Clubhouse.

On the theme of electronic digital billboards, Kelly said they are efficient. Michigan Reads, a diverse group of Michigan authors, will be using electronic billboards. "You get a different audience," he said. "You want more sticky eyes and sticky ears."

Contact Kelly via LinkedIn, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/DouglasMKelly/> For more info about Clubhouse go to: <https://www.clubhouse.com/>

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.

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Last Gasp Collective to perform in Lowell on June 15

by Bill Lee
Contributing writer

Lowell's Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, will present Last Gasp Collective on Thursday, June 15, on the Riverwalk Plaza in downtown Lowell. When Justin "Jay" Jackson founded the band, Last Gasp Collective, over seven years ago, he had a vision to bring a unique form of music to the west Michigan area. With members Jess Ivey (lead vocalist),

Jordan Hamilton (cello), Terrence Smith (drums), Tyler Robinson (bass), and Grayson Nye (keyboards), the band shares a mix of soul, rhythm & blues, jazz, hip-hop, rap, and other styles, to their shows. It is a sound comparable to The Roots and Erykah Badu. The band's manager, Shayla Watson, is excited for Last Gasp Collective to showcase their unique music to the City of Lowell. "We are looking forward to our show over in Lowell," said Watson. "Like any musical artist, they love to

perform live. Music is what they want to do for a living, so getting out and actually doing it, it's food for the soul. They're in the zone, and where they want to be, when they are performing." You can find Last Gasp Collective's music on Spotify, iTunes, YouTube, and all social media platforms. Lowell Concerts are family-friendly and wheelchair accessible. Bleacher seating is available, or bring a chair. Admission to the concerts and parking are free.



Cliff's Riffs

By Cliff Yankovich



Health Insurance – Celebration Day

I am writing this on the first day of June. Not only is it a nice, warm day with lots of sunshine, it also happens to be the first day that my health-care coverage switches over to Medicare. For a partner in a mom and pop business this is a day to celebrate. Ask anyone who is self-employed, or owns a micro-sized business like ours, and they will tell you how awfully expensive health care coverage has become.

Let me spell it out for you. Julie, my wife and partner in our small business, was eligible for Medicare last April. Prior to that, the cost of coverage for the two of us, with Priority Health, was \$1,428.64 a month. The sticky wicket in that equation was that we had a deductible of \$9,500.00; Each. Yes, we were paying \$17,143.68 a year for health

coverage, but if we both had something serious happen in one year, we would have to come up with an additional \$19,000.00. Once she switched to Medicare, the premium for just me dropped to \$796.38 a month, with the \$9,500.00 deductible. If you have never experienced a serious illness or other major medical incident, you might wonder, "What is the big deal?"

The big deal is that with the health insurance system we have in place, the number-one cause of bankruptcy in our country is medical bills. This has been the case for years and decades. We have grown so used to fundraisers and gofundme efforts to help people fighting to stay healthy, we have accepted it as normal. It is NOT normal outside the borders of our country. Pink Arrow

is a wonderful thing, but people in other countries are amazed that citizens of the United States, the wealthiest country on the planet, can lose their life savings, and even their homes, because they got sick. This does not happen in any other developed nation or in a good number of underdeveloped nations: they have some form of nationalized, single payer healthcare. The Corporate Health Care machine keeps feeding us their line of horse hockey that our system is best, while Insurance company CEOs take home millions in pay and bonuses every year.

A few years ago, I was diagnosed and successfully treated for throat cancer. When the diagnosis was delivered, two thoughts raced through my mind. The first, "Am I going to die?" was immediately followed by, "How are we going to pay for this?". For those of you who have never walked that path, let me assure you, that one-two punch of thoughts is mentally and physically devastating. Obviously, I didn't die, but it took us five years to pay for my treatment. While still paying my medical debt

off, Julie came down with a tenacious lung infection that resulted in emergency surgery, that removed part of one lung. That probably would have wiped us out, but the thoracic surgeon, who saved her life, continued his good work by saving us financially. How? Well, our insurance company played the "out of network" card and would not pay his fee, even though he worked at the hospital Julie was in, and was the only one on staff who could do what he did. He called Julie and explained that he was doing well financially and was going to forgive the \$10,000.00 fee from his office for the prep, surgery, and after-care. His words were something like this, "There is no reason for you to face financial ruin."

We were very fortunate. The massive number of healthcare related

bankruptcy claims filed every year, are testament to the families who are not so fortunate. As I mentioned, we are so brainwashed by the Corporate messaging of our supposedly superior system, we think going broke or making massive payments for health care, is "normal". It is not. Pick a country and do a check online to see if they offer some form of nationalized healthcare. My wager is that eighty percent, or more, of the countries you research, do not allow their citizens to go broke, while health insurance companies make millions and billions in profit.

Let me continue to explain my celebratory mood today. Yesterday, if I had gotten sick – say the cancer returned or something else happened to my 64-year-old meat suit – then I would be on the hook

for a minimum of \$9,500.00. I say "minimum" because after the deductible has been met, there are many things that the insurance company will pay only eighty percent, and leave the other twenty percent for me to pay.

This is a new day. My new premium for Medicare, combined with the best supplemental coverage my agent could find, is now \$296.64 a month. The best part is that my total out-of-pocket-expenses for a year is \$226.00. On top of that, there is no network to be in or out of. I can use any doctor that accepts Medicare. Medicare just took a very large weight off of our shoulders, and helped lower the cost to our small business, to boot. Not

Cliff's Riffs, continued page 12

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JUNE 15

Last Gasp Collective



LEAD SPONSORS



Restrictions, continued

the city and township with an address that ends in an odd number on odd days. For example, an address of 611 can water on the first, third, fifth, seventh, etc. day of the month. For properties



with an even address - for example, 610 - outdoor watering is allowing on the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, etc. day of the month. "With recent demand, our water treatment plant is pushing the limit on the

amount of water it can produce," Lowell City Manager, Mike Burns ,said. "Because outdoor watering makes up a significant portion of this consumption, we are asking our community to partner with us as we take proactive steps to avoid an outright ban on landscape irrigation. "This is a necessary step to ensure we can continue to provide reliable water service to our customers." Lowell Charter Township Supervisor, Jerry Hale, joined Burns in asking for the community's compliance. "Following an odd-even watering schedule will help us level the demand and maintain the sustainability of the current water system," Hale said. "We know this short-term restriction will have long-term dividends for all of us."

outdoors

lots of stuff Dave Stegehuis

People seem to accumulate a lot of stuff these days. Drive around a housing development in the suburbs, on a Saturday, when residents are working around the house. Open garage doors reveal the floor and walls are covered with all kinds of stuff. Usually, one or two vehicles are relegated to parking in the driveway year around. Rental storage facilities are popping up in, and around, most towns and cities across the country. Vehicles delivering boxes, of who knows what, are pulling in and out of driveways on residential streets all day.

The manufacture and sale of all of this stuff is good for the economy. Just how necessary all of these things are is up to the consumer. Fishermen, as a group, have not been immune from the trend to accommodate a lot of stuff. Fishing tackle and related equipment has evolved, along with everything else. Advancements have produced a large selection of new products from which fisherman can select those things they feel will enhance their experience on the water. Back in the day, my dad, brother, and I caught

plenty of fish with a rented wooden rowboat and three cane poles with black nylon line wrapped around the end. A bobber signaled a bite on a garden worm. This spring, I will launch a deep V aluminum boat, powered by a high horsepower four-stroke outboard, paired with a smaller kicker engine and a bow-mount electric trolling motor. Two sonar units with G.P.S. assist with navigation and locating fish. An aerated live-well will keep the catch fresh. A special storage area holds three different rod and reel combinations for each angler to accommodate a variety of walleye presentations. A large tackle box and several pullout trays hold a variety of lures and tackle. The days of going

fishing with a cane pole in one hand and a coffee can of garden worms in the other is rare today, but fortunately, still possible and just as much fun as always. The nice thing about fishing in Michigan is that the large number of fish species and the variety of fishing techniques makes participation possible for almost anyone who has the desire to do so. So, before you get so much stuff that you have to leave the car in the driveway all winter, try to draw-the-line between genuine needs and just wants. The idea is to get out and enjoy Michigan outdoors, one way or another.

college news

Alma College has released the Dean's List for those students who achieved outstanding academic performance, during the 2023 Winter Term. Students

who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List. Included on the list from Lowell are: Lauren Austhof and Zackery Post. Also included are Ethan Patrick of Saranac and Elizabeth Vredevelt of Alto. Alma College, founded in 1886, is a four-year residential liberal arts college, located in the heart of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. A deep regard for students as individuals is fundamental to an Alma education, with small classes

and many opportunities for one-on-one collaboration, with dedicated faculty. Alma's academic programs encourage students to put the ideas and theories they discuss in the classroom, to work in real world settings through internships, research, campus leadership, study abroad and service to others. One thousand four hundred and ninety-nine students completed the requirements for certificates, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design during the Spring 2023 semester. Degrees awarded by the university included Doctor of Education (EDD), Doctor of Optometry

(OD), Doctor of Pharmacy (PD), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (MED), Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Master of Science in Information Systems Management (MISM), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Master of Science in Career and Technical Education (MTE), Master of Science Info Security and Intelligence (MISI), Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS), Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Bachelor of Integrative Studies (BIS), Bachelor of Science (BS), Bachelor of Science in Business (BB), Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), Associate in Applied Science (AAS), Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS) and Certificate (CERT).

Included in the list from Alto were: Sarah Devries, OD, Optometry; Tyler Sandborn, BS, Product Design Engineering Technology; Paul Southerton, AAS, Welding Technology and Makayla Vanderby BS, Biology-Environmental.

From Lowell were: Bethany Blattner, BSN, Nursing; Cheyenne Goetz, AS, Pre-Pharmacy; Lindsay Hindley, BFA, Graphic Design; Grant Lebarre, AAS, Welding Technology; Jacob Rau, BS, Engineering Technology and Energy Management; Lauren Vangronigen, MSN, Master of Science in Nursing and Kyle Wierzbicki,, BS, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, CET, Quality Technology (Cum Laude).

To be eligible for Academic Honors, the minimum requirements for full-time students, each

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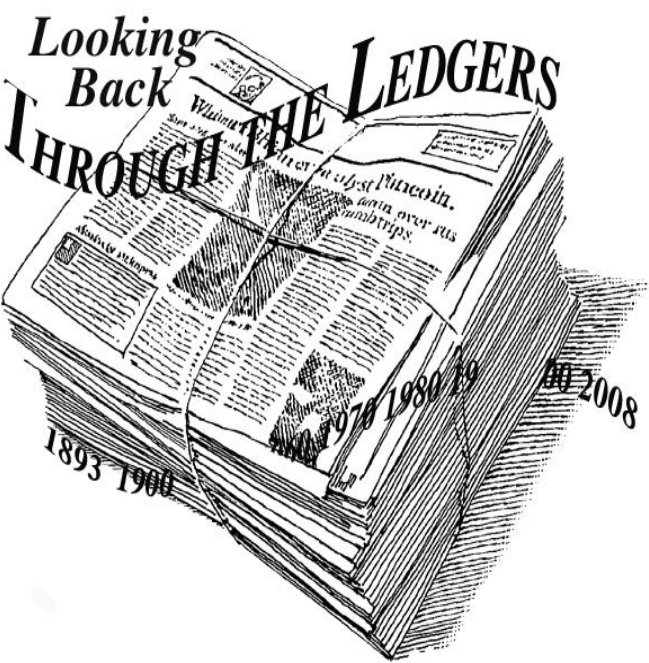
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JUNE SCHEDULE
L.R. Maley, Immersion, *The Chronicles of the Manaar*, June 1
Douglas Kelly, *Social Media Influencing*, June 5
Chris Coates, *A Brother's Obsession*, June 9
Jacob Bullen, *Assassinating The Godslayer*, June 16
Chloe Holiday, *Fly Boy*, June 23
Matthew Hellman, *The Hawthorne Blow*, June 30

Sponsored by Doc Chavent, The Lowell Ledger, and author Larry Maley

College News, continued page 7

viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal June 4, 1873

Many men are too poor to pay three cents a week for their local paper, yet these same individuals spend five cents a day for “fine cut.”

Eighteen barrels of lime, stored west of Simon’s tin-shop, over the water, went down with a splash into the dam. We are glad Mr. Train is not a profane man.

The whole number of school children in Kent County is 17,467; total apportionment of the Primary School Fund for the townships is \$8,558.83, giving every child of school age 49 cents from said fund this year. Lowell has 910 school children, apportionment is \$445.90; Bowne has 471 children, apportionment is \$230.70; Vergennes has 440 school children, apportionment, \$215.60.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 9, 1898

Fred L. Fallas takes a half-page, front-page ad to say that his store offers the finest J.H. Bell & Co. coffee and tea.

The old law that township supervisors must furnish a list of male residents 18 to 45 years old, is being observed again, at least by a few (the Spanish-American war).

A.R. Pattengill, Michigan School Moderator, says that most young men who are rejected for military service have weak hearts brought on by smoking and too much bicycle-riding.

The Christian Endeavor have closed their meetings until Sept 4 on account of warm weather.

Measles on the rage all over town just now and some departments of the village schools are running with a very light attendance in consequence.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 7, 1923

The class of '23, all 44 of them, will have Baccalaureate on June 10 at City Hall, Class Night, June 13, and Graduation, June 14.

Elizabeth Lalley buys the Sugar Bowl Sweet Shop and is managing it with her brother, Arthur McMahon.

Henry and Clayton Johnson of Bowne planted 20 acres of corn in one afternoon.

Comes the yearly reminder that anybody with noxious weeds growing on their land must cut and destroy them by July 15.

Four boys and three girls, from St. Patrick’s High school of Parnell, held graduating exercises at Lowell City hall on June 5.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 10, 1948

Eighty-nine Lowell High School graduates attended the Baccalaureate services last Sunday evening. Douglas Wingeier was Valedictorian and was awarded \$4.00 from Mr. C. H. Runciman, President of the Board, on behalf of the class of 1918.

Mrs. Bertha Powell of Lowell announces the engagement of her daughter, Carmen June, to Virgil E. Roudabush, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Roudabush of Lowell.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Kent were forced to cut their vacation short when a youngster on a bicycle crashed into a plate glass window in Kent’s jewelry store last Friday night, breaking it to smithereens.

The Gallup poll still finds eight percent of people without any opinion. We wonder why we never meet some of that charming group. In Lowell you can get yourself an argument on pretty nearly any subject any time of the day.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life June 7, 1973

Citizens opposing the State Highway Department plans to make M-21 a 4 and 5-lane highway, generally following the E. Fulton Street route, are seeking legal advice on future action to modify the route.

Sue Stephenson was crowned Miss Lowell Showboat Saturday night. First-runner up was Pam Fratzke and second runner-up was Peggy Moore of Belding.

Mike Moore, an eighth grader at Lowell Junior High School found a giant morel last week. The treasure, measuring 8 inches, was found in his back yard on 36th Street.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 10, 1998

Grants totaling \$465,500, from the nearly \$600,000 of earning available, were awarded through the Lowell Area Community Fund this week.

Pete Gustafson and Pat Nugent will fill two, four-year term school seats on the Lowell Area Board of Education.

The Class of 1998 is the first class to attend the new high school all four years, and they begin life’s next chapter. The Lowell High School’s 120th Commencement went off without a hitch. This class also chose to have their graduation ceremony at the school’s stadium, instead of at the Lowell Showboat.

Lowell Township approved the installation of three antennas used for wireless and cellular communication.

to the editor

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

Dear Editor:

Sixty-six years ago, a small town in west Michigan unexpectedly produced the state’s best high school distance runner of 1956-57.

How did it happen?

In September, 1953, a scrawny country kid named Bob Carigon went out for 9th grade football at Lowell High School. His family lived in Elmdale, an Ionia County settlement and railroad junction between Alto and Clarksville, eight miles southeast of Lowell.

Football was not well suited for young Bob’s skinny frame. His coach, Lowell’s legendary Bob Perry, suggested he try out for the new cross-country team that would begin in Fall 1954.

At that time, Lowell was a Class B high school with 520 students. Its few sport teams were only for boys: football in Fall; basketball in Winter; baseball, tennis and track in Spring.

Under Coach Perry’s guidance, Lowell’s early cross-country teams dominated the Grand Valley Conference and the Grand Rapids YMCA County championships, winning the latter three years in-a-row, to permanently retire the trophy in 1956.

Lowell runners practiced at Recreation Park’s oval half-mile dirt track, and on the hilly grass course at Fallasburg Park, north of town. This was before weight lifting and interval training were common in high school sports. Outdoor running tracks were dirt or crushed cinders, not today’s faster synthetic surfaces.

By 1956, Bob Carigon had built himself into a tall, strong runner, the best in the Grand Rapids area. A rumor among students was that after practice, Bob Carigon would jog home, along the railroad tracks from Lowell to Elmdale -- a remarkable distance training method, if true!

In the regional cross country meet at Indian Trails Golf Course in Grand

Letters,
continued page 7

We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

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



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

At Your Local Library

Touch a Truck

Monday, June 12, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Check out big trucks and the amazing operators that keep our community working. Learn and explore together! For ages 0-10.

John Ball Zoo’s Travel Zoo

Tuesday, June 13, 1:30 - 2:30 pm. John Ball will bring the zoo to KDL! Students will learn about wildlife conservation through interacting with live zoo animals in the comfort of your library. For ages 5-10.

Fishing Basics: Rod and Reel

Tuesday, June 13, 4-5 pm. Learn about fishing rods and reels, necessary fish line strength, and hook size or lure choices for various types of fishing from Don Snoeyink, a lifelong lover of fishing. Learn casting, knot tying and fish cleaning tips. All participants receive one stick bobber and two small hooks and two sinkers for pan fishing. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins and you may save one seat for a friend. For ages 11-17.

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, June 15, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *Station Eleven*, by Emily Mandel. For ages 18+

Storytime

Mondays, June 19 and 26, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Nurture your child’s love of books and build early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, music and movement. For ages 0-5.

All Together Now

Tuesday, June 20, 1:30-2:30 pm. Enjoy this musical program centered on kindness and generosity featuring Tunes N Tales by Tricia.

Ruff Readers

Tuesday, June 20 & 27, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. This unique read-aloud program, in partnership with West Michigan Therapy Dogs, Inc., pairs kids with a trained therapy dog and their handler. Kids read their favorite book and the pooches curl up, listen and enjoy. Arrive 15 minutes early to sign in and secure a time slot. First come, first served. For ages 5-10.

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.

C is for Clark

Woolen Mill

The Clark family had an impact on early Lowell. Moving here in 1866, C.A. Clark built and operated the Lowell Woolen Mill by 1867. Clark sold the business the following year, and after being owned by Morris R. Blodgett and W. W. Hatch, C.A. Clark’s sons Henry F. and Charles E., purchased the woolen mill.

The mill was operated by waterpower, and it was sufficient to power all the machinery in the two-story-plus basement building. According to an 1884 advertisement, you could also take your clothing to the mill to be dyed. The mill wasn’t just to make clothing, the business sold items retail, as described in this ad from September of 1889, “Persons in want of all wool goods such as shirting and dress flannels, red flannel, sheeting, double or single width, yarns, ladies fancy mitts, stockings and socks in all sizes, can get them at the Lowell Woolen Mills at rock bottom prices. We also make heavy winter shirts and cut and make pants to order, only \$4.00 per pair. Call and see these goods.”

Ownership of the mill went back and forth a little, between the brothers, as Charles E., at one time, went into the grocery business and entered into a partnership for a short time, the “Clark



The Lowell Woolen Mill, shown on the right, was built by C. A. Clark on the east bank of the Flat River, south of the Hooker (Forest) Mill. Wool, from sheep raised in the area, was brought to the mill to be carded. In 1904, the Lowell Cutter Company purchased the mill and used the building to increase their production lines. The Woolen Mill had a retail space on Main Street and Monroe, in the commercial building built by Robert Graham.

& Sample Grocery.” In 1900 the Clark family sold the mill property and water rights.

Clark’s Confectionery

In 1905, the building west of the old post office was built. Today the old post office is home to Rio Plano Taqueria and the building to the west has been torn down. By 1908, John O. Clark, son of Henry Clark of the Woolen Mill, had opened a confectionery store. Clark’s Confectionery offered lunches, bread, milk, comics, birthday cards, holiday cards, and what has become a gift for future generations, penny postcards. These postcards featured local views. Many of the beautiful historic scenes that reveal Lowell Life around 1900 came

from these penny post cards. John O Clark’s motto, in both the Confectionery and his grocery, was “If you get it at Clark’s, it’s clean.” In 1912, the business was for sale “for the best reasons”, according to an ad placed in the Grand Rapids Press.

Clark’s Grocery

John O. Clark also operated a grocery in the Graham building at 229 E. Main, according to today’s address. The building was rented from L. J. Post, and today, hosts the North Country Trail home offices. In 1915, Clark’s grocery was advertised as the largest grocery in West Michigan. In 1916, the building owner, L.J. Post, painted the storefront and put side windows in it. It is supposed that this is when ‘Clark’

was etched into the cement in front of the store. This cannot be seen today, as the sidewalks have been redone. The grocery changed hands several times before being sold to R.D. Hahn in 1923.

Charles A. Clark moved from Lowell and is buried elsewhere. His son, Henry, lived in Lowell until his death in 1910 and rests in Oakwood Cemetery. Son, Charles E., moved from Lowell but returned and lived out his life here, and now rests in Oakwood Cemetery. John O. left Lowell but kept in contact with his Lowell friends, including sending updates to the Lowell newspaper. He is buried in Corona, California.

area churches

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10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell
616-987-0567
www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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JUNE 12

Benjamin Zoodsma, Jenny Engle, Noah Green.

JUNE 9

Kristina Parish, Doris Plummer, Brianna Clouser, Josh Felling, Jerry Spencer.

JUNE 13

Holly Fetterhoff, Vivian Hoskins.

JUNE 14

Kyle Manszewski.

JUNE 10

Jim Stone, Courtney Tulppo, April Decker, Gus Geldersma.

JUNE 11

Jeanne Boss, Terri S. Fonger, Dick Sturgis.



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

Kent District Library presents Summer Wonder

This year, Kent District Library will take you on a Summer Wonder journey of reading, learning and exploring through the great outdoors right here in Kent County! KDL has teamed-up with Kent County Parks to bring you a spectacular summer of outdoor discovery, scavenger hunts, reading, STEAM activities and lots of fun for everyone.

Summer Wonder runs from June 5 through August 12. Participate in Summer Wonder by picking up a Summer Wonder Workbook at any KDL branch or signing up online at kdl.beanstack.org. It's free and includes adventures and prizes for all ages. KDL is the perfect place to keep summer learning alive and growing.

"Earning prizes for reading and having fun — what could be better?" said Julie Ralston, Branch Programming and Outreach Specialist. "Summer Wonder is one of the best things that KDL offers. You



don't want to miss out!"

KDL is also offering a great line-up of free summer programs and presenters, including singers, animals, puppets, STEAM activities and more! Programs include Jim Gill's Sing-a-Thon of Celebrated Songs, Llamas at Your Library, Native American Dancers and Polymer Clay Jewelry. For a complete listing, visit kdl.org/events.

Summer Wonder is a great opportunity to limit the "summer slide" that negatively affects learning between the end and start of the traditional school year. Extensive research shows that children involved in summertime learning programs, sponsored by public libraries, are more likely to maintain their academic skills, and in many cases, do better on standardized tests.

For more information, visit kdl.org/summer.



college news

Continued

term, are: 3.5 GPA and completion of 12 Ferris credit hours or more of graded course work at the 100 level or higher. The minimum requirements for part-time students, each term, are: 3.5 GPA with completion of at least 12 accumulated Ferris credit hours of graded course work at the 100 level or higher. Those receiving Academic Honors from Alto were: Sarah Devries, William Malinowski, Caitlin Osterhouse, Matthew Kaczanowski, Connor Manning, Paul Riha, Scott Beatson, Lorrin McCarty, Lilli Kempisty, Timothy Knoertzer, Makayla Vanderby, Cortland Davis, Kylie Gardner and Lauren Herzog.

From Lowell were: Michael Thompson, Lindsay Hindley, Benjamin Taylor, Kyle Wierzbicki, Jenavieve Lyon, Juliana

Newton, Bethany Blattner, Skylie Raab, Benjamin Weaver, Isabela Frisbey and Joel Hankins.

Ferris State University is a four-year public university with campuses in Big Rapids, Grand Rapids and satellite campuses across the state. Ferris offers more than 180 educational programs, including doctoral, master's, bachelor's and associate degrees, through eight academic colleges: Arts, Sciences and Education, Business, Education and Human Services, Engineering Technology, Health Professions, Kendall College of Art and Design, Michigan College of Optometry and Pharmacy. Founded in 1884 by educator, Michigan Gov. and U.S. Sen. Woodbridge N. Ferris, the university's mission is to be a national leader in career-oriented, technological and professional education.



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Letters, continued

Rapids, Bob Carigon lost by more than 30 yards to Ludington's defending state mile champion, Wally Schafer. In the state finals at MSU's Forest Akers Golf Course, Bob Carigon again trailed by a large margin in the final stretch of the race.

As Coach Perry later told me, Bob Carigon suddenly began a furious sprint toward the finish line. When the Ludington runner momentarily glanced backward, blazing Bob passed him on the other side -- winning the state championship by mere inches!

In Spring, 1957, Carigon was unbeaten in the mile run for Coach Norm Gotschall's outstanding track team. He set Grand Valley League records in the mile run and the quarter mile (440 yards).

He won the regional at Wyoming's Godfrey-Lee

field and the state Class B mile championship (in the rain) on the crushed brick track at MSU's Ralph Young Field, next to Spartan Stadium.

In his final high school race, Carigon broke the school record, held by Robert Hall, Lowell's 1950 state mile champion. That "Champion of Champions" meet in Kalamazoo saw Bob Carigon defeat the state's other high school mile winners -- confirming his status as Michigan's best and an all-time great distance runner for Lowell High School.

Robert M. Carigon (LHS '57) now lives in Kalamazoo, fondly remembered by all who knew him then.

Bob Thaler
LHS Class of 1960
Bay City, MI

BOWNE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF
ORDINANCE ADOPTION
BOWNE TOWNSHIP
ZONING ORDINANCE -
BIODIGESTERS

On May 25, 2023, the Township Board for Bowne Township adopted amendments to the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance regarding utility biodigesters Ordinance No. 2023-01. More specifically, the adopted or enacted Ordinance/ordinance amendment adds a new Section 3.47 to Article 3 – General Provisions and also amends Section 2.05(d) – Definitions, Section 5.04(R) – Agricultural (AG) zoning district Special Land Uses, and Section 14.05Z – Special Land Uses of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. This amendment will permit the installation of utility anaerobic biodigesters for private third-party entities on farms in the AG-Agricultural zoning district. This amendment will allow a third party utility to use resources from a farm to generate natural gas to be piped off-site into the utility distribution network. As a special land use, any applicant would have to seek special land use approval from the Bowne Township Planning Commission before any utility operation could be approved and commence. The adopted Ordinance/ordinance amendment is available for obtaining the document, review, inspection and purchase at the Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan 49302. This Ordinance/ordinance amendment will be effective upon the expiration of 7 days after this Notice appears in the newspaper as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted by,
Karen L. Hendrick
Bowne Township Clerk
616-868-6846

Cindy Donohue, a unique member of the Class of 2023

by Bill Lee
Contributing writer

“I am graduating, not retiring, because graduating means moving on and retirement, to me, seems final,” said Cindy Donohue. Donohue will be “moving on” after 44 years as a teacher in the Lowell Area School District. She began her career at Runciman Elementary School (now the Lowell Area School Administration building) as one of five interns from Grand Valley State University.

In her time, she has taught students with cognitive impairments and learning differences at Alto Elementary, Bushnell Elementary and Cherry Creek Elementary. She has loved teaching her students but also has enjoyed how each day is different from the last. But 44 years? Many teachers leave education much earlier than that. She must hold a secret. “I think I have lasted so long because every day is a different adventure,” said Donohue. “You never know what

mood the students might be in, or how their day started at home, can have a big impact with how their day starts here at school... Another thing about the longevity is the idea of the supportive and caring group of people I work with – from the bus drivers to the kitchen, from the front office to the general education classroom. They’re all supportive. Even though my kids learn differently, they were all still learning, and they all need to have peers and friends.

That socialization is huge.” She also credits her success as a teacher with her relationships she has with parents. Communication with parents is the essential ingredient in helping to guide and support each student. “Openness to share the good and the bad; what’s successful and what is not,” said Donohue. “To be a team of learning throughout the school year. I have them for seven hours-a-day, and then I send them on their way, with little love notes saying here’s is what we worked on for the day, and communication from parents saying how the morning was ,and then you are able to handle anything that comes up because of that communication.” Her teaching philosophy has always revolved around what is best for each student. A new teaching style is fantastic but will it be best for her students? That has always been her central theme. “There is a pendulum swing from one strategy to another, as they swing left and right, and finding that congruency to match and keep up with what is expected and what is best for the kids,” said Donohue. “I truly believe with

consistency, structure, and keeping expectations high, we will have successful days even if the day started poorly. I truly live by the motto that ‘If they cannot learn the way we teach, we have to teach the way they learn.’ Every year, I am thinking what can I do better than last year? What didn’t work, what is going to work?” Another thing that brings her joy is when she sees her students grow and mature into the middle school, the high school, and into adulthood. As an elementary teacher, she takes pride in helping to build the foundation for her students. “For me it is a blessing. I look to see that they are successful in their own way. And I am grateful that perhaps, I had a little to do with that success; to set a foundation. I’ve always said that if the kids feel good about themselves and it is a positive environment, the learning will happen.” So what is next for Cindy Donohue? The thought of it can be overwhelming at times, but certainly she plans to visit her older children and do a little traveling with her husband, Tom, of 42 years. She is in no hurry to set any

plans for the future. “It’s with mixed feelings because this is all I’ve ever done and all I’ve ever known,” said Donohue. “And yet, I also think it’s time for new blood, new ideas, new strategies, someone younger to come in and try new things.” She is so thankful to all who have been a part of her journey, which includes her students, parents, colleagues and everyone who has been supportive of her over the years. “I don’t think I would have made it this long without the support of my colleagues, the families, who have accepted and trusted me to be with their children. Without that trust and support, you don’t make it this long. And it is reciprocated. I have enjoyed supporting and trusting all of them, knowing that their goals are all the same, teaching these kids. They come first.” Thank you, Cindy Donohue for your service to the Lowell Area School District. Without caring and dedicated teachers like you, our communities could not thrive as they do. And congratulations on graduating!



Cindy Donohue has retired after 44 years as a teacher with the Lowell Area Schools

Mynt Fusion’s Peanut Laksa Noodle review

By Justin Tiemeyer
Contributing writer

A survey of Yelp reviews for Mynt Fusion Bistro, a local Lowell restaurant that combines elements of Chinese, Japanese, and Thai cuisine, presents a picture of surprise more than anything. John B. from Grand Rapids writes: “Am I in Lowell??? More of what I would expect in a big town.” This sentiment is shared by Frank N. of Westmont, Illinois: “Seriously, in Lowell, Michigan?” However, it is Justin B. from Redmond, Washington who sums it up best: “It’s so rare to find

a midwestern small town that offers much more than pizza and burgers... If this is an indication of the way Lowell is heading, the city has a bright future indeed.” To say the least, Mynt Fusion is a hidden gem. Laksa is a spicy noodle dish popularized by Chinese settlers in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, and Thailand, and it comes in a number of regional and flavor-profile variations. Though the etymology of the word “laksa” is unclear, two theories stand out. In Hindi and Persian, the

word “lakshah” refers to vermicelli noodles, similar to those used in the dish, and the Cantonese homophone “lèt sá” translates to “spicy sand.” The latter may be a reference to the fact that some regional variants feature ground, dried prawns with a gritty, sand-like texture. Mynt Fusion’s peanut laksa noodle dish is a close cousin of the restaurant’s massaman curry, which itself is a fusion of flavors from Persia, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. Both entrées feature potatoes, water chestnuts, bamboo, onions, baby corn, and mushrooms in a peanut sauce, but the peanut laksa noodle is served over hot, flat rice noodles. This is a departure from a traditional laksa, which is often more of a soup. Diners can enjoy their choice of chicken, pork, tofu, vegetarian, shrimp, beef, or three-way, which combines chicken, shrimp, and pork. The base spiciness of the peanut laksa noodle is mild. A child whose tongue still detects the tanginess of a McDonald’s ketchup packet may be overwhelmed by the heat, but the dish is accessible to most others.

The choices to tone down the heat and serve the laksa as a saucy noodle dish are clever, because they underscore the rich peanut sauce, which could be obscured by a spicier dish or overpowering in a soup. Fortunately, those who disagree with this sentiment may simply ask the chef for a spicier peanut laksa noodle. All dishes at Mynt Fusion can be made spicier on request. Though many diverse cultures are represented in Mynt Fusion’s menu, the flavors originate from a tiny village near Ban Sam, Thailand, germinate in the city of Phuket, and intermingle in the United States. Justin B.’s suggestion that Mynt Fusion bodes well for the future of Lowell. insinuates that the restaurant is somehow an innovation within the community, but it has been a staple of local dining since 2007. It has weathered much with the community of Lowell, including three of the biggest recessions since the Great Depression, the COVID-19 pandemic, and two or three hundred year floods. Those who choose to dine-in are welcomed by soft lighting, cloth



Mynt Fusion Bistro’s chicken peanut laksa noodles.

napkins, and a cozy, quiet atmosphere. Mynt Fusion’s dining room is open 11 am-8 pm, Monday through Thursday, and Friday morning. Mynt Fusion is also a great option for takeout, which is available during the traditional dine-in hours ,as well as, Friday and Saturday until 8 pm. For those who do not like peanut

dishes, there are a number of other choices of equally high-quality, like curry fried rice, for example. Also, it would be unwise to skip the appetizers. Peanut laksa noodle is good, but peanut laksa noodle with hot and sour soup and fried gyoza is better. Mynt Fusion Bistro has a safe menu to experiment around with.

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Tournament, continued

“competitive,” she held her fists in the air and shook them vehemently. This lack of aggression is purposeful; Cummings intends for tournaments to feel casual and fun and for participants to build one another up rather than tear one another down.

The May 21 tournament had nine participants who competed,

I play, other than the camaraderie of women, is to earn IFPA points to get to the end-of-year finals,” Cummings said.

IFPA stands for International Pinball Flippers Association, which holds state rankings, national rankings, world rankings, and women’s rankings, as well. As women across the state compete in

the COVID-19 pandemic, Cummings began playing pinball with gloves. As the world began to open-up again, she kept the gloves because she played better with them.

Cummings supplied medals for the top-three participants, but everyone present had the opportunity to win prizes in a drawing. Cummings drew names



Retro Electric Pinball Arcade has several pinball machines to choose from, each with its own challenges.

one-on-one, using pinball machines called Avengers: Infinity Quest, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Blackout, Star Wars: The Mandalorian, and Foo Fighters. It was a six-strike elimination tournament, meaning that a participant’s ranking is based on how many games they played when they reached their sixth loss. Nearly 50 games were played over the course of a couple of hours, and the winners were Karen Cummings, Heather Kendrick, and Tami Harris.

“A lot of the reason

tournaments and tally up IFPA points, they increase their odds of participating in the end-of-year playoffs. Winners of this state level competition, not only earn a cash prize, but gain an opportunity to compete at the national level.

“When I was a child, my aunt had a game in her basement, and that’s where my love of pinball began as a kid,” Cummings said. She has been playing pinball on and off for most of her life and competing in pinball tournaments for the past ten years. During

from a Belles & Chimes glass, which she made herself. In her spare time, Cummings is a glass-etching hobbyist.

Belles & Chimes Grand Rapids hosts all-ages pinball tournaments, and women as young as eight have competed. Participant Samantha VanderBand, who cuts hair at Great Clips in Lowell, noted that her five-year-old enjoys playing pinball, as well.

Both Cummings and Crocker pointed out the features of a number of machines that one might call “smart” pinball



Pinball tournament champions, Karen Cummings (first place), Heather Kendrick (second place), and Tami Harris (third place).

machines. Each one comes with a QR scanner, where a player may connect to their Sterns online account, and a number of personalized details show-up on the pinball view screen. Additional Sterns account features include checking your scores against worldwide top scores on the Sterns site and having your scores on display on Retro Electric’s leaderboard. If pinball were to ever get

boring, Sterns offers an achievement system to keep players in the game long-term.

The next Belles & Chimes tournament takes place in June, and the group has a number of events coming up soon, including one at the Fremont Baby Food Festival. For updates from Belles & Chimes Grand Rapids, follow them on Facebook at @bellesandchimesgr. Those

interested in practicing for the next event may do so, Wednesday through Sunday, at Retro Electric Pinball Arcade in Lowell. Retro Electric can also be found online via their website retroelectricarcade.com or on Facebook at @retro.electric.arcade.



The prize table for the Belles & Chimes Grand Rapids tournament at Retro Electric Pinball Arcade.



Karen Cummings is the head of the Grand Rapids Chapter of Belles & Chimes, an international network of inclusive women’s pinball leagues, run by women, for women.

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Red Arrow

- VOLLEYBALL

SPORTS

STATE CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to the boys volleyball team on winning their first state championship. Look for a full story in next week's *Ledger*.



Golf team season comes to end

By Justin Scott
Sports reporter

There was a cruel juxtaposition that unfolded on Wednesday at the Division 2 golf regional hosted at Katke Golf Course. In the fall of 2022, Lowell girls golf hosted the regional at their home course, Arrowhead. They won the regional title, in part because of that home course advantage. You know that course, it's going to give you an edge. On Wednesday, the school that is actually visible from Katke, like right across the street, took advantage of their home course. They finished third, the last spot for team states. Lowell finished fourth. Big Rapids hit two late birdies to seal a third place finish over Lowell by just five strokes, bringing



Patrick de Voest at the 16th hole.

Lowell's team season to an end earlier than the Lowell golfers had hoped for. Iwanamaker, the digital scoring app used in MHSAA high school golf, is really cool. Live tracking of scores of any tournament, that can be seen worldwide at the click of a button. Golfers input the scores digitally, and parents, administrators,

and fans can follow along. It also allows golfers to see the current standings, and as the round unfolded, the pressure to hit perfect shots took their toll on the Red Arrows. Patrick de Voest had a rollercoaster round, but would end up leading the Red Arrows. He shot a 78 with a triple bogey, two double bogeys, a birdie, and a chip in eagle. That score was good enough to make state as an individual. Cam Sluss followed closely after with an 80. Drew Veldman (83) and Trevor Mead (88) rounded out the scoring. Nicholas Lothian shot an 89 for Lowell's fifth score. While it was a tough way to finish for the three seniors, all of which will be going on to play collegiate golf, de Voest participating

Submitted by Coach Paul Judd

Rockford High School was the host for the Division 1 State meet and the place where four Lowell athletes would close-out the 2023 season. A 90-degree Saturday, as well as the best track athletes in the state, greeted seniors Annika Sandman, Katrina Sandman, Ramsey Ponchaud, and sophomore, Isabel German, who qualified in seven events among them. Ponchaud led-off the day with an 11th-place finish,



Isabel German

as he went 13-06", which was a personal record (PR) and tied him as the No. 2 pole vaulter in LHS history. He had a couple of good attempts at 14-0, which would have rewarded him with all state honors, as well as the school record. Isabel German started the Lady Arrows off in the pole vault, going 10-09, which was good for 14th place in a stacked field. German would close-out her first state meet with a 14th-place finish in the 400m, going 59.81 out of lane 8. In my opinion, we may have been better off racing in the

first heat from lane 4, as it would have allowed Isabel to see the runner, as she is a natural hunter when she races the 400m. The Sandman sisters probably had the longest day, as they had two races totaling three miles, in 900-plus degree heat. It was so hot that they allowed coaches to hand water to the athletes in the 3200m, which is rare for the state meet. Katrina started the 1600m off in the first of two heats, knowing that winning the heat was



Katrina and Annika Sandman

or two on the last lap. Ice and shade were the recipe for the hour-long recovery between the 1600m and the 3200m races. Both Lowell racers were in the second (fast) heat of the 3200m. In many ways, the 3200 played-out like the earlier 1600, as a pack of girls took it out at a 5:10 (10:20) pace for the first 1200m before settling down. A pack of six kept together through the 2400m mark until Anna Delgado (E. Lansing) and Arianne

Olsen (West Ottawa) broke away from the pack. Annika kept with the remaining four and finished in sixth place in 10:48.74, which earned her all-state honors. Her top-eight finish will also allow her to earn Academic All-State honors. Katrina ran even splits to finish in 11:07, which was good for 14th place. Katrina's time is remarkable, considering she ran a minute faster than last year on the biggest stage, in what many say was the hardest double of the day.



Ramsey Ponchaud

Red Arrow

LACROSSE

SPORTS

Lacrosse underdog story rolls to semifinals

By Justin Scott
Sports reporter

Nobody believed Lowell Lacrosse would beat East Grand Rapids last week. We love to support our teams, we always want to believe. We're also realistic though. So, as much as Lowell fans, who came in droves to EGR last Wednesday, might have wanted the Red Arrows to win, in the back of their minds they might have been thinking it was the last time they would watch their favorite lacrosse team for the year. There was no way Lowell could beat one of the best teams in the state, in a sport where the top heavy teams are so dominant.

As the game progressed

and scored by a wide-open Jackson Roudabush goal in front of the net. 9-6. It's at this point in the third quarter, a play that encapsulated the game happened. An EGR player with possession and a three-goal lead, which is huge in lacrosse, simply rolled the ball lackadaisical to his teammate. Didn't safely pass it in the air, he just slowly rolled it.

Brady Boonstra would hustle to the ball, surprising the EGR offense, It's at that point that feeling of belief came back into play as the quarter ended. Lowell was out hustling the Pioneers. They wanted it more, and they could beat this team. They just needed one good quarter, and they got it.

with less than two minutes to go, gave Lowell an improbable lead.

With their backs against the wall with 30 seconds left, EGR dug a goal back, making it 10-10.

Cole Huisman set-up for the biggest face off of his life. If he got the face-off win, Lowell could go down and maybe score a game winner. If he lost the face-off, perhaps the Pioneers, with a little momentum, could clutch a win from the jaws of defeat. The tie-up took a while to break up, but in the end it was Huisman that won it, and Lixie collected the ball. It didn't take long to develop as he ran in, and found Jackson Roudabush, with a



Lowell players celebrate their first regional title with Head Coach, Austin Buckius.



Players celebrate with Lowell students and recent graduates at EGR.

though, those thoughts went away. Lowell jumped out to an early lead and held it relatively well. With hard work, hustle, and the confidence they could play with anybody after upsetting Caledonia and Byron Center prior, the six-seeded Red Arrows had played their way to a 4-3 scoreline at halftime, trailing. The mood in the stadium was beginning to shift.

"You can do this," that's what a member of the Lowell crowd told boys lacrosse offensive coach, Bill Lee, at halftime.

After the break, EGR did what good lacrosse teams can do, they went on a run and made it 9-4 with good consecutive goals.

Then Lowell got one back. 9-5. A Tevin VanderBoon save was quickly brought up the field

Weston Godbold made it 9-7, then a face off violation went Lowell's way and the Red Arrows were able to capitalize on a Connor Lixie goal. 9-8. A Pioneer penalty gave Lowell the ball back, and CJ Steinebach made the game 9-9. The Lowell sideline was intense, as the stadium mood had made a 180. The Lowell students, of which there was a huge group, were completely into the game. Young kids were pounding their feet on the Pioneer bleachers. Lowell parents watched nervously, but now with excitement. On the other side a crowd that probably came in very confident, had a hush around them, in disbelief.

An unforced Pioneer turnover went to Lixie who eventually on the other end

little side pass, the ball hit the back of the twine, and with five seconds left the Lowell crowd erupted. Five seconds left, anything could still happen, but Huisman won the ensuing face-off and soon the Lowell players were throwing sticks into the air, gloves, whatever they had running out to celebrate. Soon they found their way to the stands hugging fans, and celebrating the biggest win in program history.

Players rushed to greet the students, who had congregated on the front row. Many of those students were 2023 graduates, done with high school, but ready to support their lacrosse team for the last time of the season. They'll have more playoff tickets to buy.

East Grand Rapids is a big boy in high school lacrosse. There's a reason

Lowell has only played them once prior. They're a juggernaut program, and the 2021 state championship sits in their trophy case. They've never been in the same conference, Lowell's never advanced far enough (except for a game in 2007) to play East Grand Rapids.

It marked Lowell's first ever regional championship, one that Lowell came in as a six-seed and an 8-9 record, knocked off three-seed Caledonia, two-seed Byron Center, and one-seed East Grand Rapids, all on the road, all as an underdog going in. EGR had the No. 3 ranking, Byron Center No. 8, Caledonia No. 26. 28th ranked in Division 2, Lowell outlasted each of them. The Red Arrows are just the second six-seed ever to win a regional championship.

Quarterfinal vs. Dearborn Divine Child

Facing another team they would've been considered an underdog against, Lowell used the confidence from their win over EGR and played lights out in a dominating performance and a 17-5 win.

Lowell looked every bit as confident in Wednesday's quarterfinal win, but a big play came at the end of the first half. The Falcons played Lowell well in the first half, tied at 4-4, until a three-goal run by the Red Arrows. It was capped by a Cole Huisman face-off win that he took the length of the field and shot his shot finishing emphatically, a huge morale boost for

Lowell already feeling confident.

They would dominate the rest of the game held at East Lansing High School, in Lowell's first ever game as a school against Divine Child, a parochial school out of Dearborn.

This Lowell team now sits just two wins away from a state championship. The road won't be easy, it hasn't been to start, now it just gets tougher. The Red Arrows face Forest Hills Central, last year's state champion, in the semifinals this Wednesday at FHN. Just like their previous five games, they will no doubt come in as underdogs. There's a reason you play the game though, and hey why not just two more wins?



CITY OF

LOWELL

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CITY OF LOWELL'S

INTENT TO APPLY FOR A USDA/

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN

The City of Lowell intends to file an application for federal financial assistance with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service. The project includes improvements to the City's water supply system and sanitary sewer system. The project will also include improvements to Washington Street in the City of Lowell.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lowell City Manager Michael Burns at 616-897-8457.

obituaries

OSBORNE

Noah Paul Osborne went to be with our Lord on May 31, 2023. Noah's unexpected passing has left an unthinkable heartache for those that loved him. His mother and father, Sarah and Dustin Osborne, along with his siblings, Charlotte and Luca, will forever cherish the memories they shared with Noah. Noah, or



Noey (as his siblings affectionately called him), came into this world on June 29, 2022. From that day forward, his big smile made our lives more beautiful every day; he was truly a bright light in this world. His sister had a special way to bring out Noey's laughter that was contagious to all who could hear. Noah enjoyed

swinging on the swingset with his brother and sister, spending time with his grandparents, wagon rides, and cuddling with his mom and dad. Very recently, Noah was able to proudly take his first steps into the arms of his family bringing a beaming smile to his face. While we only knew Noah for 11 short months, his memory will stay with us forever. He is deeply missed by his family including grandparents, Paul and Dawn Edenfield, and Scott and Kim Osborne, aunts and uncles Betsy (Clay) Pehl, Gary (Elyse) Osborne, Becky (Zach) Beachum, and cousins Anderson and Georgia Pehl. A visitation for Noah will be held Tuesday, June 6 from 5:00pm-8:00pm and funeral on Wednesday, June 7 at 10:00am. Visitation and funeral will take place at Ada Bible Church Cascade Campus located at 8899 Cascade Road SE, Ada, MI 49301. In remembrance of Noah's life, the family asks that any charitable contributions be made to Ada Bible Church's Benevolence Fund in Noah's name, which supports others in the community. <https://my.adable.org/default.aspx?page=3730>

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STROOSNYDER

Brian Paul Stroosnyder, age 67 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly June 3, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Douglas and Patsy; and nephew, Bobby Munjoy. Brian is survived by his brothers, Tim (Nancy) Stroosnyder, Scott Stroosnyder, Paul (Hope Rogers) Stroosnyder; sisters, Susan Anderson, Pam (John) Greene; nieces, Katie (Brian Haan) Anderson, Alley Greene, Megan SanBorn, Sarah Munjoy; nephews, Peter Greene, Danny Greene, Sean Greene, Josh SanBorn; great niece, Veda; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Brian was an



avid fan of the Beatles and loved MSU, the Red Wings, Lions, and Cubs. Just a good soul! Memorial Celebration of Life will be at a later day.

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NEUBECKER

John (Jack) Quintin Neubecker, age 88 of Lowell, passed away May 28, 2023, after a long illness. John was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on December 2, 1934, to Stephen Loyola and Alice (Hills) Neubecker.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Fred "Fritz"; sister-in-law, Dorothy; and sister, Edith (Bud) Neubecker. John was sort of a "Jack of all trades." He started working in the muck fields as a teenager and worked in the printing shop at The Freeport News, printing the Clarksville Record and Freeport News. Next, he worked at The Grand Rapids Press from 1963 to 1975 in the composing room. Then he wanted to start farming on the property he purchased in 1968. He raised sheep, which cleared the land, then he went into the dairy business and after that, raising show horses. He was a member of the "Boots and Spur" club in Lowell in his younger days. He also worked at Saskatoon Golf Club and the Hastings Reminder. After 10 years of traveling



to Arizona and moving to Schneider Manor, he worked on the lawns and even helped his wife with the Koffee Klatch on Tuesdays, along with the monthly potlucks. He enjoyed watch and clock repairing but his eyesight was giving out. He was a member of the Bowne Township Historical Society Commissions and served on the Township planning commission for many years. He is survived by his wife, Marcella G. (Humphrey); sons, Mark (Laura) Neubecker, David Neubecker; grandchildren, Melissa (Jon) Lyons, Kyle Neubecker, Keith (Lauren) Neubecker; great grandchildren, Ainsley, Asher, Wyatt, Harper Lyons, Renleigh, Kitt, Greyson and Quinn Neubecker. Visitation with the family will be held from 6-8pm on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan, 49331. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11am on Friday, June 2, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell, Michigan, 49331, with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Michael Goodwin presiding. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to offer expressions of sympathy are encouraged to make memorial contributions to Hospice of Michigan or Bowne Township Historical Commission P.O. Box 35 Alto, MI 49302.

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Cliff's Riffs, continued

only that, but my Medicare card will provide any meds I might need at a steep discount, and there are many over-the-counter items which will be discounted, as well. My step is lighter today for sure.

Speaking of steps, my new insurance will allow me to seek Physical Therapy for an ankle injury that occurred a few years ago without having to go to my regular doctor first, pay for the visit, and then be referred. (If I recall, said ankle injury cost me a little over \$6,000.00 one summer.) If my ankle bothers me, I can just dance

on in to my favorite PT guy and let Matt work his magic.

For the past several years, as people in my age cohort express their distrust or outright contempt for the notion of nationalized or single-payer healthcare, I have queried them to see if they will be opting-out of Medicare. To date, I know of not one single person doing so. On the contrary, I have heard someone, vehemently opposed to "national healthcare", talk trash one minute and then the next minute explain

how the surgery to correct a long-standing problem was totally paid for by Medicare. Hello! The clue-phone keeps ringing and you refuse to answer it.

The U.S. could change the financial outlook for the vast majority of citizens, just by making some form of Medicare available to everyone. Medicare for all is on the agenda for some of our elected officials, others are too busy filling their political war chests with donations from Big Health and Big Pharma to give it any serious consideration.

As a business owner, I am not opposed to the concept of making a profit, but when the financial backs of regular citizens are broken by medical debt, it is time for a change.

For now, I am going to bask in the sunshine of a new day in which the fear of incurring, insurmountable medical debt has been reduced to almost zero. Count me in the group of people celebrating a national healthcare program, that actually leaves me feeling protected. Medicare for all needs to happen.



Live the Life You Want

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

Making adult friends: the challenges and rewards

I came across some recent research citing that loneliness in adults continues to increase. I continued down the rabbit hole to try and figure out why. What I found was information on the challenges of adult friendships and relationships, along with a health warning from our US Surgeon General (USSG). You read that correctly. For years, our USSG, Dr. Vivek Murthy, has been warning that we are in the midst of a loneliness epidemic. On May 3, 2023, the USSG released an official advisory calling attention to the public health crisis of loneliness, isolation, and

lack of connection in the US.

Surveys, research, and specialists.

There were a lot of studies on this topic, so I'm only summarizing a few.

- The USSG Advisory on the Devastating Impact of the Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation in the United States draws on decades of research from the scientific disciplines of neuroscience sociology, psychology, public health, among others. It states that even before the pandemic, approximately half of U.S. adults reported experiencing measurable levels of loneliness. The USSG

cautioned that this lack of connection fundamentally affects our mental, physical, and societal health and can increase the risk for individuals to develop mental health challenges. He feels this lack of social connection is a health crisis. He went on to state that science shows loneliness can take as many years off your life as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, which increases the risk for premature death. He also cites our current work culture as playing a large part in what he calls a "deadly epidemic". You can read the announcement and link to his full report at: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/05/03/new-surgeon-general-advisory-raises-alarm-about-devastating-impact-epidemic-loneliness-isolation-united-states.html>

- An Oxford University study found that men and women start losing friends around the age of 25. It further notes that maintaining existing

friendships and making new friends gets harder with each passing year.

- The Survey Center on American Life cites that 49% of Americans report having less than 3 close friends, while 27% of millennials say they have no close friends at all.

- A global study on friendship from 2019 suggests that as we get older, we become more selective about who we spend time with and befriend.

- On average American's spend about 40 minutes each day socializing. In such a small amount of time how can a friendship develop and grow? This may be part of the problem. According to Jeffrey Hall, a communication-studies professor at the University of Kansas, he estimates it takes more than 200 hours, over several weeks, for someone to become a close friend. As adults, we have

Live the Life,
continued page 14

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classifieds

for sale

COMFORTPEDIC LOFT MATTRESS - Box spring & bed frame, \$250. Call 616-581-7900.

LABPUPPIES-VERY cute & adorable. 1st shots and dewormed. Mom on site. \$300. 517-726-0706.

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

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

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

for rent

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

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

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

misc.

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

NEWSPAPERENDROLLS AVAILABLE - Many uses. Usually \$7-\$9 each. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway. Call for availability.

misc.

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

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

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

wanted

WANTED - Undamaged used curly tube slide, 10 feet or longer. Any color. Call 616-897-7228 will pay reasonable price.

help wanted

WORKER WANTED - For yard work and more. Would like experience with chain-saw, mower and weedeater. Pay \$15 - \$20 per hour. Four-six (or more) hours per day. Mike Stephens, 616-897-7228. 11751 Lally St., Murray Lake.

sales

GARAGE SALE - Quality items; many new., clean, nojunk. Tools, Nordic treadmill, small air compressor, bedding, clothing, kitchen and decor items, much more. Thurs., Fri. & Sat., June 8, 9 & 10, 8:30-5 pm. 12279 60th St. SE, Alto, 616-868-6633.



services

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

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

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

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

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

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

services

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

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U.P. Reader Volume 7 hits the stands for unofficial opening of summer

By Emma Palova
Contributing writer

Just in time for the unofficial opening of summer, the *U.P. Reader* hit the stands with its shining new Volume 7, graced by the beautiful cover of a mining shaft at Painesdale, on the Keweenaw, constructed in 1902. The cover photo is by author, Mikel Classen.

I strive to give the reader something to ponder about. I challenge people's thinking, unapologetically.

-Hilton Everett Moore

The hefty annual publication takes you on a road trip across Michigan's Upper Peninsula from the Mackinac Bridge to Menominee, with nonfiction and fiction pieces by U.P. authors, who embody the life of a Yooper. "Yoopers are born, not made," said publisher Victor Volkman. "That's why I can never be a Yooper."

The 60 short works in the issue span the entire Upper Peninsula and

include imaginative fiction from young winners of the Dandelion Cottage Short Story contest. "The main purpose is to expose U.P. literature to the world," Volkman said. "We interweave fiction with non-fiction, essays and poetry."

U.P. Reader is the brainchild of Classen, who wanted to bring U.P.

literature closer to the world with its ruggedness and remoteness.

After seven volumes of the *U.P. Reader*, Volkman said he was amazed at the number of authors the U.P. has to offer. Building on its tradition of great authors, such as Robert Traver, Ernest Hemingway, Jim Harrison, John Smolens, and many others, U.P. literature continues to grow with its followers, like author Hilton Everett Moore, who lives in

a remote cabin on Baraga Lake in Keweenaw.

For Moore, author of the *North of Nelson* anthology of short stories, the protagonist is the rugged nature of the Upper Peninsula. "It just works well for my stories," he said. "The very area is a character; the land expresses itself."

Just like the nature in the U.P. is challenging, so are the stories written by Yooper authors. "I strive to give the reader something to ponder about," Moore said. "I challenge people's thinking, unapologetically." Moore encourages people to get out grab a book and take time to read every day and rehash their lives.

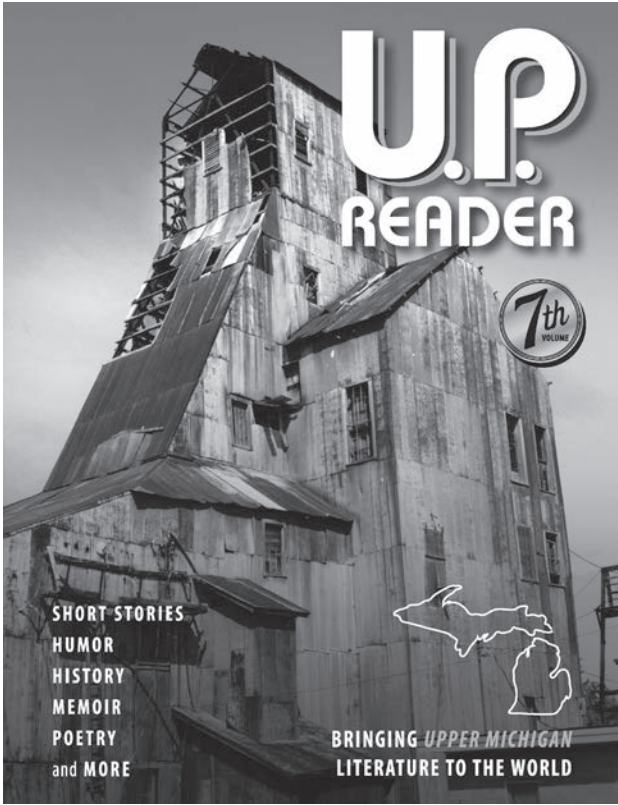
Moore was surprised when his short stories *Dog Named Bunny* and *Requiem*

for *Earnie* were selected for the *U.P. Reader*, Vol. 5. "I hit a couple of home runs," he said.

And for both, publisher, Volkman and author, Moore, the most gratifying part of the entire publishing process is the moment when the books arrive. "The thrill when the box of books lands in the mail," Volkman said, "and we can say, we did it."

Volkman is amazed at the remarkable diversity of U.P. authors and literature. A total of 299 authors have contributed to the seven volumes of the *U.P. Reader* including young writers. "It's not like a hunting magazine with 40 articles about hunting," he said.

To submit your work for the *U.P. Reader*, Vol. 8, you must be a member



U.P. Reader, Vol. 7 now on stands.

of the Upper Peninsula Publishers and Authors Association (UPPAA). Go to www.UPPAA.org

You can listen to the full

interviews with Volkman and Moore at <https://emmapalova123.podbean.com> or on your favorite podcasting app.

Live the Life, continued

so many time commitments and this plays a role in why adults have more difficulty making close friends.

- According to the findings from the May 2021 American Perspectives Survey. Americans report having fewer close friendships than they once did, they talk to their friends less often, and are relying less on their friends for personal support.

Possible causes

So, why do we have such a difficult time making or maintaining close friendships as adults? Some possible challenges were mentioned in the last section of this article but there are a few other main causes listed below.

Lack of Free Time – We have less free time in adulthood than when we were younger. In the US, we work longer hours with many traveling more for

work. Many have romantic partners and children taking most of their free time outside of work.

Lack of trust. Due to life experiences, many adults find it more difficult to trust others, and we know, trust is at the foundation of any close relationship. Adults are cautious of being hurt, judged, rejected, and not being liked. It can be scary to put yourself out there and be vulnerable.

Different interests – our interests can change and we may outgrow existing friendships. It can also be difficult to find someone that not only shares your interests but also has a similar free-time schedule.

Changes in reliance – Single young adults most often rely on friends for emotional support and personal problems. This changes when in a committed relationship, as

you then, most often, rely on your partner for support.

Ways to connect.

We know that connecting with others is critical for our overall wellness. Friendships provide many benefits. To name a few, friendships help us feel like we belong, provide companionship, which helps alleviate loneliness, provides support, and can bring fun, joy, and new experiences to your life. Some studies suggest those with strong friendships/social ties are less likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. If you are struggling to make friends, below are some suggestions.

Get involved in your community. Volunteer, join a club, take a class in your areas of interest. Put yourself out their and try something new. The Lowell area offers many great classes & events, hosted by area businesses & organizations (Lowell Community Wellness, the library, etc.)

Friendship Apps. Bumble BFF, Skout,

Friender, Yubu, Meetup, Nextdoor are all apps you can use to make friends & find those with similar interests. Facebook interest groups are another way to possibly connect. Just be cautious, smart, & safe if you choose to use any social media apps.

Give it time. Friends don't happen overnight. Friendships take time and effort to develop.

Be open to others. Don't be afraid to talk with someone you don't know. You never know who you might meet.

Just be you. Don't try to be someone you're not. People will appreciate you for who you are.

Take-aways.

The bottom line is that close connections are essential our overall well-being and happiness. Take the time to build them with people that lift you up and help improve your quality of life. You are worth it. I hope you find this info helpful. This article is for informational purposes only, not to diagnose or treat. Stay well!

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING RELATING TO USDA/ RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND RELATED PROJECT

On June 19, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, the City Manager and Mayor will be available to discuss and answer any questions relating to the City's intent to file an application for federal financial assistance with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service. The project includes improvements to the City's water supply system and sanitary sewer system and the project also includes improvements to Washington Street in the City of Lowell. The meeting will be held at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan, upstairs in the Council Chambers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lowell City Manager Michael Burns at 616-897-8457.

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.



DEMAND JUSTICE

Victims of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy have rights.

Victims who suffered from sexual abuse by a member of the clergy in Michigan can seek compensation. While nothing can undo you or your loved one's pain, you can recover compensation from the abusers and the institutions that enabled them.

You no longer need to suffer in silence.

TOGETHER, WE CAN HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE.

Call today for your free, confidential consultation.

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313-484-0302

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2925 Richmond, Suite 1725, Houston, TX 77098
Stinar Law PLLC
5700 Crooks, Suite 200, Troy, MI 48098

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING
Pulaski Kherkher Law Firm, with principal office in Houston, Texas, is responsible for the content of this ad.
This photo is a fictional scene.

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5:00-7:30 p.m.

PORK STEAK DINNER

Potato, veggie and roll

No Sunday Breakfast

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

KITTY CAT WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

KITTY CAT
WORD SEARCH

HIDDEN
HUNT
INDEPENDENT
LITTER
LIVES
LOUNGE
MEOW

MICE
NIGHT
NINE
POST
POUNCE
PURR
SCRATCH

SLEEPING
STEALTHY
WHISKERS
YARN

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cats.

R G S M O O

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

Answer: Grooms

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on June 6, 1947. I started acting as a child in a local children’s theater. I am best known for my work as a nightmare-inducing character who slashed his way through several horror films.

Answer: Robert England

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

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Flat tableland with steep edges

5. Where there’s __, there’s fire

10. Talked incessantly

12. Skill

14. Without shame

16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)

18. Boxing’s GOAT

19. Used to anoint

20. Cluster cups

22. Footballer Newton

23. They make up a forest

25. Split pulses

26. Self

27. Post-office box

28. Test for high schoolers

30. Large, flightless bird

31. Expectorated

33. Falsehood

35. Prickly, scrambling shrub

37. French river

38. Told on

40. Hillside

41. Peyton’s little brother

42. Soviet Socialist Republic

44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire

45. Witness

48. Brews
50. Yellowish-brown

52. Arctic explorers, abbr.

53. Mexican agave

55. A type of “cast”

56. Encourage

57. Atomic #52

58. Relating to position north of south of equator

63. Gadget whose name you forget

65. Another recording

66. Small blisters

67. Dark brown or black
- CLUES DOWN
1. Licensed for Wall Street

2. “__ and flow”

3. A very large body of water

4. Accumulate on the surface of

5. Central cores of the stem

6. Angry

7. Ceramic jar

8. Scraped a car

9. __ route

10. Soviet labor camp system

11. Strong hostilities

13. Vitamin of the B complex

15. Go quickly

17. Toast

18. A team’s best pitcher

21. A Philly culinary specialty
23. Small child

24. Unhappy

27. Trims away

29. Characterized by crying eyes

32. Soft touch

34. American spy organization

35. A person’s chest

36. Came from behind to win

39. Fall back

40. Nellie __, journalist

43. Great places to kayak

44. Suffer patiently

46. Majestic bird

47. Electroencephalograph

49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic

51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)

54. Ship as cargo

59. The bill in a restaurant

60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)

61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial

62. One’s grandmother

64. Siberian river

(FUNNY BOOK
FORUM)

By Justin Tiemeyer

700th issue of *Fantastic Four* Bows Before Doom

Writer Jason Aaron describes his *Punisher* 12-part miniseries as “one of the proudest moments of my twenty-year comic-book writing career.” The final issue, *Punisher* #12 (Marvel Comics) was released on 5/31/23. With *Fall of X* on the horizon, Storm takes center stage in both *Immortal X-Men* #11 (Marvel Comics, 5/3/23) and *X-Men Red* #11 (5/10/23), where the moral center of the x-books voices her opposition to former mentor Charles Xavier. DC Comics releases first issues for a number of new titles including *Green Lantern* (5/10/23), *Shazam!* (5/3/23), and *Titans* (5/17/23). Finally, Boom! Studios reveals that Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michaelangelo are black teenagers in *Mighty*

Morphin Power Rangers/Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II #5 (5/3/23).

Here are the top three comics published in May!

Fantastic Four #7 (Marvel Comics, 5/17/23)

The big two comic publishers have reverted often to legacy numbering for some big anniversaries, over the past few weeks, and in keeping with that tradition, *Fantastic Four* #7 celebrates 700 issues of *Fantastic Four* comics since 1961. The current volume of *Fantastic Four*, written by Ryan North and illustrated by Iban Coello, has put aside all of the supervillain battles and multiverse-trotting for simpler one-off slice of life stories intended to remind readers why they love Reed Richards/Mister Fantastic, Sue Storm/Invisible Woman, Johnny

Storm/Human Torch, and Ben Grimm/The Thing. With the current issue, North and Coello throw some of that love toward one of the greatest villains of all time, Dr. Victor Von Doom.

All of this free time enjoyed by Marvel’s first family was afforded by a clever solution wherein genius Reed Richards flickered the Baxter Building out of time in order to stop Annihilus and his insectoid army from conquering New York City. Well, Reed’s daughter (and Doom’s goddaughter) Valeria Richards was in that building at the time of its transdimensional warp, and Doom believes this warrants his interference. In classic Doom fashion, the archvillain spends the entire issue trying to get Valeria back safely, and, in the process, showing how much smarter he is than Reed Richards. From different perspectives, this is either a brief character study of Dr. Doom or the culmination of sixty years of development in the hands of numerous creators. Either way, it’s a good read.

Batman #135 (DC Comics, 5/3/23)

Though expertly written and illustrated, Chip

Zdarsky and Mikel Janin’s *Batman* has often felt like it’s been treading water over its first two arcs, and this would make sense, considering the fact that Zdarsky is in the process of wrapping up a career-making run on *Daredevil*, and DC is still sorting out the shape of its universe following *Dark Crisis* and *Lazarus Planet*. However, the final chapter in *The Batman of Gotham* promises an impactful return to continuity.

Though the implications of elseworld villain Red Mask and his multiversal obsession with Jokers are deeply interesting and definitely a source for years of Batman stories to come, it is Zdarsky’s homage to 900 issues of *Batman* comics that makes *Batman* #135 a comic not to miss. The issue teams Zdarky’s Batman up with all the best Batmans of all time, from Frank Miller’s *Dark Knight* to Kevin Conroy’s detective in *The Animated Series* to Michael Keaton’s 1989 movie hero, all the while, building up to one of the best executed comic book gags in 80 years of comics. To avoid spoilers, those are all the details readers will get from this article. For more, read *Batman* #135 already.

Mighty Morphin Power Rangers #108 (Boom! Studios, 5/17/23)

When has Boom! Studios’ *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* not been one of the best comics out there. That is a good question, almost a zen kōan, when you think about it, like pondering what one hand clapping sounds like. The truth is, this series has



always been phenomenal, but a reader who has not yet read the series would now know that yet. Perhaps, it is time to put philosophy aside and dive into the details of the Power Rangers series that put Boom! Studios on the map for many readers.

Mighty Morphin Power Rangers #108 loosely correlates with the third season of the hit TV series from the 90s. Rita Repulsa had her run (like in season one), and so did Lord Zedd (season two), and now, instead of Repulsa’s laughable brother Rito Revolto, the evil space witch has returned with a fierce warrior named The Vessel. The current arc has been host to no shortage of twists, not the least of which being Lord Zed as a Power Ranger, but issue #108 reveals The Vessel’s

origin, and it is a doozy. For readers who did not think *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* could get any more deeply personal and jaw-dropping, guess what? *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* just got more deeply personal and jaw-dropping.

Other Noteworthy May 2023 Comics

DC Comics: *Adventures of Superman: Jon Kent* #3 (5/3/23), *Batman/Superman: World’s Finest* #15 (5/17/23), *Nightwing* #104 (5/24/23); Image Comics: *Saga* #64 (5/10/23); Marvel Comics: *Daredevil* #11 (5/10/23), FCBD 2023: *Uncanny Avengers* #1 (5/6/23), *She-Hulk* #13 (5/17/23), *Silver Surfer: Ghost Light* #4 (5/31/23), *Wolverine* #33 (5/10/23).



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