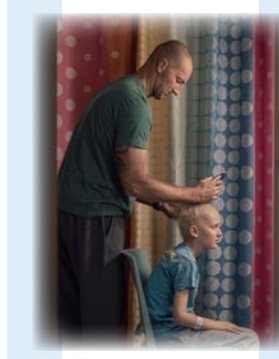


Stories of Perseverance



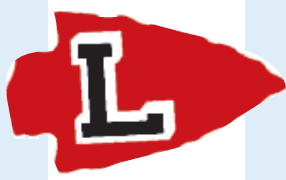
pages 9-12

Movie Review



page 4

Lowell Area Schools Sports



page 10, 11 & 16

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New middle school unveiled

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

On Tuesday, August 29, Lowell Area Schools held a ribbon-cutting event for the newly constructed middle school building on Foreman. The event, which featured speeches from Superintendent, Nate Fowler, and middle school Principal, Abby Wiseman, was followed by an open house, where members of the community could take a tour of the new building.

The new middle school was one of many projects greenlit by the district, following a school bond that Lowell voters approved in May of 2019. Other bond-funded constructions included an expansion at Alto Elementary, brand new tennis courts at the high school’s North athletic complex, and a new drive at Murray Lake Elementary. Fowler was also happy



The new Lowell Middle School building on Foreman.

Middle School
continued page 2

Market on Main this Saturday; the biggest one yet

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

During the Covid pandemic, it started with ten vendors. This week’s Market on Main, on Sat., Sept. 9, will be the biggest one yet. “It’s a lot of work but fun watching this event grow,” said Emma Matthew,

organizer and owner of Lavender and Lace Boutique.

All vendors are local and go through an application process to be a part of the event. Stores on Main Street will also have sidewalk sales and deals in their stores, during the event. “We welcome everyone and everything,” Matthew said. “We look at each application that is submitted to make sure we don’t have a plethora of certain items, but for the most part, everyone is accepted.” Applications are accepted until two weeks before the event. Currently, there is a 50-limit cap on the vendor list.

“As of right now we try to keep everything on Main Street since the event is called “Market on Main,” Matthew said.

The hope is to continue to grow and bring more



Shops on Main Street will be a part of this Saturday’s Market on Main, from 10 to 5 pm.

Market on
continued page 19

Rebuild Creekside Kingdom is live

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

On Monday, August 21, the Lowell City Council approved a new design for Creekside Kingdom, and with that approval, the Rebuild Creekside Kingdom project, headed by Lowell Rotary members Theresa Mundt and Cody Chambers, began in earnest. Within days, Rotarians had established a Rebuild Creekside Kingdom Facebook page, an email address, and an entire public campaign.

Built in 1994, with the assistance of the greater Lowell community, Creekside Kingdom, with its castle-inspired wooden playground, has drawn people to Lowell from far and wide. However, during the past few years, some families have reported more occurrences of bumped heads, slivers and falls. According to an article earlier this year on the Cabinfield Blog, playground equipment

constructed, like Creekside Kingdom, using treated wood, traditionally, only lasts 15-20 years. “It exceeded its lifespan,” Chambers concurred. “The goal is to use the new one for the next 30 years.”

Mundt, who served as the foreman on the original Creekside Kingdom project, explained that she applied for a \$2,400 LCTV grant in February in order to get the current facilities assessed. The assessors gave her a 52-page document that detailed every existing feature at Creekside Kingdom and rated its condition. As expected, much of the playground’s equipment did not meet current expectations, but nothing was so bad to prompt an immediate closing. Mundt wishes to replace the existing playground before

Creekside Kingdom,
continued page 20

Middle School
continued page 16

Dave Palma is the new KDL Regional Manager II

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Dave Palma, who has been working with the Kent District Library since 2015, believes that librarians are more than just smart bookworms. “I heard somebody say that librarians have bigger brains but bigger hearts,” said Dave Palma.

Palma is the new KDL Regional Manager II, replacing Kurt Lardie (now Regional Manager I), and will be responsible for managing both the Alto and Englehardt (Lowell) Libraries. “I will handle mostly everything inside the building at Englehardt and the Alto branches. I’ll be dealing with circulation and making sure that staff has everything it needs, and we can serve the public as best as possible. I’ll be working

with shelvers, as well as our assistant branch librarians – those will be my direct reports, making sure we are providing the best service we can, as well as taking on the inside the branch needs.”

Before he got involved with Kent District Libraries, Palma worked with youth in at risk populations. He has always enjoyed working with children and teens, so when a position opened up for a teen paraprofessional at the Cascade Library, he jumped at the chance. “I had my English degree from GVSU and the position showed up online; I knew I could do it and was hired over at Cascade and spent a lot of time over the last eight years developing a strong love of the library and implementing lots of different programs and

systems checks,” said Palma.

Palma grew up in Caledonia and now lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Rachel, and their two children, so he knows the Lowell area well. Even so, his number one goal is to meet many residents of Lowell and Alto and provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. He feels the most important part of being a librarian is serving the people. “When a patron walks into the building, we’re not expecting them to buy something in order to hang out and use the materials,” said Palma. “Those are already paid for and so to be able to provide services to the community is awesome. I absolutely love to provide a little bit of whimsy, especially with

the youth programs, and just trying to figure out how to make kids and adults smile.”

Palma also wants to continue to change the perception that librarians are stern disciplinarians, always trying to keep people quiet. In fact, he is proud of his staff’s friendly nature. “Every team member I work with absolutely loves people. They’re all very intelligent and have different areas of focus, but we all love people,” said Palma. “We want to orient ourselves as more of a community hub and we’re here for everybody.”

He is hoping the people of Lowell and Alto will take advantage of all the wonderful programs the libraries have to offer. Sure, there is a vast array of books



Dave Palma. Photo courtesy of KDL’s website.

one can find, but there is so much more, including one of the largest E-libraries in the country. Also, they try their best to tailor what they have to offer, based on the needs and wants of the people they serve. “What we do really reflects on what the community wants,” said Palma. “We just had an amazing summer. We had alligators and animal programs, as well as looking at trends, and we do this KDL lab program, which is tailored for our school-aged kids and one of them is ‘It’s a Me Mario’ program, and recognizing here are some of the pop culture trends so we can capture that excitement and tailor programs that kids and adults will enjoy. Another thing that we do

is try to fill-in gaps for the population that really needs help with getting their smart phones worked out and ready to go. Also, this summer we partnered with Feeding America. We gave out lunches, Monday through Friday, for kids under the age of 18. Again, orienting ourselves as a community resource.”

To find out more about what your library has to offer, visit the Alto or Lowell branch in person, reach out to the KDL phone line at 616-784-2007, or visit their website at kdl.org. “Overall, I am really excited to be here and to have a small chapter to add to a wonderful library system,” said Palma.

Elder Abuse: combating injustice

By Hillary Hatch,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Elder abuse is the intentional mistreatment or harming of an older person. An older person is defined by the Social Security Act as someone over age 60. This abuse takes many forms – including physical, emotional, and sexual harm, neglect, and financial exploitation. More than 1 in 10 older adults experience some form of abuse each year. That number is likely much higher because elder abuse is often under-reported– especially in under-served communities.

Abuse victims typically show emotional and behavioral red flags, such as depression, unusual fear or anxiety, or intentional isolation. Many victims are abused by someone they know or trust. It’s important to look for unusual changes in behavior around:

- Family members
- Staff at inpatient facilities
- Hired or volunteer caregivers

People in positions of trust like doctors or financial advisors

You can also help make a difference by checking in with older loved ones. Looking for warning signs of mistreatment is the first step to preventing abuse. Signs of physical abuse include bruises, burns, or other unexplained injuries.

There may also be signs of neglect like:

- Poor nutrition or hygiene
- Lack of necessary medical aids like glasses or medications that a caretaker should be providing

There may also be indications of financial abuse. These may include:

- Unpaid rent
- Sudden changes to a will
- Unusual changes in money management
- Large, unexplained financial transactions
- Mortgages despite sufficient financial resources
- Allowing someone new to access bank accounts
- If you suspect that

someone is a victim of elder abuse, don’t ignore it! If you or someone you care about is in a life-threatening situation, call 911. If you suspect that something isn’t right – but nobody seems to be in immediate danger – contact:

Y o u r local Adult Protective Services at www.napsa-now.org/help-in-your-area.

T h e National Center on Elder Abuse at 1-855-500-3537 (ELDR).

You can also find additional local resources by searching the Eldercare Locator for your community at eldercare.acl.gov/Public/index.aspx.

Take some time to call or visit with an older adult. Ask if they are okay and listen to what they tell you. Pay attention to signs of abuse or unusual behavior. Most of all, don’t be afraid to report instances of suspected abuse. Please share this information with those who need it.



Rotary

The Lowell Rotary Club will be holding a charity auction on April 19, 2024. Local non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit project ideas that the proceeds of the auction can help support. Ideas may be submitted to PO Box 223, Lowell, MI. If you have any questions, email us at info@lowellrotary.org. The deadline for submitting is September 30th.

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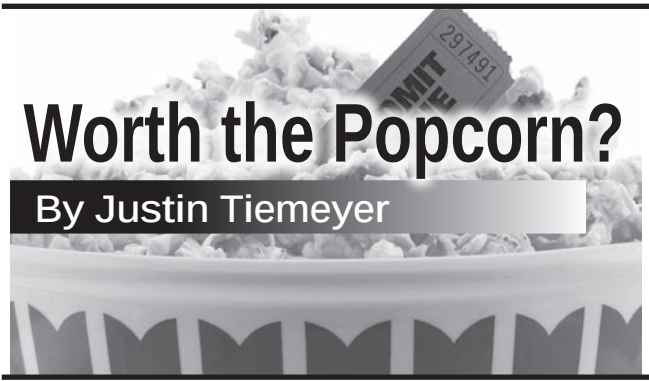
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Worth the Popcorn?

By Justin Tiemeyer

Blue Beetle REVIEW

When Jaime Reyes (Xolo Maridueña) returns home to Palmera City with a pre-law degree from Gotham Law University, he believes he will get a great job and rescue his family from their struggles. At the airport, his sister Milagro (Belissa Escobedo) hits him with a dose of reality. Following their father Alberto’s (Damián Alcázar) heart attack, they had to close-down the shop, and now the family is going to lose their home. Jaime’s family kept these details from him because they did not want to spoil his college experience; instead, the tragedy spoiled his prospects, because Jaime was forced to join his

sister doing embarrassing, menial labor to support the family, as opposed to making preparations for a career in law. When the two siblings take a cleaning job at Kord Industries, fate delivers Jaime an ancient alien artifact, shaped like an Egyptian scarab, that transforms him into a superhero called the Blue Beetle.

Blue Beetle is by no means a perfect movie, but it is a powerful movie. Xolo Maridueña is green—his only feature film credit, prior to *Blue Beetle*, is the 2013 film, *Dealin’ with Idiots* — and his acting leaves much to be desired, but he is an incredibly

likable protagonist with a great smile and a powerful screen presence. The film also has the subtlety of a Tyler Perry film. The Reyes family openly discusses the ways the world works against Mexican-American families like theirs, and they face off against white industrialist Victoria Kord (Susan Sarandon), whose ascent into villainy never fully makes sense. However, like Tyler Perry, who is often cited as one of the only filmmakers to pay black and brown actors fairly, writer Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer and director Ángel Manuel Soto put a lot of effort into correctly representing the lives of their characters, and it begins and ends with family.

Jaime’s family feels a bit too kooky at times. His uncle Rudy, played by George Lopez, is a conspiracist who will not exit his vehicle at the airport because of government surveillance, and he notably believes that Batman is a fascist. The rest of his family is a slightly toned-down Rudy, at least, for the vast

majority of the film, but on a moment’s notice they pull together to take care of one another. Rudy, in particular, is a great help to his nephew Jaime, and the moments where he puts his life on the line for the boy, pull on the heart strings. There are certainly stereotypes at play here, but there is also a core of heart that only a couple of superhero films have ever touched upon, specifically, Chris Evans as Cap in *Captain America: The First Avenger*, Anthony Mackie as Falcon in *The Winter Soldier*, and Chadwick Boseman as King T’Challa in *Black Panther*. As such, the creators challenge the audience to examine their prejudices to see the real people beneath the generalizations.

As for Susan Sarandon’s one-dimensional depiction of Victoria Kord, it works a little bit better after analyzing the themes of the movie, and a lot better after examining the state of cinema upon the movie’s release. To say that a wealthy business owner, like Victoria, is out of touch with the needs of common people is the understatement of the decade. She simply does not care, claiming that everything is for the greater good, but never explaining whose greater good. She uses poor, suffering people against poor, suffering people, constantly playing out a family rivalry with her dead brother and using the people of Palmera City as pieces in her game. One might roll one’s eyes at the fact that Kord is not a fully developed character, but it is hard to avoid the feeling that this is what wealthy American business people are truly like. Warner Brothers, under the leadership of Discovery CEO David Zaslav, has paid writers less than minimum wage for streaming content, threatened to replace them with AI, and canned completed projects like *Batgirl* and *Scoob 2* for

tax write-offs. The film and television industries are at a standstill because of protests for fair terms, and executives are photographed on yachts, strategizing to run their employees out-of-house-and-home to get their way. For most viewers, the difference between Zaslav and Kord is merely cosmetic. Unfortunately, it is already clear from a dismal opening weekend that internal

happened with *Shazam! Fury of the Gods*. Others have completely abandoned the franchise, claiming Warner Brothers is a den of bigots and criminals, a movement that came to a head after actor Ezra Miller was accused of abusing indigenous teens. In the middle of this is *Blue Beetle*, an incredibly fun, feel-good superhero film. What it lacks in connectivity with a broader universe; it makes



struggle within Warner Brothers has sealed the fate of *Blue Beetle*. Originally created as part of the DC Extended Universe (DCEU), *Blue Beetle* was scrubbed of references to Henry Cavill’s Superman, Ben Affleck’s Bruce Wayne, Gal Gadot’s Wonder Woman, and their exploits over the past decade, leaving only loose references to the Batman, Superman, and Flash of a previous era, a Golden Age, one might say. Many DC film viewers, when questioned, were confused as to whether or not *Blue Beetle* is part of the new DCU, following a recent reset in *The Flash*, and many have noted a lack of promotion similar to what

up for in connectivity with one’s own family as a source of power.

Unless more people take the time to see *Blue Beetle* in the theaters, it will fall victim to the opening-weekend box-office feedback loop. For reasons currently unclear—Warner Brothers has blamed underperformance on the tropical storm in Southern California, where “the film is over-indexing”—not many people went to see *Blue Beetle* opening weekend, resulting in low box-office numbers, and people will see this as a sign of low quality, wait for streaming or skip it, and cause further low box-office numbers. In other words, because of how the industry works, someone’s pre-movie hunch will determine the quality of the film and the quantity of money it rakes in, and that is unfortunate. Like *Green Lantern*, another imperfect film that underperformed at box offices despite oodles of promise, *Blue Beetle* is actually the perfect place to start the new DCU.

In the comics, the *Blue Beetle* scarab is an artifact of a broad alien empire called The Reach, named as such because of its expansive intergalactic influence. Where the original DCEU

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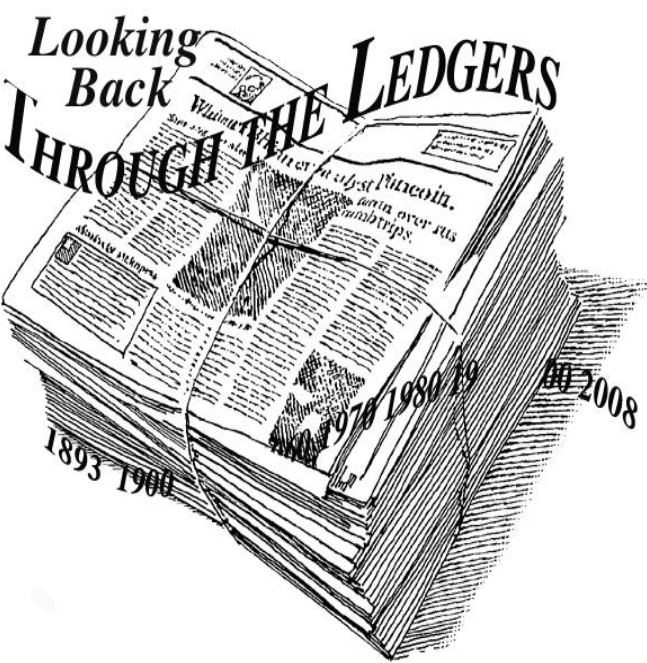
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Movie review,
continued page 8

viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal September 3, 1873

The miracle washing machine is going door-to-door in town, doing sample washes. It performs so well that H.A. Rice, ex-pres. of the Lowell National Bank, pays \$6,500 for the Michigan and Wisconsin territories.

Elder Smith of New York will give a series of prophetic lectures at Train's Hall on the 5th, 6th and 7th.

Col. Merrill, engineer, will be building the Kalamazoo, Lowell and Northern Michigan RR through Lowell soon, on his way north.

The printer, Frank Hathaway, last week spilled type all over, liberated money from the Journal till, bought a hat on credit to the editor and took the train to Grand Rapids. The editor publishes his description.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 8, 1898

Lowell celebrates the return of Spanish-American War veterans Clarence Long, Hayes Roth, Bert Fenning and Sherman Reynolds; Ulman Hawk is already home recovering from illness and Morris Lang, Robert Dickerson and Robert Jones are still in the hospital.

Six buildings on the south side of Main Street in Saranac burn down; only one covered by insurance.

James Lyon, of Vergennes, is elected chairman of the Kent County Democratic Convention. An excellent ticket but the crowd was disorderly.

Enos & Bradfield start-up a new evaporator on the south side of town (used for drying apples.)

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 6, 1923

New President, Calvin Coolidge, says he will carry-out deceased President Warren Harding's program. He is living in a hotel until the White House is made ready for him.

Yellowstone Park opens for the 51st year.

Phone 250 and Shaw's Grocery will deliver your order of fruits and vegetables to your door.

The Michigan State Telephone Co. (Bell Telephone) buys out the Citizens Telephone Co. in Grand Rapids for a bit less than \$4 million, the largest deal in Grand Rapids history.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 2, 1948

Michigan's first contingent of war babies starts to school, making the 120,000-odd kindergartners the largest class in history.

The annual Board of Trade picnic drew 500 from Lowell and surroundings, a bigger crowd than usual.

Michigan State parks will remain open after Labor Day, as long as weather and attendance holds up.

Living in the country and commuting to city jobs is possible now and desirable.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life September 6, 1973

The West Central Michigan Historical Society sponsors the first Fallasburg Fall Festival, in Fallasburg Park and the Fallasburg Village school.

Sculptor Charles C. Parks is commissioned to produce life-size statues of Amway founders, Richard DeVos and Jay VanAndel.

The new middle school opens, along with a high school addition.

Kent County purchases its first four E-units.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 9, 1998

Lowell Historic District Commission releases \$30,000 in grant money. Awarding of grant money seen as a first step in securing the downtown's features. Some recipients are: Lowell Beer Store, Lowell Serenity, Old Strand Theater, Springgrove Variety, Cranberry Urn, Salon 206, Cousins Hallmark, Main Street Antiques, White Swan, Chapman Ins., Shorebird, Old Pippi's Playhouse.

Lowell was one of two area schools to jump the gun

on the start of the 1998 Michigan high school football season. The Red Arrows hosted Ionia on Thursday at Red Arrow Stadium. Lowell was on the winning end of a 41-6 blowout.

Lowell Area Arts Council selects 75 artists for the 30th Annual Fallasburg Fall Festival, to be held on Sept. 26 and 27.

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capitol matters

**Sen.
Thomas Albert**
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Conservative principles resumed

(Note: This is the third of a four-part series)

A lot of ground was covered in my two previous installments, which sought to answer the question, "What does conservatism mean to you?" For a framework on addressing this hard-to-pin-down subject, I am referring to Russell Kirk, the great 20th Century conservative thinker from Michigan.

The first four principles common to conservatism – belief in a moral order, variety, justice and freedom – have been discussed earlier. We now turn to Kirk's next three conservative principles of divided government, experience and community.

The fifth principle common to conservatives will be reminiscent to anyone who has taken a high school civics class. In order to prevent any individual or group from becoming too powerful, it is prudent to divide the functions of government. This is achieved by a clearly outlined constitution with separation of powers and a federalist governance to support decentralization.

Separation of powers is achieved in our country by dividing the legislative, executive and judicial functions. The person enforcing the laws must not be the same person writing them. Additionally, the person making judgments on the validity of laws must be insulated from outside influence.

On top of that, federalism allows the federal government only certain powers prescribed in the Constitution, while reserving the remaining governance to the state. The more power is decentralized to local institutions, the better. Tyrannous

**Capital Matters,
continued page 8**

We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

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



At Your Local Library



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

ToddlerTime

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

Storytime

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

KDL Lab Experience: Techtropolis

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

Chess Anyone?

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

Book Worms Book Club

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

Cider Making 101

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Vander Mill’s staff share the cider making process, best practices and a taste of fresh-pressed apples (depending on pressed apple availability). For adults 21+

Teddy Bear Check-Up

Thursday, Sept. 21, 10-11 am. Bring your favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal to a check-up visit where you’re the doctor! With eye charts, stethoscopes and even band-aids for boo-boos, your stuffie will be healthy and happy by the time they leave. For ages 0-5.

Teen Advisory Board

Thursday, Sept. 21, 4-5 pm. Teens ages 11-17 are invited to meet with a teen librarian to develop teen programs, discuss teen books and make sure that our teen space is as fun and functional as possible. Students ages 14+ can apply for additional volunteer opportunities. For ages 11-17.

ABCs of Lowell history

The ABCs of Lowell History is back for another round. This popular series explores a wide variety of topics in Lowell area history in weekly online articles. Information provided by the Lowell Area Historical Museum

O is for Odd Fellows

During the mid-to-late 1800’s in Lowell, Fraternities were a popular way to serve the community in philanthropic ways, while socializing and having a great time. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is an international fraternity consisting of local lodges. As only men could be Odd Fellows, there was a sister lodge for women, named The Rebekahs. The local lodge was the Island City Rebekah Lodge #282.

The symbol of the I.O.O.F. was the triple links, a recurring symbol among Odd Fellows internationally, connoting the motto of “Amicitia Amor et Veritas” or “Friendship, Love and Truth.”

The earliest Lodge in Lowell was the I.O.O.F. Harmony Lodge No. 146, organized in 1871. They met in the old Masonic Hall.

Later, on February 15, 1893, Lowell Lodge No. 115 of the I.O.O.F. was begun with six charter members. Those were Charles McCarty, J.W. Broadbent, J.C. Ball, W.F. Adams, James Nicklin and A.O. Heydlauff. They met at Music Hall 313-315 E. Main, and it was estimated that 800 people were present, with Delegations attending from all over the state. It was reported that the



new lodge promised to be one of the most prosperous lodges in the county. At this time, it was stated that Lowell claimed more members of secret orders than any city in the state. The I.O.O.F. planned a grand encampment at the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago, and the statewide leadership met here in Lowell to plan the encampment.

Before 1911, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs had moved to the third floor of the ‘Booth Block’ which was the building at 214 East Main. In 1911, they

added onto their lodge by leasing the second floor. Businesses operated out of the first floor, a convenient separate entrance for the lodge led directly from the street to the upstairs. This larger facility enabled them to have banquets and large meetings. They were able to purchase the building in 1927. By 1931, as recorded in the Lowell Centennial Book, the membership had grown to 140.

The Odd Fellows sought to better their community. They held blood drives, sponsored

boys and girls camps, and other community services over the years. They would hold events for education, inspiration, and fellowship. Lowell was a common host of county-wide events. Island Park, in the Flat River just south of Main Street, was a favorite site during warm weather. In 1938, over 100 people enjoyed the county-wide meeting of Odd Fellows

ABCs,
continued page 16

area churches

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M a c K e n z i e
VanDerWarf, Gloria Morris,
Karah Baker.

SEPTEMBER 11
Sean Ellis, Justin
VanDyke, Susan Barry.

SEPTEMBER 8
Teresa Kenney, Papa
Wilson, Brendan Lobbezoo.

SEPTEMBER 12
Deborah Claypool,
Nathan Propst, Jim Smith,
Tyler Bitterman, Bob Lind.

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Cook, Allison Mahovic,
Linda Morrison, Charles
Gee, Todd Lenneman.

SEPTEMBER 13
Randy McIntyre, Gloria
Ossewaarde, Haley Briggs.

SEPTEMBER 10
Brecken Hendrick,
Chris Gerard.

The surprising prevalence of river otters in West Michigan

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

Roselle Park in Ada Village is a 240-acre nature preserve, purchased in 2002 from the Ada Beef Company. Adjacent to the parking lot, a pair of silos remain, but they’ve been transformed into a climbing wall and an observation deck, surrounded by playground equipment. This is also a great access to Roselle Park’s trail system, which is great for walkers, runners, and bikers alike. As the primary paved trail crosses over its first stream, there is an opportunity to see a wide variety of wildlife, from frogs to grasshoppers and dragonflies, and occasionally, it is possible to see otters.

See, otters, not sea otters. These are not the same otters people read about on Vox or Buzzfeed, with disturbing kinks and a

would be obvious. Muskrats look rigid and hunched; they cross bodies of water the way a pioneer fords a river in *The Oregon Trail*, whereas otters force watchers to anthropomorphize them, because it is impossible to see them play in the water and not imagine that they, too, feel joy. It would be helpful if easy internet access raised river-otter awareness, but, alas, it has only confused the matter, as many photos of muskrats, river otters, and sea otters are mislabeled, so a search of “river otter” could just as easily result in the wrong photo, as the right one.

For the people of Lowell, it may be time to challenge the preconceptions that river otters are rare or nonexistent in the waters of Michigan. Residents have seen otters throughout the watershed of the Grand and

their presence in a freshwater ecosystem is a sign of good water quality. In an article for *Bridge Michigan*, reporter John Hartig wrote that otters have begun to return to the Detroit River ecosystem after an absence of more than 100 years. He described their reappearance as “a hopeful sign of improving watershed conditions,” after decades of industrial waste and stormwater runoff contributed high levels of bacteria, PCBs, hydrocarbons, metals, oils, and grease into the system. The Grand River has experienced oil spills, high PFAS levels, and a number of other contaminants, over the past few decades as well, but the otters are here to suggest that mitigation of these contaminants has been, at the very least, moderately successful.

In fact, river otters are abundant enough in Michigan that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources condones otter trapping for the purpose of fur harvesting, a habit that previously lead to river otter scarcity, following European settlement of Michigan. In West Michigan, residents may trap river otters from November 10 through April 26—nonresidents have to wait until December 15 to start—with a two otter bag limit. To trap and kill otters, residents must acquire a fur harvester license and request free kill tags for otters. Once caught, trapped otters must be brought to a DNR station for registration.

“We trap many [otters] every year,” said Ricky Nienhuis. Michael Bryan shared the same sentiment. “They’re all over the Grand River system. I’ve trapped a handful over the years out of there.”

In a post titled “otter watch” in the Lowell MI Community Chatter Facebook group, one resident questioned why one would trap a river otter. Some of the first European settlers in Michigan were fur traders in the mid-1600s, which means the habit of trapping aquatic furbearers like, otters and especially beavers, has been a tradition for nearly 400



A trail cam photo of a river otter, courtesy of Teresa Michalski.

years. However, precedent is rarely a sufficient moral grounding—trapping was a means by which settlers survived, and sometimes even thrived, but it was a habit adopted before Michigan had a Walmart, McDonalds, or FedEx footprint. Furthermore, in many areas, like Detroit, for example, river otters were extirpated, or made regionally extinct, due to these hunting and trapping practices. John Hartig is a Detroit Riverfront Conservancy board member and former manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. “They were gone,” Hartig said in an interview with Detroit News reporter Carol Thompson, “and they were gone for a long time.”

Some chatterers suggested, albeit a bit sarcastically, that trapping otters keeps the people of Lowell safe from these dangerous predators, and articles were shared referencing a woman who nearly lost her eye in an otter attack and a Montana otter who attacked three women on inner tubes. However, each article noted how rare otter attacks are. Data suggests that one would be much safer avoiding humans than avoiding otters. Since 1875, there have only ever been 59 documented attacks by otters, worldwide. Compare that to the 5.1

million humans assaulted by other humans each year, just in the United States, and one finds that more people are assaulted by other humans, worldwide, every few minutes, than have been assaulted by otters in the past 150 years.

Darrell Ehrlick, of the *Daily Montanan*, stated the rarity of river otter attacks clearly, if a bit hyperbolically, when he wrote, “The three women who were recently attacked by an otter, while floating on the Jefferson River near Three Forks, stood about a near-equal chance of being charged by an angry unicorn.” Sarcasm aside, there is no clear and present need to defend oneself from otters. Most trappers just sell the fur or have them mounted by taxidermists.

If one thing is clear about the river otter population in Lowell, it is that they are elusive. A handful of people

have witnessed them on the rivers and trails of Lowell, but photographs have been extremely rare. Aside from one trail cam photo and a handful of candid pics that many believed were actually of muskrats, the most common physical evidence of the existence of river otters in the area comes from trappers who have photographed their kills. This is not to say that folks in the area should take to the rivers in boats loaded down with equipment the way fishers and hunters did in the 1975 film *Jaws*, but watching a few YouTube videos about the differences between beavers, muskrats, and otters and keeping a cell phone handy for pictures, while in the wild, is not a bad idea. To paraphrase an old Capital One commercial, it costs \$22.00 to see two river otters at John Ball Zoo, but a photo of a river otter in the wild: priceless.



Ricky Nienhuis poses with a trapped river otter.

pendant for ultraviolence. Those so-called “fur monsters” are sea otters, or river otters from warmer climates, like the giant river otter of South America. The type of otters endemic to the state of Michigan, are North American river otters, and the river otter at Roselle Park is happy to announce its existence, diving and barrel-rolling, seemingly for the entertainment of the children who have gathered.

“Look, an otter!” one child proclaims, and his mother quickly corrects him. “That’s a muskrat,” she says, but it is not. The child’s mother is likely operating with a worldview that river otters cannot be found this far north. After a little bit of research, it

Flat Rivers. Olivia Geiger reported seeing an otter crossing M-21, from the dam to the Riverwalk. She was driving, or else she said she would have snapped a photo. Teresa Michalski even caught a picture of an otter on a trail cam far away from the river. Otters are, without a doubt, a part of the greater Lowell ecosystem, and for many, an otter-sighting garners the same sense of pride and wonder as seeing a bald eagle in the sky.

Even if river otters looked disgusting and monstrous, there would still be reason to celebrate an otter sighting. The North American river otter is considered an indicator species, or bellwether, and

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Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
August 14, 2023

Motions Approved:

1. Proposals from IT company Kore-HiCom.

2. Authorization to Township Supervisor to sign the SLBA Grant Agreement.

3. Resolution 2023-014 establishing township property tax rates for 2023.



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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

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Capital Matters, continued

rulers cannot manifest if power is prevented from centralization.

The sixth conservative principle recognizes the wisdom which is gained through experience.

Arguably, the best explanation of this principle is “Chesterton’s Gate.” G.K. Chesterton wrote about two men who walked upon a gate in a road. The “modern” reformer saw no use for the gate and wanted to tear it down. The “intelligent” reformer said he would only let it be torn down after its original use was discovered.

This position was justified by explaining that, among other things, it was highly unlikely a person escaped from an insane asylum and erected a gate. Chesterton was illustrating the point that, in the past, the gate was determined useful, and there is wisdom in that past experience.

Popular culture today takes great effort to undermine our past traditions, customs and institutions. Only a fool looks to dismiss the past because certain actors or actions

fail to meet our current standards of perfection. The opposite extreme, of blindly continuing on a certain path because one did so yesterday, is equally as foolish. There is wisdom in understanding our American experience and applying lessons learned as we go forward.

The seventh conservative principle acknowledges the importance of local institutions in forming a community. The institutions in which we spend most

of our time are where we develop relationships and a sense of togetherness. This is most easily exemplified in churches, but there is no shortage of local associations to which this could apply. Through these connections, people can better identify the needs of individuals to make a more vibrant community as a whole.

The conservative understands that the greatest threat to local community is centralization. Russell Kirk summarized this

best when he wrote, “[conservatives] know that collectivism means the end of the real community, substituting uniformity for variety and force for willing cooperation.” When one thinks of a socialist community, an image comes to mind of the dreary apartment buildings behind the “Iron Curtain.” The uniform cement monstrosities were designed for utility, not for fostering community.

As one can now see, there is great meaning

behind the philosophy of “conservatism.” On both sides of the aisle, the term is often misapplied or overgeneralized today. Even if one does not wish to ascribe to this set of beliefs, I hope one at least sees the value in understanding where conservatism is coming from.

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



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Setting Relationship Boundaries

All relationships have boundaries. They are critical in order for others to know what is and isn’t okay in terms of behavior, communication, and treatment toward you. If

you are not sure how to start setting healthy boundaries, below is a list of the top categories in which people set boundaries and some suggestions for getting started.

Boundary Categories

If you are having relationship challenges it may be a good time to review your boundaries to see if you may need to add or change existing ones. If healthy boundaries are not in place, others may not realize they are doing something that hurts you or makes you uncomfortable.

- **Physical** – this includes your personal space, body, and privacy. If you are not okay with someone hugging you, that is a boundary. So, if someone steps in for a hug you don’t want, simply back up and say something like “I appreciate that you are a hugger but I’m not comfortable with hugging.” This is an example of a healthy boundary.

- **Emotional** – how much or little you share your feelings and personal information and with whom. Balance is key. Not over-sharing, but not under-sharing either.

- **Sexual** – Be clear with your partner as to what is and isn’t okay. Speaking up and clearly communicating is critical for healthy intimacy, including what you need from your partner.

- **Intellectual** – What are your thoughts and beliefs, and what are you comfortable sharing with others? This includes being respectful of and open to others opinions, beliefs, and ideas.

- **Financial** - You work hard for your money, so put boundaries in place about loaning money, gift giving, etc. Some boundaries that can be unhealthy include the need to give expensive gifts or always bailing others out of financial crisis. Why, because it may be low self-worth or a savior-complex issue.

- **Material items** – are you okay with loaning out items or not? Do you give away things you no longer want, donate them, or sell them?

- **Spiritual** – What are your beliefs and what you are comfortable sharing with others? This also includes being respectful of and open to others beliefs.

- **Workplace** – do you like being friends and doing things outside of work with co-workers or want your work and personal life completely separate? Maybe somewhere in between?

- **Time** – how much of your spare time do you devote to others (friends, family, acquaintances, volunteering, hobbies, etc.) Are you regularly practicing healthy self-care? It’s imperative you have time to do things you enjoy and have down time to recharge.

You don’t have to set boundaries in each category. If it feels like too much, just start with a couple categories and work

to enforce those boundaries. Add in others, as you feel comfortable.

Setting Healthy Boundaries

Now that you have some areas to focus on, you can start to create healthy boundaries. If you have not had healthy boundaries in place before, it may feel strange. You will also likely get push-back from those closest to you because they may not like the changes you are making. It’s not unusual for some individuals to become angry, challenging, or to try and make you feel guilty. Just remember, the outcome will be healthier relationships and less stress, which in turn, increases your peacefulness, overall well-being, and happiness.

Below are some tips to get you started.

- **Start slow.** You don’t have to make healthy boundaries for every situation. Start with the ones that are most important to you. You will most likely tweak them, as you find out what does and doesn’t work, to reach your desired wants and needs.

- **Set boundaries** early, when possible. Make sure you let others know about your boundaries at the start of a relationship. You don’t have to list them, as others will find out your boundaries when they are breached, and you let them know what is and isn’t

okay, through interactions and conversation. This will help you to avoid miscommunication, confusion, frustration, disagreements, and hurt feelings.

- **Be consistent** when enforcing boundaries so you don’t hurt, confuse, or frustrate others. Not enforcing them consistently sends mixed messages and just causes more problems.

- **Be respectful.** You don’t have to be rude, snarky, loud, or aggressive when setting or enforcing boundaries or with others. Communicate from a place of respect, but be assertive, and don’t back down.

- **Add boundaries** as you learn and grow. Maybe you change jobs and it is a very different environment so you need to add new workplace boundaries.

If you find it too difficult to set boundaries, you may have self-worth or other issues and need to seek help from a counseling professional that can help you identify and change unwanted thought patterns. Remember that you matter, your voice matters, and your feelings matter.

Setting boundaries is a form of self-care, critical to your overall well-being. Some won’t like your boundaries or understand why you need them. What is important is that you share your limitations. If someone chooses to ignore the boundaries you have communicated, you may need to distance yourself from that person. No one has the right to violate your boundaries, but also remember, you don’t have the right to violate their boundaries either. Just remember that all healthy relationships have boundaries. This article is not intended to provide advice or diagnose. Be well!

Movie Review, continued

began with a single alien, named Kal El, who crashed to Earth in rural Kansas, the new DCU could benefit from a broader perspective of the universe, and The Reach, like their rivals in the Green Lantern Corps, provide a lattice that stretches across the entire universe and a backdrop for bigger stories, spanning from Rann and Thanagar to Warworld. This view from above could allow filmmakers to ask big questions that are central to the DC universe, like “Why is Earth important?” and “Why are humans important?” Kord’s focus on global policing could create a similar framework on Earth with satisfying moral consequences, not to mention the fact that Blue Beetle joined Guy Gardner, Booster Gold, and Martian Manhunter in one of the more relatable Justice League lineups.

Blue Beetle felt like a CW superhero series with a DCEU budget, choosing heart, charisma, and fun over star power and precise acting, and this is what many DC fans have been asking for. Director

Ángel Manuel Soto, wise to the fact that his film got lost in the Warner Brothers chaos, has suggested that Jaime Reyes might appear in the upcoming DCU *Booster Gold* television series, but it is not fair to relegate this film to a one-and-done failure status. *Blue Beetle* was heartfelt and incredibly fun, and it teases some interesting plot hooks for future films. The music is powerful, like *Across the Spider-Verse* and *Mutant Mayhem*, and the film features, quite possibly, the best use of the Mötley Crüe song “Kickstart My Heart” in any film ever. There is so much to this film, and people really need to see it in theaters to understand. If Warner Brothers has already set an early streaming release for *Blue Beetle*, there is a good chance that the kinder, gentler DC Universe, that many have been craving against the Frank Miller-inspired dark DCEU, has suffered its first casualty. That does not have to happen, not if folks buy tickets for *Blue Beetle* before it leaves theaters, and viewers should feel encouraged to do just that.

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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

This week is the third 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 Amy Prangley Photography

Jamie Teachworth

My name is Jamie Teachworth. I am 56 years old and we have lived in the Lowell area for 10 years. My husband, Ryan, and I have been married for 27 years. We have three grown children and nine grandchildren.

I have always loved to help others, whether through my job or at our children's school, the library, FROM or helping with Pink Arrow fundraisers. But suddenly found myself being on the receiving end of others' help. This was a difficult challenge for me.

In October 2022, I began having pain in my lower back. I started getting regular chiropractic adjustments and massages. The pain continued to increase, so in December 2022, I went to an orthopedic back and spine doctor, who set me up with physical therapy (PT) and requested insurance approve an MRI. In January 2023, while waiting on insurance to approve the MRI, I could no longer sit or lay without severe lower back pain



and experienced constant sciatica pain. On the evening of January 10, 2023, my husband insisted I go to the emergency room, where a CT scan showed a mass within my pelvic bone and nodules on my lungs. We learned this appeared to be metastatic cancer. This news shocked us to our core.

Within 10 days, we had met with the Oncology team at Lacks Cancer Center, who determined my diagnosis to be Stage IV Osteosarcoma. This is an extremely aggressive and rare bone cancer, generally found in children and adolescents, making this cancer even more rare for me at 56 years old.

Targeted radiation treatments started in February. Dr Knol at Lacks

Cancer Center and Dr Schuetze at University of Michigan set-up my chemo treatment plan to start March 1st. After four aggressive in-patient chemo treatments that reduced the pelvic tumor and lung nodules, we are very hopeful that we can keep the disease controlled with Stivarga, an oral chemotherapy. Because Stivarga is not FDA approved for Osteosarcoma, insurance will not cover the cost. My oncology team applied to Bayer Pharmaceuticals, who is currently covering the cost of the drug. We are so grateful for this option.

At a recent oncology appointment, I was told to try to work on transitioning from fight mode to 'living my life'. I have struggled with the loss of my

independence, in addition to fighting cancer. With the tumor being in my pelvic bone as it grew, it fractured bone, this has limited my mobility. The mental battle, in addition to the physical battle, is a great challenge. We have learned, you must be your own advocate, if something doesn't feel right, seek a medical path to get answers and treatment early on.

I am so grateful to have my very supportive husband, family, friends, oncology team and community on my team.



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

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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Corrie Wood-VanRavenswaay

My name is Corrie Wood-VanRavenswaay. I have lived in Lowell most of my life. My cancer journey started in the summer of 1972, when I was eight years old. My grandmother, Ester DeRushia, had breast cancer. She had a Radical mastectomy. I remember waiting in my mother's car while my grandmother had radiation therapy. At that time, the radiologist used permanent markers to draw geometric lines on the skin to make it easier to line up the machine each time she needed a treatment. My grandmother used to laugh at herself when she came out of the outpatient center because she had purple lines and squares drawn all over her chest, neck, and arm. Being eight, I did not understand why she was so sick for so long. My mother sat me down, and tried to explain what cancer was. I did not totally understand it at that time.

Fast forward to spring 2005. My mother, Nancy Wood, was diagnosed with HER-2 breast cancer. I have never seen my mother so brave. She kept her diagnosis secret from our family, until the day before her total mastectomy surgery. I asked her why she did not tell me. She said she did not want to scare anyone until she had to. I am her only daughter and have a medical degree, how could she do this to me? After surgery I took care of her and made sure that I went to every follow-up appointment she had. Luckily, the cancer doctor told us that they got it all, and she would have to be on Tamoxifen (which is a hormone therapy drug to treat breast cancer) every day for two years. As the treatment went on, she became more open about having breast cancer. She even walked as a survivor in the 2008 Pink Arrow Pride community fundraising event at the Lowell High School football stadium. We, as a family, took turns walking for 24 hours to help raise money to support my mother and the organization.

In the Fall of 2019, my husband of 22 years, Steven VanRavenswaay, and I moved back to Lowell from Grand Rapids so I could take better care of Both of my parents. Their health was declining rapidly.

Spring of 2020, COVID-19 hit, and I did everything I could to protect my parents. Then my dad, Bill Wood developed a non-healing wound on the front of his leg. So, we scheduled a video appointment with his primary care doctor. The doctor told us he did not like the way the wound looked and

tried to make an appointment with a skin cancer doctor. The appointment date was three months out and there was nothing we could do about it. While we waited, we had a home-health care nurse come once-a-week to check that his leg was not getting any worse.

Summer of 2020, my husband, Steven, passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack. I relied on my family and friends to get through it. It was more difficult because of the COVID-19 quarantine.

Winter of 2021, I noticed my mother was losing a lot of weight. I called her primary care doctor, but with COVID-19 still around, we did another video appointment. He ordered an Endoscopy and colonoscopy. So, I took my mother to the Endoscopy center. I made her wear two COVID-19 masks at a time to protect her. Both tests came back negative, but I still wondered why she was still losing weight.

Then it came time to take my father to his leg-wound doctor. Again, I made him wear two masks at a time to protect him. They did a skin biopsy and that came back positive for cancer. So, he had to have the skin cancer removed, which left an even bigger hole to heal. So, I took him, once-a-week for 9 weeks, to the leg-wound care center to have his leg rebandaged and take small scoops of skin to check to see if there were any new cancer cells growing in his wound.

Spring of 2021, my mother became extremely ill, and we rushed her to the ER. With COVID-19 precautions still in place, it took a long time to be seen. When the doctors finally came in, they ordered lots of blood tests and a CAT scan. Three days later, I received a call from Lacks Cancer Center; they wanted to have my mother come in for more tests. I knew it was not good. She had six more vials of blood taken and ordered an MRI for the week after.

Again, my mother did not want to tell anyone about her tests, including my father and my brother.

One anxious week later, Lacks Cancer Center called and wanted to see us the next day. On our way into the medical Center in Grand Rapids, my mother reached over and held my hand, and we rode the rest of the way in silence.

Lacks Cancer Center is a wonderful place. I have never been to a more caring medical center than this. Her new cancer doctor came into the room and introduced himself by



his first name. He sat in a chair, across from my mother, held both of her hands and asked her if she knew that she only weighed 88 lbs. Then he told her, "Nancy, you have cancer throughout your entire body. The worst is in your lungs. It is Stage 4 and into the end-stage." I was stunned and broke down at this news. My mother, bless her soul, had to comfort me. Like I have said, she was the bravest woman I have ever known.

The doctor gave her the choice to do nothing and just enjoy life for her remaining 3 to 6 months. Or try chemo and try to extend her life for 6 to 8 months. The decision was hers to make, and she should talk to the rest of her family and get their opinions also. Then, call him back to let them know what she would like to do. As a family, we all decided to try chemo first. I know part of her decision was made because her youngest granddaughter had already set the date of her wedding. It was 10 months away and my mother wanted to be there.

Unfortunately, my mother passed away 5 days after her first chemo treatment, due to a bad reaction to the treatment chemicals. Then 6 days later, my father passed away from a broken heart. They had been married for 61 years, and he just could not live without her.

And finally, fast forward to December 27th of 2022, I decided to have elective surgery. Before the surgery date, I had to have a pre-op. My surgeon asked when was my last colonoscopy? If it were recent enough, they could use it to compare with my new one. I laughed and told him that I had never had one. He said, "Do you mean to tell me that you are 58 years old and have not ever had a colonoscopy?" Then he asked why? I told him because I was too embarrassed to have one done. That afternoon, his office scheduled me for an Endoscopy and a Colonoscopy, and they could do them both at the same appointment.

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Leo Loeks

Leo is the son of Bill and Megan Nyson Loeks (Megan is a LHS graduate) and grandson of Todd and Kim Nyson

Written by Bill Loeks

In the spring of 2016, our oldest son, Leo, started to limp on his left leg, so we scheduled an appointment with his pediatrician to get him checked out. The doctor gave a variety of mostly benign possibilities, took X-Rays, but also said she was going to run some blood work just to check for other less common things, but didn't give any specifics. The next day we received a phone call telling us we needed to come to the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (HDCH) that day and to pack a bag for a few days, potentially, but not really much info why beyond it, being related to his low white blood cell counts. The next few days were a whirlwind of testing, procedures, and meetings with doctors who broke the news that he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) on June 2, 2016. His chemotherapy treatment was to begin that day and would last for roughly the next 3 years. The first few months were the hardest: surgery to get an access-port implanted, spinal taps/lumbar punctures for chemo and testing, steroids, days of nausea and sickness, an infection that caused a fever lasting over a week and fought against various antibiotics, blood and platelet transfusions and so many different feelings. We watched him go from being a seemingly normal and healthy 4-year old to losing weight, losing his hair, swelling-up due to a prolonged period of steroids, loss of mobility and pain, to the point he would have to be carried up the stairs at home to go to bed. Despite all of the struggles and uncertainties, we had immense support from family, friends and the hospital staff. Finally, in August of 2019, he completed his 3+ year treatment plan and moved into just having to be monitored for bloodwork. It started as monthly bloodwork and slowly was phased down until in September of 2022 when we moved to just an annual test.

Fast forward to the end of May of this year, Leo started to exhibit some of the same symptoms he had shown when he was 4. He complained of some leg pains and started to limp sometimes. Based on our past experiences, this was concerning, but we didn't think this could be happening again. We



Photos provided by the Loeks family.

brought him into a local urgent-care office and they checked him out, did some X-Rays, but not bloodwork. We were not satisfied and wanted to get bloodwork done, so we reached back out to the HDCH and asked if they could send a request for lab work to our local hospital, since we live nearly seven hours away from Grand Rapids now. They agreed and did send in for him to get some updated bloodwork. At the time, it was especially challenging because his dad, Bill, was currently deployed to Kuwait, and mom, Meg, was home managing the household with Leo and his four siblings. After Leo was able to get in and had the bloodwork

done, the next day (again), we received a phone call that some more testing needed to be done. Initially, he went into a local hospital and they worked with the HDCH to do some additional testing and monitoring, but it quickly became evident that Leo was indeed going to need to go back to HDCH. It looked like his leukemia had relapsed. On July 4, 2023, he checked back into the hospital in Grand Rapids. Coordination was made through the Red Cross and his unit to initiate getting Bill back home to be with Leo and the family, to support Leo through his second battle with Leukemia. On the 7th of July, Bill was able to make it back

to Grand Rapids and be there for Leo and the family. Although, this time, we had a much better idea of what to expect and what the process might look like; we knew it would not be easy and there would be changes in how he was treated, timelines, medications and different risks. He started out with many of the same types of things as the first time: surgery to get an access-port implanted, spinal taps/lumbar punctures for chemo and testing, steroids, days of sickness, blood and platelet transfusions, etc. This time is also very different though.

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Corrie's story, continued

So, I had my brother, Ron Wood, drive me to the medical center. The nurses told me not to worry about a thing because I would be asleep for both procedures.

I was not. I woke up during the colonoscopy to three additional doctors in the room. They were all discussing the size of the tumor that was on the screen. One of the doctors noticed that I was awake and ended the conversation until I was out in recovery. My doctor explained to my brother and I what he found. His office promptly made an appointment for me at Lacks Cancer Center, the first week of January 2023. I remembered how mad I was at my mother for not telling me about her having cancer, until the very last moment. So, I did tell my daughters what the colonoscopy found, when I got home that same day.

With the help of my brother, I made it through all the extensive medical tests. We had become even closer after my parents passed away because it was just the two of us left. He was my rock, my strength, and my chauffeur. I had surgery to remove my colon cancer two weeks later. Thankfully, it was only Stage 1B. I did not need any chemo or radiation. I was incredibly lucky! I know now, whether you have a family history of colon cancer or not, you should begin having your first colonoscopy at age 45. Colon

cancer is the third most common cause of cancer-related death in both women and men. So, when your primary care doctor tells you it is time to start getting a colonoscopy, please do it. There is no reason to be embarrassed, because the nurses and doctors have “seen it all before.” I will now continue getting a colonoscopy once-a-year for the rest of my life.

If I could give advice to a new cancer patient, it would be to not look-up your kind of cancer on the internet. The information is grossly over exaggerated. The best advice is to listen to your doctor and care team. Do what they tell you, read only their literature, and find the closest Gilda’s Club for emotional support.

A huge thank you to the Lowell Pink Arrow Pride Organization for their help and guidance. They have been in my life since 2007. And to my church family at the First Congregational UCC of Lowell, for setting up a food chain for me during my recovery at home. All my love to my two wonderful daughters, Jennifer and Amanda, for their support throughout my cancer journey. I do not know how I could have ever made it through this cancer journey on my own, without the help of my family, friends, and Pink Arrows.

Leo's story, continued

He has met with a cardiologist for additional monitoring of his heart. He is undergoing genetic testing to look for genetic disorders or syndromes that may make him predisposed to getting cancer or explain why he has leukemia again. The doctors also do not believe that he has relapsed but that this might be a separate case, which would be more rare and unusual to have a second, possibly unrelated, case of leukemia. Leo is older now and has much more awareness of what is going on, but there are still a lot of questions of “why?” We are thankful that this time around, once again, we have continued to have an amazing support team from family, friends and everyone involved at the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.



PINK

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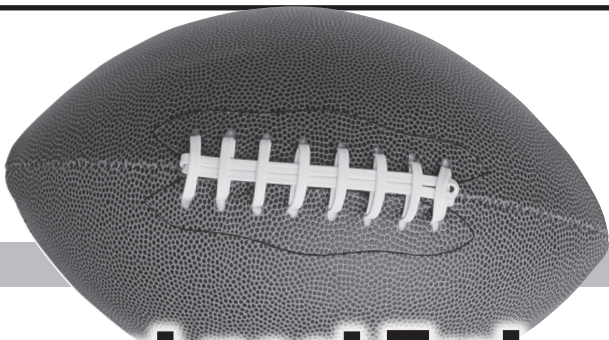
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Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS



Scoop-n-score gives Lowell jolt to get past Trojans

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Both Lowell and Thornapple Kellogg had one goal to start off Thursday night’s game. Establish the run. They both did it perfectly well. The Trojans used their opening drive and marched the length of the field through a bruising and punishing run offense meant to grind down their opponent. Of course, it’s an offense Lowell is all too familiar with. A “what you can do, we can do better” mentality, as Lowell’s offense came out and did the same thing. Marching down the field methodically and coming away with six points on a Jackson Reisbig run to the right.

Reisbig had an efficient day at QB going 5-for-5 for 94 yards and a touchdown, along with 17 rushes for 85 yards and two touchdowns. The Red Arrows cranked-out runs at an average of 4.83 yards per carry, a recipe for success for any offense. While Thornapple Kellogg came to play on offense, as well, Lowell forced a turnover that changed the game.

The big play came from Bobby Nichols, punching out the ball as the Trojans were driving in Lowell territory after a long kickoff return. Nichols knocked the ball loose, where it fell to Marshall VanWagner, who picked up the loose ball and returned it 73 yards to the

endzone, to put Lowell up 14-7, swinging the scoreline from the Red Arrows chasing the game to being in control.

Again, the Trojans marched up the field and scored, with the extra point blocked and Lowell keeping a 14-13 lead. Despite the strong start for the TK offense, those would be the last points they scored, as the Lowell staff started to figure out the Trojan offense.

Nichols had eight total tackles and the forced fumble. TJ Hollern came away with an impressive 18 total tackles, two of which were for losses. VanWagner added three tackles, along with the scoop-n-score.



Lowell receiver Xavier Young tries to get between Thornapple Kellogg defenders Tyler Gavette (left) and Drake Snyder (right) Thursday night in Middleville. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Xavier Young running after a catch.

Bobby Nichols, filling in for the injured Tacho Gonzales, along with TJ Hollern, put Lowell up 21-13 with a touchdown run the following possession. After a TK three and out and short punt, Lowell would find themselves down in the redzone with just seven seconds left and no timeouts. There, Jackson Reisbig got down to the one yard line after being unable to find an open receiver. The scramble came up inches short, and the Trojans held Lowell off, as time expired coming into halftime.

Thornapple Kellogg’s

stadium and the atmosphere on Thursday night was everything high school football should be. Two local communities cheering on their football teams on a beautiful, late summer evening.

Once the marching band left the field, it didn’t take Lowell much longer to score receiving the second half kickoff, Reisbig faking the handoff and spinning into the endzone to avoid a tackle from just a few yards out.

Lowell closed off the scoring in the fourth quarter, as Reisbig found

Ben Gaskin for a touchdown pass and finished off a 34-13 win.

Gaskin led Lowell in receiving with 45 yards and the touchdown. Xavier Young (40 yards) and Nick Williams (9 yards) also recorded yards for the receiving corps. Todd Parcheta went 4 for 5 on extra points.

Memorial Field and the East Grand Rapids Pioneers stand between Lowell and a 3-0 start to the season. EGR is also 2-0, with impressive wins against Cedar Springs and South Christian.

Golfers consistent in busy week

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Conference season for Lowell golf will come down to one question. Can they beat Byron Center? That question was answered this week, yes they can.

The Red Arrows had two jamborees, and a weekend tournament last week, with plenty learned about this year’s team.

On Monday, at Railside, Byron Center’s home course, the Bulldogs ran away with the jamboree first-place honors with a 160. Lowell came in second with a 178, followed by FHN, Greenville, EGR, and Northview. It’s not unusual, a home-course advantage means a lot in golf. Byron Center played well. Lowell’s second-place showing was led by

junior Elle Sluss with a 40. She was followed by Elyse Veldman (43), Leah Krieger (45), and freshman Kaila Richards (50). Veldman recorded Lowell’s only birdie of the day on a short par four.

Home-course advantage came into play again, this time on Tuesday, as Lowell placed a close second to Forest Hills Central. The Rangers, who play at Watermark, were able to win their home jamboree. The good news for Lowell? They beat out third-place Byron Center by seven strokes, and setting-up what will be an interesting battle at the top of the OK White between Lowell, Byron Center, FHC, and FHN. Whoever wins the conference championship, they’ll have to earn it.

Veldman’s 42 paced Lowell. She was followed by Hannah Flickinger (44), Sluss (44), and Krieger (49).

Lowell closed the week by running away with the Whitehall Invitational championship. Hannah Flickinger, Elyse Veldman and Elle Sluss all earned top-10 finishes, helping pave the way to victory. The Red Arrows shot a 340, beating second-place Reeths-Puffer by 23 strokes. Flickinger led Lowell with an 80, followed by Veldman (84), Sluss (86), and Krieger (90). Ava McCormick held the important fifth ti-breaker slot for Lowell most of the week, finishing just outside scoring each time. Veldman also scored a birdie on the par five ninth hole. Other teams Lowell beat-out were Reeths-

Puffer, Whitehall, Sparta, Fremont, Ludington, Montague, North Muskegon, Oakridge, Holton and Allendale. Both Sparta and Reeths-Puffer will be in Lowell’s regional tournament, held at Lincoln Golf Club (Reeths-Puffer), later this year.

Lowell will place at the Russ Johnson Invitational, hosted by Kenowa Hills, in their only competition this week.



Three Lowell golfers medaled at Whitehall, where Lowell won the tournament.

Red Arrow

- SOCCER

SPORTS

Soccer scores ten in last week's wins

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

A strike, one might see watching the Premier League at the crack of dawn, highlighted the ten goals that Lowell scored last week in a pair of conference wins.

LHS senior, Bryce Thompson, opened the scoring against Grandville Calvin Christian with a low-curling shot from long range that with its movement and pace was nearly impossible to keep out.

Thompson's explosive start didn't wane as he netted two more goals, sealing a hat-trick. Assists from Ben Homolka and Jackson Liley showcased the Red Arrows' seamless

coordination. Adding to the tally, senior Jace Dixon capitalized on a counter-attack with precision, while Owen MacNaughton's goal, orchestrated by Jackson Liley, sealed the 5-1 victory.

"This is the momentum we needed, leading into this week, with three challenging games ahead. The boys know not to shy away from a tough game. I always tell them that if it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you. We are better today than we were yesterday. We feel the boys are ready to give it their all," Coach Elena Barriger told *The Ledger*.

On Thursday, Lowell met West Michigan Aviation

Academy in what would be their first matchup with the Red Arrows, in not just soccer but any dual sport, in their program history. The tuition-free charter school was established in Fall 2010 with an enrollment of just over 600 students, grades 9-12.

One might think that a school about half of Lowell's size, with a specialized program for students interested in becoming pilots, might not have the strongest athletics program; their soccer team is plenty competitive, however, coming off a 2-0 win over Coopersville.

The Aviators did come out flying at times, but



Bryce Thompson strikes the ball against Calvin Christian



Owen Davis runs up the field.

throughout the course of the game, it was Lowell in control of the ball. When Lowell was best, though, was when Jackson Liley had the ball at his feet. He was the best player on the field that night, and for Lowell, it was just about letting the senior do his thing. As the kids might say, "let him cook." He scored four goals on the night, many coming in one-on-ones with the goalkeeper and solo opportunities. Jace Dixon, Todd Parcheta, and Bryce Thompson added assists on the Liley goals.

"My teammates really put me in a good position to

succeed and score goals, and I'm glad that's what I did. It feels really good to get back to .500 and I hope the boys can keep up this win streak into next week," Liley told *The Ledger*.

It came as a frustration to WMAA, who outside of the Liley goals, played pretty evenly with Lowell, scoring two goals of their own. Two of Liley's goals came in the last 20 minutes of the second half. The last goal came from Thompson.

It was youth night for the program, who celebrated Lowell Area Select Soccer Organization, also known by their acronym LASSO.

The youth program has served as the premier local youth soccer club in town and has been the feeder for the Lowell High School program since its inception. Kids and their coaches were able to high-five players during introduction and were recognized during halftime.

The Red Arrows moved to 3-3 on the season and kickoff conference games this week with EGR and Northview. Lowell will also travel to Thornapple Kellogg in non-conference action. All games this week will be held on the road.

High school athletic spam links no more? School clamps down on spam

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

If you follow the Lowell Red Arrows Facebook page, the Lowell Football Facebook page, or other high school athletic Facebook pages, you've seen them. Countless spam links to obscure sketchy websites that claim to be streaming the latest Lowell High School sporting event. To the trained eye, something isn't right. It feels a bit spammy. Not official. To the untrained eye, looking to just watch their kid, grandkid or relative play high school sports, these links easily could pass as a legitimate streaming source. Once they put in your payment information, now your credit card and personal

information is in the hands of people you don't want. Whether you get a real stream or not, at this point is irrelevant. Your computer may have malware. Your credit card information may have been stolen. Your identity may have been stolen. Now there's a real problem, much worse than spam links.

These links are malicious; they're annoying. Especially to high school administrators, who for two years now, have been banning countless spam accounts, deleting spam links, and countless hours spent monitoring comments to prevent an unknowing Lowell fan from being the latest victim.

It's not just contained to Lowell. This has been a

problem across the country as the NFHS Network and high school sports streaming has gained popularity. It's spread from high schools to colleges and pro events, as well. This spam attack is incredibly sophisticated and coordinated, coming from thousands, upon thousands, of spam accounts on Facebook, with thousands of spam websites set-up. High school athletic associations have sounded the alarm across the country about the issue, but Facebook and agencies, like the FBI, have either been able to crack the code or haven't gotten to it. After all, Americans lost 10.3 billion dollars to online scams last year.

The spammers will say their streams are free. They'll tag Lowell pages.

They'll even be brazen enough to comment on your comment. Within minutes of Lowell posting something on social media, they jump on the posts with up to dozens of comments. They're good at spreading misinformation, and they're relentless. Despite blocking hundreds of spammers in the past two years, LHS continued to get these posts on a daily basis, until just recently.

Lowell High School athletic officials believe they've solved the problem. By backtracking the profiles that posted the spam, and working through Facebook's page-support system, officials were able to determine that the country of origin of most, if not all, of these spammers was from

the country of Indonesia.

A difficult decision had to be made. There's an option on Facebook to hide your page from certain countries. The solution? That blocking feature that hid the school sports page from Indonesia. The problem is, what if there's a real person located in Indonesia still following the page? Perhaps an old exchange student. Perhaps a former Lowell graduate who had moved there? The odds and impact of that were so low, and the upside so high, the move was made.

The gambit worked. The spam links stopped late last week, and there was for the first time in two years, peace in the Facebook comments.

It's not a problem contained to Facebook only. The posts happen on Twitter,

or now known as "X", YouTube, and Instagram, too. The numbers dwarf what happens on Facebook, however. So yes, we'll have to stay vigilant. We have to be smart, online. The good news is, though, we're fighting back, slowly but surely.

The only approved streams of Lowell High School sports come through NFHS Network and the MHSAA. Paying close attention to the URLs and confirming you are at mhsaa.tv or nfhsnetwork.org, for now, is the best way to protect yourself. They do cost money, but it's a small price to pay to watch your favorite high school team safely.

SPORTS

Predicting the 2023 Detroit Lions Season

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Thurs., Sept. 7, at Kansas City
8:20 PM on NBC
This feels like one of those games the Lions are surprisingly in control of, look like they’re going to win, and have the rug pulled from under them at the last second. Yeah, they’re the defending Super Bowl Champs, we know. Chiefs on a late game field goal.
Perdiction - L 37-34 (0-1)

Sun., Sept. 17, vs. Seattle
1:00 PM on FOX
A bit of a revenge game after the Seahawks beat Detroit last year and snuck into the playoffs, ahead of the Lions, even if the collective nation was hoping it’d be the exciting Lions who snuck in. I think Geno Smith regresses this season, a little bit. Unlike last year, Detroit gets some extra rest heading into this game, and they’ve strengthened their defense since last year’s shootout.
Prediction - Win 27-17 (1-1)

Sun., Sept. 24, vs Atlanta
1:00 PM on FOX
Like their NFC South counterparts Tampa Bay, the Falcons have a lot of questions at quarterback; after a tepid season by Desmond Ridder last year, he’ll have another shot this year paired with top-ten draft pick RB Bijan Robinson.
Prediction - Win 17-13 (2-1)

Thurs., Sept. 28, at Green Bay
8:15 PM on PRIME VIDEO
With no Aaron Rodgers in Wisconsin this year, Green Bay isn’t their usual favorite to win the NFC North. For one of the rare times in a long time, the Lions will likely be seen as favorites to sweep their division rival.
Prediction - Win (3-1)

Sun., Oct. 8, vs. Carolina
1:00 PM on FOX
A game Detroit should’ve won last year, and if they did, they would’ve made the playoffs. Instead, this was the game they had a letdown performance and it cost them.
Prediction - Win (4-1)

Sun., Oct. 15, at Tampa Bay
1:00 PM on FOX
Tampa Bay’s prospects this season probably depends on if Mike Evans leaves. If he does leave, the Bucs are in for a rough season, despite being in a pretty soft division. If he doesn’t leave, well, it will still be choppy waters, but at least they’ll have some hope. There is no such thing as an easy road game in the NFL, but this should be pretty close to one, given Tampa Bay’s struggles.
Prediction - Win 31-17 (5-1)

Sun., Oct. 22, at Baltimore
1:00 PM on FOX
I think this will come down to the kicking game. The Lions brought in Riley Patterson and there’s a lot of belief in him. He’s projected to have the most points of any kicker in the NFL Fantasy League. Justin Tucker for Baltimore is more proven, has the bigger leg, and in a repeat of 2021, Lions lose late.
Prediction - Loss 21-20 (5-2)

Mon., Oct. 30, vs Las Vegas
8:15 PM on ESPN
The Raiders have had the misfortune of playing in the same division as the Chiefs and Chargers, the last few years, and it’s to be seen how Jimmy Garappolo at QB will fare. On paper, the Lions are the better team and at home. A Monday night with the nation watching. Is the spotlight too bright? We don’t think so.
Prediction - Win 34-24 (6-2)

BYE WEEK
Annual week Detroit doesn’t lose, comes right in the middle of the season this year, which is great.

Sun., Nov. 12, at Los Angeles Chargers
4:05 PM on CBS
A lot of pundits have this penciled-in as a loss and it’s easy to see why. The Chargers are under a lot of pressure. Great during the regular season, but consistent disappointment in the playoffs. Head Coach Brandon Staley is clearly coaching for his job after they blew a 27-0 lead against the Jaguars last year in the playoffs. In LA, it’s not a super intimidating place to play, but still a road game across the country. The Chargers have a tough stretch of games coming in, so it’s not an unwinnable game, by any stretch.
Prediction - Loss 27-10 (6-3)

Sun., Nov. 19, vs Chicago
1:00 PM on FOX
What should be a tough atmosphere for Justin Fields, who hasn’t established himself as an elite passer, by any means. Chicago will show flashes of brilliance this year, but will run into games like this, where one of the worst defenses in the NFL can’t stay off the field.
Prediction - Win 40-7 (7-3)

Thurs., Nov. 23, vs. Green Bay
12:30 PM on FOX
The annual Thanksgiving game usually spoils our afternoon after a wonderful feast with family. Not this year.
Prediction - Win 24-20 (8-3)

Sun., Dec. 3, at New Orleans
1:00 PM on FOX
New Orleans is weird because it’s a home-game for the Saints, who have a pretty mediocre team in a mediocre division, so their record might be a bit inflated. Last year, Saints Head Coach Dennis Allen benched starting QB Jameis Winston, in favor of Andy Dalton, who has been relegated to the backup position for a division rival. They brought in Derek Carr

Predictions,
continued page 19

Equestrian starts off 2023 season

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

After a shared reserve championship last season, the Lowell High School equestrian team is set to debut a young team this month looking to make a return to the state show.
“We are young, we don’t have any seniors, but each kid on the team has a horse

that excels at something different. If we can all come together, we don’t have many weak spots,” said fourth year head coach Emma Hancock.

Last year, Lowell won the region E championship and advanced to the state meet. Bay City Western scored 359 points to win the Division B state championship with Bullock Creek and Lowell tying at 318 each and the reserve title. It marked the fifth straight regional championship for LHS and highest state finish since their state championship in 2019.

“We have a strong team that has the potential to get back. We got two new freshmen, Maya Zaske and

Emma Thomas. Alongside them we have returning sophomore Brianna Huisman and juniors Paige Kreps, Gavin Rinks, and Natalie Bray. Paige and Natalie have been on the team since they were freshman and are ready to attack this season head-on and ride their way to the state meet,” added Coach Hancock.

The district five senior meets were August 26th and upcoming on September 10th as the season kicks off.

“New faces that I expect to make an impact are Maya and Emma. They are both participating in the saddle seat events and without them that would be a class that we would not be strong in,” concluded Coach.

Volleyball notches impressive wins

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

Have you ever tried a ghost pepper? Of course not, they’re red hot and are basically on fire. The Lowell volleyball team hasn’t been compared to a ghost pepper before, so here we go. The Red Arrows are off to a scorching hot ghost pepper-like start to the season.

Lowell jumped out to 10-1 to start the season, turning some heads as the team who entered the season ranked outside the Division 1 top-ten, might have recently played their way in.

Their only losses so far this season are to Division 2’s top two ranked squads, North Branch and Grand Rapids Christian. Lowell wins so far include Kenowa Hills, East Kentwood, Novi, Grandville, BC Harper Creek, South Christian, Lakewood (2), Portage Northern, and Mattawan.

The wins over Lakewood (No. 3 in D2), Portage Northern (No. 10 in D1), and South Christian (No. 8 in D3) all were top ten ranked opponents Lowell defeated over the course of August, and all games won, except the win over Grandville, happened in straight sets.

Two Lowell players made VolleyballMag’s weekly dream team for the date of August 30th. Sophomore Rylee Barriger accumulated 137 assists while adding 32 digs, five blocks, nine kills and eight aces. Senior Piper Risdon

had 69 kills while hitting .400. She added eight blocks and three aces.

Lowell is at Lakewood and across state for a tournament this week.

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 FALL
SPORTS SCHEDULES

VARSITY FOOTBALL

** Denotes a home game at Lowell Red Arrow Stadium*
9/8 at 7 pm at EGR
9/15 at 7 pm at Northview

CROSS COUNTRY

** Denotes a home meet at Arrowhead Golf Course*
9/15 at 1 pm Ottawa Hills Inlet at Riverside Park

GIRLS GOLF

** Denotes a home game at Arrowhead Golf Course*
9/8 Russ Johnson Invite at Gracewil Country Club
9/13 at 3:30 pm OK White Jamboree at Waterpark
9/15 at 9:30 am Greenville Invite at The Links of Bowen Lake

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

** Denotes a game at LHS North Athletic Complex*
9/9 at 11:30 am at Northview
9/12 at 6:45 pm Greenville*
9/14 at 6:45 pm at Byron Center

BOYS TENNIS

** Denotes a home game at LHS North Athletic Complex*
9/11 at 4:15 pm at EGR
9/13 at 4:15 pm at Northview

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

** Denotes a home game at LHS*
9/9 at 8 am Program Invite at UWM Sports Complex
9/14 at 6 pm at EGR

obituaries

CRAIG

Kirk Stanley Craig (68) of Alto, Michigan, went to be with our heavenly Father, Thursday, August 31, 2023. Born January 27, 1955, to parents Ralph and Geraldine (Flynn) Craig. Kirk spent his childhood growing up on the family farm in Clarksville, MI and later moved to the Flynn farm in Alto, MI. He is survived by his siblings Bonnie Craig, Wendy (Chuck) Grudzinskas, Tim (Debbie) Craig; seven nieces and nephews, several great nieces and nephews, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Ralph Craig; mother, Geraldine Craig; and sister, Sheila (Gary) Gilbert. Kirk was an outdoorsman. He enjoyed deer hunting in the fall with his brother and nephew, mushroom hunting in the spring, and hunting all the likes of wildlife including turkey, squirrel, and rabbit. In his earlier days he'd hunt raccoon, muskrat, and mink. He looked forward to time spent with his cousins and close friends at the family hunting cabin up north. He enjoyed fishing on the inland lakes and especially loved eating his catch. Kirk could often be found caring for his garden where he harvested much produce and shared with his Amway work friends until he retired in 2020. A memorial service will be held graveside at the Bowne Center Cemetery on 84th St. SE, Alto, MI on Saturday, September 9, at 1:00 pm. A luncheon will follow the service at the Bowne Center United Methodist Church, across the street. Donations can be made to Bowne Center United Methodist Church, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or Tunnel to Towers Foundation.



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STENCEL

Timothy Raymond Stencel, age 47, of Lowell, passed away on Sunday, August 27, 2023. He was born on January 19, 1976, the son of Anthony and Connie (Osborne) Stencel in Grand Rapids. Football was his favorite pass time. He played for the Lowell Red Arrows. His favorite memories of his time playing was scoring the last touchdown on Burch field and scoring the first touchdown in the new Red Arrow Stadium for the High School. His favorite teams were the Tennessee Volunteers and the Detroit Lions. Tim also loved shooting guns and lighting fireworks. After graduating at Lowell High School, he joined the U.S. Navy. He spent 2 years in the Mediterranean in the Middle East. Visiting much of the area, while off duty, learning the local history. Tim fought several health issues through his short life on earth, but his last great moment was donating his organs to help others live a longer life. He is survived by his mother, Connie Stencel of Lowell; siblings, Trisha (Shad) Propst of Lowell, Amy Barnes (Mark Matthews) of Kentwood, and Aaron Stencel (Teresa) of Florida; and niece and nephews, Christian Barnes of Kentwood, Nathan Propst (Jessica) of Lowell, Tara Propst of Lowell, Michael (Shelby) Barnes of Kentwood, Logan Propst of Lowell, and Miles Barnes of Kentwood. Also, aunts, uncles, and several cousins and close friends. Tim was preceded in death by his father, Anthony R. Stencel, and brother, Anthony D. Stencel. A Graveside service was held Friday, September 1, 2023, at St. Mary's Cemetery in Lowell. A private family luncheon was held afterwards. Arrangements in care of Lake Funeral Home of Saranac. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com



HARTLEY

Velma Jean Hartley, age 88 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, September 2, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, Douglas Hartley. Velma is survived by her children, Laurie (Richard) DeVries, Mark (Kimberly) Hartley, Leesa (Thomas) Lintemuth; grandchildren, Carolyn (James) Hofstee, Andrea (Patrick) Jordan, Mark Hartley, Douglas Hartley, David (Elisa) Lintemuth, Roman (Elizabeth) Lintemuth; 7 great-grandchildren; brothers-in-law, Steven Hartley, Jack (Sharon) Hartley, Larry (Janett) Hartley; and several nieces and nephews. Velma Jean was a wonderfully loving, warm, and compassionate mother, grandmother, and friend to many. Her love for her family was unquestionable and emotionally she was always available for us. Her life of faith was an inspiration to us all. We rejoice at her reunion with her husband (our father) in time to celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary together again. Although she will be missed, she is home at last with her Heavenly Father. Funeral services will be held at 11am on Friday, September 8, 2023, with visitation one hour prior, at the Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Lowell, 1151 W Main St., Lowell MI 49331. Pastor Ryan Landt officiating. Interment at Bailey Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to Paws with a Cause, 4646 South Division Wayland, MI 49348.



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Middle School, continued

paint, and there are corners with boxes that have not yet been fully unloaded. Fowler confirmed that there is still work to be done, but the middle school presented to the public was certainly enough to encourage pride in the delivery of the promised facility and confidence that learning will be unimpeded, from this moment forward, in the brand new building.

“We’ve had state-of-

the-art educators providing state-of-the-art education,” Wiseman said, “and now we have a state-of-the-art building.” The most impressive portion of the tour was watching current middle schoolers walk through the halls and show adults some of the features they find the most helpful. Parts of this building are brand new, but other parts have been used

already for a couple of years, so the middle schoolers present were veterans, compared to the community members setting foot on the campus for the first time. Their presence was the most encouraging because, while it is important to convince parents that their

children are in good hands and community members that their bond money was well-spent, it is all the more important that the students themselves find the new building to be a comfortable place conducive for learning.

ABCs, continued

at the Lowell Lodge. Lowell’s M.N. Henry was spokesman for the evening and the address was given by the Grand Conductor from Kalamazoo on “The Duty of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs to a Community Life.”

The I.O.O.F. is still in existence, but interest dwindled in fraternities locally. The Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges met until the 1980’s. The building was sold to the ‘Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppes’ and today houses Station Salon.

Their motto is:
I AM AN ODD FELLOW:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man;

I believe in Friendship, Love and Truth as basic guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind.

I believe my home, my church or temple, my lodge, and my community deserve my best work, my modest pride, my earnest faith, and my deepest loyalty, as I perform my duty “to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan,” and as I work with others to build a better world, because in spirit and in truth, I am, and must always be, grateful to my Creator, faithful to my Country, and fraternal to my fellow man;

I AM AN ODD FELLOW!

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

IN THE MATTER OF: JOHN JOLDERSMA, Guardianship File: 23-213,880-GA, Conservatorship File No. 23-213,881-CA

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

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on September 28, at 9:00 AM at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180

Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Courtroom 9C in person and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026)for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian. and appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: August 30, 2023

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Martin Luther King Jr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 401-7113

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

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

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

memorials

IN MEMORY OF Kenneth R. Kropf
Out through the fields and the woods.
And over the walls I have wended;
I have climbed the hills of view,
And looked the work, and descended,
I have come by the highway home.
An lo, it is ended.
Robert Frost
Remembering you and missing you on your 77th birthday, September 10.
Your brother & his family

misc.

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sales

MOVING SALE - Fri., Sept. 8 & Sat., Sept. 9, 9 am - 6 pm. Some antiques, bedroom set, tables, entertainment center, snow blower, lamps, household items, bookcases, tools, camping equipment, charcoal grill, etc. too much to list. All must go! 1324 Laurie Gail Dr., Lowell.

CLEANING OUT THE HOUSE SALE - Household goods, women and men clothing size L-2XL, books, craft supplies and tons of other stuff too good to be true! 188 Foleys Grade, Lowell – off of Burroughs. September 8-9 from 9:00 – 5:00.

wanted

CALL FOR AUTHORS TO BE FEATURED - on "For the Love of Books Podcast" hosted by author and journalist Emma Palova of Lowell. Celebrating its one-year anniversary with 50 episodes, the show features Indie and small press authors, and their events. Email emmapalova123@gmail.com. Listen in on podbean and other major podcast apps: For the Love of Books Podcast.

help wanted

NEWSPAPER REPORTER WANTED - The Lowell Ledger is looking for a news/feature reporter with strong writing skills and can meet a deadline. This is a stringer position. Please send writing samples and brief resume to: The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

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coming events

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

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

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Canada on September 9, 1975. As a young man I prayed to become a famous singer. Since then, I have become a Grammy Award-winning jazz singer who has sold over 50 million records internationally.

Answer: Michael Buble

1	2	3					4	5	6	
7							8			9
10				11			12			
13						14	15			16
17					18			19		
21						22	23			24
					25				26	
			27	28				29		
			30				31			
						32				33
									34	35
39	40				41				42	
43				44					45	
46			47						48	
49										50
	51									52

JOB SEEKING WORD SEARCH

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

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

JOB SEEKING
WORD SEARCH

BENEFITS
COMPANY

JOB
KEYWORDS

RESUME
SALARY

COVER LETTER
EMPLOYMENT

LISTING
MATCH

NEGOTIATE
OFFER

RECRUIT

ADVERTISEMENT
APPLY
ATMOSPHERE
ATTIRE

SEEK
SKILLS

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to getting a job.

F O E C I F

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

Answer: Office

CLUES ACROSS

1. Second sight

4. Standard electrode potential

7. Type of gibbon

8. John Joseph __: American industrialist

10. Manning and Whitney are two

12. Abrupt

13. Baroque musical instrument

14. Post-burning residue

16. When you hope to arrive

17. Sign up (Brit. Eng.)

19. Sun up in New York

20. Employee stock ownership plan

21. Where people live

25. Method to record an electrogram

26. Angry

27. No longer living

29. Simple

30. Swiss river

31. Portion of a play

32. It's under the tree

39. Wood sorrels

41. No (Scottish)

42. Dialect of English

43. Former Steelers' QB

44. Popular beer

45. It can make you sick

46. Tropical tree and fruit

48. Company officer

49. Contact lens term

50. Your consciousness of your own identity

51. "Ghetto Superstar" singer

52. Piece of turf

CLUES DOWN

1. Number of players on each side in a football game

2. Containing salt

3. Reasoning or knowledge: a __

4. Car mechanics group

5. Leave a place

6. Southern Colombian capital

8. Old English letter

9. Tide

11. Walk heavily

14. Chemical compound (abbr.)

15. Artificial openings

18. Luteinizing hormone

19. Unit of energy

20. Circular movement of water

22. A way of holding

23. Popular book of words (abbr.)

24. States' group

27. Dashes

28. Body part

29. Electronic countermeasures

31. Consumed

32. Small bird

33. Unhappy

34. Football's big game (abbr.)

35. Valued object offered in good faith

36. Wild goats

37. Precede in place

38. Small edible fish

39. Notice of death

40. Body cavity of a metazoan

44. Partner to cheese

47. Not around

Predictions, continued

to offset that loss. Detroit should have a slight edge, even on the road.
Prediction: Win 15-9 (9-3)

Sun., Dec. 10, at Chicago
1:00 PM on FOX
Yes, the Lions look like



a better team than the Bears, but this is the NFL and there are off weeks for teams. The Lions got pounded by Carolina last year when they were red hot, and the Bears are a team that could catch some by surprise this year.
Prediction - Loss 21-31

(9-4)
Sun, Dec 17, vs. Denver
Time and network TBA

Lions head coach Dan Campbell faces his coaching mentor Sean Peyton, as he attempts to keep Russell Wilson’s playing career going after a poor season in Denver. The offensive line for the Broncos and Wilson’s struggles doesn’t give a lot of confidence in Denver. Upsets do happen though.
We’re going to go crazy and call this one a disappointing tie for Detroit.

Prediction - Tie 20-20 (9-4-1)

Sun., Dec. 24, at Minnesota
1:00 PM on FOX

Division rival Minnesota finds itself on the Lions schedule, week 16 and week 18 of the season, which is peculiar. For the Lions, they’ll at least know exactly what Minnesota is. Last year, the Vikings were a slightly above-average team ,who managed to win every close game they had by elite finishing, luck, or some combination of the prior.
This year, Minnesota is expected to regress a bit,

just given the luck they had last year and the loss of RB Dalvin Cook. Both the Lions and Vikings are in the top two favorites in the division, so this one could have a playoff feel to it, if the teams are close in the standings.
Kicking will lose Detroit games this year; this is another one.
Prediction: Loss 24-21 (9-5-1)

Sat., Dec. 30, at Dallas
8:15 PM on FOX

We always lose in Dallas. It just feels like we always lose in Dallas.
Prediction - Loss 34-21 (9-6-1)

Sun, Jan 7, vs Minnesota
Time and network TBA

Lions will have won the division last week by virtue of Minnesota losing to Green Bay in our scenario. Rest starters, but Teddy Bridgewater has a field-day and ruins Minnesota’s wild-card hopes anyway.
Prediction - Win 40-37

Final Synopsis - 9-7-1 Record prediction, 1st in NFC North, win in wild card, loss in divisional round.

More crime victims eligible for financial assistance

Michigan’s Crime Victim Compensation program will be more widely available to crime victims and their family members thanks to legislative changes that went into effect Saturday, Aug. 12. Expansions to Crime Victim Compensation were signed last year by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to broaden program eligibility requirements and help ensure equitable access to financial benefits.
“This historic expansion in Michigan’s Crime Victim Compensation and the investment in the bipartisan budget I just signed shows our shared commitment to supporting victims across the state,” Gov. Whitmer said. “Since I took office, we have invested \$1.5 billion in public safety. As a former prosecutor, this is a top priority for me and I will work with anyone to ensure Michiganders feel safe at home, school, work, and in their neighborhoods.”
Under the new legislation, the maximum award limit has been

increased from \$25,000 to \$45,000, and more people impacted by crime physically, emotionally, psychologically or mentally may be eligible for compensation. In addition to medical expenses, counseling, lost wages, and replacement services, compensation will now be available for items such as residential security, bereavement and relocation-related expenses.
“We want victims of violent crime to know that they are not alone,” said Elizabeth Hertel, director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. “Our Division of Victim Services is here to advocate for crime victims and their survivors and to help them deal with the physical and emotional toll that crime can take.”
Gov. Whitmer’s recent fiscal year 2024 budget approved \$30 million for victim services, marking one of Michigan’s largest and most historic investments in services for crime victims

and survivors. In addition to funding other direct services, this investment will help maintain victim rights services required by Michigan’s Crime Victim Rights Act and Constitution through grants to prosecutor’s offices and direct compensation to victims through Michigan’s Crime Victim Compensation program. The investment is particularly crucial given the recent expansions and will help ensure a smooth transition as new benefits and eligibility requirements are added to the program.
“These expansions reduce barriers and create greater accessibility to financial benefits for victims and their loved ones,” said Robin Hornbuckle, chair of the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission. “We look forward to connecting more crime victims with financial assistance and thank our state lawmakers for enacting the changes necessary to make these benefits more broadly available.”

Market on Main, continued

people into Lowell, with future plans of expanding to the Riverwalk by the Showboat. “This has been nothing but a positive experience getting new and old faces into downtown Lowell to see what the town has to offer,” she said.
Based off the interested on the Facebook events, Market on Main can get anywhere from an additional 1,000 to 2,000 shoppers through Lowell

on the event days. “It gives shoppers a chance to shop not only local vendors, like a craft show, but also explore all the other aspects of Lowell,” Matthew said. The other aspects include the dining, the social district, the Showboat and much more.
The event was originally a chamber-organized event. “All merchants are encouraged to be open and host a sidewalk sale or feature an outdoor display,”

said Chamber Director, Shannon Kennedy. The presence of outdoor displays draws attention and reminds passersby to stop and look at what the local stores have to offer.
Market on Main is held in May, August and September. “Allowing outside vendors to participate enhances the experience by providing even more things to see and do,” Kennedy said.

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the lowell ledger

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Creekside Kingdom, continued

it ever gets to that point. "It will still be a community built project," Mundt said.

Lowell Rotary is in charge of fundraising for the project, and Mundt and Chambers will oversee a number of community-sourced committees, covering everything from supplies and construction to daycare and snacks. The City of Lowell has agreed to hold the contract for rebuilding Creekside Kingdom, and City Manager, Mike Burns, along with other city officials, has shown his full support.

Mundt has divided this project into multiple phases, and all parties involved have agreed to a step-by-

step process. During Phase 1, Lowell Rotary has agreed to raise \$4,400 in order to get a schematic plan from Leathers and Associates, the firm who assisted with Creekside Kingdom's original design. Leathers and Associates has agreed not to bill for the project, or move forward with the planning, until this first fund-raising target has been met.

There are a number of benefits to proceeding with the project his way. First and foremost, the community can continue to use the existing Creekside Kingdom playground during initial fundraising and planning. “We don’t want to take it down and then have eight

months without anything," Chambers said.

Second, the high quality work done during each phase will serve as effective advertising for the next phase of the campaign. While a donor may not be ready to donate during Phase 1, a beautiful full-color mock-up may serve as the motivation needed to donate during Phase 2.

During the final phase, when the new facility is built, Mundt and Chambers do not believe it will take long. They estimate construction itself to take, at most, one week or at least five days. Though City Manager, Burns, expects that the project will



As part of the Rebuild Creekside Kingdom project, the current Creekside Kingdom playground pictured here will be replaced by a state of the art playground expected to last another 30 years.

conclude in spring of 2025, Mundt is deeply committed to finalizing preliminaries during the upcoming autumn and winter so the new Creekside Kingdom will be available for public use in the spring of 2024, exactly 30 years from the completion of the original project.

Mundt and Chambers noted that the next playground may come with a new name. The name Creekside Kingdom stems from the similarity in the appearance of the playground, with a castle of old. However, the people of Lowell may choose to make the new playground look like just about anything, from a wizard school, to a jungle, to a city brimming with superheroes. What matters to Mundt and Chambers is that the community helps make the decision and build the playground. “Even if someone has no clue how to work a hammer, that’s fine,” Chambers said. “There’s still going to be a job for them.”

Neither Mundt nor Chambers currently works construction for a living. Mundt was foreman for the original Creekside Kingdom project, but outside of that, the only time she's done this sort of work has been during mission trips to Costa Rica, Haiti, Pennsylvania and New Mexico. Chambers, on the other hand, learned just about everything he knows from his dad, who he described as "the DIY guy." Their work with Rotary is best compared to an Eagle Scout project, completed as the capstone of a Boy Scout's journey through scouting. They make a plan, fundraise, and get the job done; no experience required.

In addition to raising the initial \$4,400 required for Phase 1 of Rebuild Creekside Kingdom, Mundt and Chambers are looking for 12-24 enthusiastic individuals to serve as

committee coordinators, and they are not limiting their search to fellow Rotarians. It is deeply important to get participation from a broad swath of the public. Some of these people will be child-care coordinators, as Mundt expects to provide daycare for the children of the people working on Creekside Kingdom, just as they did 30 years ago.

In the future, Mundt and Chambers expect to make rails available to donors who wish to have their name, the name of a loved one, or the name of a business on the new Creekside Kingdom. The original rails will be taken down prior to construction of the new playground, and the intention is to return them to the original donors, however, those donors will have to reach-out to Mundt or Chambers to coordinate the return.

In addition to individual donors, City Manager Burns has already discussed applying for a DNR Passport Grant, and they may be able to receive assistance from the LCTV and Look Memorial Funds, but currently, Mundt and Chambers are imploring businesses and private citizens to step-up and become an integral part of this project through financial support. For more information on donating or volunteering, check out the Rebuild Creekside Kingdom Facebook page, or send an email to rebuildcreeksidekingdom@gmail.com. In the Gettysburg Address, President Abraham Lincoln described the U.S. government as, “of the people, by the people, for the people,” and while it may sometimes feel like some of those elements are absent in public affairs, they are present en-force within Mundt and Chambers’ dream for a new Creekside Kingdom.

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