

Stories of Perseverance



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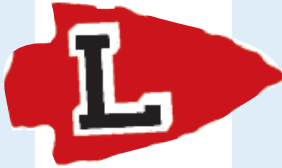


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Perfect weather for LAHM’s Summerfest

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

Everything came together perfectly for the annual fundraiser at the Lowell Historical Museum Summerfest. Executive Director, Lisa Plank, was very happy near the end of the three-hour event. “We had probably our biggest attendance ever,” Plank related. “Everybody had a great time. The weather was perfect. We had a lot of newcomers and a lot of return attendees. It has been fun to get to show the museum, off to new people who haven’t been here before.”

The purchase of a ticket provides funding for the museum and includes a souvenir glass and access to beverages and food all night. Plank and her crew of volunteers make a point to highlight local restaurants, as well as local beers and Michigan wines. A nice variety of food was provided by local restaurants and caterers: Big Boiler Brewing, Flat River Grill, BC Pizza, Heidi’s Farmstand, Larkin’s Catering, Sneakers, Mynt Fusion, and Miss P’s Catering. Local craft beer



Seating in the garden was full most of the night.

from breweries: New Union and Big Boiler Brewing were served, along with other Michigan beer and wine. Plank was quick to thank the other sponsors,

including Rick Seese of Greenridge Realty, Addorio Technologies, Reagan Family Dentistry, Ian Deming of Edward Jones, River Valley Credit Union

and Chimera Design.

Part of the fun of the evening include the way the Museum staff and volunteers wisely place food tables in each of the rooms on the first

floor of the museum. Tables and chairs are scattered around, inside the museum,

**Summerfest,
continued page 2**

The excitement of going back to school

By Aliina Forester
LHS contributing writer

The first week leading up to school is full of nerves, excitement, and jitters. Students get their schedules

and share them with their friends. Friends go to the mall and get new clothes, then discuss their outfits, hair, and how they’ll smile

for school pictures. Friends all show-up to orientation together, getting excited and nervous for the upcoming school year. Students in clubs wake up early to set up their table at the activity fair for incoming freshmen. With school approaching, that means fall sports. Boys soccer and football have been training hard all summer to start games right when we come back to school. Feelings about school vary from teen-to-teen, with some ready to come back and some not so much.

Aysha Vandenbosch said, “I’m feeling pretty anxious about starting school but I’m looking forward to



LHS Library staff helping freshmen with their chromebooks and textbooks.

**Back to school,
continued page 3**

Pink Arrow Community Day set for Sept. 7

By Justin Scott
Sports reporter

The debut of this year’s Pink Arrow shirts will come a little later this year. That’s because this year’s Pink Arrow game will come much later, as well, thanks to an early football schedule with plenty of away games.

Pink Arrow will take place on the 22nd of September, with Community Day taking place on the 7th of September.

Community Day will take place at Bob Perry Memorial Field from 1 pm to 7 pm on the 7th, which is a Thursday. This will be the 16th year of Pink Arrow, started in 2009. This year’s game will be played against OK White Conference for Greenville, and the second Pink Arrow game that Greenville has been a part of.

The Pink Arrow Committee announced that in 2022, \$101,000 was raised for various community organizations, including Lowell Gilda’s Club, \$50,000; Lowell Community Wellness, \$44,000; Dr. Gerard and Kathy Talus Scholarships total, \$7,000.

Summerfest, continued

on the big back porch and in the garden, as well. That way, attendees have an opportunity to explore all of the exhibits while loading and emptying their plates. The air was filled with conversation, laughter, and perfect background music from a string quartet. Claire Pohl, Abby McDonald, Ella Todd, and Noah VanLaan are the members of the Lowell Fushion Orchestra Quartet who provided the music.

“This is the 150th

birthday of this building,” Plank noted. “We are celebrating that this year. It [the Graham building] has had an important role in the past by serving many different roles over the years. It is kind of a treasure in our town.”

Part of the plans for the building, this year, included the demolition and reconstruction of the front steps and porch. Unfortunately, the project was not able to be completed before Summerfest. The

bulk of the work has been completed with all new cements components, but one key element was lacking. “We are waiting on the wood railings and handrails,” Plank told us. “They are on back-order. As soon as those come in, the contractor will come back and wrap up the job.”

While it certainly would have been nice to have the new front entrance to the museum open for Summerfest, no one in the capacity crowd seemed



Every room was put to use for the Summerfest.



The beverage tent was busy from open-to-close.



Front steps are experiencing supply-chain issues. All complete except the railings.



Dedication and Open House

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750 Foreman

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Back to school, continued

seeing everybody I didn't get a chance to see over summer."

Alex Roys and Leah Bryce said they are both super excited for football games! "I'm looking forward to the football games and seeing friends, but not as excited for the homework," stated Bryce.

Alex Roys told me, "I'm feeling alright about coming back; I'm really looking forward to fall, football games, and AP Chem with Mr. Rose!"

I talked to some teachers to see how they are feeling for the approaching school year. Mrs. Klomparens said "I'm looking forward to coming back to school, after this many years, it's just my circle of life. I'm looking forward to seeing my students and getting to meet the incoming freshmen. I love school supplies, fall sports, and homecoming!"

Mrs. Ellis is ecstatic about coming back, "I feel great about coming back to school, the beginning of the year is just this fun time where everyone is excited about coming back. It feels

like summer camp to me and seeing all of my teacher friends. I'm looking forward to seeing all the students that I saw last year and the ones who went to Costa Rica with the Spanish teachers of the summer! I'm so excited to teach Spanish 4 this year, and apply things that I learned from the summer, to improve my teaching skills this year.

All summer, LHS staff has been working very hard to make this school year great. Some students are ready to be back and some not so much, but after talking with students and staff, it seems like this school year at LHS will be a great one. So get pumped-up and ready for Friday night lights, fun times with friends, and new opportunities this school year. Go Arrows!

Right: Lockers of students that will soon be filled with books, backpacks, and computers.



Live the Life You Want

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

Combating Intolerance

I never imagined the amount of positive feedback I would receive from my prior article, questioning whether intolerance was becoming an epidemic. Due to the length of that article, I wasn't able to share suggestions on how to combat intolerance. So, that will be the focus of this article.

Suggestions to combat intolerance

There are many ways to reduce intolerance and it's something we can all work on. Below are some suggestions to get you started.

Recognize intolerance. Intolerance can be verbal, non-verbal, physical or written. It may come across as verbal or physical harassment/bullying, or treating someone unfairly or poorly because they have different beliefs, etc. Behaviors that victimize or disrespect others based on race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, etc., are intolerant.

Self-awareness. Part of self-awareness is being able to check-in to see if your behaviors/actions, emotions, and thoughts match your core values. If they don't, it's time to make some changes. It's also admitting that we don't know what we don't know. We all have different experiences and knowledge that shape who we are. Sometimes we're not aware of bias because it's so engrained in us, often from our family or even our community, that it seems normal. Maybe we have not been exposed to a situation but once we are, it shines awareness on a previously unknown or hidden bias.

Listen to understand other people's point of view instead of arguing as to why

your view is the only correct one. It doesn't mean you have to agree, but at least be open to, and acknowledge, that each situation has multiple viewpoints. Check out the movie *What the bleep do we know*; it's eye opening. The original movie, with fewer interviews is much easier to follow.

Thoughts are not facts. A fact is based on evidence, not opinions or beliefs, and cannot be changed by personal preferences or biases. So, be open to others beliefs and perceptions. We all share this planet, so can one person's opinion or beliefs be the only "correct" viewpoint?

Expose yourself to different cultures. When traveling, one of my favorite things is to experience the culture of the place I'm visiting. When I was in Ireland, we were in a town behind a vehicle and the driver just stopped in the road and we could not pass him. He waved over someone on the street and began chatting. The traffic was really backing up (15+ vehicles), but no one beeped their horn, yelled, complained, etc. They just waited for him to finish his 10+ minute conversation. It made me grin as I tried to imagine this ever happening in the U.S.

Maintain healthy boundaries. Healthy boundaries are essential in all relationships. A boundary we could all adopt is not ignoring or being indifferent to intolerance.

Community Education. I think the UN Secretary General summed it up really well; "Genuine tolerance is about openness, curiosity and communication. It goes

hand-in-hand with knowledge and understanding. Education is one of the best ways to prevent intolerance, by revealing similarities between people and spreading a healthy respect for differences."

While we are all human, we are also unique individuals. We don't all have to agree with each other, but we can be more respectful of others beliefs and opinions. It's up to all of us to address intolerance based on age, cultural, gender, political affiliation, race, religious, and sexual orientation. This article is for informational purposes only and not intended to treat or diagnose. Be safe and well!

NEWSPAPER

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CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 23, "VEGETATION" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

Please take notice that at a regular meeting of the Lowell City Council held on **August 7, 2023**, at Lowell City Hall, the Lowell City Council approved **Ordinance #23-07**, which amended Chapter 23 of the City of Lowell Code of Ordinances related to Vegetation. The amendment is a comprehensive update of Chapter 23, Vegetation. The amendment includes an expanded definitions section in Article 1, revisions to provisions creating the Arbor Board in Section 2, and revisions to and the reorganization of provisions related to trees in Article IV including provisions related to tree pruning, planting, species, maintenance, removal, and replacement.



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Veterans Corner

By Richard Thomas, Commander
American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152

What is a life worth?

Veteran suicide is 57 percent higher than the national average, and more than 120,000 veterans have died by suicide since 2001. The estimate is 22 veterans are committing suicide each day. Despite billions of dollars directed at the problem, the VA, DoD and other organizations haven't been able to bend the suicide curve.

If throwing money at the problem isn't working, is there any solution?

The American Legion, I believe, has the right idea. They have instituted a new initiative called "Be The One". It can only be successful however, if individuals get involved. The American Legion believes that by becoming aware of the symptoms,

and knowing how to talk to a struggling veteran, will go a long way in saving their life.

What is a life worth to you? We know that money isn't the answer. American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152 believes that a life is worth time. Our time: time to learn more about suicide; time to perhaps take some training on suicide prevention; time to sit and talk with a veteran that may be struggling.

Culture has, and will always be, the most powerful change agent. And culture is defined by our actions.

For more information call Post 152 at 616-897-8303 and leave a message. Someone will return your call and gladly share more information.

Lauren Speicher of Ada, was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Speicher is enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade-point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

About Washington University in St. Louis: Washington University, in St. Louis, is counted among the world's leaders in teaching, research, patient care and service to society.

The university offers more than 90 programs and almost 1,500 courses leading to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in a broad spectrum of traditional and interdisciplinary fields, with additional opportunities for minor concentrations and individualized programs.

The Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) has announced the recipients of the 2022-23 MIAA Academic Honor Roll. In total, 273 individual student-athletes at Trine University were recognized by the MIAA on the 2022-23 Academic Honor Roll, the most of any league schools.

Student-athletes must reach a 3.5 grade-point average for the academic year and earn a varsity letter in an MIAA-sponsored sport to be eligible.

The following local students were named to the Honor Roll:

Ella Dougherty of Alto, a member of the women's lacrosse team. Dougherty is majoring in Exercise Science.

Joslynn Battle of Lowell, a member of the volleyball team. Battle is majoring in Exercise Science.

Trine University, an internationally recognized, private, co-educational, residential institution, offers associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in the Allen School of Engineering & Computing, Ketner School of Business, College of Graduate and Professional Studies, Brooks College of Health Professions, Franks School of Education, Jannen School of Arts & Sciences and Rinker-Ross School of

Health Sciences. Trine is a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and offers 37 intercollegiate sports, 27 of which compete in NCAA Division III. Its golf program includes the university-owned 18-hole championship Zollner Golf Course. Founded in 1884 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org), Trine operates a 450-acre campus in Angola, Indiana, and the College of Health Professions in Fort Wayne, with education centers in Detroit, Michigan, and Phoenix, Arizona, and programs available worldwide through TrineOnline.

The Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) has announced their honorees for the 2023 Division III

Academic Honor Roll, as well as the 2023 Academic Honor Squads.

Five members of the 2023 iteration of the Trine University team received the Academic Honor Roll title. To be eligible for this honor, student-athletes must be a junior, senior, or graduate student in the classroom and have earned a cumulative academic GPA of 3.50 or greater.

Graduate student Peri Darmofal of Fort Wayne, Indiana, seniors Ella Dougherty of Lowell, Michigan, and Josie Prince of Saint Charles, Missouri, as well as juniors Lucy Houser of Indianapolis and Alyssa Keptner of Midland, Michigan, were tabbed as members of the 2023 Division III Academic Honor Roll for Trine women's lacrosse. Dougherty and Prince were each named to the Academic Honor Roll one season ago.

The Trine University women's lacrosse team was one of 290 schools among NCAA Divisions I, II and III, as well as NAIA institutions to receive the Academic Honor Squad distinction. To qualify for this prestigious award, a program must have posted a 3.2 or higher team GPA for the academic year.



Ella Dougherty

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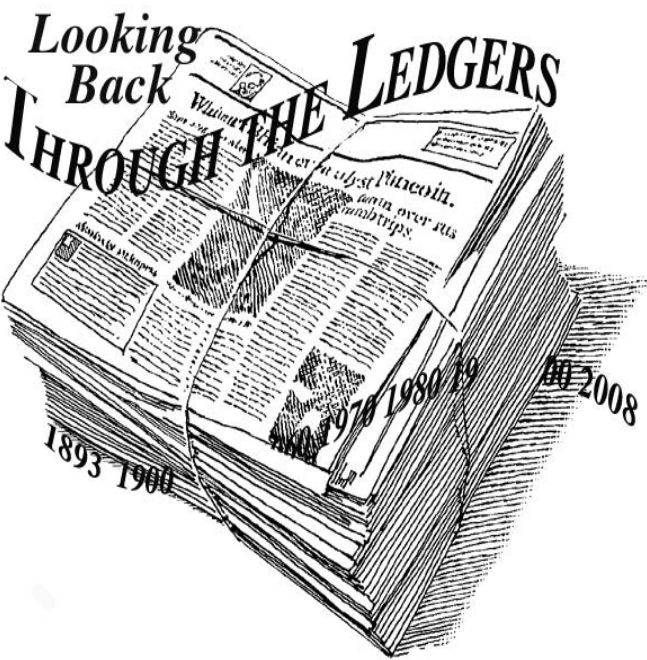
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viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal August 20, 1873

West Water Street, near Main Street, has smelled very bad for weeks.

Freight rates from New York to Detroit have gone from 88 cents to 28 cents a hundredweight, resulting in much more traffic. Freight from Detroit to Lowell is 50 cents.

The newly-formed Lowell Quadrille Club will have its first dance next week Friday. Bill \$1.00 at Train's Hall, Howe & Worden doing the music.

The annual Grattan picnic had many Lowell visitors, the Saranac Band, and good times.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 25, 1898

After an addition, a new basement and complete redecoration, the Baptist church has re-opening exercises.

Edward D. Misner's vocal classes will have monthly recitals at the Baptist church.

Ledger correspondents will have a picnic at the editor's and discuss a trip to Lansing.

The new schoolhouse is nearly finished. It will have modern water closets with a sewer to Grand River.

Frank Ecker has 10 men turning out 700 peach crates every day.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 23, 1923

The Board of Trade has set Dollar Day for this week, Wednesday. Victrola and Boy Scout Band concerts, plus extra film showings at the Strand, are added attractions.

A short-change swindler visited Hazel Borgerson's store last week.

The county board of supervisors considers dropping the woodchuck and crow bounties. It dropped the hawk, weasel and owl bounties last year, but will continue those on rats and sparrows. Budget is the reason.

Pictures of the train carrying Pres. Harding's body and the funeral procession in Marion, Ohio, are published (he died the first week of August).

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 19, 1948

Gerald R. Ford, Senior resigns at Kent County Republican Chairman after incumbent Bartel Jonkman complains about Gerald Junior's entry into the race, so that the perceived "fatherly influence" is removed.

Peter Speerstra and Jay Bolens raise another \$5,600 in 10 days, so the school board goes ahead with letting contracts.

A survey shows that 80 percent of people visiting Michigan are here to fish.

The death toll in Michigan from tuberculosis is 1,600 annually.

The annual Community Picnic at Fallasburg Park, sponsored by the Board of Trade, is a week from today.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life August 16, 1973

Storm sewer construction unearths a skeleton on Lafayette. It goes to University of Michigan for analysis.

Burglaries, larcenies and vandalism keep city police hopping. Several arrests are made.

The Watergate hearings are temporarily off the tube.

Tony Siciliano is one of the first waste-water treatment operators in the United States to complete the EPA's national field study course.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 26, 1998

Lowell Charter Township water customers, who previously paid \$2.67 per 1,000 gallons, will now be charged \$2.89.

Sizable increase in student enrollment brings "a good thing" for school budget. An additional 59 more students than projected equates to an extra \$252,000.

It will help erase a proposed deficit budget.

Amy Hayes is appointed the new Cherry Creek Elementary Assistant Principal.

The fourth annual Toy Run comes to the city of Lowell on Sept. 13. The motorcycle parade comes through Lowell and ending at the fairgrounds.

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capitol matters

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Outlining conservative principles (Note: This is the second of a four-part series)

In my previous column, I resumed my journey to properly answer this question: What does conservatism mean to you? It was a question posed to me about seven years ago, when I was first on my way to public office.

I propose to answer based on the 10 chief principles of conservatism laid out by Russell Kirk. The late Michigander's writings greatly influenced the American conservative awakening of the second half of the 20th Century. The previous editorial unpacked the conservative belief in a moral order established by a divine creator. This essay will dig into the principles of variety, justice and freedom.

The second conservative principle recognizes great value in variety and diversity. Modern progressives look at variety and diversity through a lens, limited largely to race, ethnicity and gender. Conservatives recognize not only these diversities but many others. Historical experiences and local circumstances will influence development of local institutions, traditions and what one aims to "conserve."

This is most easily illustrated by looking at conservatives from different geographies. For example, conservatives from West Michigan vary in their priorities from those in Northern Michigan. Both regions have diversity in both their local customs and industries. These differences magnify when comparing bigger regional differences, like the United Kingdom or Japan.

Capital Matters, continued page 12

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.

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At Your Local Library

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Storytime

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

Night Owls Book Club

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 6:30-7:30 pm. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *The Dressmakers of Auschwitz* by Lucy Adlington. For adults 18+

Teen Advisory Board

Thursday, Sept. 7, 4-5. Teens ages 11-17 are invited to meet with a teen librarian to develop teen programs, discuss teen books and make sure that our teen space is as fun and functional as possible. Meetings can count as volunteer hours for things like the National Honor Society. Students ages 14+ can apply for additional volunteer opportunities. For ages 11-17.

KDL Lab Experience: Techtropolis

Saturday, Sept. 9, 10 - 11 am. Come get some hands-on experience with different types of technology. It’s a great time to nerd out and explore! For ages 5-10.

Chess Anyone?

Saturday, Sept. 9, 3-4 pm. Drop-in and play chess at the library! All skill levels welcome. An adult is usually on hand to help with your game or match you with a worthy opponent.

Book Worms Book Club

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 10 - 11 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *The Unsinkable Greta James* by Jennifer Smith.

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. Information provided by Lowell Area Historical Museum.

M is for Mange

The lives of David and LaVancha Mange, along with their farm, intersect with key points in Lowell’s history. When death came, David’s life was used as an illustration as to the greatness of the Village of Lowell.

David Mange was born in 1875 in Ohio, his parents having immigrated from Switzerland. David came to Lowell as a boy of 15 and he began working as an office boy at \$5 a week.

LaVancha Cogswell was born in 1877 here in Lowell. She was the daughter of Martin and Delila (Burch) Cogswell, granddaughter of Seth and Nancy (Chapin) Cogswell and Alpheus and Elizabeth Burch. Seth Cogswell built the first sawmill in Lowell in 1856. This was just south of the Grand Trunk Railroad in Segwun, south of the Grand River. The mill was later converted into a chair factory and later a furniture factory owned by John Kopf in 1867.

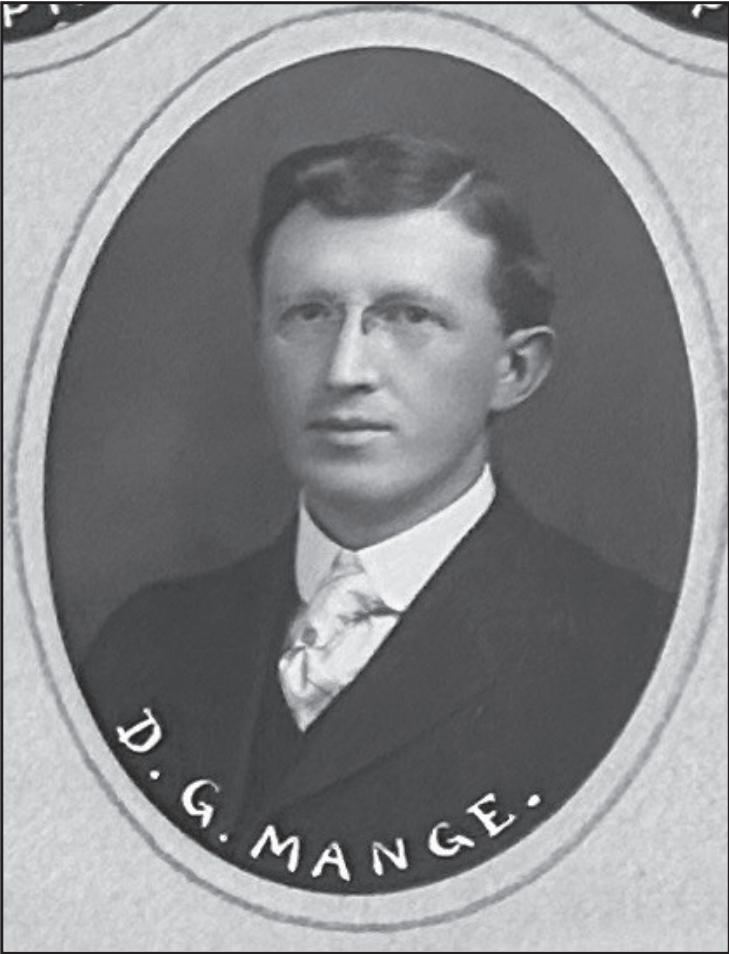
David Mange was the cashier of the Lowell State Bank for many years and held that position until his death. This was a prominent job, elected by the board of directors. He followed in the footsteps of Charles McCarty and Frank T. King in this position. He

also served on the municipal light and power plant board.

The David and LaVancha Mange farm was located on the east side of section 3 of then Lowell Township. At that time, it bordered the City of Lowell. Today it is within the city limits and includes the area of Creekside Park, Valley Vista subdivision, along with the land to the south, all the way to the river. This land had been owned by G.W. Parker, one of two farms where he bred and raised champion horses. After the Mange family, the land would be owned by Melody Farms Dairy.

Before the Lowell Airport was established, a runway was used on the Mange farm. In 1925, George McCarthy of Grand Rapids was the head of McCarthy Aeronautical Engineering Company, and the factory was located Lowell. He used the Mange farm for a runway while testing new aircraft.* In 1931, Governor Wilber Brucker flew into Lowell for the Centennial Celebration, landing at the Mange farm.

In June of 1927, David Mange decided to allow the new road, M-21, to cross and divide his property. He previously had not allowed that and there was pressure to build the road further north, going through Vergennes Township and Fallasburg. This was one of



the key factors in securing the Lowell route of M-21.**

The obituary for David Mange paid great tribute to him as a man, but also to his hometown, “Since the age of 15, when David Mange first came to Lowell, this village has been his home. Here, he advanced through the years from an office boy at \$5.00 a week to a place of leadership and trust among the businessmen of Lowell. Here, twenty-nine years ago, he married his wife; here, he made his home and raised his family. Here, he gathered to his heart his friends and here, he completed his life. Is not this story of this life an illustration of the fact, too often forgotten, that a village like Lowell, affords

opportunity to her most capable and ambitious sons to achieve a finely useful, and successful life?”

*More information on the McCarthy Aeronautical Engineering Company can be found in ‘U is for Up’, from the ABC’s of Lowell History, round 4. (Published Volume 2)

**More information on the creation of M-21 can be found in ‘Z is for Zoom Part 2, from the ABC’s of Lowell History, round 4.

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Richard Boshoven, Pastor **897-8307**
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060

Pastor Ryan Landt

1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Website: calvarylowell.org

Morning Worship.....10:00 AM

Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays 7 PM
Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820

Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am

Confession: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm
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SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)

LIFE GROUPS 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)

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

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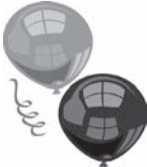
WORSHIP

Traditional Service: 9 am

Contemporary Service: 10:30 am

Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



AUGUST 24

Tim Raymor, Angela Rasch, April Barnes, Kelly Johnson, David Vankeulen, Nicholas Myers.

AUGUST 25

Patty Elzinga, Lindsey Trierweiler, Misty McClure-Anderson.

AUGUST 26

Teresa Kimble, Regan Doyle, Dianne Gee, Brandie Barnes.

AUGUST 27

Virgil Roudabush.

AUGUST 28

Lee Miller, Terri Hoag, Kim Stager.

AUGUST 29

Donna Jean Hathaway, Kenney Vickers.

AUGUST 30

Jordan Cloud.

AUGUST 31

Amy Vezino, Scott Wolfe, Morgan Nelson.



perseverance

A community fighting cancer

This week is the first week the Lowell Ledger and the Buyer's Guide & News will highlight the stories of area cancer survivors and those who are dealing with grief. Each writer will convey, in their own words, their experiences as they walk through the many phases of their personal journey.

~ Photos courtesy of Robin K Photography

Lowell Area Schools Athletes

The Gilda's Club Lowell clubhouse is located at the First Congregational UCC of Lowell, at 865 Lincoln Lake SE, and is shared with Lowell Senior Neighbors. The Clubhouse and local programming are funded in part by Pink Arrow Pride. The core of Lowell Gilda's programming occurs on Tuesday nights. It is then that people from all walks of life gather for dinner, and then meet in small cancer or grief-support groups. All the services provided at the Lowell Clubhouse are offered free-of-charge.

For years, the Lowell Athletic Boosters has partnered with Gilda's Club Lowell to schedule student athletes to supply, cook and serve

Supper Together Dinners on Tuesday evenings. During COVID, the meals had to pause, but last Fall, it was safe to begin offering this service again.

"As a new incoming Board member to the Boosters, I had a personal connection to cancer and grief at a young age. When I was eleven years old, I lost my mother to cancer.", shares Jennifer Jackson, Vice President of the Lowell Athletic Booster Club, and parent of a student athlete.



Jennifer reached out to Gilda's Club to start back up the meal program, and 22 teams provided and served 15 meals over the 2022-2023 school year. Not only did the students learn about Gilda's Club and connect with community members going through their cancer or grief journey, but they were also responsible for leading the planning of everything, from making the menu, to setting the budget, to grocery shopping, to preparing and serving the meal.

"I wanted our student athletes to have a connection to Gilda's Club because a support program like Gilda's was not available to me during a time that I could have really benefited from it. Our student athletes must balance homework, practices, games, and stay mentally and physically strong. Many students are also multi-sport athletes. Throw a sudden diagnosis or unexpected loss into the equation, having Gilda's support groups as a resource is

something that we are so fortunate to have in our community".

Lindsay Jousma, Director of Program Operations & Relations for Gilda's Club, shares, "We greatly value and appreciate the ongoing support of the Lowell Athletic Boosters and Lowell Community! The dedication of providing Supper Together at Gilda's Club Lowell has made it possible for our members, impacted by cancer or grief due to any cause of death, to have opportunities to meet together over a delicious, free, meal at Gilda's Club Lowell. Thank you to the Lowell Athletic Boosters for making Supper Together possible for Gilda's Club Lowell!"

Plans are already in the works to provide meals for the 2023 -2024 school year. If you want to learn more about the Lowell Athletic Boosters or looking for ways to get involved, visit www.lowellathleticboosters.com.

Photos Courtesy of Lowell Athletic Boosters website

This Week's Stories of Perseverance Brought To You By:

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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

The Mathews Brothers

Hi, we're the Mathews brothers. I'm JJ, a soon-to-be 18 year old senior at Lowell High School. And I'm Andrew, "Baby JJ" to some, a 16-year-old junior at Lowell. This is a story about our aunt, Meghan (Mathews) Beimers, who was born and raised here in Lowell (Class of '08), and the difference she made in our lives.

We were born and raised in South Carolina and at ages 10 and 9, respectively, we were placed in the foster care system. We moved into a group home while our 5-year-old brother, Jacob, moved forty minutes away to live in a traditional foster home. The group home took a lot of adjusting and normal childhood stuff, like friends and sports, weren't options for us. It was especially hard being separated from our little brother. When we started going to Wednesday night church services with the group home, we had no idea God was already laying the foundation for our forever-family. That's where we met our adoptive parents, Jason and Julie Mathews. It was a long, frustrating process that we didn't know was even happening at the time, but in March of 2018, after seventeen months in the group home, we were reunited with Jacob with the Mathews as our foster parents.

Jason's sister, Meghan, and



her husband, Jordan, were foster parents in the Grand Rapids area, and when she found out about us and their plans to adopt us, she became their biggest cheerleader.

When we met her, she already loved us like family and made sure we knew it. Andrew says, "She was very fun to hang around with, from the times we spent together,

whether in South Carolina or when we visited Michigan. She was a very cool aunt."

On November 7, 2019, about two months before Adoption Day, Aunt Meghan was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor called anaplastic astrocytoma. On January 28, 2020, we were officially adopted, and Aunt Meghan planned to fly down to be there for Dad, Mom, and the three of us, but because of a bout of pneumonia, her doctors strongly advised against it. That might have broken her heart a little bit, but she was still one of the first to congratulate us via FaceTime, right outside the courthouse!

Aunt Meghan lost her battle with brain cancer on June 19, 2020, eight months after her diagnosis. Thankfully, we were able to make the trip in time to say goodbye. JJ says, "After she passed, it was difficult because I didn't get to know her as well as I would have liked. I knew she was special, I just didn't get to have that relationship with her for very long. It was hard to see her pass at such a young age (30), but it really showed me who I can be when I face tough situations in my life." Andrew says, "Seeing her positive attitude during



Meghan (far left in the black hat) and the Mathews' family after she just met the boys, photo taken April 13, 2018. Photo provided by the Mathews family.

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Cyndie Wierzbicki

Hello, my name is Joe Wierzbicki and I would like to tell you about my wonderful wife, Cyndie. Cyndie and I have known each other since High School, growing up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. We didn't start dating until I was a senior and she was a freshmen at Ferris State University. We married on June 30th, 1984, after Cyndie graduated from Dental Hygiene. I had been working and living in Grand Rapids since my graduation in 1982. After our wedding, Cyndie moved into the apartment I was renting and started looking for employment. Her first dental hygiene job landed us in Hastings, Michigan, for a few years, until we wanted to get closer to Grand Rapids, where I was working. That move started a 28-year Dental Hygiene career and us buying our first house in Lowell, the year was 1986. One of the many things I love about my wife is she always gives 110% to anything she does. Cyndie's career, or should I say her patients, became a huge part of her life. She bonded with them and them with her. Cyndie remembers all their names, sometimes three generations, all their stories, and many of them became friends.

In December 1991, our daughter, Courtney, was born. In 1993, we purchased our present home in Lowell, and in February of 1995 our son Kyle was born. Our lives could not have been any better. Around 2009, I received a call from Cyndie saying she was not feeling well and thought she maybe having a stroke. At the emergency room all kinds of tests were run including an MRI. We were told that nothing was found and



Lowell Program

In This Together...
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the symptoms she had experienced were most likely due to stress. Not right away, but a few years after this episode, Cyndie and I noticed it was becoming harder for her to stay on task. This was causing problems at work and at home. Because things were taking longer to accomplish, she many times went without sleep. She started seeing a doctor about the problems. It was determined she probably had some kind of attention-deficit disorder and was referred to a psychologist. This went on for a few years, and her symptoms kept getting worst. This was causing more stress at work, to the point, it was decided she should leave and look for a new job. Other jobs came and went, all were very difficult for her. It was becoming harder for her to focus and get her work done. During this time Cyndie had been seen by the psychologist and our doctor; they had performed many tests but all centering around some kind of psychological problem. None of them showed any type of problem. At the time Covid came about, Cyndie was taking jobs substituting for sick or vacationing hygienists. In February of 2021, Cyndie could not take it anymore and went back to the doctor and insisted there is something more going on than just a psychological problem. The doctor ordered an MRI for her, and this is where our cancer story begins.

In February 2021, Cyndie was

scheduled for an MRI at 11 pm I did not go, thinking this would be another test that would tell us nothing. Just after midnight, I got a call from Cyndie saying they had found a large cancerous brain tumor and were taking her for more testing. I got dressed and heading for the hospital. Within two days, we were meeting with a neurosurgeon and Cyndie's case went in front of the Tumor Board. We were told the tumor could be one of two types, Glioblastoma (very bad) or Oligodendroglioma. They would need to do a biopsy before they could tell which type Cyndie had. They did tell us the cancer had started in the brain and had not spread to other parts of the body. When you are fighting cancer, you take the wins any way they come. The biopsy took place at the end of February 2021. When the neurosurgeon met with me after the biopsy, he told me the Tumor Board could see the start of the tumor on the MRI taken in 2009. Somehow, it was not spotted at that time, and now, 11 years later, was the size of an orange. While waiting for the biopsy results, Cyndie went through many tests in preparation for the surgery. The biopsy results came back and it was an Oligodendroglioma grade-2 tumor. Two more wins for us. We were told this type of cancer is not curable but is very slow growing, obviously, since it was there in 2009. The surgery took place the first part

of March and took about three hours. Since we were in Covid lockdown, I was the only person that could go into the hospital. The neurosurgeon told me after the surgery that he was able to remove about 95% of the tumor. One more win for us. Cyndie recovered very nicely and was home in three days. She did not experience any speech or mobility loss that could happen with a tumor in the left frontal lobe. The left frontal lobe was the worst place for the tumor to be because it controls so much of your personality and emotional functioning. One loss for us. Cyndie was allowed to recover for 6 weeks before starting chemotherapy and radiation. At this point, we were turned over to a Cancer Oncologist for the rest of Cyndie's treatment. About this time, Cyndie started acting very odd, and on a routine visit to the Radiologist, found her blood sugar was in the 400's. This was being caused by steroids given to keep the brain swelling down. Cyndie started a diabetic protocol to get her sugar under control. Radiation and Chemotherapy both went well. Chemotherapy was given orally at home and radiation was given in Grand Rapids, which Cyndie was able to driver herself to. On a follow-up visit to our neurosurgeon, we were informed that an Oncologist was moving to Grand Rapids in November

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Cyndie's story, continued

of 2021, who specialized in brain cancer, and it would be in our best interest to transfer to her when she became available. After radiation we started to notice a decline of Cyndie's cognitive skills. She was losing short-term memory, motivation, patience, and focus, more than ever before. We were told this was due to the radiation and could be on going for up to a year. We were also told this would not come back. Cyndie could no longer drive at this point and found it impossible to focus longer than a few minutes on a task. We started going to Mary Free Bed for physical, speech, occupational, and psychological therapy. In November we started to see our new Oncologist. She informed us of a study showing that if chemotherapy is given after radiation, life expectancy could double. In November of 2021, we started an oral chemotherapy that lasted until November of 2022.

During all this, our Church, family, friends, community, and Cyndie's patients have been a great support with meals, cards, gifts, and most of all, prayers. One of our many doctors, along the way, suggested we contact Gilda's Club. Of course, I didn't, thinking we can do this ourselves. About the third visit, she asked again if I had contacted Gilda's Club. I told her no and she informed me that there is not a lot more she could do for Cyndie, if I was not going to listen to her instructions. I went right home and contacted Gilda's Club in Lowell. The people were so nice when I called; Cyndie and I attended our first meeting in November and have not missed a meeting since. The Gilda's Club experience has been unbelievable, we have met so many wonderful people. The staff and the people you meet in group become

cheerleaders for each other. You can't wait to get back to group to see how someone's MRI or oncologist visit went. In group, we are all somewhere on the cancer journey, as a patient or as a support person to them. The Pink Arrow Pride has been so helpful to us also, with resources donated by the caring people of Lowell. Cyndie and I have attend many Pink Arrow games, never thinking someday we would be on the receiving end of their generosity and hard work. We are still on our cancer journey, and we do not know where it may lead us. Cyndie has an MRI every three months to see what the cancer is doing. What I do know is, you don't need to walk this journey alone. The Lowell community is here to walk beside you every step of the way.



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Beginning Sept. 11
113 RIVERWALK PLAZA
113 Riverwalk, Lowell (across from the Showboat)

Mathews story, continued

her battle with cancer, it showed me that I can fight through life's tough experiences and do it in a way that gives God all the glory. I want to put Him first and serve him by becoming a youth pastor."

We moved up to Lowell in August of 2021 and started a whole new life here in Michigan. We're still not too happy about the cold weather up here, but being closer to our grandparents, Al and Jayne Mathews, along with our aunt and uncle, Abbey and Chris Sells, and our uncle Jordan, and all our cousins has been good. We can

help support each other in our grief of losing Aunt Meghan.

We are both proudly wearing Aunt Meghan's name on our jerseys, representing her at this year's Pink Arrow game. She made such a difference to both of us in the little time we knew her, and we know she left her mark on so many others in her short 30 years. We'd much rather have her cheering us on from the stands during the game, but after all her support, love, and encouragement through our journey into this family, we're proud to be able to honor her in this way.

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SPORTS

Lowell golf coach enshrined in Hall of Fame

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame has a new member, and he wore red on the course this past spring. Lowell boys golf Head Coach, Tom Koert, was enacted into the MIGCA Hall of Fame last week, a crowning achievement on top of 31 seasons of coaching.

He coached 14 years at NorthPointe Christian before moving on to his current positions, spending the falls with the Sparta girls golf program and the Lowell boys golf program in the spring.

Koert was among four coaches inducted this year; the others were Steve Burk (Trenton/Southfield Christian), Randy Johnson (Auburn Hills Oakland), and Nathan Oake (Hartland/Flushing/Britton-Deerfield/Chelsea).

“During his golf coaching seasons, his teams have had some impressive records. His boys and girls teams played in 190 tournaments, winning 39 championships and finishing in the top four, 105 times. His girls’ teams have won four conference championships, two MHSAA Regional titles and qualified a team, or individual, thirteen times for the MHSAA State Championships. His boys’ team won eight conference championships, five MHSAA District titles, two MHSAA Regionals and qualified the team, or individuals, ten times for the MHSAA State Championships. Tom has always been an active member of the MIGCA and participated on All-State selection committees for many years and attended numerous clinics. He has hosted tournament invitationals, MHSAA District and Regionals, conference championships, as well as the Kent County Girls Classic. Tom has also been a member of the MHSAA State Golf Committee,” MIGCA said of Koert’s involvement with the sport.

Koert joined the Lowell program in the fall of 2019, but due to the COVID pandemic, began his first competitive season coaching with Lowell in 2021. Last year he oversaw one of the best boys team’s in Lowell history, in terms of scoring average. In addition to high school coaching, Koert also helps oversee the West Michigan Junior Golf Tour.

Lowell boys golf Head Coach, Tom Koert, speaks during The Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Induction ceremony. (Photo - MIGCA)

Girls golf ties school record to open season

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

When you’re tying school records to open up the year, yeah, you can expect it’s going to be a great year, but the Lowell girls golf team already had that expectation. A year off their program’s first regional title, and bringing back plenty of talent, the Lowell girls got off to a roaring start this past week.

In a rare dual meet, Lowell topped Middleville TK with a lineup, without a single senior on the team. That seniorless lineup shot a 173, one stroke off the 2019 school record for 9 holes. They were led by junior Elle Sluss with a 39, then Hannah Flickinger (42), Leah Krieger (45), and Elyse Veldman (47). Avery Krieger and Kaila Richards both competed, as well.

Sluss’ 39 had six pars and three bogeys on the card. Ailana Leos shot an even par to lead the Trojans out at Yankee Springs. While Yankee Springs is a course that’s easier to score low on, Lowell showed their low scoring was no fluke, following up their 173 with a 172 out a Saskatoon in the 9-hole Kent County Classic Tournament. Following a lengthy rain delay of well over two hours, the girls were finally able to get on the-rain soaked course and took advantage of the soft greens.

On the par-37 back-nine, Sluss again led the way with a three over par 40. She carded two birdies on the round. Matching her 40 was sophomore Elyse Veldman, who has been busy hitting the range at Lowell’s home course, Arrowhead, this summer, and that improvement over last year was evident as she carded a birdie on the par-five 16th hole. Both Sluss and Veldman share that their brothers will be competing at Spring Arbor this upcoming year for golf, having just graduated from LHS, and playing for the boys team the past four years.

Flickinger and Krieger closed out the scoring with 46’s. In the deep 15-plus tournament field, Lowell finished third to Rockford and GR Catholic Central, edging-out conference opponents FHN, FHC, Byron Center, Northview and EGR.

“It’s been a great start to the season for the program,” Head Coach, Josh Bruwer, said of his team’s performance and nearly breaking the 9-hole scoring record.

The Red Arrows head back to Yankee Springs this week for the Thornapple Kellogg Tournament.

The 2023 Girls golf team with Head Coach Josh Bruwer.

LHS harriers kick off 2023 season

Submitted by Paul Judd
and Clay VanderWarf

A young Lowell cross country team headed to Portage Central to compete in the Early Bird Invite. This was the first HS 5km for eight of the fourteen Red Arrows who towed-the-line on Friday, so the race was going to be a learning experience. When the race was completed, the Arrows finished in 12th place, which was three spots shy of the goal of a top-10 finish. Top five for the Arrows were: Claire O’Boyle, who led the Arrows, taking 48th in 22:16, Evie Deur taking 57th in 22:42, Mia Vonderheide taking 70th in 23:10, Audrey Latchaw taking 74th in 23:24, and Olivia Lothian taking 89th in 23:52.

The Arrows have two meets in the next week, as they visit Hesperia for the Baker Woods Invite on August 23rd, and then are back at the South Christian Under the Lights Invite on August 25th.

The Lowell boys cross country team kicked off the season with a respectable seventh-place finish, out of 18 teams, at the Portage Central Early Bird Invitational at Portage West Middle School last Saturday. Kalamazoo Central won the meet with 42 points, followed by Rockford with 84 points. Kalamazoo Homeschool Sports took third-place honors with 97 points. Cooper Byrne was the first Red Arrow in, at 17th overall, with a time of 17:30, establishing a PR (personal record) early in the season. Cody Bromley hit the finish line in 50th at 18:27, followed by Mason Saylor, 53rd, 18:40. Drew Swayze was not far behind with a 57th position at 18:47. Marshall Huhn rounded out the score with a 69th place at 19:10. Completing the varsity lineup were Paul Fowler, 82nd, 19:32 and Antonio Casarez, 91st, 19:56.

The Red Arrows will have a busy second week with meets at Hesperia and South Christian High School.

WRWW Sportscasting

WRWW will broadcast all varsity football games on its local 92.3 FM radio station (audio only), its world-wide lowellradio.org streaming station (audio only), plus video and audio (home games) at MHSAA. tv (subscription required).

obituaries

AYERS

Benjie Ray Ayers, of Lincoln Lake, Gowen, passed away suddenly on August 13, 2023, at the age of 52. He was preceded in death by his mother, Diana Ayers; twin daughters; sister, Gina Ayers; and his grandparents, Benjamin and Norine Ayers. He is survived by his father, Benjamin Ayers; children, Caitlyn and Braeden Ayers; Uncle Everett Ayers; special Aunt Nancy Parm; very special friend, Jim Detmi, and special friends, Lee Anne and Joel Langlois. Ben always had a kind heart, always helped others when needed and loved everyone. He loved his job driving school bus for Greenville Schools. He enjoyed being out on the lake with all of his friends, on his pontoon. Following Ben's wishes, there will not be a funeral. Interment Graceland Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Caitlyn and Braeden Ayers.



WINGEIER

Our beloved Elaine Howland Wingeier passed away peacefully on August 17, 2023, at the age of 82. She was a loving, kind, and compassionate wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend. She was well-loved by the community and will always hold a place in our hearts. She was born in Baltimore, MD, on February 16, 1941. Elaine was preceded in death by her dear parents, James Andrew Fink and Lola Belle Edwards-Fink and her beloved father and mother-in-law, David Wingeier and Bertha Ruth Grusy-Wingeier. Elaine is survived by Stanford Wingeier, her loving husband, Robin Wooldridge and Dianne Hughes, beloved daughters, Andrew Wooldridge, Alyssa Wooldridge and Natalie Wooldridge, her precious grandchildren. Family will be receiving friends and relatives on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Apostolic Fellowship Hall, 7700 Wingeier Ave, Alto, MI 49302. Followed on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, visitation from 10-11am, and the funeral service from 11-12pm, at the Apostolic Christian Church at 7157 Wingeier Ave, Alto. Graveside service will be at Bowne Center Cemetery on 84th St. SE, Alto. The funeral service will be live streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/HzlvARY54Ac?feature=share>



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Volleyball looking forward to new year

By Justin Scott sports reporter

While only losing one starter from last year's team, they will be big shoes to fill as Aubreigh Oswald starts her freshman year out at Eastern Michigan. Coach Jordan Drake is confident his team has the pieces to have a special year.

Lowell returning starters include the following; Senior Middle Blocker - Piper Risdon; Senior Outside Hitter - Braxcynn Baker; Junior Middle Blocker - Jordyn McClymont; Sophomore Setter - Rylie Barriger; Sophomore Libero - Annalise Clark; and Sophomore Outside Hitter - Natlie Cornell.

"Braxcynn and Piper are both returning fourth-year senior starters for us. Look for both of them to make big impacts for us this year. Piper was honorable mention All-State as a junior last year and Braxcynn was second on our team in kills last year. Look for both of them to have big senior seasons," Drake said of his two star players this year. Both recently committed to play basketball at the Division 1 level, at Murray State and Vermont respectively.

Lowell started off the year, this past Saturday, at the Grand Haven Lakeshore Classic. Results were not available for this week's *Ledger*. It's a less travel-heavy schedule than in year's past, with less lengthy trips to tournaments, that in past years, had been crossing the state numerous times. This year, on September 9th, will be the Lowell Program Invitational, where all three levels will be in the same location playing at the same time, which Coach Drake says will be a great opportunity to see all of Lowell's players competing and supporting each other.

"Some new faces that will see the floor early and make an impact are sophomore Right Side, Amaya Jackson, and sophomore Defensive specialist, Ruby German. We are a young team this year with six sophomores, three juniors, and two seniors. With six of our seven starters from last year returning, we hope to find some early success this season," Drake concluded.

Capital Matters, continued

Juxtapose progressives from locations around the world and you will find the political platform of the left is relatively uniform. The conservative, however, does not push conformity. Rather, they believe an individual, and society as a whole, will flourish when one contributes to their community using their unique talents.

The third conservative principle outlined by Kirk is the belief that each individual is to be ensured justice. This applies in many areas of life, but most prominently, in having equal rights before the law. There cannot be one set of laws for one faction of society and a second set for another. Everyone should have an equal opportunity to use their talents to improve their station in life. This protection in our Constitution is the driver behind America being home of unprecedented opportunity for individual-upward mobility and rapid growth in prosperity as a whole.

It is critical to emphasize the massive difference between equal rights and equal condition. Government attempts across the world, to implement schemes aimed at equality of condition, have repeatedly failed over the past hundred years. The former Soviet Union, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Venezuela, Cuba and numerous other countries have undertaken this endeavor, and the outcomes are conclusive. Any government constructed with a goal of equality of condition has led to a totalitarian state, ruled by a few, resulting in misery for the masses.

The fourth conservative principle recognizes how private property, and more generally, a free economy, is directly related to individual freedom. Arguably, the biggest tenant of Marxist Socialism is that private property is to be abolished. In some ways ,Marx's goal was accomplished – everyone was prescribed a condition of privation. Heroic stories of individuals, fleeing oppressive regimes in hope of freedom, are not in short supply.

It is pure folly to believe an all-powerful and benevolent government can centrally plan an economy which will construct perfect equality of condition. The only way such a program could be undertaken is to remove personal freedom and squash a population into compliance through coercion. The conservative understands an economy, which is centered around private property, and a free society is the only method to achieve liberty and prosperity.

Variety, justice and freedom are core principles in which a true conservative forms their political philosophy. They believe that God has made us all different, entitles us to an equal set of rules, and that a free society is one which recognizes the dignity of each individual.

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

Project Soldier

On Friday morning, August 11, three Korean War veterans were interviewed, photographed and videotaped by six Republic of Korean (ROK) nationals at the Lowell Veterans Center. Those interviewed were: John Erickson, US Army, 2nd Infantry Division, 33 month POW; Robert Nagy, US Army, 25th Infantry Division and Gordon Newell, US Navy.

Project Soldier by ROK has been working around the world since 2013 to keep the memories of the 22 United Nations countries that fought in Korea from 1950 to 1953.

On Saturday, August 12 at a Korean Church in the City of Wyoming, 16 more Korean War veterans were interviewed and televised by a local news outlet. The senior ROK official's dad served with the ROK White Horse 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam supporting South Vietnam.

The Project Soldier crew plans on returning next year 2024.



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Saturday, August 26

between 12:00 & 3:00 pm

Fig and Friends Pet Rescue is having a dog wash. We will wash your dog for you.

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card of thanks

Thanks to the following veterans who manned the American Legion booth at the Kent County Youth Fair: Garland Berry, Jim Breen, Jim Dykema, Jerry Kenyon, Duane McIver, John Pierce, Ben Richmond, Dirk Ritzema, Al Smith and Herm Weststrate.
Richard H. Thomas, Commander, American Legion Clark-Ellis Post 152

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services

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coming events

TOPS(TAKEOFFPOUNDS 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

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.

AL-NON IN PERSON MEETINGS - are held at the FROM Building, 11535 Fulton E. on Fridays at 10 am in the Lowell Serenity Club Room and Tuesdays at 7 pm in Room 21. Enter through the southeast parking lot door. Al-Anon principles can help those affected by someone's problem drinking. There are no dues or fees. For more info call 616-987-6587.

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.

AUXILIARY BINGO - Every Tuesday, 1-5 pm. Doors open at noon. Public welcome! Food & beverages available. Hard cards & chips format. 25¢ per card per game. No up front buy in required. Alto American Legion Post 528. License A22680.

QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE - Every Wednesday at 7 pm through Sept. 27. Ticket price \$1 each. Need not be present to win. Public welcome. Purchase tickets at Alto American Legion. Jackpot prize card Queen of Hearts. 50% of ticket sales added to jackpot prize each week. Alto American Legion #528. Raffle license C30929.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

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

Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS

Football opens up with Mattawan

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

It may not be cold out yet, we may not be in the depths of September, and school is only just starting, but high school football is here. The Red Arrow football team opens up their season this Thursday against the Mattawan Wildcats, one year after going down to Mattawan and opening up their season with a win. They'll look to repeat that success in their only home game before the September 22nd Pink Arrow game.

The Red Arrows went 6-4, with a narrow loss to Zeeland West in the playoffs

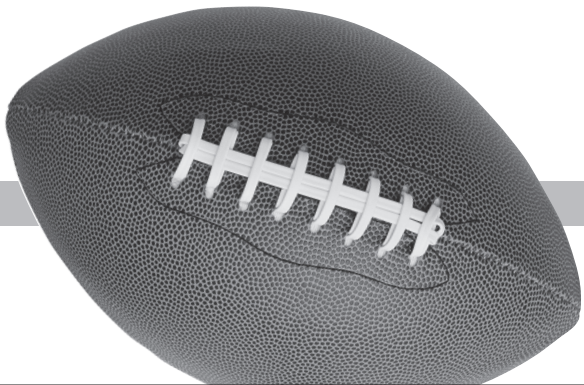
last season, while the Wildcats went 3-6. This year will be year five for Head Coach, Jacob Henige, at the helm of the Lowell program, having notched playoff berths in all four previous seasons.

Lowell returns all-conference senior quarterback, Jackson Reisbig, as well as HM all-conference lineman, Kenny Kinyon, from a team that finished 4-3 and T-third in the challenging OK White conference that is only set to get harder in 2024 with conference realignment. Even now, the conference

is among the state's most challenging.

Other impact players to keep an eye on in 2023, include TJ Hollern, Xavier Young, Brady Swift, Marshall VanWagner, and Bobby Nichols, among others.

Opponents this year include conference foes FHN, FHC, Northview, Byron Center, East Grand Rapids, Greenville, and Grand Rapids Christian. Mattawan and next week's away game with Middleville TK are lined-up as Lowell's non-conference opponents this year.



FOOTBALL

2023

SCHEDULE

8/24

VS. MATTAWAN
RED ARROW STADIUM

8/31

@ Thornapple-Kellogg
MTK HS STADIUM, MIDDLEVILLE

9/8

@ EAST GRAND RAPIDS
MEMORIAL FIELD, EAST GR

9/15

@ NORTHVIEW
NORTHVIEW HS FIELD

9/22

VS. GREENVILLE (Pink Arrow)
RED ARROW STADIUM

9/29

@ BYRON CENTER
BC ATHLETIC COMPLEX

10/6

@ FOREST HILLS NORTHERN
FHN HS FIELD

10/13

VS. FOREST HILLS CENTRAL (HOMECOMING)
RED ARROW STADIUM

10/20

VS. GR CHRISTIAN (SENIOR NIGHT)
RED ARROW STADIUM

Soccer strikes early to open season

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

A common theme you'll hear from this year's Lowell boys soccer team is "revenge season". For many of these players, last year wasn't the year they had hoped for, record-wise. Now, under a new coaching regime, and buoyed by a number of players moving from club soccer to high school soccer, the team started off on the right foot, beating Forest Hills Eastern 2-1 in their season debut.

Lowell started quickly within the fourth minute, capitalizing on a defensive turnover by Forest Hills Eastern, with the ball being slotted to Ben Homolka making a run and getting Lowell off to a 1-0 start with a goal.

It was again a forced

turnover by the Lowell offense, deep in Hawk territory, that let Lowell double their lead. This time it was Ben Homolka that came away with the ball, centered it to senior captain Jack Schaedig, who passed it over to Jackson Liley on the right side, who put the ball in the net making it 2-0.

Eleven minutes into the second half, the Hawks would have a big opportunity to get back into the game, as a shot went wide left, but on the follow through, their offensive player was fouled leading to a penalty kick. All eyes would be on Lowell senior goalkeeper, Lincoln Homolka, in his first game in a Red Arrow uniform since his sophomore year. Taking a break from high school soccer last year to focus on club soccer, where he played

for prestigious Midwest United.

On the spot kick, Homolka's experience showed, reading the eyes of the FHE penalty taker, diving right, to stop the initial save, and scrambling to collect the rebound on his right.

A game where Lowell could have been up 3-0, even 4-0, it was FHE that scored next. A deep cross found its target and was volleyed into the net, making it 2-1, and leading to a frantic finish, even with just four minutes left.

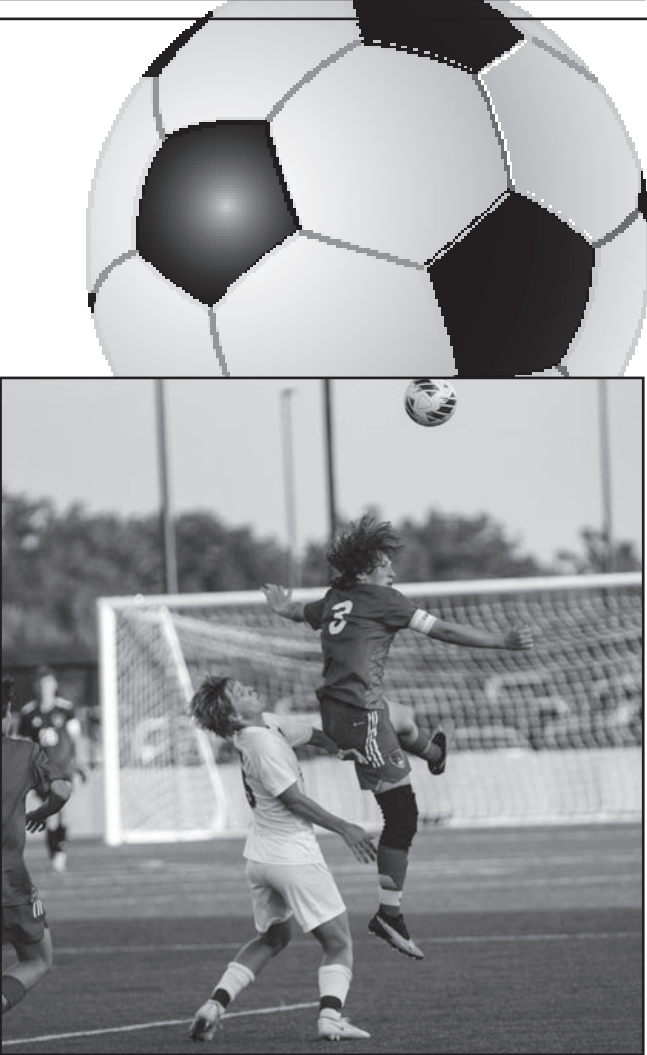
In the dying seconds, a long ball came over the top for FHE, leading to a scramble with senior defender, Carter Szymanski, sandwiched in between two attacking players. The whistle blew for full-time, just prior to the ball being collected by the Lowell goalkeeper, Lincoln Homolka, coming up with the ball. FHE players thought the whistle was for a late foul, appealing for a final chance at the game, but the final whistle was for the

clock expiring, ending the matter, and closing off a 2-1 win.

"We have things to work on, but I'm a very happy coach right now," Lowell boys soccer Head Coach, Elena Barriger, told the team after the game.

An early double yellow, resulting in a red card, dashed Lowell's hopes on Saturday against Wayland, resulting in a 3-0 defeat on the road. A red card in soccer brings the number of players allowed on the field by one, making the game much harder, but Lowell persevered and made a game out of it ,despite the two early yellows.

"The boys were trying to gain back a goal, but playing a man short put us at a weak stance offensively. We are playing a formation that isn't cookie cutter- what that is has its pros and cons. I feel like the boys really stuck together as a team and pushed themselves to work hard. They never gave up. Unfortunately, with about 7 minutes left, we got unlucky and two goals were scored. BUT even in the 79th



Carter Szymanski heads the ball away.

minute, our players were still trying to get a goal, with the last play being a shot on their net. Losing is never easy, but I feel like the boys are buying into the standard we are setting. They understand that being a Red Arrow Soccer player means upholding the standard of hard work and

discipline. They never give up and be the best they can be," Barriger concluded.

Lowell has a busy week with three non-conference games this week against Allendale, Middleville TK, and Spring Lake.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

IN THE MATTER OF: Andrew Huff, Guardianship File no. 23-213,678-GA, Conservatorship File No. 23-213820-CA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his daughter and any unknown children, siblings, and other heirs, whose address(es) is/ are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on September 6, at 9:00 am at Kent Co.

Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Courtroom 9D and via Zoom before Judge Avery Rose (P77757) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian and Appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: August 18, 2023

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Martin Luther King Jr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 260-5649

VAN ESSEN and ASSOCIATES PLLC, Attys for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001)
109 E. Main St. Suite 11
Zeeland, MI 49464
Phone: (616) 633-0196

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New Mexico on August 20, 1992. I began my career on television, starring in a Disney series as well as with the Jonas Brothers. I also was a judge on “The X Factor USA” talent show.

Answer: Demi Lovato

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

REEL ‘EM IN WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

REEL ‘EM IN
WORD SEARCH

ANGLER
BACKCAST
BAIT
BARB

BOBBER
BOTTOM FEEDER
BRAID
BUCKTAIL
BUNKER
CHUMMING
CREEL LIMIT

CRIMP
DRAG
FISHING
FLY
GAFF
HOOK
JIGGED

LINE
LURE
REEL
ROD
SINKER
SPOOL

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fishing.

T C C A H

Answer: Catch

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Russian painter
- 6. Very fast jet
- 9. Phillpine municipality
- 13. Intestinal
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Algerian coastal city
- 16. Vomit
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Ghanaian currency
- 19. Improved the condition of
- 21. Int'l association of interpreters
- 22. Infections
- 23. Dish made with lentils
- 24. Thou
- 25. Former CIA
- 28. Unit used to compare power levels
- 29. Members of Pueblo people
- 31. Myanmar monetary units
- 33. Polished
- 36. Signed a contract
- 38. Nothing
- 39. Once-ubiquitous department store
- 41. Neural structures
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 46. Longing
- 48. Senior officer

CLUES DOWN

- 1. “Iron Man” actress Leslie
- 2. Wings
- 3. Adjust the spacing
- 4. They’re usually locked
- 5. Atomic #43
- 6. Wise individuals
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam’s debut album
- 9. Confines
- 10. Colorless crystalline compound
- 11. Unsatisfactorily
- 12. Plant of the parsley family
- 14. Determines time

- 17. Causes the birth of
- 20. Small ornament on a watch chain
- 21. Richly decorated cloth tapestry
- 23. Vito Corleone was one
- 25. Igbo musical instrument
- 26. Put in harmony
- 27. Japanese alcoholic drinks
- 29. Tinseltown
- 30. Closes tightly
- 32. Songs sung to one’s lover
- 34. One thousandth of an inch
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Baby’s eating accessory
- 43. Very long periods of time
- 47. Small block of wood
- 49. Town in Surrey, England
- 50. Enquiry
- 52. Murdered
- 53. Bura-__ : Chadic language
- 55. Crater on Mars
- 56. Mammal genus
- 57. Sock
- 58. Make
- 59. Stony waste matter
- 61. Partner to cheese
- 65. Pound

LAS Board hears positive student assessment report, readies for new year

By Michelle Smith
contributing writer

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education met for its regular meeting, Aug. 14, at the Administrative Offices building.

Board Vice President, Lauri Kuna, presented the 2023 Marsha Wilcox Award to Lorain Smalligan, the recently-retired director of LowellArts. This award is given annually to a community member who supports public education. Smalligan was director for 24 years, and has been the leader in many community events, such as Fallasburg Fall Festival and the Showboat Concerts Series.

Smalligan served on the Lowell Education Foundation Board of directors and organized art scholarships and art shows

for Lowell students. She provided summer programs for children, including facilitating the downtown murals and the LowellArts youth theater productions.

LAS Superintendent, Nate Fowler, and Director of Curriculum, Dan VanderMeulen, presented an assessment on student learning in response to comments made at the July Board meeting. The assessment was intended to make clear the condition of LAS, in relation to other districts and virtual schools, as well as the trajectory of student SAT scores from the last several years.

One of the points made during the presentation was that there is a decrease in enrollment, which is a trend throughout Kent County. Fowler said this can be attributed to many factors,

including more educational options, such as online learning, and declining birth rates. Enrollment significantly declined during the Covid pandemic.

Another point Fowler made was based on statistics that show the success rates of Michigan virtual schools versus in-person instruction. He said the virtual school pass-rate is 76 percent versus the LAS pass-rate of 96 percent. In 2022, 70 percent of LAS students tested at, or above, the benchmark for reading and writing, 53 were at the benchmark for math, compared to virtual schools scores of 49 percent for reading and writing and 26 percent for math. VanderMeulen said schools are phasing out of virtual learning options since they seem to provide poor results.

When SAT scores are used to provide a window into how students are performing, VanderMeulen said Lowell High School students seem to be successful. The class of 2021 scored a mean of 1081, while the overall state mean score was 1019, and the national mean was 1031. The class of 2022, which was still in the throes of pandemic educational issues, SAT scores dropped in LAS, the state, and the nation, but LAS was about 34 points above both state and nation. The class of 2023 saw a rebound in scores with a mean of 1054 and outperformed the state and the nation by 95 and 92 points, respectively.

“Our students, one could argue, rebounded quicker than students in other districts and other states. It



LAS Director of Curriculum, Dan VanderMeulen and Superintendent, Nate Fowler, present an assessment on LAS students at the August Board Meeting

was a difficult time, for sure, with a lot of challenges, but I’m proud of our teachers and students for rebounding fairly quickly from Covid,” VanderMeulen said. A full academic report from the 2022-23 school year will be available in the fall.

This month’s Board action items included the approval of a purchasing consortium, Equalis Group, which will streamline district’s bidding and purchasing options, the purchase of middle school cafeteria tables for \$69,269.43, and the purchase of a new plow truck for \$52,349.00.

Human Resources Director, Dustin Cichocki, said LAS staff has been busy with professional development sessions. The administration assistants team participated in “de-escalation training,” which included training on how to monitor the vestibules and procedures for guests entering the buildings. They also had diabetes, epi pen, and first-aid training. He also said 10 new staff members will attend an orientation day.

LAS Chief Financial Officer, Sonia Hodge, reported that LAS will be participating in the new Michigan School Meals program. This will provide free breakfast and lunch to all LAS students. Hodge said families are still being asked to fill-out the Education Benefits form because much of the district’s grant funding is based on the percentage of students that qualify for free and reduced meals.

In the public comments on the agenda items section of the meeting, Doug Lee encouraged the Board to think wisely about how money is spent. “We’re spending money like crazy in public schools across the state, and the quality of education continues to decrease...We certainly have precedent that throwing money doesn’t not produce a higher quality of education,” Lee said.

In the general public comments section of the meeting, Becky Alderink commented on the LAS staff dress-code. She questioned whether it is appropriate when teachers and staff wear items such as lanyards and buttons that promote personal lifestyle or political choices. She also questioned the Board about where it stands on flags, and other items in the classrooms and hallways. Alderink claimed students are being bullied or shown favoritism by teachers and staff, depending on their beliefs. She said LAS needs to “get back to the basics” of educating children and leave political and cultural agendas out of the classroom.

Stefanie Boone questioned why a meeting attendee is only allowed to speak once during a Board meeting, and also why handouts, that are distributed during meetings, are not posted on the LAS website along with meeting minutes. She thanked the Board for now providing a recording of the meetings posted on the LAS website. Boone said items that show controversial or political beliefs should not be in the school. She said while touring the new middle school, she saw a staff member wearing a rainbow lanyard with preferred pronouns displayed. She said LAS staff should not be allowed to “deface” the school grounds with stickers promoting their individual political choices.

Superintendent Fowler updated the Board on water long-standing

contamination issues in the district. Communication has been made with Bushnell Elementary families regarding trichloroethylene (TCE) evaporating underground. The area has been monitored, and no recent appearance of TCE has been detected. Fowler said the water wells at Alto Elementary were replaced last year, and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have not been detected. Testing will continue to make sure drinking water is safe, but bottled water will continue to be provided to students as a safety measure.

Construction on the middle school is nearing completion. The community is invited to a building dedication and facility tours Aug 29 at 6:30 - 8 pm.

During the Board Communications portion of the meeting, Kuna referenced last month’s Board approval to accept her donation of artwork. She read a prepared statement regarding criticism about the piece entitled “Volumes” by Lowell art teacher, Sarah Ellis. Kuna said Boone emailed the Board, regarding whether the Board approved the artwork without first viewing it, and criticized the artwork on a private Facebook group page. The artwork first ran in the LowellArts gallery for over a month. “I assure you the artwork, accepted by the gallery for an exhibition at LowellArts, never has been and never will be considered trash by people who know art,” Kuna said. She also said Fowler has the authority to accept gifts on behalf of the district, and he is trusted to know what is appropriate to display.

The first day of classes for the 2023-24 school year was Aug. 22.



Lorain Smalligan (left) accepts the 2023 Marsha Wilcox Award from LAS Board Vice President, Lauri Kuna, and Superintendent Nate Fowler

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