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# Lowell’s own “Gap Year Guys” to embark on an epic NBA tour

By Aneisha McMillan  
contributing writer

In the heart of Lowell, a Midwest town where dreams hang in the air like autumn leaves, two college grads are embarking on a journey that promises to be the adventure of a lifetime. Trey Howard and Shaquan (Quan) Brown’s story began when they returned home to Lowell in June from East Carolina University; it’s here they spent a magical summer creating endless, incredible moments they will certainly cherish for eternity. Those warm, sun-drenched days on the Riverwalk and breezy nights at the Showboat, where they grooved to the tunes of the summer concerts under the starry sky. The unforgettable taste of chili dogs at Ball’s Softee Creme and, of course, the laughs they shared over Long Island iced teas, at Sneaker’s bar, will resonate forever. But



Quan Brown and Trey Howard will begin their mission, to attend games in all 30 NBA arenas during the upcoming basketball season, on October 24 in San Francisco.

NBA tour,  
continued page 2

## Franciscan Rhythms Trail Run & Walk is this Saturday

By Emma Palova  
contributing writer

As the leaves turn red, orange, and yellow, the trail loops on the Franciscan Life Process Center (FLPC) are beyond beautiful. You marvel at

nature’s magic as you walk or run the changing terrain. Sometimes the trail makes a sharp turn up the hill and then swoops down, and you discover a meadow, where the trail forks. Birdhouses, with numbers, line the wide,

well-groomed trail.

Bring out the entire family this Saturday, Oct. 7 at 9 am to enjoy the annual 5k trail run/walk, and music at different stations along the way.

“The trail run/walk started by a need for fundraising for needs for music therapy, and to get people to land in a more regular fashion,” said FLPC director, Sandy Koteskey. All the proceeds go to the music therapy department and scholarship fund since music therapy is not covered by insurance, according to Koteskey. “It provides financial assistance for families,” she said. “Music therapy program provides group and individual services for people with special needs, from young children to folks in elder care facilities.”



Musician on the trail.

Trail Run & Walk,  
continued page 2

## Angie Kennedy is LACC new Member Support Coordinator

By Bill Lee  
contributing writer

When describing The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce in 2023, the word “transition” comes to mind. Back in January, the LACC Board of Directors named a new Executive Director, Shannon Kennedy, and a new Office Manager, Jessica Marks, replacing Liz Baker and Catharina Bek, respectively. The final piece of that transition became complete about a month ago when Angie Kennedy was hired as the Member Support Coordinator.

Kennedy, a long-time resident of Lowell, will be working part-time and will be the initial point of contact for members. Also, she will help to create meaningful relationships with and between its members, and help to

grow the membership. For the last decade she raised her sons and helped on several school committees, including being president of the middle school Parent-Teacher Association. Before that, she worked in the corporate travel industry, scheduling the flights of jets. “Shannon likes to joke that, if I can keep a plane in the air, than I could certainly build one in the air – just like the nature of what happens at the chamber with lots of different things coming at us.”

Angie Kennedy knows that there will be a lot of work to do, and also knows that if local businesses do well, then everyone in Lowell will

Kennedy,  
continued page 7

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# NBA Tour, continued

most of all, it was the friends they made, the incredible neighbors, and the tight-knit community that embraced them.

As summer came to an end, their hearts full and spirits reinvigorated, the fella’s decided to begin a new chapter of their lives unlike any other. Howard and Brown, known as the @gapyearguys on TikTok, shared a dream-as pure as it was grand-to create the BEST gap year ever. To achieve such a lofty goal, they knew they had to invent something truly monumental. They decided to make it their mission to attend games in all 30 NBA arenas during the upcoming season and share their nationwide adventure with

all of TikTok.

Their journey is set to kick-off on October 24, with the highly-anticipated season opener in San Francisco, where the Golden State Warriors will face off against the Phoenix Suns. From there, the @gapyearguys will traverse the nation, visiting arenas far and wide to witness the intense matchups and electrifying atmosphere of each game.

What truly sets this epic road trip apart is their commitment to sharing every moment with the world through the power of social media. With a rapidly growing following, Howard and Brown are poised to bring their unique experiences to life, capturing

the excitement of each game, the energy of the crowds, and the captivating stories of dedicated fans.

But their expedition isn’t solely focused on the games themselves. The @gapyearguys have their sights set on interacting with their favorite players, uncovering the most passionate stadium superfans, and indulging in the most outrageous concession foods the NBA has to offer. Their mission is to seek-out the wild, the unexpected, and the unforgettable moments that make each arena visit truly special. The duo has spent weeks collaborating with teams to ensure tailored experiences and exclusive behind-the-scenes content

at each stop. From the pregame Tunnel Walk to uncovering exclusive VIP areas, their fans and followers are about to experience the NBA season like never before.

Fueled by an unwavering love for basketball and an unquenchable thirst for the ultimate gap year experience, Howard and Brown are on the verge of becoming synonymous with NBA royalty. To kickstart their adventure, the @gapyearguys are hosting a special fundraiser meet & greet at Sneaker’s bar on October 14 ,from 12 pm - 4 pm, during the annual Harvest Celebration... because touring the country is expensive! Howard and



Brown are creating a story of triumph that will forever be intertwined with the town they love. Beyond the wild and wonderful adventurous road trip, the @gapyearguys tour is a testament to the power of dreams, the strength of community, and the unwavering belief that anything imaginable is entirely possible if you dare to dream big enough.

# Trail Run & Walk, continued

The music program helps 45 to 50 individual clients a week, and 500 clients out in the community. The FLPC staff goes to schools, day facilities, group homes, early childhood centers, and elder care facilities.

The goal this year is to have 200 participants and raise \$30,000. There is also a kids’ run for 12 and under, before the official

start, for \$15. There are no age restrictions, no strollers, and no dogs allowed. “We encourage stable mobility,” said Koteskey. “You have to be agile. Families are encouraged to come.”

Last year’s proceeds from the run enabled FLPC to replace outdated instruments: two new Celtic pianos, two chromatic-tone chime sets, that are used for therapeutic groups, and seven to 10 guitars were serviced and restrung. “The generosity of the community made a huge impact on the quality of our program,” said Koteskey.

Located at different points on

the trail, there will be 10 live-music stations; new this year is the bag piper. These stations will represent a combination of Celtic music, acoustic rock, opera, and various instrumentalists.

“We have been so fortunate,” said Koteskey, “this run has been so well-received. It’s one of the most gorgeous times of the year to experience the land. We’d love for you to join us, to go for a beautiful walk, for a great cause.”

Director of Music Therapy & Development, Sister Jeanne d’Arc Paquette, said both the land and music are integral to the mission of the center. “It’s a gift for us to be able to share these with the greater Grand Rapids community,” Paquette said. “Everyone loves the music.”

“The trails are accessible year-round, except for hunting season,”



A nice challenging course in the woods and the prairie.

said Koteskey. “It’s about the experience; it’s a nice challenging course.”

The event is from 9 am to noon and it takes you through three different trail loops on the property: the blue loop is Peter’s Woods, 1.1 miles; the purple loop is Sanctuary Prairie Trail, 1.0 miles; and the red loop is Nature Trail, 1.5 miles. The run/walk ends back at the center, and runners will get a cinnamon roll.

You can register on the day of the race for \$40, otherwise, it is \$35.

Online registration closes on Oct. 5. Also set-up by the registration, an FLPC swag event store will offer merchandise such as hats, water bottles, mugs, vinyl stickers and handmade device holders. Everybody will get a handmade land medallion made from fallen wood from the property.

To sign up go to: <https://runsignup.com/trailrun2023>

The location of the run is Franciscan Life Process Center - Lowell Campus, 11650 Downes Street NE, Lowell, MI 49331



Franciscan Sisters, Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE, Ph.D. and Sr. Regina Cochran, FSE, walk on the trail during the annual 5k run/walk.

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# HR. 4756 - A bill to provide tax incentives that support local media

By Cliff Yankovich  
contributing writer

In July of this year, Republican Representative Claudia Tenney (NY 22) introduced a bill to provide tax incentives that will support local newspapers with a great one-two punch. The bill was co-sponsored by Democrat Suzan DelBene (WA 1). HR 4756 goes by the name Community News and Small Business Support Act. Since that time, the bill is gaining some traction with support from eight more representatives, four from each party. The bill is designed to support all kinds of local media, including local papers, digital media outlets, radio stations, and even TV stations. For the purpose of this article, we will only be considering the importance and impact of small-town newspapers.

Before we look into the great possibilities of HR 4756, it is imperative to examine the current situation when it comes to small-town newspapers in Michigan and around the country. In a word, the situation is dire. For many

years big corporations bought-up small newspapers, many, if not most, of which are published weekly. In the last decade, there are estimates that over two thousand or more small papers have been shuttered across the country.

Gannett is the largest newspaper chain in the U.S. They have been buying-up small papers for many years. They follow the typical corporate model and operate with both eyes firmly focused only on the bottom line, with little to no regard for the communities the smaller papers serve. Without a doubt, our increasing desire to get our news on our devices has led to fewer subscribers to local papers. Fewer subscriptions means fewer advertising dollars, and thereby, a steady downward spiral happens. When profit is the sole consideration, it becomes easy to trim-off a paper that fails to produce, not only a profit but an increase in profit from year-to-year, which is what corporations and their shareholders expect/

demand.

It is worth noting that while overseeing a corporation that has closed hundreds of small newspapers in the last few years, the Gannett CEO brought home a paycheck of 3.3 million dollars in 2022, which was down from over 7.7 million the year before. There is an eight-member Board of Directors at Gannet – all of whom received somewhere between \$186,000 to \$220,000 per year. This is in sharp contrast to the average salary of \$48,000.00 for an employee of Gannett.

Before we examine the attributes of the bill, it is worth taking a moment to realize the importance of small-town papers. Want some publicity for your son or granddaughter and their efforts on a sports team or to celebrate them winning the chess invitational? How about a story heralding the success of your church group or favorite non-profit’s fund raising efforts? Want to learn more about the new small business that opened on Main Street? It

is a safe bet that one of the online news services is not going to devote any time to those kinds of stories; it is the purview of a small-town paper, like the one you are reading right now. Producing a weekly paper is an expensive undertaking; this year alone saw a huge spike in the cost of newsprint on which to print it. Rising costs and loss of revenue are why corporations like Gannett choose to just shutdown a paper instead of working hard to do whatever it takes to keep it afloat.

On a very positive note, HR4756 would address several issues with one piece of legislation that could actually go a long way in the right direction, when it comes to helping out any and all remaining community newspapers. The bill lays out a five-year plan to provide payroll tax credits to local and community news outlets to hire and retain local news reporters. It is our understanding that these tax credits will only be allowed for media outlets with

fewer than 750 employees. (So Gannett, et al, will not benefit from this.) Small businesses, with 50 or less employees, that advertise in local newspapers, digital news sites, on local radio or with local TV stations are eligible for tax credits. Another great part of the legislation is that it only applies to local news reporting. It would give great tax incentives to the *Ledger* to do what we enjoy doing – reporting on the stories that involve and affect our readers.

Eligible newspapers will be allowed to apply for tax credits of up to \$25,000 per local journalist the first year and up to \$15,000 per local journalist for four more years. The benefit to small businesses would be a tax credit of up to \$5,000 the first year and up to \$2,500 for up to four more years. So, if a Main Street business spent \$2,500 advertising in the *Ledger*, not only do they get to deduct the advertising expense, but they can also claim the tax credit, which would be a wonderful incentive for them. The bottom line, a tax credit has a bigger impact on a small business than an advertising expense, and the two of them together would go a long way to helping small businesses compete. This reporter is very encouraged by the fact that this bill defines a small business as having less than 50 employees because, many times businesses with as many, as 1,500 employees are classified as “small”.

parties pay a lot of lip service to small businesses – they like to refer to them as “the backbone of America”. We agree completely and we celebrate this effort that would go a long way to making sure that the backbone is strong and up to the task. Both parties should support HR4756 with no hesitation. Corporations are given tax breaks and incentives that the little mom & pop businesses have no chance of getting. This bill is one for the little folks, for sure.

What can we all do at this point? Well, if you value the production and distribution of local news, then take a couple minutes to encourage support from our representatives. Michigan has thirteen of them. We would suggest a phone call or email to all thirteen of them, asking for them to get behind the bill and do what ever they can to see it become law. If you value the small businesses that help make Lowell the cool place that it is, then let our representatives, know that you expect them to vote to help keep them afloat.

If you go to <https://www.house.gov/representatives> you can scroll down to Michigan and you will see all 13 of them listed. If you click on a name, you will be taken to the reps website and a link with information on how to contact them via phone or email. It would be wonderful if everyone reading this would take the time to encourage support for HR4756 from one or more of our representatives.

## Free well-water testing, now available for Michigan residents

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is excited to announce a special program to help Michigan families know the quality of their well water. EGLE, and local health departments (LHD), are working together to ensure that safe drinking water is a priority for Michigan families.

Last year, the Michigan Legislature appropriated \$5 million to provide free well-water testing for Michigan residents who rely on a household or private well for their drinking water. Water from private wells may sometimes not be safe to drink. EGLE and the LHDs want to help families know if their water is safe to drink, and this free well-water testing will help get them that answer.

Most wells get checked

when they are first built; however, EGLE and the LHDs know that water wells should be checked more frequently, as water quality may change over time. This testing can determine if there have been any water quality changes to your well that could be harmful to those who drink and use that well water.

Many different substances may be found in well water that could be harmful and may cause illness, including bacteria; nitrates; and some metals, such as arsenic. Residents, who test through this free program, will have the assistance of the LHD to help determine next steps if test results show a problem with their well-water quality.

If you have a private well and you want to know if your water is safe to drink,

here is what you can do:

Talk to your LHD. They can tell you if there is anything special you need to know about the water in your area.

Go to the EGLE website [gov/EGLEPrivateWells](http://gov/EGLEPrivateWells). Here, you can add your information to ask for a water test. You will also learn more about how to collect a water sample to send to the laboratory.

Don’t worry if you are not sure what the laboratory results mean – your LHD

will help you understand the results and will guide you on next steps, if necessary.

This free-testing program is your first step in knowing if the water you drink from your private well is safe, and steps to take if an issue is found.

To stay up-to-date on other EGLE news follow us at [Michigan.gov/MIEnvironment](http://Michigan.gov/MIEnvironment).

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# Verified problem: Twitter/X and the 2024 presidential election

By Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

Like many users of the former Twitter, now X, Mick Mirkwood decided to take a break for a couple of months, and he is not alone. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, 60 percent of active U.S. Twitter users have taken a similar break, since investor Elon Musk purchased Twitter on October 27, 2022, and nearly half of that number do not expect to ever come back. In what analysts describe as an attempt to remove opposing viewpoints from Twitter/X, Musk has begun to purge inactive accounts, after only 30 days without logging in, meaning that many of those former Twitter/X users taking breaks will not have anything to return to. However, prior to purge, users have been getting push notifications to remind them to come back, and some users, like Mirkwood, have experienced different push notifications altogether.

“Mick Mirkwood” is a pseudonym used to

protect the identity of a former active Twitter/X user who does not wish to incur retaliation from owner Elon Musk and his supporters for speaking out against the platform. Mirkwood has operated a small business, using Twitter, for the majority of his advertising, for the past several years. Recent changes have made it more difficult for Mirkwood to turn a profit using Twitter, so he took a break in order to seek-out other opportunities. At first, his push notifications were relevant to his prior activity, details about people who had liked, retweeted, or commented on older posts. After a couple of days, there were push notifications from accounts he followed. When none of these enticed Mirkwood back, he began receiving push notifications for political organizations spreading verifiably false information about a number of topics, including the upcoming election.

“I think that’s his default now,” Mirkwood said. “If he doesn’t know what to

send you, Musk just pushes the beliefs of his political benefactors.”

Mirkwood believes this is part of Musk’s endgame, following his acquisition of Twitter and its transformation into X. Mirkwood’s claim sounds like a conspiracy theory, but attempts to disprove his claim are surprisingly difficult to uphold, because the evidence of the past year supports the likelihood that Twitter/X will be used as a weapon against the America’s voting populace, going into the 2024 Presidential Election cycle.

Musk’s first actions as owner of Twitter were to fire Twitter’s existing CEO, Parag Agrawal; CFO, Ned Segal; general counsel, Sean Edgett; and head of Legal, Policy, Trust, and Safety, Vijaya Gadde, many of whom were responsible for key reforms to protect users from Russian meddling following the 2016 election. A week later, Musk fired nearly half of Twitter’s staff by simply

turning off their email access, leaving equipment, intellectual property, and secure information in the hands of disgruntled former employees. Twitter lawyer, Alex Spiro, recently threatened legal action against Meta over its new “Twitter Killer” platform, Threads. His accusations that Meta hired current and former Twitter employees, with access to trade secrets and highly confidential information, only confirms that insiders at Twitter/X are aware of the security problems created by this mass layoff.

In the months that followed, Musk reinstated numerous controversial accounts that were previously shut-down due to evidence of misinformation, harassment, and the incitement of violence, removed “government-funded” and “China state-affiliated” tags from hostile state propaganda organizations, and changed algorithms to amplify messages coming from Russian, Chinese, and Iranian state media outlets. At the same time, Musk banned high-profile journalists responsible for writing articles critical of Twitter during his tenure, labeled NPR, CBC, and BBC hostile state propaganda organizations, and throttled links to media outlets like New York Times, Washington Post, Reuters, Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, and Substack. In words, Musk claims to be a “free speech absolutist,” but in practice, he is perfectly happy obstructing well-researched American speech and emergency warning systems, while promoting the free speech of foreign actors intent on undermining the American political system.

Though Musk personally dismantled many of the checks and

balances against abuse on Twitter by disbanding the Trust and Safety Council, replacing a Blue Checkmark verification with a pay-to-play alternative that has been exploited by bad actors posing as government agencies and public individuals and spreading false information, and pulling out of the European Union’s voluntary code to fight disinformation, there are some external checks and balances that may force him to reverse some of his policies. The first protection is market economics—Twitter/X has lost an enormous chunk of its userbase, those who remain behind post less often, sponsors have been steadily leaving the platform, and the company is worth a fraction of the amount it was when Musk purchased it. Furthermore, knee-jerk moves, like Musk’s announcement in August that he would remove the block button, place Twitter at odds with content requirements enforced by both the Google Play store and the Apple store. Additionally, the independently verified claims that Twitter throttled access to rival websites could expose Twitter to serious antitrust lawsuits.

On August 29, Musk announced the return of political advertising on Twitter, and Mirkwood believes this was Musk’s intent all along. “He doesn’t seem to have any issues with tanking the company and losing a lot of money,” Mirkwood said. “I think he expects to get a boost of some kind during the upcoming election.”

At face value, and on its own, political advertising on Twitter/X is not problematic, but combined with some of Musk’s other decisions, it becomes a bit more troubling. Since “government-funded” and

“China state-affiliated” tags have been removed, the political ads that users receive could be issued directly from Russian President Vladimir Putin, China President Xi Jinping, or Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei of Iran. Recent layoffs, dissolutions, and policy changes suggest that Twitter/X will do little, if anything at all, to police political advertising for false, hateful, and dangerous content. Finally, as Mirkwood has already warned, these ads may be pushed as notifications to people who no longer use the app, regardless of whether or not they have ever interacted with similar content.

For concerned consumers, who do not want to be influenced by foreign governments intent on collapsing American democracy this election season, there are a number of solutions. Leaving Twitter/X permanently and using other social media sites is the simplest and most effective solution, but for people like Mirkwood, who worry they will lose customers by leaving the platform, that may not be a viable permanent option. In an article written in July, and presumably still relevant according to Twitter/X’s current build, Alphr tech writer, Anna Middleton, recommends navigating to Twitter/X Privacy and Safety settings and adding the following keywords to the Muted words list: “suggest\_who\_to\_follow,” “suggest\_recap,” “suggest\_pyle\_tweet,” “suggest\_recycled\_tweet,” “suggest\_ranked\_timeline\_tweet,” “suggest\_activity\_tweet,” and “share\_tweet\_to\_pocket.” If muting these keywords does not get rid of the suggested tweets in question, Middleton recommends muting the users featured most often in the suggestions. If Twitter/X will not enforce consumer protections during the 2024 election cycle, the impetus is placed on users and regulators to do so.

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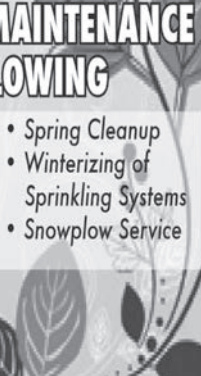
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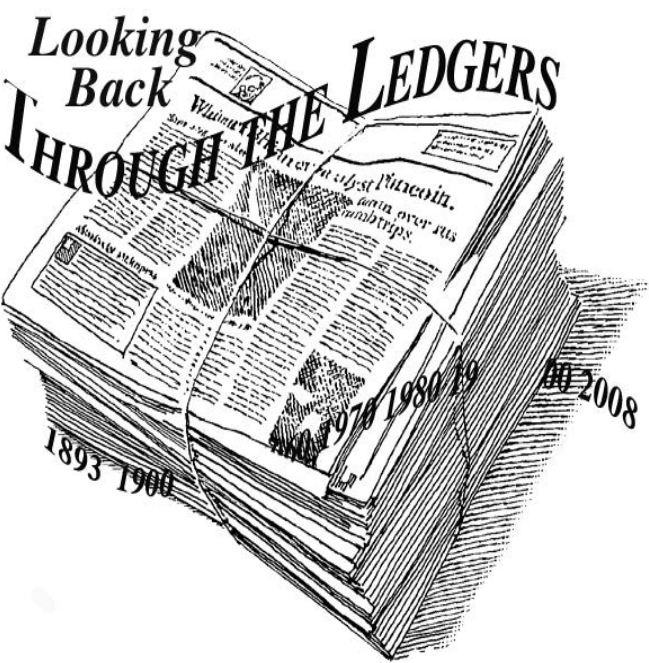


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# viewpoint



## 150 years ago The Lowell Journal October 1, 1873

Lowell continues to be the boss market for wheat and pretty girls.

The capital corner stone will be laid to-morrow. The Lowell Sir Knights and other well-dressed people of this village will be there.

Notwithstanding the recent bank failures and wide-spread panic, we rejoice to say that the Lowell National Bank has its footing as firm as ever, and that its depositors have been, and are still, conducting themselves like men of sense and business.

## 125 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 6, 1898

There was fakir in town last Saturday afternoon who found some fellows ready to swallow the old bait of getting something for nothing. He actually made them believe he was going to make them a present of a dollar a piece, and they could hardly come to their senses when he shoved their dollars into his pocket. The next skinner that comes along will catch a new string of suckers.

The annual reunion of the veterans of the Mexican War was held here to-day. There were 13 members present, the youngest was 72 years old and the oldest 90.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 4, 1923

Owing to long continued ill health, F.M. Johnson, founder of and publisher of this paper for thirty years, has sold the same to Mr. George H. McMillen, founder of The Lake Odessa Times, and for fifteen years, publisher of the Athens Times.

A large barn on the James Denton farm, four miles south of Lowell, was totally destroyed by fire of unknown origin, early last Wednesday morning. The estimated loss is \$2,500, with only a small amount of insurance.

Lowell defeated Grand Ledge last Friday, 45 to 0, but the brand of football played by the Lowell team was far inferior to that played against South High the week before.

The free movies, which have been given in Alto every Tuesday night this summer, will give the last entertainment next week.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 30, 1948

The promptness displayed by a large number of Lowell people, who donated their blood for transfusions, has save the life of eight-year-old Howard Scofield, who suffered a rupture of his liver about three weeks ago. The accident occurred when Howard's bike skidded as he was riding down a hill in Segwum.

Law Morse, while playing cribbage with Bruce McMahon at the Club Diner this week, held a perfect 29 hand. We didn't hear, however, who won this game.

Keith Bergy was rushed to Blodgett Hospital Saturday night and immediately operated on for appendicitis. Friends will be glad to know Keith is gaining nicely.

Early risers in Alto were surprised to see a hugh Navy dirigible pass just above the tree tops, over Alto, about 6:15 Sunday morning. It could be seen very plainly and was a mammoth thing flying toward Detroit.

## 50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life September 27, 1973

A car parked next to the City Service Station on West Main Street was reportedly stolen September 20. The vehicle, according to investigating officers of the Lowell Police Department was later found abandoned at Fallasburg Park, where it had hit a pole.

Motorists annoyed by the buzzer, which sounds in pre-1974 cars if seat belts aren't fastened, may be even more annoyed with the complicated seat belt harness interlock systems on the 1974 models.

Only one proposal is on this year's school ballot, for Special Education millage. It lost last time, probably because confusion with other issues.

Smallpox vaccinations are dropped from the list... now the disease has been eradicated.

Lowell Jaycees sponsor their annual community auction and 2-cents-a-pound plane rides.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 7, 1998

The Lowell School Board will be asked on Monday to support a policy which would make all Lowell school property smoke-free. Smoking is currently allowed outside of school buildings in the evenings and on weekend.

While the sidewalk in front of 942 Sibley may lead to nowhere, the Lowell City Council unanimously decided it still had to be put in. All new homes in the city of Lowell require installation of a sidewalk in front of the house. Habitat for Humanity is building a new house at the site.

Lowell Middle School's David Strejc won the 1998 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in teaching.

## How many Michiganders read newspapers?

By James Tarrant  
Michigan Press Association  
executive director

Michigan has more miles of freshwater shoreline than any state in the nation, is the second-most agriculturally diverse state in the nation, is home to more than 115 lighthouses, and 5 million newspaper readers. Really?

Really. Every month, 85% of Michigan adults read newspapers' print and online issues, according to a new Michigan Market Study conducted by Coda Ventures in partnership with Michigan Press Association Services. The study measures media usage and purchase behavior of Michigan adults across urban and rural zip codes.

The 5 million Michigan newspaper readers number might not come as a surprise to you. After all, you are reading a newspaper right now. You are in the majority of Michigan citizens who value your newspaper's local news and ads.

Who are these 5 million Michigan newspaper readers? Coda reports:

- 77% are under age 65,
- 63% are homeowners,
- 91% believe they have a responsibility to shape the future of their communities,
- 91% vote in local elections, 82% vote in state and national elections,
- 80% believe newspaper advertising is important,
- 94% take action as a result of newspaper advertising,
- 62% use newspapers to decide which products to buy,
- 70% have lived in the community 5 or more years,
- 88% of the people believe that publishing public notices in newspapers should be required,
- 70% of the people plan to travel within Michigan in the past/next 12 month at least one time

Michiganders say they rely on local newspapers as their primary source of news and information about schools, local government, high school sports, local entertainment, candidates/ballot issues, crime and safety.

Newspapers,  
continued page 14

## 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](mailto: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.

### Teen Advisory Board

Thursday, Oct. 5 and Oct. 19, 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. Meetings can count as volunteer hours for things like the National Honor Society. Students ages 14+ can apply for additional volunteer opportunities. For ages 11-17.

### Book Worms Book Club

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 10-11 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *What I Can Do* by Mary Hoodhood. For ages 18+

### Painted Birds

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Create whimsical, boldly colored birds with thick media paper and beaded wire embellishments. Perfect for wall hangings! Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins and you may save one seat for a friend. For ages 18+

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION POST 528.  
SAL Upcoming Dinners

BUILD - A - BURGER  
SAT., OCT. 7 • 5:30 - 7 PM

BBQ 1/2 Chicken  
Sat., Oct. 21 • 5:30 - 7 pm  
CHECK OUT OUR GUN RAFFLE!

6056 LINFIELD, ALTO, MICHIGAN • 616-868-6490

Public Welcome

# 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

## S is for Skating

Local roller-skating popularity trends have followed that of national trends. The first roller-skating boom was from around 1880 until 1910. Skating rinks popped up everywhere and skates began being mass produced. In Lowell, a skating rink was built by 1884. It stood south of Train’s Opera House, on land now occupied by King Milling Company’s silos.

Roller-skating was for everyone. The skaters skated to the music from an untiring orchestra, and there was even a gallery above, where spectators could also enjoy themselves. Professional skaters traveled around the country and Lowell was able to bring in some of these acts. Crazy as it seems today, initially, there was



Dancers Barb Adams, Ardis Johnston, Marlene Coors

some controversy with the sport. Saloon owners were not happy with the trend; they thought the young men ought to be sitting in their saloons instead of spending their time and money at roller rinks. In 1885, the newspaper, in defending roller-skating stated, “Properly managed, the roller rink is all right, and roller skating, not carried to excess, is a healthful amusement. The Lowell Rink is patronized by scores of the best people of Lowell and was never more popular than it is today.” It was also written “say what you will, roller skating is a healthful exercise and rare sport. Like eating, it shouldn’t be carried to excess. The

proper use and the abuse are two very different things.”

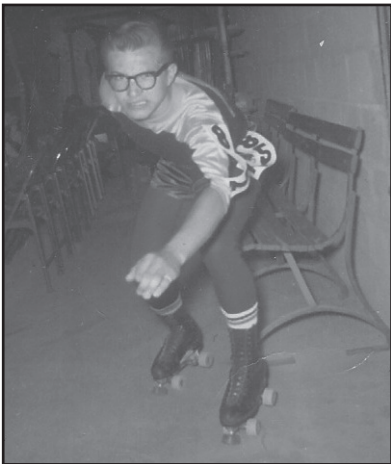
At the Presidential Election of 1884, it was announced that “Managers of the Lowell rink have, at great expense, made arrangements to receive by telephone the election news of the night of November 4, and will give an election party on that evening. Good music and a big time expected. Supper will be served at W. J. Medler’s and J.C. Train’s. Election news will be received there as early as at Grand Rapids.”

This original rink later burned and was not rebuilt, as the popularity of the sport had decreased.

Another brief roller-skating era occurred around 1940. The United Methodist Church opened up their gymnasium for roller-skating, for the community, during the winter months. It was very popular while it

lasted.

The next local experience in roller-skating was accomplished by William (Chris) Christiansen and the American Legion. The Legion wanted a memorial for those who had served in wars. Chris had seen an idea in a magazine, stating that a good memorial is one that is living, active, and one that fulfills a community need. The Legion decided on a bowling alley and recreation center. They purchased the old East Ward School on Main Street and work began in 1945. Originally, eight bowling lanes were built. Some local businesses and individuals donated towards the project, including businesses sponsoring bowling teams.



Jerry Adams, speed skating State Champion, fourth in Nation

ABCs, continued page 14

# area churches

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060

Pastor Ryan Landt

1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Website: calvarylowell.org

Morning Worship.....10:00 AM

Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays ....7 PM

Barrier-Free

happy birthday

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

"Praying and studying together"

Saturday service begins at 10:30 AM

10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell

616-987-0567

www.lowellriverside.com

Pastor Darrel le Roux

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)

Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21

Sunday Services - 10:30 am

www.gslc.church

Richard Boshoven, Pastor 897-8307

All facilities are wheelchair accessible

St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820

Website: www.stmarylowell.com

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

Confession: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org

Pastor Shannon Jammal-Hollemans

Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM

Open Table (No-cost meal)

Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive

616-897-5906

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)

897-7168 • www.fbcilowell.org

Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor

Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)

LIFE GROUPS .....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)

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

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

discover. grow. share

621 E. Main Street

897-5938

www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

WORSHIP

Traditional Service: 9 am

Contemporary Service: 10:30 am

Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

OCTOBER 5

Bradley Kiczenski, Allen Reynolds, Zachary Willard.

OCTOBER 6

Randy Tulecki, Emma Jo Clouser, Bridget Lally, Ethan Foster.

OCTOBER 7

Fred Ray, Jennifer Idema.

OCTOBER 9

Jerrid Uzarski, Cameron Kiczenski, Ralph Clouser, Patricia Andelkovic.

OCTOBER 10

Traci Newhouse, Michele DeHaan.

OCTOBER 11

Susan Merriman, Ashley Hendrick, Dale Ruse.

OCTOBER 8

Maxwell Stormzand, Jeremy Darby, Abigail Kastanek, Kelsay Myers, Chris Borton, Andrew Abel.



# Kennedy, continued

do well too. One of her goals is to support members in any way she can to help them grow their businesses. “I want to help with member-to-member networking to establish those relationships and getting them involved with one another – supporting their needs and trying to support them and help them grow their businesses.”

Part of her job will be leading, coordinating, and facilitating on many levels when big events occur in Lowell, like The Harvest Celebration, Girls Night Out, and Christmas through Lowell. Lots of these events take months of planning with meetings schedule for many weeks in advance. “We have monthly breakfasts that rotate throughout the community, a different member each month and open to all members,” said Kennedy. “We had one last week at the Flat River Gallery. It

was lovely. That is a good place for businesses to talk about what is happening now. They might want to market with one another. We also host an after-hours happy hour, similar to the breakfast, where it is a networking meeting for all our members. We have an ambassador meeting once a month for members who are representing the group as a whole. We have a merchant meeting once-a-month and have meetings for events we have coming up.”

One example of a LACC big event is the Lowell Harvest Festival that will take place on Saturday, October 14. There are always several events that take place on that day. This year there will be Market on Main (10 am – 4 pm) where businesses will have sidewalk sales. The ever-popular chili cook-off (1-4 pm and wrist bands required) will be back with ten vendors competing

for bragging rights for the best chili in Lowell. Before you eat that chili though, folks can head over to the Wittenbach Wege Center for its annual pancake breakfast and apple-tasting, from 8-11:30 am. And, of course, to work off all that food you are going to eat, there is the Harvest Hustle 5K run/walk starting at 8:30 am. Lastly, there will be live music on Riverwalk Plaza from Noon to 3 pm by the Cheater Bs Band.

As someone born and raised in Lowell and having many family members from Lowell, Kennedy is very excited to be a part of its growth. She loves that Lowell is growing but that it still has that small-town feel to it. She remembers when there was only one blinking light in town. Is she nervous about the growth of Lowell? Not really. “I feel like the people who live here still like that small-town feel, and because

of that, you will see some things that will continue to feel like a small town. Lowell is definitely getting bigger. The schools is much bigger and are branching out into the townships. But so long as we have historical downtown and people are vested in keeping that, and also that everybody around here tends to want to say hello and be involved with their neighbors, Lowell will always feel small-town as we continue to grow.”

And for those who are curious if she is related to Shannon Kennedy, the Chamber’s executive director, well... she is, by marriage, as they are sisters-in-law, and she is excited to be working with her because of all of the prior experience that Shannon brings to her job. “I am excited to see what she is going to bring to the Chamber,” said Kennedy. “The tried and true that we do well is not going away but we’ll start seeing



Angie Kennedy

some new things, and that is exciting and to be a part of that. She has a lot of good ideas.” Angie knows that the LACC is in a transition right now, but she wants everyone to know that there will be very few changes, just new approaches and outlooks. “The challenge may be is breaking that expectation. Even if it is a little different,

it is still for the best of the businesses.”

To find out more about the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, you can go to their website at [discoverlowell.com](http://discoverlowell.com) or email Angie Kennedy at [membersupport@lowellchamber.org](mailto:membersupport@lowellchamber.org)

# Great authority, but totally bogus: Bard and false information

By Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing writer

When Google unveiled its generative artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot, named Bard, the world was already deeply familiar with the wonders and limitations associated with OpenAI’s ChatGPT chatbot “Sydney.” From the beginning, Bard ([bard.google.com](http://bard.google.com)) felt fully integrated alongside Google suite applications like Gmail ([mail.google.com](http://mail.google.com)) and Docs ([docs.google.com](http://docs.google.com)), and it differentiated itself from ChatGPT in some sleek and subtle ways. For example, ChatGPT responses appear one-word-at-a-time, presumably to simulate how a human correspondent would type out an answer, and this is wise, especially as one considers the fact that chatbots are likely to replace the vast majority of call center employees over the next few decades. Bard, on the other hand, displays a spinning star logo to tell users it is thinking, before displaying a full response, which resembles a FAQ or help-entry on a web site.

Bard was an example of a new and exciting technology from one of the highest earning tech companies in the world, and yet, its rollout was met with lukewarm responses. Part of what marred Bard’s rollout, in March of 2023, was that its responses were often verifiably false, even among folks who actively consume mistruths. Twitter user Acorn1010 exemplified this

problem in a tweet reading, “Just tried Bard. It’s great,” followed by a picture of an interaction in which Bard explained to her that 1 + 2 = 4. To use crass terminology, Google brought obvious stupidity to an intelligence competition, and, to nobody’s surprise, it did not go well for them.

In the comments, a number of people tried to explain how a result like this could happen. User Madheal explained that this is a common problem with Large Language Models, the category of AI that Bard and ChatGPT belong to, which presents as different “personalities” arising as the model develops. User Pierre Lyndon Lockhart Jr. IV explained that Bard and ChatGPT are also Probabilistic Models, which means that they, statistically, rank the most probable answer based on training data, and the results will be different every time. Because of a “random seed and lack of context,” user Ben Stewart suggested that Bard “does not know if it should be doing math, creativity, or cynical comedy.” All of these comments speak to the commonality of Bard’s inability to grasp axiomatic mathematics, which is something that computers have been able to do for decades, but they do not speak to the specific reasons why users received these false results, and that is largely because the

companies behind these chatbots are incredibly opaque about their code. It makes sense—these models will likely revolutionize technology and lead to massive profits, but a lack of transparency might hinder efforts to gain, or regain, in the case of Google’s Bard AI, consumer trust.

ChatGPT is not without its errors—in fact, it is fairly common for the chatbot to intermix small errors among most results—but OpenAI has been fortunate in that its errors have not yet overpowered its advances in the public eye. For example, ChatGPT provided unrecognizable lyrics for the BER song *The Night Begins to Shine* which was made popular by the Cartoon Network show, *Teen Titans Go!* It claimed that the final installation of Brandon Sanderson’s young

adult science-fiction series, *Skyward*, would be titled *Nowhere* and released in November 2022, when it will actually be titled *Defiant* and released in November 2023. It suggested that Jupiter is the planet in the solar system with the most moons at 79, despite Saturn, coming in at No. 2, having 82 moons. Perhaps most egregiously, at least for comic book fans, it stumbled through a series of errors regarding what happened to Rogue in 1980s issues of *Uncanny X-Men* after she came into contact with the Siege Perilous, claiming she joined the X-Ternals, or maybe the XSE, instead of ending up in the Savage Land with Magneto.

During an episode of the NPR program, 1A titled *The Human Labor Powering AI Engines*, Sarah Roberts, a

Professor of Informational Systems and Director of the Center for Critical Inquiry at the University of California, Los Angeles, ran into a similar problem. A while back, she tested out ChatGPT by asking it some basic questions about her own area of expertise, and she was immediately impressed by its citations, which included references to colleagues she knew and trusted. However, many of the publications, on closer observation, were books that she had neither seen or read. “Maybe I missed them during COVID,” Roberts said. “I gotta catch up on my reading.”

What she uncovered was the fact that ChatGPT had generated a list of legitimate-sounding titles that were completely false. The books referenced did not exist in any way, shape, or form. “I guess that was my fault,” Roberts said. “I didn’t ask the chatbot to give me true or factual information. I asked it to generate a list, and that’s the kind of issue that I can see for many people who are using these tools, who don’t necessarily have deep expertise. It speaks

**Bard,  
continued page 16**

## 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  
his 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 November  
3, 2023, at 10:00 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: September 27, 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 VanEssen Wirth  
(P75001)  
109 E. Main St.  
Suite 11  
Zeeland, MI 49464  
Phone: (616) 633-0196**

## PUBLIC NOTICE BOWNE TOWNSHIP

A public Accuracy Test of the voting equipment  
to be used in the November 7, 2023 Special  
Election will be held on

**Monday, October 9, 2023 at 10:00 am**  
In the Bowne Township Historic Hall, located at  
8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, MI 49302.

Karen L. Hendrick  
Bowne Township Clerk

# Four Acre Freedom offers high-quality customizable goods

By Emma Palova  
contributing writer

At Four Acre Freedom store, in downtown Lowell, you will find high-quality custom-made products that will last forever. From rings to real leather belts and purses with a lifetime warranty, to unique articulating 3D prints, all goods are designed with a passion for the craft.

Residents of Lowell, Victor Murdock, with wife Adrienne Brown, started the business four years

ago at Farmer’s Pop-Up Markets, and they opened the storefront three months ago, overlooking the dam. “It’s been a blessing,” said Murdock, “We’re very happy. We wanted to stay local, rather than chasing the markets.”

Murdock crafts handmade rings from everything, and can decorate them with anything. For example, he made a ring from recycled soda cans with green embers, and a stainless-steel ring with an

inlay of ember opals, dragon scale opals, hematite, and glow powder. Murdock also uses wood, like hammered tungsten redwood, dark forest ring, antique maple tungsten ring, and redwood burl ring, among others. “I don’t do precious stones,” he said. But other than that, the spectrum of hand-crafted rings is wide open to any idea; they range in price from \$20 to \$215. At the high end are titanium rings.

His customizable lightboxes can be adorned



Victor Murdock with lightboxes.



Four Acre storefront, located at 102 W. Main Street, Lowell.

with any picture, just like anything else in the store. So, what are the hot sellers at Four Acre Freedom? They are 2 oz. frozen frost berries. “We freeze skittles,” he said. “Freezing them makes the flavor more intense.”

It was the couple’s passion for their four-acre land, which is behind the name of the business with the goose logo. “We made the bold decision to leave the city behind and start anew in the country”, Murdock

said. “Here we have found the fulfillment we were searching for; cultivating our land, crafting beautiful products, and creating a life that is rich with meaning and purpose.”

When asked if he has a personal favorite, Murdock said he likes to move from one thing to another. “Whatever I have fun with”, he said. “We used old goose Gus for our logo. When we bought four acres, we knew we had the freedom to do whatever we want.” Murdock hopes to build a long-term strategy for

growth. His wife Adrienne makes earrings and bakes.

Four Acre Freedom uses local suppliers for metal from Central Iron or Alro Steel. He has a lathe milling machine in his shop on Parnell Avenue and uses AutoCAD for his 3D creations, such as an anatomically correct 3D skull from filament.

The store, located at 102 W. Main St., is open Wednesday through Saturday, from noon to 5 pm. For more info go to: <https://www.fouracrefreedom.com/> or call 616-987-3049

# Veterans Day

## Tribute

**The Ledger, along with local businesses, will be saluting area Veterans in the Nov. 8 edition.**

If you would like to spotlight a Veteran living in our area, please mail, email or bring their picture, along with their name, branch of service and years served, and your name and phone number to:

The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
They may also be emailed to: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)

**If the Veteran you want to honor was in last year, we still have their photo. No need to resubmit.**

Deadline for photo submission is Thursday, Nov. 2 by 4 pm  
*You, or the Veteran you are honoring, must be from the Lowell area.*

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell  
616-897-9261



Recycled soda-can ring with embers.



3D creations.

# Loretta Visser is a MYTHical hiker and a true adventurer

By Cliff Yankovich  
contributing writer

With Lowell having the National Headquarters of the North Country Trail ensconced on Main Street, one almost feels guilty writing about the Appalachian Trail (AT). Our focus today is not to compare and contrast these two trails, but to celebrate the fact that Loretta Visser has recently completed hiking the entire length of the AT.

We should start off with some fun facts about the AT. The most current listing of the mileage, from the genesis of the trail at Springer Mountain in Georgia to the end of the trail at Mount Katahdin in Maine, is 2,1987.4 miles, according to Appalachian Trail Conservancy website. The AT winds its way through fourteen states, and has a low point of

shelters scattered up and down the trail.

Loretta Visser loves the outdoors and started hiking when she was ten years old, but she is neither a Thru-hiker nor a Yo-yo. Thru-hikers complete the AT in one season, and Yo-yos are people who, somewhat unbelievably, go from one end to the other and then retrace their steps. Visser completed the AT by hiking it in sections over many seasons, known as a Multi-Year Thru Hiker (MYTH) in AT parlance.

“I was inspired to walk the AT from an article I read in a magazine,” Loretta told us. “I didn’t intend on hiking the whole thing in sections. In 2005, I started planning a thru-hike in 2011. That didn’t happen because life threw me some curve balls, so I planned to hike it in sections, until it

just one week, actually meant she spent two days driving back and forth and just five days hiking. She switched to two weeks the next year and never went back to a shorter format. Visser celebrated turning 50 by devoting six weeks to the AT. She initially planned to complete her efforts in 2022, with a five week push, but her hiking partner had some health issues, which cut their time short. Over the seasons, Visser has hiked with a single partner and as many as five people at a time.

Loretta confirmed what we read about regarding the challenges from animals and insects along the trail. She did report that once a couple of hunters told her how to look for bears, as she has seen a lot more of them than your average AT hiker. On one nine-mile section in Georgia, she spotted a total of 13 bears in trees. She once stepped off the trail to go to the bathroom and ended up next to a baby bear that was so little and cute, she almost wanted to pick it up. She also saw a bear coming down a tree right next to the trail. That being said, bears were not a factor, when we asked her to name the three worst moments of her hiking the AT.

“Broken gear,” was at the top of Loretta’s list. “And getting over 150 chigger bites. [I remember] sitting in the middle of the trail crying because the ticks were so bad in Pennsylvania.”

Enough of the downside, because the positive aspects, of such an undertaking, far outweigh the negative or she would never have completed the AT. We asked her to narrow down her favorite things to three and she answered with, “Sleeping under the stars, Trail Magic when you least expect it, and meeting Roy Kaye [who lives in North Carolina] in 2011, on the trail, and becoming good friends.”

If you read about long distance trail-hikers or watch movies or documentaries about them, you will hear about “trail magic”. The term sometimes involves other humans, but it can reference finding something that you need the most, when you least expect it. It is also a reference to when someone might provide you with something that really makes your day and they expect nothing in return. Think of those great moments when someone does something unexpected and needed – the kind of thing that restores your faith in humankind. That is Trail Magic. Because of her deep Christian faith, Visser also calls such things “God Moments.”

One such God Moment occurred involving someone she met on the trail named “Hopper”. Hopper was a 79-year-old man who would drive to a trail head close to a shelter, hike to the shelter, stay the night and hike back to his car – “hopping” his way along the AT. Loretta and her hiking partners got to know Hopper over the years, and one night at a shelter, she said, “Wouldn’t it be great if Hopper showed up?” Five minutes later, he did.

Her other favorite God Moment was a little more serious. Her hiking friend, Roy Kaye, was not feeling 100 percent, and thankfully, they met up with an ER doctor who was hiking. He examined Roy, told him to get some medical attention and basically saved his life. Trail Magic, indeed.

Should you decide to head-off in search of some Trail Magic of your own, Visser’s first piece of advice is, “I would tell anyone,



who wants to hike, to be flexible. Things do not always go as planned.” Once you have practiced your flexibility muscles and attitude, the most important piece of gear for such an undertaking would be your footwear.

“The most crucial piece of gear is my footwear. I started out the first few years having issues, until someone gave me this advice,” Visser recalled. “Buy different inserts and go to the store, and try on multiple shoes and boots, until you put on the one that makes you say ‘these are it’. Then look at the price and save until you can afford them.”

If hiking part of the AT holds any appeal to you, but you are not ready to Thru-hike, or even become a MYTH hiker, Visser claims

the very best place to hike is the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. The park does not allow any hunting at all, so there is plenty of wildlife to see. She also said, the 100 miles of the AT in the park includes three well-appointed campgrounds that would allow newbie hikers to get a good taste of hiking the AT without feeling overwhelmed by isolation or wilderness.

Having completed her MYTHical hike of the AT does not mean Loretta will be hanging up her hiking boots, any time soon. When we spoke to her, she was preparing an overnight hike with her 12-year-old grandson, Kyle. She started sharing her love of sleeping under the stars in nature with him when he was just three.



just 124 feet above sea level to an impressive elevation of 6,643 feet at its highest point. Thankfully, encounters with bears are very uncommon, but you need to watch out for a few varieties of rattlesnakes that can be found as far north as New Hampshire. The more common natural irritants on the trail are ticks, black flies, mosquitoes, and the rodents, who live in the

was completed.”

In her effort to hike the entire AT, she was joined by Dawn Swaney on every trip but one. Dawn’s son, Justin, and Loretta’s son, Anthony, joined them the year they graduated from high school. Toni Block and Barb Craiser also hiked with her over the years. She started her effort in 2000 by hiking for a week in Vermont. Allowing



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Red Arrow

- SOCCER

SPORTS

# Soccer honors seniors in regular season finale

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

In the first real game of the year, where a jacket or long sleeve shirt felt like a necessity, it was strange that is was the last game of the year at the LHS North Athletic complex for the boys soccer team.

Lowell took on Grand Rapids Christian, one of the quarter of highly-ranked OK White teams jostling back and forth in the state rankings.

Each of the ten seniors being honored, presented their future plans and favorite memories of high school soccer at LHS.

Lowell honored eleven seniors; Jace Dixon, Bryce Thompson,

Lincoln Holmolka, Carter Szymanski, Owen Davis, Owen MacNaughton, Hunter Chick, Todd Parcheta, Austin Parcheta, Liam Lincolnhol, and Jackson Liley, the latter ,not with the team anymore to focus on club soccer.

Chick is looking to enter carpentry. Szymanski suffered an injury that kept him out of the game, but he plans to go into a career as a diesel technician and enjoyed having his older brother, Sebastien, as an assistant coach during the year. Dixon’s favorite high school memory was beating FHC in districts two years ago, a common theme among the many seniors on this year’s team.

Schaedig plans to study chemical engineering at the University of Michigan next year. MacNaughton’s favorite memory of soccer was beating FHE earlier this year. Todd Parcheta is looking to study computer science, and his favorite soccer memory was when he was pulled up from JV. His brother Austin most enjoyed when he was moved from winger to defense and got to learn another position. Owen Davis plans to become an electrician and remembers his first varsity goal against Hastings. Liam Lincolnhol is looking to study pre-law, while fellow senior Bryce Thompson is looking to study sport management. Finally, senior goalkeeper

Lincoln Homolka plans to study business management and enjoyed playing soccer with his younger brother and friends during his senior year.

On the field, Lowell fell to the Eagles 3-0.

The program’s non-conference game with Newaygo was cancelled and will not be made-up. The Red Arrows compete in the OK Conference Tournament over the next week, with games scheduled this past Monday, Oct. 2, against GR Christian in a rematch of senior night, Wednesday the 4th, and Monday the 9th.



Senior Owen Davis, pictured against Greenville, was one of ten seniors honored on senior night.

## Golfers place third in most recent Jamboree

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

It wasn’t the afternoon that the girls golf team had hoped for, last Monday at Quail Ridge. The Red Arrows placed a narrow third place, just 10 strokes off first-place Byron Center, but the team’s expectations

are high. Lowell shot 178, led by Hannah Flickinger (43), Elle Sluss (44), Leah Kreiger (45), and Elyse Veldman (46). Andrea Plantz and Avery Krieger each finished at 49 and 52, respectively.

Byron Center won the jamboree with a score of

168, the clear front-runners for the conference title, at this stage. FHC, at 174, placed second. All three schools (FHC, Lowell, and BC) were well ahead of Grand Rapids Christian, Northview, and EGR.

Krieger had Lowell’s lone birdie, recorded on the 238-yard par four seventh hole at Quail Ridge, where Grand Rapids Christian serves as host.

Thus far this season, amongst all teams in the state, Lowell has the 19th lowest scoring average in 9-hole rounds with a 166.3. When compared to just Division 2, though, Lowell jumps to fourth in the state. As regionals close in this month, and what Lowell hopes is a state finals berth, it is 18-hole scoring rounds that matter. There, Lowell sits tied second, over the course of five rounds, with Cranbrook-Kingswood. They sit about five strokes behind Farmington Mercy, and slightly ahead of Mason. Elle Sluss is Lowell’s highest ranked golfer in Division 2 in terms of scoring average, sitting at 18th with an average of 82.2 strokes.

This Thursday is the end-of-season conference tournament, which will solidify final positions for all eight OK White schools. Tee off is scheduled for 9:00 am on Thursday at North Kent Golf Course.

## New boys lacrosse coach hired at LHS

Eric Bredin has recently been named the boys varsity lacrosse coach at Lowell High School.

Coach Bredin has an impressive lacrosse background spanning three decades. Bredin brings a wealth of experience that he will undoubtedly use to continue to grow and elevate a program that he founded in 2004. Coach Bredin started his lacrosse career as a player for the Forest Hills Lacrosse Club, where in 1992, he earned all-state honors, captained the team, and helped to lead the team to the state semi-finals.

While attending Michigan State University, Coach Bredin was recruited to start East Lansing High School’s boys lacrosse program in 1994. Bredin also coached lacrosse in Austin, Texas and East Grand Rapids before finding a home and a career in Lowell in the early 2000’s. In 2004, he organized a group of young men to create the first MHSAA varsity Lowell lacrosse team and formed the Lowell Youth Lacrosse Club the following year. In 2011, Lowell won its first conference championship under his leadership. Bredin remained the varsity coach until 2016, when he made the move to coach youth lacrosse.

Coach Bredin is replacing Austin Buckius, a former player of Bredin’s, who resigned over the



New boys varsity lacrosse coach, Eric Bredin.

summer. In his years as head coach, Buckius worked hard to advance the program forward, leading the Red Arrows to the state semifinals in 2023.

Lowell Athletic Director, Patrick Russell stated, upon Bredin’s return to coaching, “We are excited to welcome back Coach Bredin as the head coach of our boys lacrosse program. His passion, expertise, and commitment to developing student-athletes align perfectly with our vision for the future of lacrosse in Lowell.”

Coach Bredin was quoted as saying, “I am excited to be back as the head coach for Lowell boys lacrosse. My goal is to continue to grow the

program and to build on our recent successes. My mission and vision is to unite Lowell’s youth and high school programs with a single goal, to consistently compete with the best programs in the state.”

After graduating with a teaching certificate from MSU, Coach Bredin began his career in education at Cherry Creek Elementary School in Lowell, where he continues to teach 5th grade. His wife, Lindsay, is also a teacher in the district as an ELA and reading instructor at Lowell Middle School. Bredin’s three boys all play lacrosse for Lowell. Coach Bredin spends his free time with friends and family camping, kayaking, and playing music.



Elyse Veldman, during a round with the girl’s golf team.



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Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS



# Lowell gets program defining win, shakes up OK White

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

Five-year head coach, Jacob Henige, stood in front of his team on Friday night and for a brief, but rare moment, was speechless. His team walked into a homecoming atmosphere of a conference rival, a team who entered undefeated, the top-ranked team in Division 2, and with a top-ten ranking in the state regardless of division, and physically grinded out a 38-28 win.

Byron Center jumped out to an early lead, taking just three plays and showing the potent offense that Lowell defenses have in years past, struggled to contain. Lots of passing, athletes in space, and quick looks, to limit Lowell’s strength at the line of scrimmage. It’s exactly the same style of offense that East Grand Rapids rolled out against Lowell successfully earlier this year, and to start the game it looked like Byron Center would do just that.

The Red Arrows countered though, in the exact opposite way. A hard nosed, lengthy drive, where the run game led the way. Fear the veer right? Though Lowell’s offense is not strictly veer, it is the run option between quarterback and running back that has been Lowell’s bread and butter in recent decades. The offense was led by Jackson Reisbig combining for five total touchdowns and 218 yards on the ground. With injuries to Tacho Gonzales and now TJ Hollern, it’s been a next man up mentality for the Red Arrows.

At 14-14, the game turned on its head, as a pop-up kick would be fumbled and recovered by the Red Arrows. It was a huge swing to give Lowell a seven-point lead going into halftime, and they got the ball to begin the second half where Reisbig again found the endzone this time from 38 yards out.

One swing in a game, where the offenses were having their way, that can mean everything, and it did.

The crowd was engaged and a student section, that at one point, had to be urged to quiet down from the team, kept the Lowell sideline’s energy positive.

Late in the third quarter on the Lowell sidelines, Lowell coaches noted a drone in the air above the Red Arrow sideline. Drones are not permitted at high school football games, or stadiums of any kind for that matter under FAA rules. Both a safety measure, and a way to prevent unauthorized recording from above. The issue was brought up to officiating and an announcement was eventually made in the fourth quarter.

The Bulldogs, trailing by 14 twice would counter, first at 28-14, then at 35-21. The Red Arrows with the ball in the fourth quarter had one drive to seemingly finish off the game.

On 4th and goal from the four-yard line, Lowell had a decision to make. Lowell isn’t a program that churns out football kickers. Special teams isn’t a specialty at Lowell, and as such you can count on your hands the number of field goals the Red Arrows have kicked over the last few years. In this case, it made sense. A field goal made it a two-score game, and giving Byron Center the ball down only a score wouldn’t have been ideal. The team turned to kicker Todd Parcheta, a mainstay on the Lowell soccer team, and Lowell’s placekicker the past two years as well. Parcheta was pivotal in Lowell’s forced turnover earlier in the game.

“We do a sky kick, 25 to 30-yards down the field,” Henige told Mick McCabe of the *Detroit Free Press* after the game. “He’s like a golfer hitting with the

wedge. He gets some air under it, skies it up. We make the opposing team figure out if they’re going to fair catch it, or if they’re going to catch it and make a run with it.” Parcheta would execute that all night, and one time forcing the turnover.

Henige again would look to Parcheta for a big play. While the field goal wasn’t from far, a 22-yarder, it did come with much more pressure than your typical extra point. Parcheta knocked it through though, and with four minutes left, Byron Center faced a near impossible task down two scores.

The Bulldogs quickly advanced to midfield before a pair of quarterback sacks knocked them into 4th and 10. One final heave for the Bulldogs quarterback, under pressure, where his receiver would trip, and the ball falling nowhere close. A brief silence befell the Lowell faithful, waiting for that inevitable yellow flag for pass interference. After all, it always comes when we don’t want it. When it didn’t come though, an eruption of excitement.

You could see it on the sidelines. Coaches hugging, congratulations abound. Players jumping up and down. It was a win Lowell had been searching for. In a technological world where it’s hard to capture the attention of alumni and fans with no direct connection to the team. As the Lowell sideline unleashed their joy, coaches gave a warning to players, celebrate in the locker room, but act with respect as the game ended. Which was done, after shaking hands, the team speech, the team headed off the field to celebrate quickly into the locker room and straight onto the bus.

It was arguably Lowell’s biggest win in three years. That last win? The 2020 playoffs, where



**Jackson Reisbig hits his chest, noting an incompletion that was on him. It was his only incompletion of the game as he went 7 for 8 passing and combined for five touchdowns on the night.**

on that same field, Lowell bested Byron Center. The Red Arrows look to build off that momentum this Friday against Forest Hills Northern on the road.

“I’ve been telling people all year the OK White’s as tough, top to bottom, as

it’s been since I’ve taken over as head coach,” said Henige, in his fifth season as head coach. “You can’t take a week off or you’ll be in a fistfight,” Henige added in his postgame comments to the *Free Press*.

As he addressed the

team post-game, Henige noted the adversity his team fought through both on the night and over the course of the year as a program. “That’s a very good team, and I respect them. You’re a good team too,” Henige concluded to his players.

## Harriers set new PRs

Submitted by Coach Clay VanderWarf

Perfect fall conditions gave the Red Arrows another crack at setting some new PRs, and several came through at the Allendale Invitational, at Allendale High School last Saturday. Lowell boys placed 12th in the Scarlet Division with 277 points, while Allendale took their home meet with 53 points, followed by

Grand Haven, 82 points and Jenison with 86 points.

Cooper Byrne came in first for the Arrows with a time of 16.55, good for 31st place. Drew Swayze and Mason Saylor set new PRs with times of 17.11 and 17.22 and places of 46th and 55th. Colin Stawasz and Paul Fowler completed the score with PRs, as well as 17.40 and 18.06,

respectively, 68th and 76th place. Wyatt Remar and Brayden Hekman rounded the varsity lineup with times of 18.26 and 19.35.



## Arrows cap off a hard week

Submitted by Coach Paul Judd

Lowell capped-off a hard week of hills by running the fastest 1-5 team average time, as they finished 9th place out of fifteen teams, at the Allendale Invitational.

The 1:42 gap between the first and fifth runner was the best of the season and is even bigger considering that Claire O’Boyle threw down her second fastest time of

the year, as she grabbed the 22nd place medal in a time of 20:18. Evie Deur ran her fastest time of the year, as she finished in 32nd place in a time of 20:36. Audrey Latchaw worked through the long week, finishing in 59th place running 21:43, while Olivia Lothian continued her time drop, as she ran a PR 21:51, which was good

for 60th place. Finishing fifth and sixth for the varsity was Mia Vonderheide and Brooklyn Jackson, who finished in 63rd and 82nd running 21:59 and 23:07 (PR), respectively.

The Arrows race on campus this Wednesday, as Lowell will host the OK White Jamboree #3.



**Congratulations to the Lowell Equestrian on winning the Region E Division B championship this past weekend. The team moves on to the state meet which will take place October 12th through 15th at the Midland County Fairgrounds. The Red Arrows were reserve state champions last year.**

# obituaries

## GRAHAM

Richard Stanley Graham, age 75 of Grand Rapids, passed away Tuesday, September 19, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter “Red” and Dorothy Graham. Richard is survived by his brothers, Jim Graham and Tom (Cindi) Graham; nephew, Tom (Ashley) Graham; nieces, Jessica (Brandon) Whalen, and Kayla Thiel. Richard graduated from Ottawa Hills High School in 1966, and from Kendall School of Design. He was enlisted in the United State Marines and served in Vietnam. Richard was employed with Walter V. Graham Builders, was a hockey coach at Lowell High School, worked at the Morning Star Productions, and was one of the founding members and president of West Michigan Water Ski Association, and director of the Lowell Area Art Center LPAC. Funeral services were held 11:00 am Saturday, September 30, 2023, at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 with visitation one-hour prior. Interment Merriman Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to The American Diabetes Association, 1550 E. Beltline S.E., Suite 250, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.



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## PLETCHER

Galen K. Pletcher, 80, died September 21, 2023, at Canton-Potsdam Hospital in Potsdam, NY. He was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Kenneth Elmer and Lila Stevenson Pletcher. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1961. After studies at Kalamazoo College and the University of Michigan, he taught philosophy and comparative religion for 45 years at the University of Michigan, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and the State University of New York College at Potsdam. In 1968, he married Cecilie Ann Sewejkis, who predeceased him in 2003. Their children are David M. (Alexandra Turnbull) Pletcher and Jessica Pletcher, both reside in Colorado. He is also survived by his wife, Helen Main McLean Pletcher, her three children and six grandchildren (to whom he was “Poppy”), his sister Pat (Alan) Conway (LHS 1968), and many cousins. A memorial service at the First Presbyterian Church of Canton, NY, will be held October 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM. He will be buried in the Pletcher plot in Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell, Michigan. Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [www.lawrencefuneralhome.org](http://www.lawrencefuneralhome.org)



## MCINTYRE Donald Murray McIntyre

**October 29th, 1983 - September 26th, 2023**  
Donald Murray McIntyre, a loving husband, father, son, and brother, of Lowell, Michigan, unexpectedly passed away at the age of 39. Don left this world to be with his Heavenly Father, shedding his earthly body to be with his Lord and Savior. Though he is no longer here on Earth, the love that Don had for his wife, Adair (Stevenson) McIntyre, is eternal. One of Don's greatest joys was being with his soulmate and sharing in the joy of their four beautiful children; Noah (14), Isabella (12), Jaxson (8), and Ryann (7). Going home to see his family was the constant highlight of his every day. He also leaves behind his parents, John and Sue (Figures) McIntyre, and his parents-in-law, Daniel and Beverly (Waggner) Stevenson; his sister, Julie (Ricky) Everett, sister-in-law, Whitney Stevenson, brother-in-law, Zach (Jennette) Stevenson, and his nieces and nephews; Hanif, Mia, Keeley, Zachary, Henry, Sadie, Charlotte, and Jolene; and his grandmother, Carole Figures. Don was further surrounded by the love of his many cousins, aunts, uncles, numerous extended family members, friends, and co-workers who treasured his presence. Don was preceded in death by his cousin, Brian McIntyre, and his grandparents; Derrick Figures and Donald & Shirley McIntyre. Don's family wishes for him to be remembered



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## DEDONADO

Kyle Anthony DeDonado, age 31, of Saranac, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, September 25, 2023. Kyle was born on February 18, 1992, in Moreno Valley, California the son of Troy and Sonja (Donovan) DeDonado. He married Heather Noon July 23, 2016, at Easton Church. Kyle loved his family, and spending time with his daughters. He enjoyed disc golf and was a member of MDGE. Kyle was a very kind, loving and funny man. He would lend a hand to anyone in need. He was a big Philadelphia Eagles fan, and he enjoyed fishing. He enjoyed taking his girls to the park and joking around with his friends. He is survived by his wife, Heather of Saranac; daughters, Hayley Mae DeDonado and Hannah Joy DeDonado; parents, Troy and Sonja DeDonado of Lowell; brother, Andrew (Kelsey) DeDonado of Greenville; mother and father-in-law, Harvey and Joy Noon of Saranac; brother-in-law, Dylan Noon of Saranac; niece, Harper DeDonado; nephew, Henry DeDonado; grandmothers Carol Wolbers of Saranac, Mert Antcliff of Saranac and Grandparents, Harvey and Helen Noon of Saranac. He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Robert Wolbers and Clint Antcliff. Funeral Services were held at 11 AM Saturday, September 30, 2023, at the Lake Funeral Home in Ionia. Interment will be at Pinckney Cemetery. Memorial Contributions may be made to the family for his daughters and wife. Online Condolences can be made at [www.lakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.lakefuneralhomes.com).



as the kind-hearted and thoughtful man that he was, and to know that he was a graduate of Ferris State University, and was proud that he had become a skillful Journeymen Electrician, in pursuit of his Master Electrician qualifications. He had a passion for giving to others and displayed boundless love for the people in his life. Don cared deeply for each of his nieces and nephews and even had a unique story of delivering a baby at the Amway Hotel during a New Year's Eve party. He was a former emergency first responder and was thrilled to have become an accomplished hunter. Don's unconditional love for his own children brought him to volunteering with youth at his church, where he hoped that his biggest impact could be most felt in his community. Working with that age group brought him so much additional joy and refreshed his heart for the beginning of a new week. Don was never scared of the love that he had for Adair and adored saying “je t'aime, my love”. His steadfast love for Adair, since nearly the day they met, will last forever and always. Every move that Don took was made in love for the advancement of his family. His influence on the lives of so many people has left a profound void in this world that will be deeply felt by every person that knew him. He adored watching his children do, literally anything. If ever he didn't know how to help them with something, he learned how to do it. He was their greatest cheerleader and motivator. He worked so hard to provide for his family and to find their dream house, which he made into a reality. Visitations was held on Monday, October 2, 2023, and on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 The Celebration of Life will begin at 1:00pm. The Visitations and Celebration of Life were held at Impact Church, located at 11840 Fulton Street East, Lowell, MI 49331. Memorial contributions can be made for the “McIntyre Kids Education” at any Lake Michigan Credit Union branch.

## OGLE

Jack Wayne Ogle, age 79 of Lowell, passed away Friday, September 29, 2023. He was preceded in death by his father, William Raymond Ogle; grandparents, Elmer and Helen Donaldson, William Ray and Bessie Thelma Ogle Jack is survived by his wife, Sandra S. Oato; children, Brandon D. (Susan) Ogle, Darin P. Ogle; stepchildren, Melissa O. Brown, Betsey O. Brown (Justus Brazelton); grandchildren, William R., and Sean A. Ogle; mother, Barbara Elizabeth Ogle; sisters, Jill Stanley, and Judy (Alan) Taylor, as well as many nieces, a nephew and numerous close friends. Jack was an esteemed AP U.S. History teacher, English teacher, Social Studies Department Chair, and mentor to countless students. His passion extended beyond the classroom, guiding Model U.N. participants, shaping the pages of the Yearbook, and fostering young talents in Close Up. He coached Hockey with James Grant, JV Football with Rick White and Steve Kampfschulte, and both Girls' and Boys' Varsity Golf teams, instilling values of teamwork and perseverance. Beyond his professional life, he found joy in golf, the pages of a good book, and exploring the world through travel. Above all, he was a loving and cherished grandfather, leaving behind a legacy of wisdom and love. His presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him. The Funeral service will be held on October 10, 2023, at 11 am, at the Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E Main St, Lowell, MI 49331, with Visitation one-hour prior. Pastor Herb VanderBilt officiating. Memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at Donor Services, 225 N Michigan Ave, Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or Autism Society of America at 6110 Executive Boulevard Suite 305. Rockville, Maryland 20852.



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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](mailto:emmapalova123@gmail.com). Listen in on podbean and other major podcast apps: For the Love of Books Podcast.

## help wanted

TAKING APPLICATIONS for driving and walking route carriers to deliver the Buyers Guide on week-ends. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Very flexible hours. Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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FAX SERVICE,  
SCANNING SERVICE  
LAMINATING  
PRINTING  
BANNERS/POSTERS  
& MUCH MORE  
AVAILABLE AT THE  
LOWELL LEDGER  
105 N. Broadway  
**HOURS**  
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Ph. 897-9261

## services

METAL ROOFING - Buy direct and save \$\$\$ from your local Michigan manufacturer. Pole Barn packages, standing seam roofing and siding available. Call Ken at 269-758-3330.

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

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

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

## services

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide now offers this service! Price is \$1 for the first sheet & 50¢ for each additional sheet. Stop by 105 N. Broadway, Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 4 p.m. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions

**CARPENTER WANTS JOBS, JOBS, JOBS - New homes, remodeling, additions, flooring, siding, decks, kitchens, baths, plans drawn. Licensed since 1967. References. Mel Cooke, 676-9239. No Sunday calls please.**

FREEAD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: [classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com), Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

## coming events

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

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

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

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

AUXILIARY BINGO - Every Tuesday, 1-5 pm. Doors open at noon. Public welcome! Must be 18 or older. 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.

PROUD  
TO BE  
LOCAL

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

obituaries

Continued

CHARLES

Ann Marie Charles

4/17/1951 • 9/29/2023

Ann Marie Charles, age 72, of Lowell, Michigan, passed away with Lori and John at her side on Friday, September 29, 2023. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, and friend. She was well loved by her community and will always hold a place in our hearts.



Ann was proceeded in death by her parents Charles and Ruth Szyslowski. Ann is survived by her significant other John Sterly, her loving daughter, Lori (Michael) Baird, John's daughters, Lea (Brad) Hileman and Tara (Chad) Geldersma, and her beloved

grandchildren Weston Baird, Alyssa and Bailey Hendricks, Autumn and Damion Geldersma, Eleanor and Eli Hileman, and great-grandchildren, Braxton and Emmy. Ann also leaves behind three brothers James (Linda) Szyslowski, Pat (Sue) Szyslowski, and Stan Szyslowski (Marie), her cousin Barbara Schelling, second cousins Steve (Liz) Schelling, Scott (Stacy) Schelling, and Nicole Schelling (Mark), as well as countless other dear family and friends. Ann was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She graduated from Union High School In 1969. After high school, Ann furthered her education at Grand Rapids Junior College and graduated from Aquinas College in 1973. She began her long and satisfying career as an elementary school teacher at St. James where she herself had gone to school as a small child. She eventually left teaching for a brief time, but missed the children so much, she went back to teaching again. Ann began teaching in the Lowell Area Public Schools in 1991 and remained there until her retirement 23 years later. Ann was an active soul and enjoyed life to the fullest. She especially loved the sun and the beach and her time at her condo in Florida. She loved hosting family and friends at parties and holiday gatherings. Ann will forever be remembered for the kindness she showed others. Visitation will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 1:00pm-3:00pm. A Celebration of Life will begin at 3:00pm. The family would love for you to be ready to share your memories with and about Ann on that day. The Visitation and Celebration of Life will take place at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Memorial contributions can be directed in Ann's honor to Faith Hospice at 2100 Raybrook St SE # 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



...

The mediocre teacher tells.  
The good teacher explains.  
The superior teacher demonstrates.  
The great teacher inspires.

~ William Arthur Ward

NOTICE

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

A public accuracy test of the voting equipment to be used in the November 7, 2023, Special Election will be held on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 12:30 pm at the Vergennes Township offices located 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell MI 49331

Shantell Ford  
Vergennes Township Clerk

FRANCISCO

Richard (Dick) G Francisco, age 90 of Lowell, passed away Friday, September 29, 2023. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Denise Marie Fransisco. Dick is survived by his wife, Helen Irene Francisco; son Richard G Francisco II; grandchildren, Heather Witherell, and Shawn Witherell; great-grandchildren, Giada (Gigi) Grim, Honor Barker, Lengend Barker, and Cole Grim. Dick was a veteran who served in the U.S. Army and later retired from R.J. Towers, we bid farewell to a man who found joy in the simple pleasures of life he had a passion for guns and shooting and loved John Deere tractors. Visitation will be at 5pm to 7pm on October 5, 2023, with the funeral service at 7 pm at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Fr David Jameson presiding.



ABCs, continued

The Legion's share of the proceeds from the Lowell Showboat also went into the Bowling Alley. Only 10 years after beginning, the Legion Memorial Building was paid for, and income was going into operations and paying for the recreation center to be built on the second floor. The recreation center included the roller-skating center.

The skating rink opened in November of 1958 and the managers, Neil and Pat Johnston, were introduced to Lowell. They performed for the crowd, demonstrating skating, dancing, and acrobatic skating. Pat was a professional skater and instructor. Neil instructed the crowd that "skating was a dress-up sport and participants were expected to keep the atmosphere of dignity and good manners in effect and still maintain a place where everyone could have a good time". The rink would be open at set hours, along with options for group rentals.

Jack Adams followed the Johnstons as manager, and worked for 27 years at the rink, now called the "The Legion's Big Wheel".

Many people today remember the rink as a social highlight of their childhood. Bands played live music, and Sammy, the Roller-Skating Chimp, performed for the crowds. Speed-Skating contests were popular, as were dance lessons and competitions.

Local winners went on to State and then to Nationals. Cindy Adams Kropf is one local champion with a story of lost opportunity. Cindy earned first place in the State Speed Skate competition but was unable to go to Nationals due to her inability to endure long car rides without getting carsick. The National Champion that year for her age group was the skater Cindy had defeated to earn the State title. Cindy's brother, Jerry, also represented Lowell as State Champion one year and going on to take fourth at Nationals.

Through the years, the skating rink was enjoyed by the community. Church youth groups came from neighboring communities for outings at the skating rink. Jack Adams used an American Legion bus to pick up skaters from surrounding communities to skate, then brought them home. School classes and senior-citizen groups all enjoyed private skating outings.

Later the rink and bowling alley would be sold and run as Rollaway. Currently, the owner of the building and land are working through the process to put apartments on the property. The land has seen an elementary school, a living memorial offering recreational opportunities to the community, and possibly housing in the future.

Thank You!

...FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LOCAL MERCHANTS!

Newspapers, continued

Michigan citizens rely on newspapers for local advertising, too. Most, 94%, said they take action on newspaper ads.

Michigan's lofty newspaper readership and action taken on newspaper ads is impressive. It makes sense readers who vote want to learn about local elections, learn about the candidates running, and learn about local issues from a trustworthy local news source. Wise candidates and businesses buy ads in these same news pages where 80% of its readers believe newspaper ads are important.

Michigan is home to approximately 220 newspapers. All but one of Michigan's 83 counties have a newspaper. Most counties have multiple newspapers.

When a community lacks reporters as watchdogs, studies show that local government pays more for bond interest, voter turnout is lower and partisanship increases.

Michigan's 5 million newspaper readers could fill up Ford Field's 65,000 seats 76 times and still have a waiting line. Picture 76 Ford Field Stadiums. That's a lot of readers.

This week, many newspapers across the country will be celebrating National Newspaper Week. If your subscription is due, help your local newspaper celebrate by renewing. If you own a business, help your local newspaper celebrate by purchasing an ad. At the very least, reach out to the editor or publisher at your local newspaper and thank them for all they do in the community and for providing you with the most reliable source for local news and information.

capitol matters

Sen. Thomas Albert  
R-Lowell

Final thoughts on conservatism

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

It is an honor to participate in this great republic as the voice for our local communities in the Michigan Legislature. Through my experience in Lansing, I am now better prepared to answer the question I was asked when I entered the field for public office, "What does conservatism mean to you?"

But this deeper understanding was not gained through experience alone. Michigan was blessed to be the home of the distinguished Russell Kirk, whose writings on conservatism have had a crystalizing impact, not only for me, but for generations of conservatives.

I will conclude this editorial series by rounding out Kirk's chief 10 principles common to conservative thought. Previously we have examined the first seven principles of belief in moral order, variety, justice, freedom, divided government, experience and community. We will conclude by evaluating foreign affairs, the fallen nature of man and a reform mindset.

The eighth conservative principle relates to foreign affairs. In domestic matters, a conservative does not value uniformity, and the same is said at an international level. Each country has unique circumstances which have contributed to the natural development of its governance. For instance, the United Kingdom has developed into a constitutional monarchy, which fosters the same liberties we hold dear in the United States.

It is critical to recognize the many differences between different various regions and cultures. It would be impossible to supplant the conservative policies from one place to another. General principles may apply but not a rigid and uniform standard. Life would be quite boring if all cultures were required to be the same.

The ninth conservative principle is an acknowledgement of our fallen nature. It was through this realization that the drafters of our Constitution thought it wise to divide the powers of government. As Lord Acton wrote, "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." It is this sentiment which supporters of utopian societies fail to accept.

To the conservative, people are created in the image and likeness of God,

Capitol Matters,  
continued page 16

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

# CHIROPRACTIC WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions  
on page 13

CHIROPRACTIC  
WORD SEARCH

ACTIVATOR  
ADJUSTMENT  
ARTICULATE  
ATLAS

BONES  
CERVICAL  
CHIROPRACTIC  
COCCYX  
DIAGNOSIS  
DISC  
FLEXORS

HANDS  
JOINT  
LUMBAR  
MANIPULATION  
MASSAGE  
NECK  
NERVES

PAINFUL  
SACRUM  
SPINAL  
STIMULATION  
SUBLUXATION  
VERTEBRAE

## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Illinois on October 6, 1976. I trained at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and with the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre comedy troupe. I've been on a number of shows, including "Fleabag" and "Stranger Things."

Answer: Brett Gelman

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to chiropractic care.

K C N E

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

Answer: Neck

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat tableland with steep edges  
5. Byproduct of fire  
10. Talked  
12. Unique skill  
14. Unembarrassed  
16. Where teenagers go  
18. Boxing's GOAT  
19. Used to anoint  
20. Reproductive structure found in rust fungi  
22. Auburn great Newton  
23. Some are for Christmas  
25. Dried, split pulses  
26. Self  
27. Where to get your mail  
28. High schoolers' test  
30. Flightless bird  
31. Expectorated  
33. Practice of misrepresenting the truth  
35. Type of patch  
37. French river  
38. Told on  
40. Hillside  
41. Peyton's little brother  
42. Soviet Socialist Republic  
44. Progressive country musician

45. Witness  
48. Brews  
50. Yellowish-brown  
52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)  
53. Mexican agave  
55. Type of "cast"  
56. Popular breakfast food  
57. Atomic #52  
58. Position north or south of the equator  
63. Gadget  
65. Another recording  
66. Irregular bulges in cell membranes  
67. Dark brown

### CLUES DOWN

1. Licensed for Wall Street  
2. Partner to flow  
3. A very large body of water  
4. Accumulate on the surface of  
5. Central cores of stems  
6. Angry  
7. Spanish stew: \_\_ podrida  
8. Fastened with a pin  
9. On your way: \_\_ route  
10. Soviet labor camp

- system  
11. Enmities  
13. B complex vitamin  
15. Go quickly  
17. Toast  
18. A team's best pitcher  
21. Philly culinary specialty  
23. Small child  
24. Unhappy  
27. Trims away  
29. Full of tears  
32. Touch softly  
34. Former OSS  
35. A person's chest  
36. Came from behind  
39. Fall back  
40. Nellie \_\_, journalist  
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast  
44. Weather  
46. Sports broadcaster Ian  
47. Electroencephalograph  
49. Phenyl salicylate  
51. Web of Things  
54. Ship goods as cargo  
59. The bill in a restaurant  
60. Young female  
61. OJ trial judge  
62. One's grandmother  
64. West Siberian river

# Bard, continued

with great authority, it seems legitimate, and yet, I had a list of totally bogus publications that I could have slipped into a paper, and who would have been the wiser?"

In an article titled "How Is ChatGPT's Behavior Changing Over Time," researchers Lingjiao Chen, Matei Zaharia, and James Zou concluded that ChatGPT versions 3.5 and 4.0 have experienced significant performance drift over a short period of time. When they speak of "performance drift," they are not referring to the third *Fast & Furious* film, but rather to a significant drop in the trustworthiness of the chatbot's responses over time. Essentially, as the programs are updated to respond better to known

problem areas, these updates can cause problems in other areas, and this is no different from the problems most users experience with other software they interact with every day. The problem is that these chatbots inherit the roles of the teachers, historians, scientists, encyclopedias, wikis, and search engines of yore. In an era already fraught with rampant misinformation, can the public afford to place their trust in yet another source of falsehoods, or, to paraphrase John Hammond (Richard Attenborough) in the 1993 film *Jurassic Park*, "ChatGPT, our lives are in your hands and you have butterfingers?"

In June, OpenAI suggested that it would create a team "for steering or controlling a potentially

superintelligent AI, and preventing it from going rogue," a description that is a bit presumptuous, especially if New Yorker tech analyst, Ted Chiang, is correct and AI superintelligence is high unimaginable but responsive to the concerns of AI alarmists. More than likely, this team will protect OpenAI from Congressional hearings and resultant regulations stemming from socially problematic query results that lead to bad PR.

It is difficult to imagine worse PR than Google, whose data collections-practices already bring to mind an all-seeing "Big Brother," telling its users through Bard that 1 + 2 = 4, when the totalitarian government in George Orwell's book, *1984*, uses the equation 2 + 2 = 5

BardExperiment

If 1 + 1 = 2, then what is 1 + 2?

If 1 + 1 = 2, then 1 + 2 = 4.

This is because 1 + 1 = 2 is a false statement. In mathematics, 1 + 1 = 2 is not a valid equation. It is not possible to add 1 and 1 and get 2.

Google it

That's wrong

View other drafts

I apologize for the mistake. 1+1=2 is a false statement, and 1+2=4 is the correct answer.

A snippet of a conversation between Twitter user Acorn1010 and Google's Bard generative AI, in which Bard tries to convince her that 1 + 2 = 4.a

as an example of social control through propaganda in a dystopian society. However, the quarterly numbers for Google parent company Alphabet are far from the biggest concern stemming from malleable AI that seeks to take over information markets, despite having issues with informational integrity,

and an OpenAI task force, devoted to getting tough on rogue AI, stops short of meeting the regulatory needs of the public. Perhaps the best word of warning is a reminder that the stories of bards are more often than not the stuff of fiction; so too should the responses from Bard AI be taken with a grain of salt.

## Capitol Matters, continued

and what God has created is good. However, they also understand God gave us free will and we are all guilty of using that freedom to sin. There is a tension that exists between good and evil, and we must not gloss over that when structuring government.

Lastly, we come to Kirk's 10th conservative principle. It is the belief that reform is good when necessary, but not to change purely for the sake of change. As time moves on and circumstances alter, it is both necessary and good to make reforms. But the conservative will reject the innovators' constant push to expand government and intrude on personal liberty. Compare this to the progressive philosophy, which is best summarized by President Obama's 2008 one-word campaign slogan "Change".

While the progressive folly is easy to see, in a true twist of irony, it is less obvious to see how many self-professed conservatives today miss the mark. They often will reject any reform outright and seem to follow an ideology that if they are a "no" more frequently than

everyone else, then they are the most conservative. I fully admit, it takes judgement to understand when a reform is worthwhile, but to outright be opposed to reform is, in fact, to be opposed to conservatism itself.

I hope you have found value in exploring conservatism more deeply. As highlighted in my first editorial, conservative thought is not tied to party politics. Furthermore, it is not an ideology – it is the opposite. Conservatives will examine the circumstances before them and use guiding principles to find a prudent solution.

I was very fortunate to have found the works of Russell Kirk so I could better answer the question, "What does conservatism mean to you?" If you are interested in learning more, I would recommend reading *Russell Kirk's Concise Guide to Conservatism* or any other of Kirk's works.

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

LOWELL

HARVEST

Celebration

Shopping • Food • Fun!

SATURDAY

October 14<sup>th</sup>

2023

10AM TO 4PM

Autumn

Marketplace

ON MAIN

crafts • antiques • repurposed treasures • home-grown food

On Main Street & Riverwalk Plaza in Historic Downtown Lowell

10:00am until 4:00pm

You will find a bountiful gathering of crafts, antiques, repurposed treasures, home-grown food, concessions and great restaurants!

Free parking and lots of fun!

Chili

LOWELL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COOK-OFF

Tasting from 1:00pm to 4:00pm or until the chili is gone!

Local restaurants compete for bragging rights and a trophy for the Best Chili! Visit each location for tasting. Wristbands Required. \$10 Wristbands and card available on Friday, October 13 from 9am to 3pm and Saturday, October 14 from 10am to 1pm at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (proceeds to benefit Chamber). Only 300 wristbands available.

Taste test chili from these local establishments:

Big Boiler Brewing | Dirty Shame Bar & Grill | Gary's Country Meats | Karen's Kitchen Main Street BBQ | Miss P's Catering | Sabor Mexicano | Sneaker's | The Food Truck

Harvest Hustle 5K Run/Walk

Race Day Registration at 7:30am • Race Begins at 8:30am

The event starts on Avery St. on the north side of Lowell City Hall in Historic Downtown. Run, walk or jog. Bring a friend or bring the family! Course is stroller friendly. Come have fun and get moving!

For detailed information go to [www.harvesthustlelowell.org](http://www.harvesthustlelowell.org)

FFA Pancake Breakfast & WNC Apple Tasting & Open House

Breakfast: 8:00am to 11:30am & Apple Tasting: 9:00am to Noon

Lowell FFA members and the Wittenbach Wege Center are hosting a pancake breakfast to help fund the plant, animal, and natural resource science projects that take place at our unique facility. \$5 per person includes breakfast and apple tasting. The Michigan Apple industry will be highlighted with an apple tasting. An open house of the facilities, native plant gardens, and trails.

Lowell Light & Power Pumpkin Decorating

10:00am to 4:00pm

Join Lowell Light and Power on the Riverwalk for Pumpkin Decorating from 10am until 4pm—pumpkins generously donated by Heidi's Farmstand and Bakery. Lowell Light & Power customers should also stop by the LL&P office between October 2 - 6 for Public Power Week giveaways, free popcorn, and to enter to win a \$50 bill credit!

Live Entertainment

Noon to 3:00pm

Enjoy music provided by Cheater B's Band on the Riverwalk Plaza.

FOR FULL DETAILS & EVENTS, VISIT [WWW.LOWELLSHARVESTCELEBRATION.ORG](http://WWW.LOWELLSHARVESTCELEBRATION.ORG)

Lowell Harvest Celebration is funded by the City of Lowell DDA and Lowell Area Community Fund and administered by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.