

Stories of Perseverance



pages 9-12



page 6

Lowell Area Schools Sports



pages 13, 14 & 16

\$1.00



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Tornado threat gives Lowell scare at football game

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Thursday night's football game was an adventure weather-wise. The intense heat forced the game to be delayed an hour, and then, just 10 minutes into the game, lightning would delay the game.

It's not super unusual, as a severe thunderstorm warning came in. Before the rains came, students and fans would evacuate to the schools, concession stands, cars, to take shelter, hoping the storms would blow through, and we could get back to football; like we have many times before.

As the rain started to come down, about 10 minutes later, things changed, phones rang out. The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning. A doppler-indicated tornado was spotted in the Belmont and Comstock Park area, and initially, the National Weather Service had Lowell

Tornado Warning

Valid Until
8:45 PM EDT Thursday
August 24, 2023

Threat Information



TORNADO
Radar Indicated



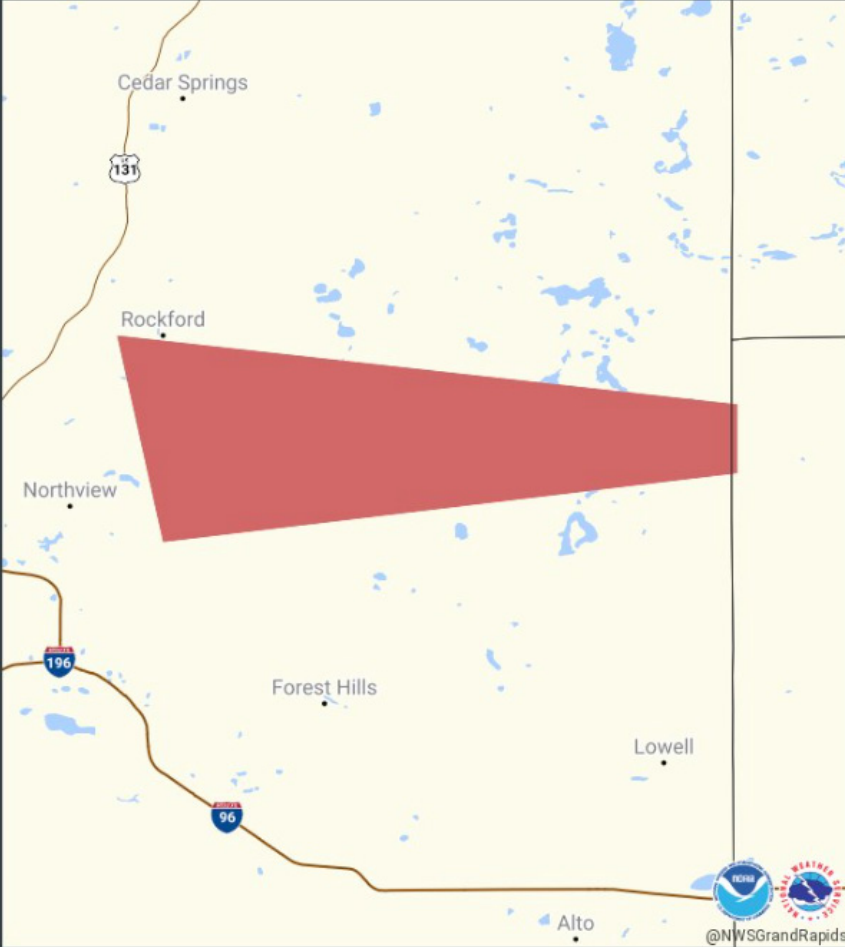
HAIL
Quarter
Sized Possible

Potential Exposure



Population: 16,719
Schools: 11
Hospitals: 0





Warning,
continued page 3

As the tornado weakened and turned north, Lowell was out of the tornado path.

In Your Court: the possible return of Gus Macker to Lowell

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Gus Macker Basketball, which was a way of life for many in Michigan during the '80s and '90s, is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024. The Belding-based organization, run by Scott McNeal, looks forward to a big anniversary week of activities next year, including a Macker Hacker golf-outing, a Hall-of-Fame banquet, and a hall-of-famers mini-tournament prior to the regular tournament. However, Gus Macker hails originally from Lowell, as does McNeal, and some in the area, including Lowell Youth Sports Foundation head, Mike Minier, have shown interest in Macker returning to Lowell for its big anniversary. When asked,

Macker,
continued page 7

In celebration of the 50th anniversary, Macker Basketball has designed a brand new Gus Macker logo, and Scott McNeal was kind enough to choose the Lowell Ledger for its public debut.

City brush pickup program

Due to the storms last Thursday. The City of Lowell Public Works, in conjunction with Lowell Light and Power, will perform a Brush Pickup Program during the week of August 28th through September 1st. If you wish to participate, please have your brush alongside of your street prior to the start of pickup.

To facilitate timely pick-ups, the length of the limbs and branches should be left as long as possible. Whole limbs chip up much better than small, cut-up pieces. Please spread out your pile of brush evenly alongside the roadway, with cut ends of branches and limbs facing the same direction. Please limit pile size to four feet in height and eight feet in depth.

Tangled piles of limbs or branches placed haphazardly may not be picked up.

If a tree-trimming service or lawn service takes down, trims or prunes your tree, the service company must also remove the branches and debris. The city will not remove debris or branches left by tree-removal companies or lawn-service contractors.

We cannot accept: bagged material, lawn clippings, vines, thorn/thistle material, root balls, construction material, landscape timbers, railroad ties or material larger than six inches in diameter.

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
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Council considers alternate schedule for city workers

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

On Monday, August 21, the Lowell City Council met for a regular meeting at 7:00 pm at City Hall. All members were present and ready to tackle a full docket. The Council approved a new design for Creekside Kingdom, rubber roof replacement for City Hall, a trail easement, and a one percent MERS 457 retirement contribution match for Lowell Light & Power employees. Mayor Mike DeVore also read a proclamation designating September 15, 2023 as Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Recognition Day. The proclamation ends with the following request:

“We urge all of our citizens to take note of this important issue, and remember those servicemen and civilians who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing, and to commemorate the day with appropriate activities.”

After breezing through a number of agenda items,

for a six-month period, to see if it provides a better balance of service to the people of Lowell and work-life balance for the city’s employees.

Years ago, the DPW went to a 4/10 schedule, which is four days of working ten hour shifts, due to a provision in their labor agreement, but it misaligned the DPW with City Hall, so Public Works went back to a traditional schedule. Burns’ proposed plan would put both departments on the same schedule, thus, eliminating the problem that ended the DPW’s brief stint of alternative scheduling. The two proposed plans include a 4/10 schedule and a 9/80 schedule, in which employees work nine shifts, instead of ten, over a two-week period. If the city chose to test a 4/10 schedule, City Hall would be closed on Fridays, and city employees would work one of three proposed schedules Monday through Thursday. Using a 9/80

involvement with Lowell Light & Power and the Parks Department.

The flexibility of the plan garnered unanimous support among those present. Where council members got caught in the weeds was the issue of picking a plan that works best for all parties. For example, many of the plans would keep City Hall open earlier or later than it currently is on Monday through Thursday, but it was unclear if this benefit met an actual community need. Burns noted that City Hall traffic typically begins at 9:00 am and ends by 4:00 pm.

Mayor DeVore favored a 4/10 schedule with a traditional 8:00 am start time. DeVore noted that he works overnight, and he was keen to the difficulties of adjusting a start time, especially with children in the picture. As a counterpoint, Lowell Light & Power Manager, Charlie West, mentioned that his employees, working under similar circumstances, struggled to find childcare until 6:00 pm. DeVore was also skeptical of an employee’s desire to drive an hour each way, on a Friday in the winter to work 3.5 hours and then go home. “Wouldn’t it be more of a draw for people to say that you work four days a week, and you get a three day weekend?” DeVore asked.

Council members Leah Groves and Marty Chambers preferred the 9/80 for the six-month test because it would leave City Hall open on Fridays for a few hours. “I don’t know how well people would react if they showed up here on Friday, and it’s gonna be closed all of a sudden,” Groves said. “Mostly, it’s a one-



Mayor Mike DeVore designates September 15, 2023 as Prisoner of War/ Missing In Action Recognition Day.

time learning curve for our residents,” council member Jim Salzwedel responded.

Persuaded by council member Salzwedel, who noted that three to four months of data would be enough to determine if the pilot was a success, the Council was persuaded to agree upon a three-month schedule change, starting on Monday, October 2 and to place the remaining details in the hands of City Manager Burns. Burns chose the 4/10 schedule, as it was the most popular when he conducted his internal polling, and he chose to keep City Hall open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, allowing an additional 30 minutes at the beginning and end of the work day for citizens to access local government.

Near the end of the meeting, council member Chambers asked City Manager Burns about some “rumblings” he had heard about Lowell Charter Township’s interest in forming a waste authority

at the waste treatment plant. In an interview, Township Supervisor Jerry Hale noted that growth in the Township is currently more hindered by its 18 percent capacity limit at the wastewater plant than by the limitations to new water hookups. City Manager Burns noted that he has had conversations with Supervisor Hale about the creation of a wastewater authority.

The wastewater authority request is yet another instance of a change that would benefit the “proposed development near the highway,” referenced in a recent memo from City Attorney Jessica Wood to Township Attorney Jeffrey Sluggett. In this letter, Woods makes it clear that the City of Lowell is uninterested in forming a water authority without a 425 agreement that would allow the city to establish a tax base from the proposed development. However, sentiment among council members suggested confusion about whether or not this project would ever happen. Mayor DeVore went

so far as to suggest that the Township is selling the people on a project that does not exist. Council member Cliff Yankovich expressed similar skepticism. “It seems that they would like the convenience,” Yankovich said, “but they don’t want to pay the cost it would take to have it.”

Council member Chambers requested that City Attorney Woods draft a formal statement to Lowell Township, stating that the council is not interested in a wastewater authority, just as the council is not interested in a water authority.

The Lowell City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month. However, because of the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 4, the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 pm. Those interested in watching the August 21 meeting can find it on the City of Lowell YouTube channel, @cityoflowell. The agenda can be found at the City of Lowell home page, lowellmi.gov.



Council member Leah Groves recommends that City Hall stay open on Fridays for four hours to make sure nobody shows up to a closed building.

council members lingered for discussion on a proposed change to City Hall and Department of Public Works (DPW) schedule to address the fact that very few people utilize City Hall on Fridays. City Manager Burns proposed testing an alternative schedule

schedule, City Hall would remain open on Friday, but only for four hours.

“I think it’s a great idea to look at what benefits you can provide your employees,” said Perry Beachum. Beachum has had decades of interaction with city employees through his

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Warning, continued

directly in that path.

“Minutes before the tornado touched down on radar, there was a mass of strong to severe wind moving due east through Ottawa County. With the embedded supercells moving down through Muskegon County from the northwest, from storms we’ve experienced in the past, I could tell for certain that something could possibly spin-up if they were to collide. About two radar scans later, the two separate storms converged on each other, and something we call QLCS (or quasi linear convective system) rotation, appeared on radar in the Comstock Park vicinity. This is rotation that is embedded in a long line of severe thunderstorms, and typically short-lived, as the rotation eventually occludes into the rest of the line. Unfortunately, the rotation did not occlude quickly and a tornado warning was issued as soon as debris was

being lofted, between 6 and 7 Mile Rd. near Alpine, as indicated by correlation coefficient radar,” said Joel Fritsma, a Central Michigan University Meteorology Student, LHS graduate, and member of the Michigan Storm Chasers, a weather group specializing in the coverage of severe weather.

Tornado preparation plans went into motion. The good news was most students, and many others, were already up in the high school, where they would head to the school’s lower level. The football teams took shelter in the locker rooms, some fans and gameworkers took cover in the concession stands, and others, <ITALICS>Ledger staff included, sheltered below the press box.

A problem at LHS, out of everybody’s control, is that Lowell High School, and the general area around it, has pretty weak cell signal. Those on the school wifi, had trouble getting service and internet, with

the number of people trying to get online and send texts, receive calls. This meant difficulty for families to find each other once the warning went into place, as well as the inability to get news about the tornado.

The press box area, where the <ITALICS>Ledger was stationed, had a group of around 30-40 people. Some hiding in the stairwell, others in the basement concession area. There, like in other places, community members did their best to keep an eye on the weather situation and keep spirits up while waiting out the storms. Up in the high school, the band took cover in the orchestra pit in the Lowell Performing Arts Center, an area of the school that would eventually lose power.

News would spread, with emergency management, including new Athletic Director, Patrick Russell, relaying information. There was, in



After the tornado warning lifted, students await the all-clear.

fact, a tornado on the ground and there was reported damage. It was a serious situation. For those taking shelter, all they could do is wait. Some nervously, but most, keeping spirits high; keeping the kids from being scared. Keeping their cool. The storm, and the tornadic cell, would eventually push north, and the National Weather Service adjusted to track, for the tornado-producing part of the storm to reflect that, with Lowell out of the track, sparing the potential scary situation of a tornado barreling down on the high school; a scene which has happened so little in history, that we don’t think much of it.

“Tornadoes have deviant motion and can turn on a dime, but tornadoes typically make a turn north when they are near the end of their life cycle. This is because it is occluding into the line of storms, almost as if it gets swallowed in on,” added Fritsma.

Tornadoes do cause significant damage, even in Michigan. Look at a May 2022 tornado that ripped through Gaylord at an F3 strength, powerful enough to destroy buildings. with 150 mph winds. The tornado that touched down

near Belmont was powerful enough to flip cars, to cause major damage; of course, nobody knew how strong, but there was a seriousness to the approach. One such tornado that occurred on Thursday night, occurred in between Williamston and Webberville, the EF2 tornado had winds over 120 miles an hour and killed one, while injuring three, as it crossed over I-96. It was a part of six to seven tornadoes that occurred in Michigan on Thursday night, only one occurred west of Lansing, and that one, was in Kent County.

The tornado that prompted the warning began east of Peach Ridge Avenue and north of 6 Mile Road, moving east-northeast for nine miles, ending west of Rockford High School. Strongest damage occurred across Alpine, US-131, and the Belmont area. For the tornado to have included Lowell in the path, it would have needed to travel southeast. It had winds that peaked at 110 mph, making it a strong EF1 tornado on the enhanced fujita scale.

“It was quite a night at Thursday night’s football game at Lowell High School, where our Red Arrows hosted the Mattawan

Wildcats. Shortly after kickoff, we evacuated the stadium, due to lightning in the area. Once the tornado warning was issued, those who evacuated to the high school cafeteria went to the high school basement to take shelter.

Thank you to students and our community for the rapid evacuation of the stadium and the additional measures taken as the storm unfolded. What was a potentially dangerous and chaotic situation was handled by those in attendance with calm and grace,” Superintendent, Nate Fowler, said in a statement.

Though the tornado lifted near Rockford, powerful winds would continue with the storm system causing extensive damage, particularly in the northern part of Lowell. Tornadoes can be on the ground for mere seconds, or for well-over dozens of miles. In 1956, an F3 tornado would cover a path from Bangor, MI to just south of Lowell, a nearly 50-mile track. The setup for severe weather on Thursday made such a lengthy tornado unlikely.

Warning, continued page 7



Lowell fans enjoy refreshments during the tornado warning, while under the cover of the lower floor of the press box.

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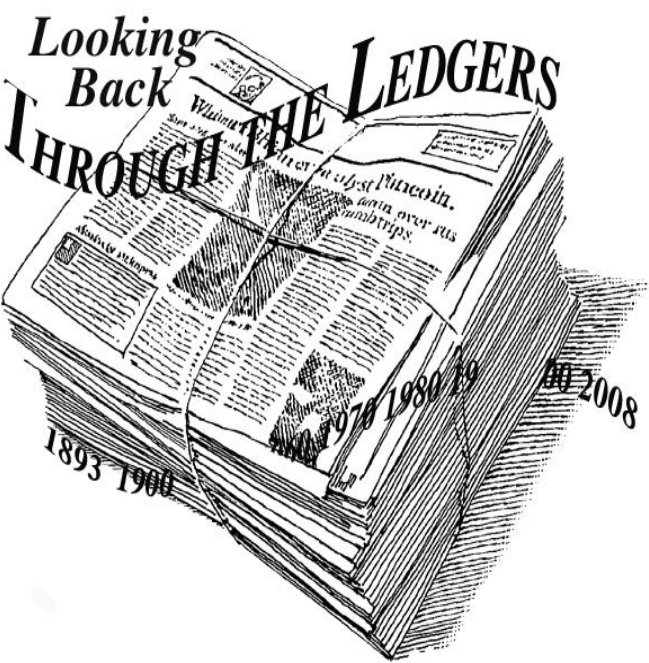
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viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal August 27, 1873

Mr. J.C. Train lost a pocket book containing several thousands dollars in notes and several hundred dollars in currency the other day but had the good fortune to find it again.

A Lowell sharpshooter went out to destroy game, but kindly refrained from shooting a gopher because he thought it was a “sick chipmunk.”

J. W. Griswold and Co’s steam saw and shingle mill in Spencer was blown up by the explosion of the boiler last Thursday. Three men were instantly killed and several others seriously injured.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 1, 1898

Mrs. Reutelater fell victim to a genuine surprise last week Thursday. Upon being called away from home, neighbors and friends took possession. She returned to help enjoy the remainder of the day. A bountiful supper was served covers being laid for 18.

The bridge by the grist mill in Alton was finished last week Tuesday. One bridge was taken up and filled in.

Mrs. G. W. Croby has lately added to her large collection of curiosities, a whale’s rib 8 feet and 6 inches long, sent her from Barbadsos, W.I., also an elk’s horn sent from Minnesota.

Elmer Richmond had peaches stolen from two trees in his orchard last week.

Quite a number of people went to see the bicycle races Sunday but they proved a failure.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 30, 1923

Lowell public schools open Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 9:00. All the buildings are being cleaned and put into fine condition for the beginning of the new year.

R.A. Kyser’s family were let out of a six weeks’ quarantine for scarlet fever last Wednesday. Mrs. Kyser and her 5-week-old baby girl returned home Friday.

Roy Kyser had a very narrow escape from serious injury by his bull Monday. Likely, only the luck of having his son Gerald with him, saved his life. As it was, Mr. Kyser was knocked down twice, and a knee badly bruised, as well as being shaken-up generally.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 26, 1948

The 14th annual Kent County 4-H Club Fair, bigger and better than ever, opened on Wednesday and will continue through Friday. Additions this year include three new buildings and a dormitory, which was occupied on Tuesday night by 63 4-H boys.

Displaying for the first time at the Ionia Free Fair, the Segwun Apiaries, owned by L. W. Precious of Lowell, made off with six ribbons in the bee and honey department.

Henry VanTatenhove met with an unusual accident the other day. As he let himself down from the truck, which he was loading with wheat, his wedding ring caught and the weight of his dropping body pulled part of his finger off. He was taken to Blodgett hospital, where the remaining part of his finger was amputated.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life August 30, 1973

A Senior Neighbors Inc. senior citizen’s center will open in Lowell soon, says County Commissioner, Arnold Wittenbach. A site is needed.

The Labor Day weekend approaches, with its average 33 lives a year lost, warns the Michigan State Police.

The Strand Theatre is showing movies only on Friday-Sunday.

After a long bargaining, teachers and the school board settle a three-year contract. Starting salary is \$8.550.

The Back-To-School section is three pages. The same starting time for all students is the big change.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 2, 1998

Flat River Outreach Ministries purchases the old Baptist Church (519 E. Main) from Norm Borgerson and Judy Straub. The extra space will enable FROM to not only expand the Thrift Shop but will enlarge its stock of food and emergencies supplies.

The fourth annual Riverwalk Festival begins at 10 am on Saturday, Sept. 5.

Road construction on M-21 (Main Street) is coming to an end, which is good news for residents and business owners, who have had to endure delays and bottlenecks as the work progressed over the summer.

Bruce Walter has pushed for an ice rink in the city of Lowell for quite some time, it may be made a reality, as the city’s Parks and Recreation committee is looking into the matter.

to the editor

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

To the Editor:

I want to acknowledge David Bonga’s reporting of the speeding issue on Hudson and Riverside streets, at the August 7th City Council meeting, and as reported in the *Lowell Ledger*. This has been a long-term issue on what I suspect is one of the most abused streets in Lowell. I have been a resident of Lowell for over ten years, in my home adjacent to Hudson. Indoor disturbance and outdoor activity are difficult to enjoy due to the noise generated by those clearly exceeding the speed limit.

I have placed multiple signs along Hudson, pleading drivers to slow down, respect the residents and speed limits. I wrote three letters and had phone calls with Lowell Police and Kent County Road Commission, begging for help with this issue. I suggested adding 35 mph signs, in addition to the one sign, or a 35 mph sign highlighting ‘reduced speed ahead’. KCRC told me they could do nothing about the speeding and no signs would be added.

I suggested to the police the addition of an electronic speed indicator, as there is as you approach M21 on Hudson and going north on Hudson from M21. I feel an additional indicator would have a significant impact, as it does with the existing indicators. I have witnessed, just as Mr. Bonga pointed out, drivers immediately begin braking when they see the indicator’s warning. The police were unable to help with the 35mph signage, as I was told, Hudson is a County road and another indicator would not be added.

After my third letter to KCRC, a second 35mph sign was posted near the YMCA facility. I sent a fourth letter to KCRC thanking them for their action and felt there was an impact by some responding to the new sign. However, and again as Mr.

Letters, continued page 18

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

At Your Local Library

Painted Birds

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Create whimsical, boldly colored birds with thick media paper and beaded wire embellishments. Perfect for wall hangings! For ages 18+

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 4-5 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts. For ages 5-10.

Storytime

Mondays beginning Sept. 18, 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 Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, Sept. 21, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *Bootstrapper* by Mardi Link. For adults 18+.

Glow-in-the-dark-party

Saturday, Sept. 23, 10-11 am. Family fun featuring glow-in-the-dark activities and crafts. For all ages.

KDL Lab Experience: Making Sense of your Senses

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 4-5 pm. Taste, touch, sight, smell, hearing: Humans have five basic senses that help them perceive the world around them. Join us for a sense-ational time investigating the five senses! For ages 5-10.

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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.

N is for Nash

It was the perfect romance story. It should have been the perfect happily-ever-after.

On August 13, 1862, Ira Augustus Nash enlisted in Co I of the 26th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. Ten days later, on August 23, he married his sweetheart, Mary Elizabeth Blanding. He mustered in on September 16. Eight months later, little Ira Augustus Nash Jr. was born on May 26, 1863.

The facts seem to set the stage for a perfect and romantic life. That perfect life was not to be, for one missing fact. On January 6, 1863, halfway into Mary’s pregnancy, Ira Nash was accidentally shot by a longtime friend.

On January 25, 1863, after fighting and struggling for his life, he died far from home, in Alexandria, Virginia. Ira Nash, though making plans and preparation for his future, entered into service for his country. Through no fault of his own, he was struck down, his life taken, and now he lies in an honored grave.

The Nash family had moved to the Lowell area in 1845. Ira’s parents were Ira and Juda Ann Fero Nash. His father Ira was an implement dealer in Lowell for many years. It was



said that his mother, Juda Ann Fero Nash, cheerfully endured the hard life of pioneering.

The accident that claimed the life of Ira Nash was described by Captain Earl Avery of Lowell. “At the time of the accident, my company men detached from the Regiment as guards at the commissary department and were quartered in barracks at the foot of Duke Street, Alexandria Va, when we took possession of the barracks on the 1st day of January, 1863. I saw two or three old muskets scattered about the floor and ordered them taken care of. On the 6th day of January, 1863 some of the men took one of the muskets to examine it (as is often done) and it was passed from one to another and many of them cocking, and snapping the piece,

when the Corporal took it to examine, and pointing it out of one of the front windows, cocked and snapped it, discharging the piece the contents of, or a portion of it, lodging in the body and limbs of Ira A. Nash, who was on the opposite side of the street. All of the men that examined that piece say there was no cap on the cone and they did not think the musket was loaded. Also say, the Corporal did not put a cap on the piece. The musket was charged with what is usually called “duckshot”, being about half the size of common buckshot. I afterwards learned that the muskets had frequently been used by clerks, and others connected with the commissary department, to shoot ducks on the Potomac River and had been returned loaded. I think five of the shots took effect, one striking him in

the groin or lower part of the body and passed into the bowels, which the surgeon informed me, was the fatal shot. I immediately had him placed upon a stretcher and conveyed to Wolf Street hospital, where he died on, or about, the twenty-fifth day of January, 1863. No ill feeling was known to exist between the Corporal and Nash, but on the contrary, the greatest intimacy, they being old friends and neighbors previous to entering the U.S. Service. No blame can possibly be attached to Ira A. Nash in the case.”

A nurse who attended Nash wrote the following, “Poor boys! Some of them never knew what it was to perform a soldier’s duty, for they died before having

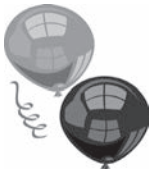
ABCs
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Traditional Service: 9 am
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

AUGUST 31

Amy Vezino, Scott Wolfe, Morgan Nelson.

SEPTEMBER 1

Jerry Bellah, Todd Mahalic, Chuck Myers, Ron Utey.

SEPTEMBER 2

Eric Elzina, Whitey Tubergen, Virginia Conner, John Stevens, Bryant Sloan-Johnson, Callie Dorsey.

SEPTEMBER 3

Bailey Allen, Fay Johnson, Carlene Botttrall.

SEPTEMBER 4

Ashlie Hathaway, Mark Smith, Ron Merriman, Theresa Engle, Ethan Riddle.

SEPTEMBER 5

Barb Vezino, Kohlton Scott Clouser, Nicole Bellah, Adilyn Schwacha.

SEPTEMBER 6

Brian Haan, Mitch Mercer.

Macker, continued

McNeal did not mince any words, “Obviously we would consider it,” McNeal said, “because it’s the 50th.”

McNeal lived at 521 Elizabeth in Lowell, when he was a child, right by the north entrance to Bushnell Elementary School. At 5’6”, McNeal was not making waves on the basketball court at Lowell High School, so he started a tournament in his own driveway. To make it more competitive, McNeal offered a cash prize. During spring-break of 1974, McNeal gathered 18 players, charged them \$1 per head, and the winning team took home a total of \$18. It does not seem like much, but \$18 in 1974 could buy what \$115 does today, and these were high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Everyone played with weird nicknames, and McNeal’s friend, Rick Thompson, nicknamed him Gus Macker. This is the origin of the Gus Macker tournament.

“There’s probably an entire generation who probably didn’t know it took place in Lowell,” McNeal said. “Others who didn’t know what neighborhood it took place in.”

The tournament took off almost a decade later in 1985, when Sports Illustrated published a story titled, “The Only Game in Town” about Gus Macker basketball. The previous year, sports writer, Alexander Wolff, had come out to McNeal’s driveway to interview players for a feature story that Sports Illustrated did not publish until shortly before the 1985 tournament. That year, over 1100 players gathered on the small and narrow streets surrounding Bushnell to play basketball, and they were joined by Wild World of Sports and ABC World News. The way McNeal describes it, it was quite a spectacle.

“Our leaving Lowell in 1987 was a little controversial,” McNeal said,

“so that would make it very interesting to come back to Lowell.” Following the Sports Illustrated bump, the tournament had outgrown the original neighborhood. McNeal had intended to run the 1987 tournament downtown on Main Street, working around the wheat crop coming in from King Milling. Many teams had already decided to sign-up for the big tournament, when the city council voted to charge McNeal and company a surcharge to run the event downtown.

“We were adults, but didn’t see it as an actual business, so we said, ‘We can’t afford to pay a surcharge,’” McNeal said, “so we ended up moving it to Belding.” Belding was more than happy to welcome the tournament, and has continued to do so ever since. In fact, the headquarters for Macker Basketball is now located on Main Street in Belding. Back in ‘87, the media played up the fact that McNeal moved the tournament away from Lowell just as it was getting popular, and Lowell was left behind. Rumors abounded, and some thought Gus Macker was actually kicked out of town, but for McNeal, it was a timing thing. He could not cancel the event or recoup fees from participants after they had signed-up, so he had to find a place where fees would not impede the tournament.

“There are some people in Lowell who were more than happy to be left behind while this thing was booming,” McNeal said. During Macker season, it was impossible to get in and out of McNeal’s neighborhood. Residents had to park far away from their homes and walk great lengths to their cars in order to commute to and from work, go to a restaurant, or attend a social event.

McNeal never intended for Macker to move to Belding, nor did he expect

that it would become an international phenomenon. Though the majority of tournaments over the years have taken place in Michigan, there have been a clump of tournaments taking place in New York state, four to five in New Mexico, a tournament in Missouri, and three Canadian tournaments at Macker’s peak. McNeal did not plot-out which sports markets he was interested in working his way into. In fact, it was more of a grass roots thing. For example, McNeal went to school with a guy named Clay Avery, who, after graduation, moved from Lowell to Roswell, New Mexico, and Avery asked if they could bring Macker Basketball to New Mexico too. Before McNeal knew it, there was 3-on-3 Macker basketball in the streets of Roswell.

The tournament took a hit in the early 2000s, when Macker Basketball gained a reputation for being too rough. In response, the event shifted from a model where players call their own fouls to a model where registered officials call fouls. The tournaments that followed did not have the same numbers as in the ‘80s and ‘90s, but the change did open-up Gus Macker to a broader, more family-oriented audience, and McNeal is proud of that. Current Macker tournaments feature more games played by children under 18 than anything else.

“Lowell has a very close feel for myself and my family,” McNeal said. “It’s a big deal to us, the roots of this event.” Spitballing about a possible Lowell event for the 50th anniversary, McNeal sounded excited. He noted that if he put out a teaser about playing in Lowell, he would have a list of 100 hardcore Macker fans sign-up to play in just a few minutes. He believes

that those who know of the history of Macker and its roots in Lowell would absolutely go nuts to participate in a Lowell event. There are some clear logistical issues with playing in Lowell, like choosing a site and closing off streets, but McNeal thought it was realistic to at least hold some sort of opening ceremonies event in Lowell. However, since Macker does grow organically, a Lowell event would need the help of interested parties in Lowell, and McNeal welcomed such parties to contact him at his headquarters in Belding to make plans.

Among the activities planned for the 50th anniversary event in 2024, McNeal is excited to welcome back Sports Illustrated writer, Alexander Wolff, as Macker’s keynote speaker. Technically, counting 1974 as the first year, the 50th anniversary of Macker would have been this year, but they did not hold a tournament in 2020 due to COVID, which bumped the anniversary back to 2024 and made the anniversary math a little bit easier.

As for the original house on Elizabeth Street, the old basketball hoop remains standing. Five years ago, McNeal met with the gentleman who bought his parents’ house and brought a game back to the driveway. The original backboard featuring the Macker Man was still there, but it was looking shabby, and the Macker Man had washed-out. McNeal asked the home owner if he could put up a new backboard, and the gentleman was happy to have it. It is still there to view for any who drive by on the way, to and from, Bushnell, and maybe—just maybe—it will see some play again in 2024. For the people of Lowell, the message seems clear—the ball is in your court.

Warning, continued

“Typically long-lived tornadoes of 20 miles occur with strong supercells that are more isolated. Yesterday, we had all the ingredients for strong supercells except that each congealed into a line. Because of this, they formed a quasi linear convective system, which is essentially, a long line of thunderstorms that’s potent in damaging winds. So much so that any storms that feed into it from a different direction can cause tornado-genesis. Because of this, 20-mile tornadoes yesterday weren’t as likely, but nine miles, as surveyed, was still pretty long in nature,” Fritsma concluded.

What did hit Lowell High School though was powerful winds, sideways rain, and plenty of lightning, on a field, that less than 30 minutes ago, football was being played. Though Lowell avoided the tornado, the winds were quite powerful and left a trail of devastation across both Lowell, and many other parts of the state.

So, no, a tornado did not roll through Lowell High School on Thursday night. It wasn’t far away though.

“I want to express heartfelt gratitude for the many acts of kindness I witnessed as members of our community looked out for each other. I saw strangers working to reunite kids with parents and students assisting community members downstairs in the high school. Teachers, bus drivers, custodians, and other first responders assisted in any way they could,” Fowler concluded.

As the skies cleared, some spectators went home, while others hung around, as the teams, workers, and staff awaited direction. Both teams were keen to get the game complete. Ultimately Mattawan requested to postpone to Friday night, a byproduct of having to return to Mattawan at potentially two in the morning, ending a unique night in Lowell football



Trees down at Arrowhead Golf Course, north of town.

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*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018



Cliff's

By Cliff Yankovich

Riffs



Friends don't charge friends fees, do they?

WARNING: The following column represents my best imitation of a combination of two crotchety old guys: Andy Rooney and Lewis Black. (young people, ask an older person about the Andy Rooney segments on “60 Minutes,” back in the day when we only had three TV networks from which to choose.) Andy and Lewis represent two very different styles, methodology and personal affects, but they do have one thing in common in that they like to examine things that really honk them off.

Today, I want us to examine a subject near and dear to everyone’s heart: Bank Fees. Did your blood pressure take a bit of a jump just reading those two words in that order? Cool, then we can proceed. Note: From here on, all banks will be lumped together as “they” or “them.” This is my column and I get to choose the brush size I use, okay? Also, “they” are not credit unions; my comments are directed at the for-profit banking industry.

Have you noticed lately that every bank really wants us to believe how important us little folk are to them? Billboards, TV ads, print,

and any other medium that is available for them to use, are constantly assuring us that they are our friends, they have our back, and that there is nothing more they want in this life than to be our buddies. Huh, okay. As a small business owner, I am wooed by marketers who let me know that they sure value us because “small business is the back bone of America”. Blah-blah-blah.

Were to begin? How about credit card processing fees? I am not opposed to service providers being compensated for providing services. Probably close to 50 percent of the business we do at our little store is repair and restoration work and we expect to be paid for our efforts. My problem with credit card fees is that the fees charged do not incorporate any type of tiered system. When the numbers are boiled down, my credit card processor collects between 2.50 percent to 3.00 percent, depending on the type of card used in the store. For most of the business we do, that is no big deal, but my problem is that the percentage does not go down, even slightly, as the total of the transaction goes up.

It does not happen often, but once in a while, we have someone spend, say \$10,000.00, on something from our store. If they are using a cash back or points-style credit card, then the processing company keeps \$300.00 of that sale. Wait, we have sales tax in Michigan, which on ten thousand dollars is six hundred dollars, and the banks-processing cards collect their fees on the sales tax collected, so they keep another \$18.00 of the tax we collected, on behalf of the State. Yup, they like our little Mom & Pop business so much that they get to pocket \$318.00, should we be fortunate enough to land a big sale. Note to them: If you are really my buddy and want to keep the backbone of America straight and strong, then how about lowering your fee percentage a little as the dollar amount gets larger?

On the personal side of banking, there has been a little progress made in the last couple of years, as far as banks charging all the fees they charge on our checking and/or savings accounts. These changes have come about as a result of class-action lawsuits and/or attorney generals who

stand-up to the banks on behalf of the electorate and force them to eliminate or lessen the “junk fees” that they have been slapping us with for years.

Hmm, it just hit me that the proliferation of lawsuits regarding junk fees is probably the primary motivation behind the proliferation of all the “We are your pal” bank ads we are exposed to lately. It is their way of deflecting our attention away from the fact that it took lawsuits for them to quit gouging the heck out of us. We are best buds, after all.

One of my “favorite” bunch of fees happen when you buy a house. My goodness, I bet there is an invitation only, double-secret, Banking Hall of Fame that enshrines the person or group that came up with all those swell fees they get to collect when we decide to buy or sell a piece of property. Golly bank folks, you mean you are not content to just collect the thousands of dollars in interest most of us will give you over the course of our mortgages? You had to add “closing costs” to all that? One of my favorites is the “loan origination fee”. What? You told me

you were loaning me the money for the property, but there is a fee for the loan to come into existence? Whoa, Nellie. Then there are “filing fees”, “compliance fees”, and several others. Typical closing costs in Michigan run between two and four percent of the total purchase. Brilliant profit center for them, right?

I have saved my favorite for last. One of the wonderful benefits of owning a small business in a small town, like Lowell, is that many people pay in cash. They are not buying something they cannot really afford; they have done things Old School and actually budgeted for the purchase. (What a concept, eh?) Guess what – many, if not most, banks CHARGE you when you deposit, what they consider as “too much cash”, into your account. Hello – cash money is actually called BANK NOTES.

The first time such a charge showed up on my statement, I did not really understand it. If fact, so complete was my naivete that when the branch manager told me that additional charge to our business checking account was because we had

“deposited a large amount of cash last month”, I thought it was a joke. I looked around for someone to be video taping the conversation because I figured I was being punked. Nope – the news was delivered with a straight face and sincere presentation. The manager went on to explain that cash has to be moved around with armored vehicles and that was an expensive process.

Silly me, up until that very instant in time, I was operating on the ridiculous assumption that moving cash around was what banks did ever since banks were created. Handling cash is in their wheelhouse, it is their jam, their MOA. Apparently my thinking was flawed. Just thinking about this causes my inner Lewis Black to rise up in indignation. They are going to spank me, their buddy – a small part of the backbone of America, with a fee for depositing the officially recognized currency of our nation. The bad news is that they did, they do, and probably will continue to do so until they get slapped with a lawsuit forcing them to quit.

Anybody got the phone number for the AG’s office?

outdoors

lifestyle choices

Dave Stegehuis

Economic and cultural changes have tended to separate people from nature and even from just getting outdoors. High-density housing developments and apartment complexes must shelter a great number of children of all ages. It is remarkable how few kids are out-and-about in yards, parks, and open public areas. Organized youth sports have become very popular in recent years and is one activity that draws parents and youngsters outside. At

the same time, participation in other outdoor activities, such as hunting and fishing, has declined.

Older hunters and fishermen grew up at a time when small-game and big-game hunting was a rite of passage for youth. Firearms were standard household tools and game meat was on the menu. These hunters are aging-out of active hunting and are not being replaced by the younger generation in numbers to sustain previous high numbers of

participants. The fishing fraternity is doing better, but participation is still in decline. Women and young girls have stepped up to help fill the gap.

People, who participate directly in outdoor activities, buy licenses, contribute time and money to conservation organizations and have a vested interest in the state of our wildlife and natural resources. We need somebody to watch the store.

For good personal reasons, not everyone is going to hunt game or catch fish. But everyone should have the opportunity to explore the possibility and

then make up their own mind if they want to get involved. Many of my friends and acquaintances, who share my interest in hunting and fishing, came from families that traditionally did neither. These folks eventually made hunting and fishing a part of their lifestyle. For a few, it was not only about what they did but who they were.

To all parents, relatives, and friends out there, do what you can to provide children and adults in your life the opportunity to experience hunting and fishing activities. It could have a meaningful effect on their quality-of-life.



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SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE
Preethi Saravanakumar, *A Mirage of Golden Glitter*, Sept. 8
Rich Nelson, *This Tender Man - My Father's Story*, Sept. 14
Rod Sadler, *Grim Paradise, The Cold Case Search for the Mackinac Island Killer*, Sept. 15
Michael Farrell, *When Perfection Isn't Perfect*, Sept. 22
Janice Afman, *Sari Sari: An Unexpected Journey into Another Culture*, Sept.29

Sponsored by Doc Chavent & The Lowell Ledger

By Hillary Hatch,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Social Security has expanded its outreach to people in critical need of financial help, who may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI provides monthly payments to adults age 65

and older or to other adults – and children – with a disability or blindness, who have limited income and financial resources. SSI helps pay for basic needs like rent, food, clothing, and medicine.

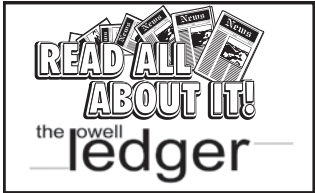
We identified underserved communities in rural and urban areas across the country. We focused on areas with the greatest decline in SSI applications since the pandemic. Our outreach efforts targeted areas where a majority

of people are living at or below the federal poverty threshold.

People who receive SSI may qualify for other financial help, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps), Medicaid, and discounted internet service through the Federal Trade Commission’s Affordable Connectivity Program. Social Security beneficiaries may also be eligible for SSI.

People with limited income, and financial resources and internet access, can visit www.ssa.gov/ssi to learn more about SSI eligibility and request an appointment to apply for benefits. People without access to the internet, can call our National 800 Number at 1-800-772-1213 to speak with a representative.

Please share this information with your friends and family to spread the word about SSI.



perseverance

A community fighting cancer

This week is the second 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

Doak Dean

My story with cancer started during my sophomore year of college when I felt a lump in my left testicle. My heart sank. I called my parents. Next thing I knew I had a consultation, ultrasound, blood test, and cancer diagnosis, within hours of getting off a flight home.

"You have cancer" is something you never want to hear at just 20 years old.

But here I was. I was in shock. My doctors told me I would need a radical orchiectomy, CT scans, and more bloodwork to determine the extent of my cancer. I followed directions. Next thing I knew I was going through all sorts of machines, drinking all sorts of solutions, getting

poked up and down my arms, and recovering from surgery.

The results were in: I had stage 2B non-seminomatous testicular cancer. It still didn't make sense to me. I felt healthy. I felt strong. Heck, I was supposed to be in the middle of wrestling season. Regardless, I had to take the next step. My doctors decided three rounds of chemotherapy would be the first line of treatment.

Chemotherapy lasted 12 weeks, it wasn't fun,



Noel, Doak, Jill and Zeth Dean.



Photos Courtesy of the Dean family.

but I got through it. By now my reality had changed. I was no longer a college kid, I was a cancer patient. I had lost all of my hair, weight, muscle, and quite frankly, a lot of my motivation.

After my chemotherapy, the doctors found more trouble in my abdomen. They found several lymph nodes were unchanged by the chemotherapy and had to be removed. A couple weeks later, I underwent open retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND). The surgery was successful and I was cured of my cancer. I have now been in remission for three months!

It is no secret that cancer can take a toll on someone, both physically and mentally, and I am no exception. My time wrestling was replaced with days in a chemo chair. My time studying for finals was replaced with recovering from surgery. My mind

and body had their limits tested. There were times when it was difficult to see the other side, but through prayer, gratitude, and the people I love, I got through it.

I can't say that my story with cancer will ever be "done", but I can say that it has changed the way I look at the world. My heart is now filled with gratitude for each day. Words can't do justice to the amount of support I have received. From the doctor's at the Mayo Clinic and the Anita Stewart Center for Oncology, to the community of Lowell and my family, I truly felt there were people by my side the entire way.



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



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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Chris Alaria

My name is Trudy and I am the owner of Keiser's Kitchen. I'm here to tell you all a story of true grit and perseverance..

One of my employees, Chris Alaria, has cancer. You may have seen her around the restaurant, she runs the cash register on Friday nights and the rest of her shifts she is in the kitchen, as either a prep cook or a line cook, she also is the one that bakes all the delicious cookies, brownies and cinnamon rolls. Chris is such a fun person to be around, always laughing and joking, even though inside she has a lot of pain.

Her cancer journey started in 2014 when she was diagnosed with liver fibroid tumor cancer. She was not eligible for a transplant or surgery so they immediately started chemo therapy. After six weeks of treatments intravenously she was put on a 15-week oral regiment of 22 pills per day. They also installed a port and she wore a backpack supplying her with a pain reliever and medication.

Just this past February she was told her cancer was not growing and they felt she was in a stage of remission. What relief for her as they took out her port and she no longer needed to wear the backpack. Since then they have found tumors in her stomach so

it's back to the drawing board so to speak.

Chris worked for Sayfees in Grand Rapids for 27 years before she became a Keiser's employee. Then moving to Lowell from Grand Rapids to live with her sister and brother-in-law and started working at Keiser's in September of 2016. She always comes to work, she is always in a great mood, she is always early for her shift, and she never complains about her cancer..She is in hospice care and she knows her time here is limited but she truly lives her life to the fullest. She loves a little casino action and a few of the people at Keiser's make sure she gets that time. She also enjoys camping with her sister and brother-in-law, she has a little puppy to keep her company and she definitely has many friends here at Keiser's. Our sisterhood is strong here and she is a huge part of that relationship we have with each other. We love her and pray for a cure for her as she continues to persevere. Please say a prayer for Chris and so many others fighting the battle. Pink arrow provides resources to help those in their cancer journey and we are so blessed by this event in our small community.



Photo Courtesy of Trudy Cahoon.



The Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide and Lowell Litho have been involved with Pink Arrow Pride since the beginning in 2008. We continue to support this unique effort of all those who work to make this charitable event take place. We applaud the volunteers, sponsors and coordinators. Most of all, we salute the brave individuals willing to tell their stories, and in doing so, inspire many and reach out and support those who are on similar journeys.

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Karen Dunn

In August, 2017, I had already outlived my mother and sister. I truly believed that I would not follow them and have cancer.

I was WRONG!
I went for a routine mammogram and was told to return for more testing. After a second mammogram, ultrasound, and biopsy, I was told I was at Stage 2. I met my medical team and prepared for a lumpectomy. Many lymph nodes were removed that contained cancer cells. I was then confirmed as Stage 3. My team told me this would be treatable and I would be OK. I believed in my team and followed their advice. I was scheduled for six chemo treatments, followed by radiation treatments.

The next 3 weeks were busy with appointments. My surgeon removed the drainage tube, I had an Echocardiogram, a port was placed in my chest, and I had a PET scan. Then chemo began. I was put on a three-week schedule. Week one was chemo, week two was lab work, and week three was to recover. The first chemo made me nauseous but not too bad. Over the next week, things got a lot worse. I was very exhausted, very little appetite, spent a lot of time in the bathroom, and generally, felt miserable. I needed help with many daily things we just take for granted we can do. I lost my hair after two weeks and bought a very cute wig that I wore for months.

My son and daughter-in-law both work full-time and were not available to take me to my appointments. My exercise friends had signed-up to drive me on chemo and lab work days. They stayed with me during



treatment and gave me support and encouragement. They also visited me at home, brought me food, and walked my dog. Other friends would visit and bring meals. My energy level was so low at times, I could hardly stand to reheat food. One friend brought me KFC because it sounded so good. It was two pieces of chicken, a roll, and a small dish of potatoes and gravy. It took me three meals to finish eating that small amount. Some days I did not eat at all because it took too much effort.
Every time I had chemo, the drug dosages were lowered because my white blood cell count kept dropping. After the fourth treatment, so much fluid had built-up under my armpit, I had to have it drained. I still hold the record at my surgeons office for most fluid removed. After the fifth treatment, I was walking into walls and felt awful. I did not realize my

blood pressure had gone so low it was almost unreadable. I had to have fluids infused for an afternoon and that brought my blood pressure up again. My final chemo and lab work were completed in January, 2018. In February, 2018, a new drainage tube was inserted because of fluid buildup. I could not start radiation because of the tube placement. The tube was inserted and removed nine times between February 2018 and January 2019.
Finally, it was decided radiation could not wait, even with the tube. For me radiation was easy and not very tiring. I had a total of 25 treatments. The port was removed in July, 2018. Shortly, after I had a physical with my PCP and he stated I had “run of the mill” breast cancer. WHAT! I was offended, as that made no sense to me. However, after attending Gilda’s, I learned there are

many types of breast cancer I was not aware of.
I started going to Gilda’s in May, 2019. I thought I might be able to help someone else with drainage tube problems. Gilda’s is an amazing organization and the people I have met are very inspirational. We learn so much from each other. Anyone on a cancer journey can benefit from this wonderful group. Cancer is not something anyone would choose to have and support is crucial. Cancer destroys lives and it can kill. However, so many protocols have changed over the years and many people are surviving to lead a full life. Having support from family, friends, the medical team, and Gilda’s makes a difference. Today, both my mother and sister would have survived. I am a Survivor!!

GILDA'S CLUB

GRAND RAPIDS

Lowell Program

In This Together...
Learn. Share. Laugh.

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

2023 GAME SCHEDULE

Thursday	8/31	Thornapple-Kellogg	Away	7 pm
Friday	9/8	East Grand Rapids	Away	7 pm
Friday	9/15	Northview	Away	7 pm

PINK ARROW GAME

Friday	9/22	Greenville	Home	7 pm
Friday	9/29	Byron Center	Away	7 pm
Friday	10/6	FHN	Away	7 pm
Friday	10/13	FHC - Homecoming	Home	7 pm
Friday	10/20	GR Christian	Home	7 pm

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PINK

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Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS



Football opens season with offensive explosion

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

On Thursday night, the weather was the main character of the story, but on Friday night, it was all about Lowell football, as it should have been.

The Red Arrows dusted off the weather drama and game postponement from Thursday night, jumped out to an early lead on Friday, and never looked threatened in their season opening 56-28 win over the visiting Mattawan Wildcats.

“We had some adversity tonight,” Head Coach, Jacob Henige, told his team after the game, “but we fought through that. We have some things to work on, but this

was a great start,” Henige added in his postgame comments.

On Thursday, Lowell got a defensive stop and drove the length of the field before the weather delay and eventual postponement. It meant that on Friday night, Lowell had a great opportunity to jump out to an early lead, which they converted on a pass to Ben Gaskin for six.

The Wildcats are looking for their first season in six years, but were able to find success on offense with big plays. QB Preston Shackleford, RB Wyatt Hicks, and WR Carter Yates were able to hit some long plays that kept Mattawan in

the game. Lowell maintained their lead throughout and with an offense that looked unstoppable, controlling the line of scrimmage, and able to get big chunks in the running game, it kept Mattawan’s four-star kicker, Samuel Jacob ,as a non-factor in the game.

Jackson Reisbig started to find his groove with a 29-yard touchdown run to put Lowell up 14-0. Todd Parcheta, doubling as kicker along with his spot on the soccer team again this year, hit the extra point.

On 3rd & 6, Mattawan would strike for the first time on an out pass to Connor Vernon. Lowell quickly responded with a



Head Coach, Jacob Henige, speaks to the team following the win.



Jackson Reisbig lets out a celebratory yell as he’s chased into the endzone.

kickoff return from Xavier Young, setting-up Lowell at the Mattawan 25-yard line, stunting any momentum the Wildcats may have gotten from the previous touchdown drive. Tacho Gonzales punched it in from the first play to make it 20-7.

Perhaps the closest Mattawan would get was down 14-20, after a stop, they’d get the ball back midway through the second quarter, looking to take the lead, only for Jackson Reisbig to intercept a deep throw and return it to the Mattawan 24. On 3rd and 7, deep in the red zone, Mattawan would stop Lowell, forcing a 4th and 7. However, they accepted

a Lowell penalty, putting Lowell in a 3rd and 12 instead of a 4th and 7. Following a defensive encroachment penalty, Lowell made them pay, picking up the first down, and eventually, a Gonzales 1-yard touchdown to put Lowell up 27-14.

LHS students, Kyle Stauffer and Connor Rapson, made the call on WRWW radio, which overlays the NFHS video broadcast, making Lowell’s media offering one of the best in the state. Other LHS students, Eli Wilcox, Micah McDonald, and Harmon Esch, all also were a part of the WRWW sports broadcasting crew, led by Al Eckman. LHS drama teacher, Laurie Summerfield, has taken over the day-to-day management of the school’s radio program, but Eckman and the Lowell sports crew continue to be a tremendous asset to the community.

Reisbig followed the blocking off his offensive line to give Lowell a 33-14 lead on another 1-yard keeper. Both teams traded touchdowns, with Reisbig again scoring for Lowell

to make it 41-21. The Red Arrows did most of their damage on the ground, with 47 attempts for 314 yards and seven touchdowns. Gonzales and Reisbig each had 100+ yard rushing games. Reisbig went 8 for 11 passing, with Marshall VanWagner coming down with three catches for 61 yards.

Mattawan scored their final touchdown to close the gap to 13 before Lowell scored the last two touchdowns, the first from Reisbig and the second also a run from backup QB Logan Dawson. The latter touchdown was set-up by a 4th down stop, a pass swatted down by Nick Williams.

Nolan Compton and TJ Hollern led Lowell in tackles, combining for 19, assisted and unassisted. Blake Sitzer had a fumble recovery on a bobbled Wildcat snap, as well.

Lowell travels to Middleville Thornapple Kellogg for a Thursday night game with the Trojans. In the home game last year, Lowell won 49-6. The Trojans lost to local rival Hastings, 50-34, in their season opener.

Tennis team starts off season

By Justin Scott
contributing writer

The big story for the Lowell boys tennis program this year.:Numbers. High school sports within schools go through ebbs and flows. Sometimes numbers are great. Look at Lowell wrestling fielding a varsity A and B team, and a JV squad. Hockey at Lowell last year was down to one player. Girls cross country in 2007 had five runners and jumped to 16 the next year.

Golf over the years has seen it too. Huge teams at times, and teams small enough to barely field full teams.

You need 12 for tennis, and the last few years, the numbers haven’t been there. It’s not a matter of competitiveness. Even with lower numbers the past couple of years, outside of the big tennis schools, Lowell has been plenty competitive. It’s not a history thing either. Lowell, historically, has filled teams consistently until the COVID-19 pandemic. Lowell High School has a tennis tradition dating before WWII. No, it’s not a Lowell thing. Other schools similar, to Lowell socio-economically, have faced the same struggles. Has the rise of golf, one of the few sports to see

an increase in high school sport participation, hurt tennis? Pickleball has been huge in Lowell and similar communities nationwide, and if the court renovations at Lowell weren’t a mess this summer, one would have seen area youths flock to those courts throughout the summer vacation. Is it possible that pickleball, which is similar to tennis with less cardio, could be pulling kids away?

Whatever the reason, it has made life difficult for the Red Arrow tennis program, who kicked off the year with a win against another team with numbers issues, Lakewood. Lowell and Lakewood played three matches at singles, where Gavin Stewart (6-0, 6-0) and Noah Lamore (6-4, 4-6, 10-8) would win their

2nd doubles and 1st singles matches. Lakewood picked up the win at 3rd singles.

Lowell won by forfeit at 3rd singles, while the team of Nick Lothian and Alexander Repp ,pulled off a 6-1, 6-3 win at 1st doubles.

Against Cedar Springs, a similar story. Noah Cobb and Micah McDonald, the beneficiary of two forfeits over the course of the first week at 3rd doubles. Both teams traded wins elsewhere, with Stewart winning 6-0, 6-0 again at 2nd doubles, and the team of Jackson Abbott and Eli VanGroningen winning 7-5, 3-2 before a retirement, or forfeit, in tennis terms usually to injury, on the Redhawk side.

Middleville TK beat Lowell 8-0 to round-off non-conference action so far.



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).

Red Arrow

CROSS COUNTRY

SPORTS

Q&A with Red Arrow cross country coaches

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

The Ledger caught up with the Lowell boys and girls cross country Coaches, Clay VanderWarf and Paul Judd.

Coach VanderWarf

What event on the calendar are you and the team most looking forward to?

We are looking forward to running in a new meet for us this year, Under The Lights Invite at South Christian High School. It is a meet with races in the evening. Because we're a new team to the event, our race times will be 8:00 pm (girls) and 8:35 pm (boys). The last race is at midnight. Nonetheless, it will still be a unique experience for the runners.

Tell me about this year's team. A lot of new faces? Plenty of seniors?

We have 19 members on the team. Overall, it is a younger team when you combine the Freshmen and Sophomore numbers (six and five). We have five seniors and three juniors. Sophomores through Seniors are all returning runners from last year.

What returning seniors do you expect to make a big impact this year?

Braylon Lakiri and Antonio Casarez were members of the varsity team last year so we're looking to see them have some good races in the season. Juniors Paul Fowler and Wyatt Remur had a good offseason of training so we're looking to see them step up, as well.

Who are some new faces this year that you expect might make an impact?

The freshmen are the biggest group in the team. Cody Bromley, Drew Swayze, and Marshall Huhn had a successful 8th grade season and look to contribute to the team this year. They had a good start to the season by being part of the varsity team in the Portage Central Early Bird Invite.

While not new to the team, Sophomores Cooper Byrne and Mason Saylor will help the team out, as well. Both Cooper and Mason have trained a lot in the summer, which helped Cooper kick-off the season with a personal record at Portage (17.30) and Mason was the third Arrow in. They ran varsity last year and so

they know what it takes to have a successful season, individual and team wise.

Coach Judd

What event on the calendar are you and the team most looking forward to?

We coach for October and that hasn't changed, but with a team filled with so many first-year athletes, the first meet will be of greater importance than in the past, as racing 5k is a new experience. Portage will offer many surprises to the team, and we will have two additional meets in the next week for the girls to build-on the initial effort. This year, we will have three races at Riverside Park which is a fast track. The

Ottawa Hills Invite will be the team's second look at the course and PRs should be plentiful.

Tell me about this year's team. A lot of new faces? Plenty of seniors?

There are a lot of new faces, as eight out of the fourteen runners are new to the HS scene. Jadyn Young is the only senior and is coming off a strong finish to her 2023 track season. Of the new faces, we have five freshmen and three juniors, who will learn to race a 5k from the returning girls.

What returning seniors do you expect to make a big impact this year?

Our returning members are a two-sided coin, as we

are returning five members from our 2022 State Meet Qualifying team of which they are runners four thru seven. It will be a learning experience for them, as they will need to take the lead, rather than follow the lead, of the Sandman sisters. Sophomore Audrey Latchaw had a great track season and I feel her 800m speed should make this season stronger than last. Junior Claire O'Boyle has come into the season with a strong base and should be able to build on it when we hit the intervals. Lastly, sophomore Evie Deur is in better shape than her freshman campaign and I am excited to see her use her athleticism.

Who are some new

faces this year that you expect might make an impact?

Mia Vonderheide and Olivia Lothian probably come in with the most running experience. Their ability to shoot for their fastest two miles ever, in a 3.1-mile race, will be the trick. Generally, you must prove to yourself that you can go beyond what you know (MS runs 2 miles). Brooklyn Jackson will use her athleticism as the season goes on, but first, we need to make her a believer. Our first two weeks have been focused on helping the kids gain more confidence in themselves. This will be a season-long objective because as you get faster, you enter uncharted waters.

Lady harriers place first and fifth in competition last week

Submitted by Paul Judd
Girls cross country coach

Lowell used the "hardest course in Michigan" as an opportunity to work on their pack running, which helped them win the Baker Woods Invitational last Wednesday. The Arrows broke the team down into three groups, with the expectation that each group go out at a different pace, which would help them learn how to race as a team and manage the race. The girls executed the plan, and it led to some great performances and times that were over a minute faster than what many of the girls ran last year at a much "cooler" Baker Woods Invite. Junior Claire O'Boyle had a strong effort taking the lead around the 800m mark and grabbing the win in a time of 23:52. Following O'Boyle were Audrey Latchaw, placing third in 24:54, Evie Deur, placing sixth in 25:58, Mia Vonderheide, placing



Lowell girls cross country team after claiming first place at the Baker Woods Invite last week.

seventh in 26:36, and Veronica Tapia, placing tenth in 28:01. Closing-out the varsity team were Olivia Lothian in 11th and Brooklyn Jackson in 14th.

Final scores were: Lowell 27; Calvin Christian 52; Mason County 55 and Hesperia 92.

The Lady Arrows

Lowell took advantage of a fast course, fast company, and a unique format to set eight PR's (personal records), as well as two season best times, as they earned a fifth-place finish at the South Christian "Under the Lights" Invitational. As the name of the invitational mentions, the races were held under floodlights that were laced through out the 5k course. The Arrows were in the Sunset Race, which went off at 8:30 pm, just as it was getting a bit dark. Latchaw had her best race of the '23 season, grabbing a medal as she finished in 22nd with a PR time of 21:26. Following her was O'Boyle as she ran a SB time of 22:03, which

was good for a 30th-place medal. Also scoring for Lowell were Vonderheide (49th) in PR time of 23:01, Lothian (56th) PR time of 23:30, and Jadyn Young (76th) in a PR time of 24:38. Closing-out the varsity were Jackson and Anna Forney, finishing in 60th and 109th, respectively.

Lowell is off until after Labor Day, when they will compete in the first OK White Jamboree on September 7th.

Final scores were: FHC 33; Rockford 51; Byron Center 53 Grandville 123; Lowell 145; Mona Shores 164; Allendale 174; Hamilton 213.

RED ARROW FALL

SPORTS SCHEDULES

VARSITY FOOTBALL

* Denotes a home game at Lowell Red Arrow Stadium
8/31 at 7 pm at Thornapple-Kellogg

CROSS COUNTRY

* Denotes a home meet at Arrowhead Golf Course
3/27 at 4:15 pm at Ionia
3/29 at 4:15 pm at Lakewood

GIRLS GOLF

* Denotes a home game at Arrowhead Golf Course
9/8 at 9 am Russ Johnson Invite
at Gracefil Country Club

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a game at LHS North Athletic Complex
9/5 at 7:15 pm at EGR
9/9 at 11:30 am at Northview

BOYS TENNIS

* Denotes a home game at LHS North Athletic Complex
3/24 at 6 pm at Northview
3/27 at 6 pm at Hudsonville

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS
9/6 at 6 pm at Lakewood
9/9 at 8 am Program Invite at UWM Sports Complex

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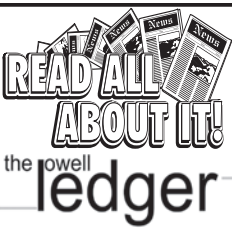
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Red Arrow

- GOLF

SPORTS

Golfers shatter 18-hole record

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

In 35 years of Lowell girls golf history, the low 18-hole score came last year, a 354 in the Lakewood Invitational. Even last year’s regional championship round was a 360. This year’s team broke that glass ceiling and soared well above it, shooting a 333 at the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational last week.

The 333 school record came at Yankee Springs, one of the easier scoring courses on the Lowell schedule, but a par 72, that makes it all the more impressive. Most school records come at par 70 courses. Hannah Flickinger’s four-birdie performance highlighted the day as she shot a 79 overall. The LHS junior had a dream-start, being two-under par through seven holes, and finished, tied for sixth overall.

“Although we are young, every returner we have has played in the State Finals and received key experience. We are looking to them to help lead us back and put us in position for another great season,” said Head Coach, Josh Bruwer, of his team this year.

But 333 wasn’t enough to win the tournament, as conference foe, Byron Center, took the top team spot ,in large part to a flawless eight-birdie round of 64 by Bulldog senior and Bowling Green State University commit, Macie Elzinga, who played with Lowell junior, Elle Sluss.

Elyse Veldman (83),

Leah Krieger (85), and Sluss (86) rounded out the Lowell scoring. Those three, along with Flicking, will be the core Lowell will look to in order to get back to team states.

“Although we have a young team, all of our key players this year have played last year. We have a lot of depth but that depth lacks experience. We have four key players we will be relying heavily on this year. Elle Sluss, who has been in the starting lineup since her freshman season. Leah Krieger will be back and we are looking for a big breakthrough year from her this year. Hannah Flickinger, another junior, has already set a couple new career lows in the early going this season. Elyse Veldman received some key experience last year and has improved leaps and bounds this season. She has proven to be a key player and we are looking to see a lot of low rounds from her this year,” added Bruwer.

It’s been a good start for the Red Arrows, tying the team nine-hole record, as well as the 18-hole record. It will be a battle, with Byron Center at the top of the conference along with Forest Hills Central and Forest Hills Northern.

“We are looking to make it through Regionals again this season. We won our regional last season and anything less than making it back to states this year would be a disappointment. The bar has definitely been raised,” said Bruwer.

Lowell has only one

senior this year, Ellery Ostrander, who has helped the younger players during the season so far and the offseason. Despite losing some key seniors last year, Bruwer believes this year’s team could be even better.

“Kaila Richards has made the team as a freshman. Avery Krieger, Ava McCormick, Mia Kinney, and Andrea Plantz are all newcomers to this team this year. Each one of them has an opportunity to be a key player to this year’s team,” Bruwer concluded.

The Red Arrows get another shot at Byron Center this week at Railside, as well as two other tournaments this week.



The girls golf team after breaking the 18-hole scoring record.

Boys cross country off to good start

Submitted by Clay VanderWarf
Boys cross country coach

Lowell boys cross country team took on hot/humid conditions, and the toughest cross country course in Michigan, to claim first place at the Baker Woods Invitational in Hesperia last Wednesday,

with 20 points. Mason County Eastern was second with 47 points followed by Calvin Christian, 75 points.

Cooper Byrne won the meet with a time of 19.30. Mason Saylor and Marshall Huhn claimed the next two spots with times of 20.11

and 20.19. Drew Swayze and Cody Bromley completed the score with sixth and eighth places, 21.05 and 21.29. Wyatt Remur and Antonio Casarez rounded-out the varsity team with times of 21.52 and 21.55, respectively.

The team traveled to a new meet of the season, Under The Lights Invitational, at South Christian High School. Running in the evening and with lights throughout the course, the Red Arrows placed sixth in the Big School Division with 123

points. Allendale took top honors with a score of 49 points, Byron Center second with 64 points, followed by Rockford with 78 points.

Byrne set a PR with a time of 17.03, 15th place. Bromley was 29th, 17.47 (PR), Saylor, 31st, 17.51. Swayze and Marshall Huhn also ran PR’s with times of 18.08, 41st and 18.21, 46th. Claiming the last two varsity spots were Remur, 61st, 19.09 (PR) and Paul Fowler, 65th. The Red Arrows will begin OK White competition on September 7th at Riverside Park.



Red Arrows after placing first in the Baker Woods Invite last week.

Soccer fights off the heat

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Soaring temperatures, and a pair of non-conference games, met the Lowell boys soccer game last week.

The Red Arrows fell 4-1 to Spring Lake and 3-1 to Allendale. In the Spring Lake game, the Lakers scored four first half goals, with Lowell scoring in the second half on a feed from Jackson Liley to Ben Homolka. Homolka’s shot was shot, but Bryce Thompson volleyed the rebound in, with 14 minutes left in the game.

On the road, at Allendale, in a heat delayed game, the Red Arrows

found themselves down 1-0 after halftime. Lowell found the equalizer just minutes into the second half, on a goal by Jackson Liley. Both teams went back and forth, but it was Allendale who came into the game undefeated, who would find two quick goals to put the game away.

Lowell hosts Calvin Christian and West Michigan Aviation Academy this week, in more non-conference action, before starting off conference play next week.



Jace Dixon heads the ball away.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

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!

CAMPSITE WORD SEARCH

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

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

Guess Who?

I am a comedic actress born in Massachusetts on August 28, 1961. I was a member of an improv group before becoming a star of TV and film. I'm known for roles in "Legally Blonde" and "The White Lotus."

Answer: Jennifer Coolidge

CAMPSITE WORD SEARCH

CAMPFIRE	FLY	SLEEPING BAG
CAMPGROUND	GROUND COVER	SMORES
CANOPY	GUYLINES	SNOWBIRD
CARABINER	HIKE	STAKES
COWBOY CAMPING	KINDLING	TENT
DAYPACK	PAD	TINDER
DOME	POTABLE	

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to camping.

HITPC

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Pitch

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

CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between east and southeast

4. At right angles to a ship's length

9. William Penn's business partner

14. ___ de plume

15. Accomplished soccer coach

16. Bone cavities

17. ___ juris: independent

18. Popular Philly sandwich

20. Northern Ireland county

22. Performing artist

23. S S S

24. Lacks flavor

28. Commercials

29. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)

30. Qatar's capital

31. Indigenous peoples of Alberta

33. Popular footwear

37. Indicates position

38. Anglican cathedral

39. Aircraft part

41. Before

42. Blood group

43. Secretory organ

44 .Fencing swords

46. The small projection of a mammary gland

49. Technological advancement

50. Male parent

51. Dissociable

55. More cold

58. Cape Verde Islands capital

59. Blood disorder

60. Creative

64. Sun up in New York

65. Made angry

66. Relieves

67. Brooklyn hoopster

68. Seasonsings

69. Movable barriers

70. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur as a result of

2. Spiritual essences

3. Representative

4. Entering

5. Nobel Prize-winning physicist

6. Midway between northeast and east

7. Consumed

8. Tablelands

9. Kids' craft accessory

10. Not known

11. Sound directed through two or more speakers

12. A major division of geological time

13. Wild ox

19. Shock treatment

21. Turner and Lasso are two

24. Genus of flowering plants

25. Relating to ductless glands

26. Stock certificate

27. Satisfies

31. Places to enjoy a rest

32. Edward ___, author and writer

34. "___ but goodie"

35. One hundredth of a liter

36. Shabbiness

40. TV personality Roker

41. Triangular upper part of a building

45. Speed at which you move

47. Offend

48. A reference point to shoot at

52. Forays

53. Biblical city

54. Blatted

56. Northern sea duck

57. Shabby (slang)

59. Allege

60. Tax collector

61. Whereabouts unknown

62. Chinese philosophical principle

63. Indicates equal

obituaries

CATTANACH

Rosemarie (Rose) Greeno Cattanach passed into her Savior's arms on August 22, 2023, surrounded by her family. Rose was born to Mabel and Harry Wayne Greeno on February 26, 1952, and she married the love of her life, Warren Cattanach, on July 3, 1970. They were married for 32 years and had three children: Rachel, Shawn, and Becky. Rose loved being a wife and mother, and these were her greatest passions and achievements in life. She was quiet but worked hard behind the scenes serving in numerous ways throughout her life: Church secretary, AWANA secretary, 2's and 3's Sunday school teacher, genealogy book seller, FROM puzzle volunteer, and Alto Elementary classroom volunteer. When people served her, she always wanted to repay them in some way, and many received homemade cookies baked with love as thanks. She was a crafter, knitter, scrapbooker, avid genealogist, and loved putting puzzles together. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. Rose is survived by her children Rachel (Mike) Burgess, Shawn (Chrissy) Cattanach, Becky (Brian) Sappington, brother Carlyle Greeno, and her grandchildren Wesley and Shelby Cattanach. Visitation will be on Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 10am-12pm at Forest Hills Baptist Church, 3900 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 4954. Funeral service to follow at 12pm, Pastor Craig Perry officiating. Interment at Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to give to the Benevolent or Missions Support Funds at Forest Hills Baptist Church or Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM-Lowell)



gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

BARTON

Erwin Orr Barton of Lowell Michigan, passed away August 24, 2023. Erwin was born on January 3, 1944. He loved the Kent County 4H fair, where he volunteered as a clown during rodeos. He enjoyed drawing, painting, putting puzzles together, playing the harmonica and attending church. Erwin was also passionate about Pink Arrow Pride. He is survived and lovingly remembered by his guardian and niece Shawn Grant; siblings: Loren Barton, Harold (Pete) Barton, Gladys Powers, Clara (Russell) Marr, Susan (Juan) Posada; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded by his parents, Maynard and Mabel Barton. Visitation will be on Friday, September 1, 2023, from 10am-11am at Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E Main St, Lowell MI 49331. Funeral service to follow at 11 am Pastor Brad Brillhart officiating. Interment at Oakwood Cemetery. Family is asking that in honor of Erwin guests dress in jeans and a Pink Arrow Pride shirt or western style apparel. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Pink Arrow Pride, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell MI 49331.



gerst
FUNERAL CARE
Roth-Gerst

POTTER

Donna Jane Potter, age 80, of Lowell, MI passed away August 23, 2023. She was born on October 22, 1942 in Keene Township, MI, the daughter of Paul and Maxine (Dean) Potter. Donna graduated from Saranac High School, Class of 1961. She was a member of the Red Hat Society. She enjoyed her birds. Surviving are her brother, Bradley (Judith) Potter of Lowell; nieces and nephew, Dawn Potter of Lowell and Joy (Mike) Stevens of Dewitt; great niece and nephews, Arielle (Alan) Milano-League of Dewitt and Robert Milano II of Montana. She was preceded in death by her parents. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, August 30th, 11:00 AM at Lake Funeral Home in Saranac. Interment at Pinckney Cemetery. A visitation will be held Tuesday from 5-8 PM at the funeral home. Those wishing, may make memorial contributions to Donna's family. Arrangements in care of Lake Funeral Home of Saranac. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com



to the editor

Continued

Bonga pointed out, there has been very little police presence in monitoring and enforcing the traffic. I have seen the police parked at the Historical Museum monitoring northbound traffic on Hudson. The southbound traffic on Hudson is the main issue. I know the police need to cover other areas in the city and cannot be in all places at once, but I strongly feel, even a little more presence will have a greater impact on the respect for the speed limits and for the safety of residents and their properties. There have been four accidents on the corner of Hudson and Hunt in the last

few years, which caused injuries and property damage to three resident's properties, including damage to one's home and removal of a large tree that likely prevented a vehicle from causing more damage to their home. I'm hoping some action can be taken to prevent future accidents, damages and injuries. As Mr. Bonga also pointed out, this is very close to a school zone, where children and residents are at risk. I implore the City of Lowell to consider the addition of an electronic speed indicator and also a greater police presence on these streets.

Brian Kyllonen
Lowell

To the Editor:

There are a number of points I would agree with, that Senator Albert made in his August 24th letter to the voters in our district. I would like to hear the Senator's plan regarding the fact that the top 1% enjoy more wealth than the other 99% combined. I would like to see more invested in people. Returning the tax structures to that of the Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford Administrations would help to reduce the divisiveness being created by returning tax dollars to those already wealthy.

Jack Misner
Vergennes Township

To the Editor:

We are LL&P customers and live in the Lowell Community. We were home the evening of Thursday, August 24, when the 'Big Blow' came through the Lowell area. Our electrical power was disrupted for about one hour. It was restored at 10:00 pm. I understand that customers of other power providers are still waiting for their service to be restored. We are the lucky ones. Lowell Light & Power is the best!

Dave Simmonds
Lowell Township

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each additional sheet

the lowell ledger

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 23-213809-DE
Court address: 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Ph. 616-632-5440

Estate of Artimisisia Banks, deceased. Date of birth: June 20, 1955

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Artimisisia Banks, died July 13, 2023

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate

will be forever barred unless presented to Hai' Pasalah Duke, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

8/23/23

James G. Black (P10847)
100 Monroe Center NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-458-4253

Hai' Pasalah Duke
144 Brookmeadow Court,
Apt. 6
Grandville, MI 49418
616-885-0998

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 23-213731-DE

Court address: 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Ph. 616-632-5428

Estate of Lawrence E. Bardwell, Deceased, date of birth: 8/27/1959

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Lawrence E. Bardwell, died 7/16/2023

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims

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

3/14/2023

John T. Conroy (P43709)
410 Bridge St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-454-4119

Jeremy Bardwell
3922 Collinwood Ave. SW
Wyoming, MI 49519
616-788-8219

ABCs, continued

an opportunity to strike one blow in defense of liberty – sacrifices, nevertheless, to the cause. One of the number, Ira Nash, was accidentally shot by a comrade in the 6th inst., from the effects, he died on the 25th. During those weeks of suffering, he was a perfect embodiment of patience. He entertained no feelings of resentment toward his unfortunate comrade, who was the cause of his untimely death, but freely forgave. His brother [James] came on as soon as he heard of the accident, remained with him until he died, and then returned home with his remains to the young wife so soon left a widow, and the many friends who mourn their loss.”

After the war, the widowed Mary E. Blanding

Nash married James M. Althouse on November 9, 1867.

Ira Augustus Nash Jr. lived until 1937 and had 3 children. His son, Ira Alfred Nash, died in 1969, having no children. Ira Alfred Nash followed in his grandfather's footsteps, as he served in the military and was a veteran of the Mexican Expedition, World Wars I and II, and was a Chief Warrant Officer, U.S. Navy, Ret.

In 2012, a new gravestone was placed on Ira Nash's grave in the Krum - Blanding Cemetery, Vergennes Township, through the efforts of Alan Teelander and Lowell Granite. Teelander's goal “is that they will be remember and honored.”

Lowell Little League seeks new volunteers

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

With children gathering to practice, Tuesday, August 22 saw the beginning to Lowell Little League’s fall session. Though the league has seen significant increases in participation from area children, the 100 percent volunteer-run organization still has need of help to make this season memorable. Tim VanLann is the current president of Lowell Little League.

“As you get more players, you need more and more people to help out,” VanLann said.

VanLann grew up playing Little League baseball, and he later played high school ball here in Lowell, as well. Before his two years as president, VanLann spent seven years volunteering in the very positions that he is looking to fill for this season. He has also joined former Lowell Little League President, Mike Minier, on the Lowell Youth Sports Foundation board. VanLann has a few years left in him, as his youngest son just aged into the Little League program, but a number of other leaders have children who have aged out of the program. VanLann’s challenge is to recruit new people to do the work those parents were previously doing.

At this point, VanLann noted that he is recruiting for all positions. Though concession workers are most needed, he also needs people to cover registration, get pictures with a photographer, schedule practices and games, schedule and pay umpires, and get the fields prepped daily. He also forecasts two board members stepping down in the next year, and he would like to get some people to shadow them this year so they can take over.

“We continue to have record numbers every year,” VanLann said. “More and more people are doing it.”

Unlike many youth activities, VanLann has not witnessed parents simply dropping their kids off to Little League as if it were a babysitter. Parents are showing up, and they are cheering on their children, but many just have not felt the call to step-up yet.

In 2021, Lowell Little League counted 359 participants, which grew to 384 in 2022, and 417 this year, and the majority of growth comes from the youngest age group. More 5 and 6-year-olds are joining the organization than additional players joining at later ages. Though VanLann would love to see volunteer growth wherever it comes from, he sees the parents

of the newest players as the biggest opportunity for the organization. On the one hand, it makes sense for volunteer growth to be sourced from the families responsible for player growth. On the other hand, parents of 5 and 6-year-olds could solve both immediate and long-term concerns for volunteers. The barrier, it seems, is a lack of familiarity with others involved, compounded by a lack of experience doing the work in question.

VanLann talked about a hypothetical parent who knows nothing about baseball, never played sports themselves, and feels incredibly underqualified for any of the roles in question, a hypothetical parent, who may or may not perfectly align with the description of a particular reporter for the *Lowell Ledger*, who interviewed him.

“Good or bad, we try to, as much as possible, help them if they say, ‘I’m willing to coach, but I don’t know how,’” VanLann said. “We try to give them the tools and let them run a practice.”

For parents starting out with the organization, VanLann is much more interested in participation than knowledge. The knowledge will come. Parents can learn the ins and outs of the game as they go. Someone with no experience at all would likely fulfill the role of assistant coach, working alongside someone who has coached before, until such a time as they are confident enough to take on a lead role. This makes coaching accessible to just about anybody, and leadership elsewhere, like at work or at a place of worship, is a bonus.

If a coaching position is accessible to someone with no sports experience, other roles like scheduling and equipment sorting are all the more accessible. The concession stand, where VanLann needs the most help, runs off of a sign up sheet, which means that a parent could volunteer for just one shift every season and make a difference. If someone with no experience can step in and qualify for any role in the organization from top-to-bottom, there are even fewer barriers for folks who have played sports before in their youth, participated in Little League in other towns, or who have experience in leadership, customer service, accounting, and the like.

The coaches have the biggest time commitment, with three days a week devoted to practicing and playing games, but it is possible to work the

concession-stand once, set-up the field once, or put away equipment once, and there are a number of duties in between like scheduling, sorting equipment, managing teams, setting up the batting order, and keeping kids in line in the dugout.

For those interested in volunteering, it is as easy as reaching out to one of the board officers using their contact information on the Lowell Little League website at lllmi.com. Informally, parents can flag-down other volunteers at a game to get involved, as well. Many families are busy with other commitments and sometimes working multiple jobs because of the effects of the current economy, and VanLann acknowledges that external factors such as these may make it difficult



Lowell Little League seeks new volunteers to keep up with the needs of a growing organization. Many existing volunteers have children who are aging out of the Little League system, and Lowell Little League president Tim VanLann is working hard to fill those shifts.

to participate as much as some would like. However, VanLann is a father of four—Levi (14), Sam (12), Noelle (11), and Asher (5

soon)—and he has found time to be the president, and it is not necessary to jump into heavy involvement either. Parents who sign

up for one shift doing any work, no matter how small it may seem, are making a big difference in a child’s life.

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