the lowell ledger

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

vol. 49 issue 7

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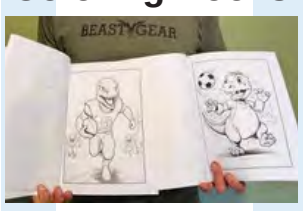


Honoring Local Veterans

pages 6 - 11

page 12

Coloring Books



page 3

Lowell Area Schools Sports

page 14

$1.00

FROM celebrates 25 years of service

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

In 1998, Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) was just a Food Pantry. In other words, it was not a huge building complex, deeply intertwined with the greater Lowell community, with missions tackling all of the problems, those living in, or near, poverty face; not yet, at least. In truth, it was never "just a food pantry," because even in those early days, when FROM operated out of the basement of First United Methodist Church on 621 Main Street, it was a joint effort of 13 local churches. The founders of FROM were ambitious, scrappy, and resourceful, and they laid the foundations for the organization's present-day

FROM, continued page 2



Flat River Outreach Ministries celebrates 25 years of service to the Lowell area. Its ongoing mission is "to be the Greater Lowell community hub where hope, resources, and gifts are shared."

Women in WWI presentation at Vergennes Township Hall

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

As we approach the 105th anniversary of the Armistice Day of Nov.11, 1918, known as Veterans Day, we remember all who were involved in World War I, on war front and home front, as well.

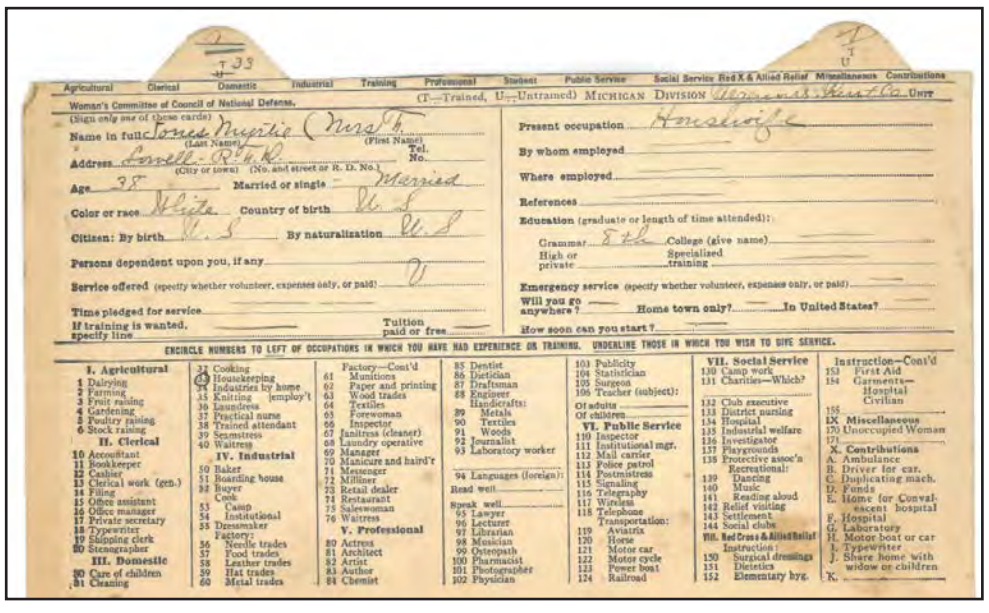
The Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM), in conjunction with Friends of the Englehardt Library, will host the WWI in West Michigan presentation at the Vergennes Township Hall, on Nov. 14, at 1 pm. Presenter, Katelyn VanMerris, will speak about women's involvement in WWI, since women's work in WWI was the topic of her master's thesis.

"This is a topic not traditionally covered," said (LAHM) Director, Lisa Plank. "We like to bring to people's attention different topics in history that affected people in the area."

As men were drafted, the industry shifted to war production, and more agricultural resources were devoted to the war, life at home shifted, as well, and women were mobilized to fill out registration cards with their skills.

VanMerris is the Director of the Zeeland

Presentation, continued page 2


Woman's Committee of Council of National Defense,
(T—Trained, U—Untrained) MICHIGAN DIVISION
Name in full Jones Myrtle (Mrs F.)
Address Lowell R.F.D.
Age 35 Married or single Married
Color or race White Country of birth U.S.
Citizen: By birth U.S. By naturalization U.S.
Persons dependent upon you, if any
Service offered
Time pledged for service
If training is wanted, specify line
Present occupation Housewife
By whom employed
Where employed
References
Education (graduate or length of time attended):
Grammar 8th College (give name)
High or private Specialized training
Emergency service
Will you go anywhere? Home town only? In United States?
How soon can you start?
ENCIRCLE NUMBERS TO LEFT OF OCCUPATIONS IN WHICH YOU HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE OR TRAINING. UNDERLINE THOSE IN WHICH YOU WISH TO GIVE SERVICE.

WWI women's registration cards.

Governor Whitmer proclaims November as Michigan Craft Beverage Month

Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently proclaimed November as Michigan Craft Beverage Month, recognizing Michigan's robust craft beverage industry's role in thriving economies and community vitality.

"Our craft beverage industry brings communities across America together and supports tens of thousands of good-paying jobs," said Governor Whitmer. "As governor and a lifelong fan of high-quality, Michigan-made products, I will continue taking action to grow our economy, invest in workforce development, and power our agriculture industry so these leading businesses can continue expanding right here in Michigan. Throughout Michigan Craft Beverage Month, I encourage Michiganders to join me in supporting Michigan's craft beverage makers."

Throughout Michigan Craft Beverage Month, Michiganders are encouraged to support local businesses by including Michigan-made craft beverages into their holiday meal plans, gift-giving, and other memory-making activities with family and friends.

"The diversity and versatility of Michigan's agriculture is on full display when it comes to our thriving craft beverage industry," said Tim Boring, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and chair of the Michigan Craft Beverage Council. "The specialty crops our state is known for, like apples, hops, and grain, allow the craft beverage sector to create innovative and flavorful products, exclusive to Michigan."

Michigan ranks sixth

Craft Beverage, continued page 4

FROM, continued

mission, which is, "to be the Greater Lowell community hub, where hope, resources, and gifts are shared."

On Thursday, November 16, 2023, FROM celebrates its 25th birthday, and for those who have been in the basement of First United Methodist, whether for a church function or a community board game night, the differences between its original home and the 11535 Fulton Street campus are immeasurable. Three signposts direct visitors to different entrances, based on what they came to FROM for; the main office and additional services are



available using the front entrance, the Food Pantry and Treasures Thrift Shop are both just along the side. These signs have been posted because FROM has grown so huge that one could get lost inside the building, and that is a great problem for a nonprofit, serving struggling neighbors to have. It speaks to the variety of services available, which in turn speaks to the ample support from the surrounding community. Wendie Preiss is the Executive Director of FROM.

"In other communities, people have to go from one place to another," Preiss said. "Really, Lowell is fortunate in that way. You just come here, and we get you connected."

This is possible because of the rapid expansion of FROM's services over the past 25 years. Within months of starting the Food Pantry, the founding members received funds from the Lowell Area Community Fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to purchase 519 Main Street—the building where Alpha Care Center is currently located—to house a thrift store. From the beginning, the thrift store served two purposes; its proceeds could pay for other programs, like financial assistance, Christmas gift distribution, and the Food Pantry, and the low-cost used items could save struggling households money that could be used instead on housing, heating, or other important bills.

In 2007, FROM had outgrown yet another building, and that was the year when the current location, formerly Cumberland Manor, was purchased. Within a couple of years, FROM had also outgrown its volunteer-only model, so the first bookkeeper and executive director were hired. At about the same time, the River of Hope fundraising campaign raised $1.4 million to renovate the building, a process that ended up taking until 2013 to complete. That is also when the community decided to rename the Thrift Shop and call it Treasures. In 2016, FROM set-up Main Street Housing LLC, the arm of FROM that focuses on affordable housing. Main Street Housing oversees the properties at 504 and 512 Main Street, which FROM purchased in order to provide low-income housing to members of the community who meet certain requirements.

One of the most recent projects, and the first major project headed by Preiss since she took over as executive director of FROM, is titled, "Rides to and FROM." In response to concerns about transportation scarcity, FROM purchased a mini van from Betten Baker to be used by qualifying community members looking to go to the grocery store, laundromat, or to a doctor's appointment. Those interested in utilizing the service can call the FROM phone number and schedule a ride anywhere in Lowell between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm. "Rides to and FROM" is an innovative way to meet a community need, but like many of the robust programs at FROM, it is not the end of the story. Arianne Hall is the Development Director at FROM, and she spoke to the organization's commitment to gathering and responding to the best available data.

"We can't take for granted the community support we receive," Hall said. "We owe it to this community to prove that we're doing data-driven programs, and we're making a mark."

When asked what programs neighbors can expect FROM to tackle in the future, Preiss and Hall unanimously agreed that more and more affordable housing is the central goal. "Housing is not an easy thing to tackle," Preiss said, "and it's not a short-term problem to solve. It is a very committed activity to get involved with."

At a recent City Council meeting, City Manager, Mike Burns, advised the council that the State of Michigan has recently launched a new program to promote housing stabilization in Michigan communities, but it is still too early to say what that will mean for Lowell. Preiss, in particular, was unwilling to extrapolate, but she wanted to reassure the community that she has already been in contact with City Manager Burns about this development, and as her past performance with "Rides to and FROM" has proven, Preiss is unafraid of big, bold moves that serve the needs of struggling neighbors. Whether it is the fire in her heart or the wild aspirations of the original 13 churches who founded FROM 25 years ago that drives her, FROM, under Preiss's leadership, is likely to make big headway tackling some of the community's greatest needs.

FROM is having an Open House on Thursday, November 16, from 4 pm to 7 pm, giving community members an opportunity to walk around the building and learn about all of the services the organization offers for the community. Since the event is in celebration of FROM's 25th birthday, the Open House will double as a birthday party, complete with a birthday cake for attendees to enjoy.

Presentation, continued

Historical Society and has a bachelor's degree from Calvin University and a master's degree from West Virginia University. "Katelyn was an intern with us while she was studying for her bachelor's degree at Calvin University," LAHM Director, Lisa Plank said. "Katelyn made a study of these cards for her thesis." VanMerris also interned with the Fallasburg Historical Society (FHS) in 2016 computerizing artifacts.

A box of WWI cards was discovered at Fallasburg Historical Society during clean-up and became a part of the online collection of artifacts known as Collective Access (CA). The cards reflect, not only the history of Fallasburg Village, but of Vergennes Township, and West Michigan. "The government used the cards to place women in different jobs," Plank said. The yellow cards were placed in governmental offices, neighborhoods, and farms, including at Vergennes Township.

The Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense registration cards were compiled in Vergennes Township in 1918, for public support of World War I. The Council of National Defense was formed to coordinate resources and industry in support of the war effort, including the coordination of transportation, industrial and farm production, financial support for the war, and public morale.

The Vergennes Cooperative Club (VCC) was formed on October 29, 1914, by the women in Vergennes Township for the "promotion of cooperation among the farm women of the neighborhood and the social enlivenment and betterment of the farm homes and of this community." The VCC met monthly until 2004.

"Vergennes Township Living History" was the result of taped interviews and written recollections, compiled in the 1980s and 1990s, to record the history of the Vergennes Cooperative Club and Vergennes Township.

"I hope that people will come out and learn about this era," Plank said. "Katelyn spent a lot of time researching what was happening on the home front."

The cards were donated to the Grand Rapids Public Library, which houses 23,000 registration cards containing data about women who registered for home front service during World War I.

The collection provides insight into the lives of women during the early 20th century. The cards provide biographical information such as name, age, and address; and also record education levels, skill, and employment status. These cards provide valuable information for researchers of women's history and genealogy.

The link to Collective Access, to view the WWI cards from Fallasburg, is https://collection.fallasburg.org/

A new presentation "Of Icebergs and Inquiries" about Michiganders on the Titanic by Bob Myers, director of history programming with the Michigan Historical Society, is in the planning stages for April 23, at 7 pm, at Vergennes Township Hall.

spread christmas joy

Donate new toys and gifts for the free Christmas Toy Store event at FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries)

Please drop all gifts off by December 6 to FROM!



FROM FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES
11535 Fulton St E
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fromlowell.org

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From unicorns to zombies, Matt Meppelink has a coloring book for you

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Matt Meppelink has always been the creative type. When he attended Lowell High School (a 2005 graduate), he took a computer graphics course and he was involved in music. He even went to college for music and enjoyed designing album covers and flyers for the band. But when his son was born in 2012, things got a bit busier, and it became harder to pursue his creative pursuits. He finds an outlet in his regular job as a sheet metal worker, but he had been searching for something else to fill that void. Recently, Meppelink had a creative spurt



Matt Meppelink with a few of his coloring books, which are for sale on Amazon.



overtake him, and he sort of stumbled upon an idea. He started making recipe books and workout journals and wanted to create more interesting covers than the plain ones he saw. Although it was interesting, the books he created didn't inspire him.

Then, thinking about his son, he decided to use his computer graphic skills to design his first coloring book, a monster truck book. Then, he created a shark coloring book. He put them up on Amazon and within a three-week period, he didn't have any sales. It was fine, as his expectations were set low, so he decided not to look at it again for a while. The next time he checked, he was in for a surprise.

"It was probably about two weeks later, I finally checked it," said Matt Meppelink. "I was in Memphis visiting my brother and I got one sale. That was in mid-August. I didn't have a sale for another week and then the fire truck one sold. I was like 'oh cool, I have two of them sold so far this month.' Then September 2nd, I sold a couple of books in one day and now I've been selling a few books each day. They have started to take off."

His process begins with an idea - let's say a zombie coloring book - then he will design 30-70 images for the book. Each image takes about ten minutes. From there, he puts the book together and then sends his work to Amazon for the next steps. "I create the book into an all-digital format and then I send it to Amazon," said Meppelink. "Amazon is my publisher and distributor. I do all that legwork and they do all the shipping and printing. I do my own advertising."

He only makes a couple of dollars per book but he doesn't mind, as he loves the process of it all – from coming up with ideas, to designing, to putting the book together, to seeing his sales. His books are for all ages, including coloring books about trucks, motorcycles, unicorns, mermaids, zombies, monsters, and even dinosaurs playing sports. He loves to think about all the people who might be enjoying his work. "I've always liked the brightly colored artwork," said Meppelink. "With the coloring books, you can get more out of it. Who knows where my coloring books will sell? Come to find out I've sold them in five different countries now. Some kid around the world could be coloring one of my books that I've created from right here in Lowell, Michigan. My first zombie book was bought in Australia."

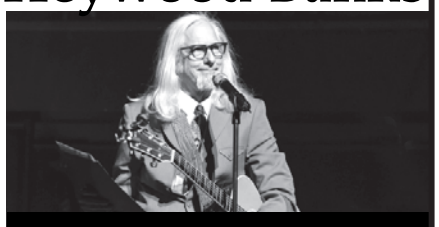
He is always looking for feedback from people about what would be good topics for his books. When he started, he only made coloring books for young boys because he knew what his son enjoyed, but then parents of girls wanted him to create books about unicorns and mermaids, things their daughters loved. "I'm still pretty new at this and learning everything as I go and I'm learning more with each book, and I do enjoy talking to people and getting their feedback," said Meppelink. "I want something of quality out there."

He has only been doing this for about six months, so he hasn't had time to think about what he might do in the future. He has thought about maybe creating some activity books filled with crosswords, word searches, and other games. Right now, he has enough to do with his coloring books. "I have a big old list, and I have three or four books ready to go," said Meppelink. "I'm just seeing where this is going. I might have to create an LLC and have a side business."

If you would like to see and maybe buy Matt Meppelink's work, please visit his Amazon page.

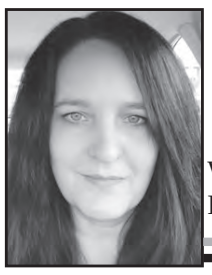
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Feat. Des Mulrooney
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Advance Tickets $15 or $20 at the door
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00
Concessions
December 8: Heywood Banks

Scan code for website & events
www.theoldtheater.com
Box Office (616)897-0007

christmas toy store & food basket
FROM FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES
This free program at FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries) provides families an opportunity to shop for new presents for their children (infant -18 years old) and a Christmas meal with all the fixings.
Register
November 1 - December 1
(QR Code, Online or by phone)
www.fromlowell.org/christmas-distribution
616-897-8260

This opportunity is open to those living in the Lowell Area School District. Learn more online or by phone.



Live the Life You Want

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

Breaking out of a rut

Sometimes life feels like you're on a roller coaster. You have ups, downs, curves, or may feel like you're going in reverse. We can also get stuck and feel like we're just going through the motions and not really living life to the fullest. This feeling of being stuck in place is when little to nothing seems to excite us, everyday feels dreary, and it's like the movie *Groundhog Day,* where you live the same day over and over. A rut might only last for a short time, but sometimes, we get stuck in this cycle and may need to actively work to break free.

Tips to get unstuck

I'm not going to list the signs of being in a rut, as I think we know when we feel stuck and are not moving forward. Below are some suggestions that may help you get moving forward again.

Determine the root cause. Are you stuck in a rut or could you have a mental health or physical illness causing your symptoms, such as depression, SAD, trauma, a thyroid function issue, hormonal imbalance, etc. If you suspect there is a mental health or physical illness causing your symptoms, seek-out help from a professional.

Avoid negative self-talk/judgements. Try not to judge yourself with thoughts like, "I shouldn't feel this way", "What is wrong with me", "Why am I so weak?" This is not going to motivate you. When feelings of being stuck are not due to a physical or mental health issue, then accept where you are and what you're feeling as a temporary, but normal life cycle, but also, start working to bring yourself out of it.

Create a simple plan. What do you feel is the easiest thing to start with to reengage? Start with things that will improve the way you feel and that you feel confident you can do. If you find it difficult to get up each morning, maybe that is the goal to focus on. On the days that you are able to quickly get out of bed, reward yourself with something small. It might sound silly but positive reinforcement is a helpful tool to work at breaking-out of a rut. So, congratulate yourself and make yourself a cup of cappuccino or other drink you enjoy as a reward.

Take small steps to reengage. If you are just going through the motions of life, you may not feel motivated enough to take bigger steps to get yourself back on track. It may also feel too overwhelming, making you shut down even more. So, take smaller steps and adjust expectations. Instead of feeling like you should want to get up, go workout, get any needed chores done, etc., start with just getting out of bed. Once out of bed, look at the next small step; maybe it's getting a cup of coffee. After coffee, then what is your next small step; maybe it's showering or making breakfast. If you don't feel like making breakfast, what can you eat that is quick and simple but healthy? You see where I'm going with this.

Reward yourself. As mentioned before, don't forget to reward yourself. Positive reinforcement can be a helpful motivational tool during this process. If you have been struggling to get out of bed but one day you not only get out of bed but also make yourself breakfast and clean up, reward yourself with something you enjoy.

Self-care. Eating healthy, getting good restorative sleep, and keeping active are all important even when you're stuck in a rut. Eating unhealthy food will just make you feel worse. You can purchase premade or restaurant food that is healthier if you're not motivated to cook. Even if you are not as active as normal, avoid being sedentary. Exercise endorphins are helpful to get you unstuck. Not up to a full workout, then go for a walk. Being in nature and light exercise, like walking, both have positive health benefits and can positively boost your mood. Avoid isolating yourself from others.

Change your routine. Do something outside of your normal routine. Start small and build to bigger changes. Try driving a new route, to or from work. Take a country drive or drive to a park or a lake. While there, go for a walk. If you are not up to walking, then just sit in your car, on a bench, or on the beach and enjoy the beauty. Listen to new music or a new podcast. Declutter and organize a small area in your home, garage, or vehicle. Don't try to do a large area, if it feels overwhelming. Start small with a closet, drawer, cubby, or cupboard.

Keep building. Keep the momentum going and add in additional small changes and build to larger changes. You are working yourself out of a rut, so at times, you will need to push yourself. You may not feel what you're doing is helping, but it is, so keep going. Avoid sitting around on your phone, computer, or in front of the TV, as that will just keep you stuck in a rut.

Get out of your comfort zone. Try something that you always wanted to do but kept putting off due to time constraints, lack of energy, etc. Grow an indoor herb garden, learn a new language, take a weekend trip, write a short story, start a side business, volunteer, try a new craft or hobby. If it is something that gets you out and connecting with others, that is a bonus!

Focus on gratitude. I say this often in articles because gratitude has the power to change our mindset and mood. Really focusing on the positive and feeling gratitude for being alive and for those we care about can help you get out of the doom and gloom of a rut. If thinking about all you have to be thankful for isn't working. then try helping others through volunteering, mentoring, tasks, donations, etc.

Takeaway

Try some of all of these suggestions and see what happens. If you can't seem to break free from your rut and/or notice negative thought patterns that you can't seem to stop, or physical symptoms you can't explain, it may be time to see your doctor and/or a mental health professional. This article is not intended to diagnose or treat. Be safe and well!

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Craft beverage, continued

in the nation for the number of craft breweries, seventh for craft distilleries, and is a consistent national top producer of hard ciders. The state ranks ninth in the country for wine production, bottling more than 4 million gallons annually. With more than 300 breweries, 195 wineries, 85 distillers and 90 hard cideries across Michigan, the industry thrives at the intersection of agricultural business development, tourism, and community investment, both rural and urban.

Craft beverage businesses directly contribute to the economic vitality of communities. It's common to see them revitalizing main street buildings and lesser developed industrial areas, often acting as an anchor for more development. Wineries, breweries, cideries, and distilleries also impact rural communities, creating jobs and bolstering tourism.

"Thank you to the Michiganders who are already steadfast ambassadors of our one-of-a-kind industry," said Jenelle Jagmin, Director of the Michigan Craft Beverage Council. "We ask you to share your support this holiday season, using your spending decisions to support local business and Michigan-made products. Happy Michigan Craft Beverage Month!"

To learn more about the Michigan Craft Beverage Council and find Michigan craft beverage businesses near you, visit michigancraftbeverage.com.

The Michigan Craft Beverage Council is a 10-member, governor-appointed board that is advisory to the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, and was established to provide for research, marketing and promotion of Michigan agricultural products that are used in the production of Michigan craft beverages.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE PATRICIA LYNN SCHENK REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST

Re: Patricia Lynn Schenk, decedent, Date of Birth 11/28/1947

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Patricia Lynn Schenk, who lived at 11010 5 Mile Rd., Lowell, Kent County, Michigan 49331, died on 9/25/2023.

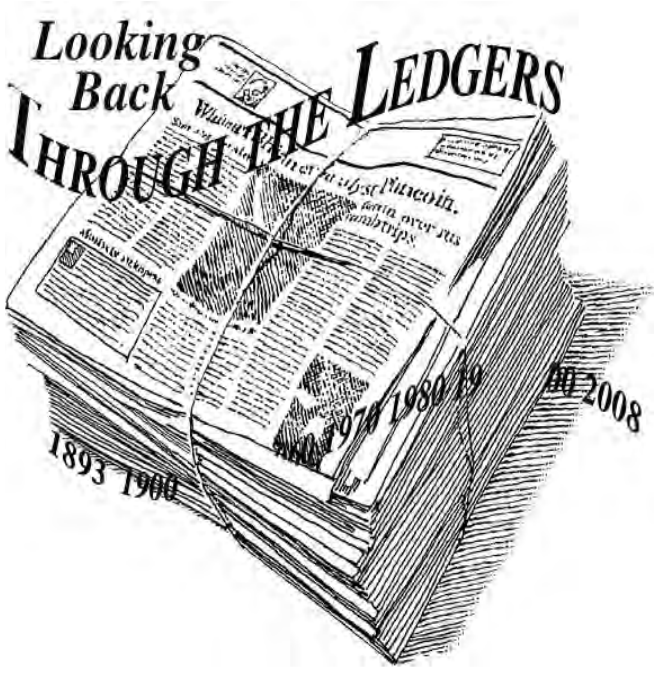
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased or the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Kurt C. Schenk, Trustee, of The Patricia Lynn Schenk Revocable Living Trust u/a/d 7/5/2022, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: October 30, 2023

Meredith Curless (P78235)
410 Bridge St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-458-3699

Kurt C. Schenk
10650 Oak Trail SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-633-4363

viewpoint



150 years ago
The Lowell Journal
November 5, 1873

Several of our first-class business men are selling goods for “cash only” now. The safest and best way.

Bowne Township’s ordinance is not enforced and dogs are killing many sheep.

Assessed valuations: Lowell Township, $294,897; Bowne, $183,477; Vergennes, $282,263; Grattan, $264,797; and Ada, $225,793.

Wingler, Bergin & Co. shipped 26,000 dozen eggs and 65,000 lbs. of butter from their grocery between March 1 and Sept. 1.

125 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 10, 1898

Mr. Pete, who teaches McVean school, had a runaway last week. He escaped injuries but the boy who was with him was severely cut above the eye.

Tom Murphy dug two potatoes last week that weighed 7 pounds.

The discovery of a 10-foot vein of soft coal is reported from Sagging, 25 miles north of Bay City.

Elias Gieberin, a sewer contractor was caught by a cave-in at Marquette and almost instantly killed.

Mrs. J.L. Pierson, of Eaton Rapids, found a two-months-old babe on her porch. She will keep him and name him Wm. McKinley.

100 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 8, 1923

Three die in auto plunge off Power Canal Bridge M66. Two Lowell girls and a Saranac boy drown, a Saranac lad escape with life. Three homes in gloom of death.

Summitt county bootleggers have contributed so much money to Silver Lake village in the last 10 months that that community has the lowest tax rate for 1924 of any municipality in the county, according to Mayor William R. Lodge, who presides over the village court.

Christmas tree shippers in this city have been notified the the Michigan department of agriculture had placed a quarantine on the importation of evergreen trees from any part of New England, effective October 31, because of the danger of a spread of the gypsy and brown tail months. Several other states have taken similar action.

75 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 11, 1948

Two juniors, Ronald Collins, back and Amos Sterzick, tackle, from the Lowell Red Arrows, were named on the Grand Rapids Press All Conference team for 1948.

The first annual homecoming sponsored by the senior class and Lowell Booster club, was a grand success in spite of the inclement weather. The high point of the occasion was the the Red Arrows’ victory over the Grandville Bull Dogs, by a 7 to 0 margin.

Records show that only 20 percent of draft-age Michigan men pass the physical examination.

Starting Monday, December 6, Lowell stores will be open until 9 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays until Christmas. They will also be open all day Thursday and Thursday evening, December 23.

50 years ago
Lowell Ledger Suburban Life
November 8, 1973

Showboat Corporation asks for closing Lafayette Street from Avery to King Street, to erect permanent bleachers.

Local artists’ works are on display at City Hall.

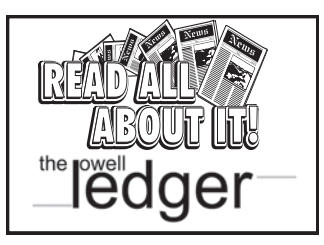
The Chamber of Commerce is taking entries for Christmas Parade on December 1.

Eighty dozen eggs are reported stolen from Highland Hill Dairy, plus 30 dozen from a resident on Freeport road.

25 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 4, 1998

Vergennes Township Historical Commission’s effort to rewrite the Vergennes Township Historic District Commission Ordinance was rejected by a hall full of Vergennes’ residents Monday night at the Vergennes Township Planning Commission.

The Lowell City Council was approached by residents and businesses about the city’s current transient merchant ordinance at the Monday night meeting. The ordinance allows people to purchase a license for $10 a week to sell their wares or product on vacant property in the city. The question brought before the Lowell Planning Commission is in regards of the inequity of allowing such merchants into the city to compete with tax paying businesses.



outdoors
winter in Michigan
Dave Stegehuis

Winter is fast approaching which means a fair number of Michigan residents will be making plans to bail-out of the state to avoid the challenges of living with cold temperatures, snow, and ice. For the rest of us, who must or choose to stick it out, the future can look brighter with a positive attitude. Places where you visited in the summer will be much different under a blanket of snow.

People who flee south will miss the fun and satisfaction of sensing the light tap of a bluegill bite and pulling the makings of a great fish dinner through a hole in an ice-covered lake. Ice skaters may share the lake with anglers.

Cross-country skiers can glide through silent snow laden forests. With leaves off the branches, one can see far into the woods and observe the topography and wildlife not apparent during the dog days of summer. Trade skis for a set of snowshoes and the hiking trails of summer open up a new perspective on the winter landscape. Leave the trail and head cross country to experience locations that are difficult to visit in the summer.

If speed is your thing, downhill ski areas provide slopes for skis, tubes, and boards. Usually, an inviting wood fire and hot chocolate are close at hand.

If noise is not a problem, hop on a snowmobile and travel the over 6,000 miles of designated trails. Trails slice through deep wilderness and often connect towns and villages. One can explore remote areas not easily accessible in warm weather and then stop in for a hot meal.

Wilderness camping enthusiasts will be able to test their skills in the winter landscape. Dispersed camping, as well as using established campgrounds, is permitted on most state and federal land. A number of state parks also remain open for winter campers.

There are opportunities to do unique activities like dog sledding and ice climbing, as well as something as simple and fun as building a snowman in the yard with the kids on a snow day. If you are going to be sticking around for another Michigan winter, make plans to enjoy it.

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.**

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

VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Leo Peters
Army
1954 – 1985



Lyle Covert
Army
June 1945 – July 1946



Staff Sgt. Lyle Royston
U.S. Army
1948-1952



Mark Stinchcomb
USMC
1976-1982



Phil Covert
Army 1943-1944
Killed in action



Abe R. DeYoung
Army 1966 -1967
Killed in action



Ray Covert
National Guard Infantry
1909-1915



Richard Bibbler
82nd Airborne
1951-1954



Richard C. Bieri
Army
Nov. 1950 – Sept. 1952



Richard Stull Jr.
US Navy
1967 - 1970



Robert Alan Schreur
Coastguard
2011 - 2017



Robert Bibbler
101st Airborne
1966-1969



Michael Cnossen
US Army
2002 to 2008



Karen Waid
US Army
1975-1987



Ron Janowski
US Army
1976-1998



Thomas Albert
US Marine Corp
2007 - 2013



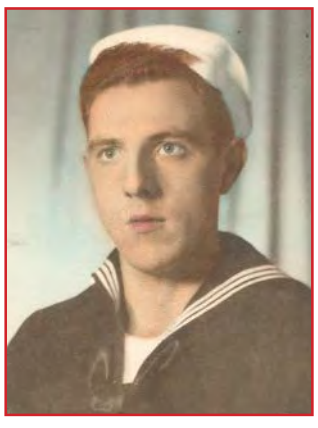
Thomas Fox
Air Force
1986 - 1990



Rachel Fox
Air Force
2016 - Present



Fritz Ball
US Marine Corps
2010-2015



Donald E. Seaman
Navy
1942-1946 • 1950 - 1952



Timothy J. Anderson
Navy
1977 - 1981



James A. Schoen
Navy
1952 - 1956



David Maltman
Navy
1975 - 1996



Phil VanDuinen
U.S. Army
1969-1970



Veterans Day
November 11

Saluting Our Area Veterans



Sgt. Allan Mull
USMC
1969-1973



Arnold DeLoof
Air Force
1952-1956



Bernard Bibbler
101st Airborn
1969-1972



Berwyn L. Kloosterman
Navy
Dec. 1950 – Oct. 1954



Bill Hunter, Don Souser, Ed Meyers, Sonny Gumser, Burt Hawk
Navy 1943-1946



Bob Wilczewski
USMC
1968-1970



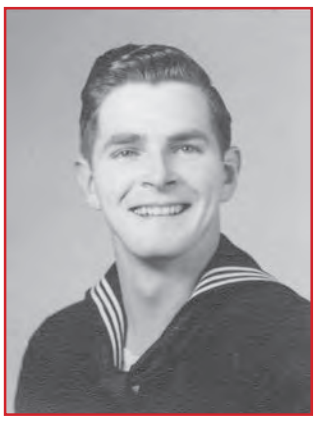
Brian Baldwin
U.S. Army Airborne
1981 - 1984



Casey Brown
U.S. Army
1994-97



Cecelia Bibbler Best
U.S. Navy
1953-1955



Darle Ray Rickert
Navy
Jan. 1951 - Nov. 1954



CDR Dave Thompson
Navy
1956 - 1977



Dave Fehlig
USMC
1964-1970



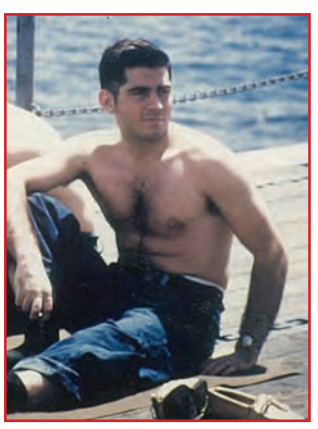
David Lee Neubecker
Army
1977-1980



David S. Harding
Army
1956-1957



Gerald (Joe) James Ellis
U.S. Navy
Wounded, Dec. 7, 1941
Died, Dec. 10, 1941



Gordon Newell
U.S. Navy
1950-1954
29 months Korea



Chief Herb Rice
Navy 1952-1977
24 years of service



Herman Weststrate
Army
1966-1969



Benjamin R. Ayers
Army
1968 - 1969



Phillip Matuk
Army 1959-60
Reserve 1961-69



Louie Dudeck
Marines
1963 - 1967



Jerry Vredevelt
Navy
1949-1953



Joe Rinard
U.S. Army
1973-1975



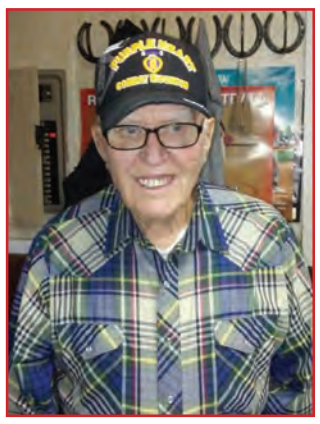
Joel Uzarski,
U.S. Navy
2000-Present





Veterans Day
November 11

Saluting Our Area Veterans



John K. Erickson
Army Korea 1947-1953
33 months POW



John Homan
Army
1969-1971



John R. Timpson
Navy
1951-1955



John Wilcox
Marines
1992 - 1996



Joseph Daniel Schreur
Coastguard
2011 - present



Brad Janowiak
Army
1980-1983



Steve Larkin
U.S. Marine Corps
1966 - 1967



Maurice L. Hannah
U.S. Army
1943 - 1945



Dirk G. Ritzema
MI Army National Guard
1980 - 1993



Lloyd G. Ritzema
U.S. Air Force
1951 - 1954



Donald Viewig
U.S. Navy
1965-1971



James M. Francis Sr.
U.S.A.F.
1955 - 1962



Robert Ellis
Army Airforce
1942-1945



Robert Moyer
Army
1969-1970



Roger L. Kropf
Army National Guard
1960-1966



Lawrence Mikulski
Navy
1964-1968



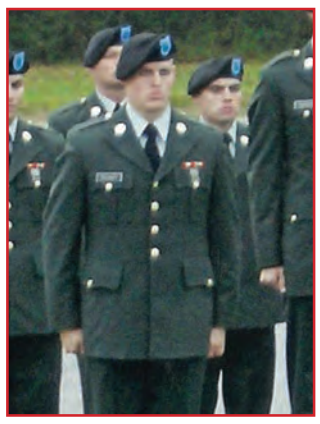
SFC Ron Thomure
Army
1956-1995



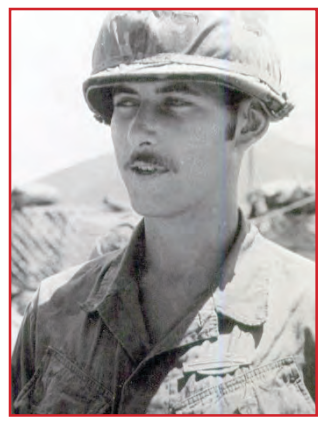
Russel Harig
Air Force
20 years



Sgt Scott C. Cooper
United States Air Force
2007 - present



Scott DeLoof
Army
2009-Present



Stephen L. Bibbler
101st Airborn
1972-1974



V Don Souser
Submarine Service
1943-1946
Max Souser
USN 1909-1944



Robert Bourgette
Army
1968 - 1970



Clare W. Gleason
Army
1972 - 1974



Veterans Day
November 11

Saluting Our Area Veterans



Tom Russo
US Navy
1977 - 1989



Mark Homolka
Air Force
1982 -2004



David Carroll
Army
1984 - 1988



David L. Neubecker
U.S. Army
1977 - 1980



Christopher Bewell
US Marines
Served 2010-2015



Captain David Thaler
USAF
1966 - 1973



John Schneider
U.S. Army - Korea
1950 - 1952



LCPL Devin L. Cupp
US Marine Corp
2018 - present



Robert Nagy
U.S. Army - Korea
1949 - 1952



Cameron Hoffman
U.S. Army - Korea/Vietnam
1956 - 1976



Chuck Benjamin
Army Artillary
1955 - 1957



Buell Brinks
U.S. Marine Corps
1969 - 1971



Doug Stroosnyder
U.S. Marines
1949 - 1953



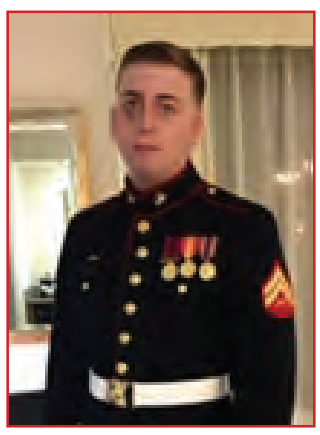
Ken Ayres
U.S. Air Force
1943 - 1945 POW



Mike Larkin
U.S. Marine Corps
1969 - 1970



Bill Schaefer
U.S. Marine Corp
1950 - 1953



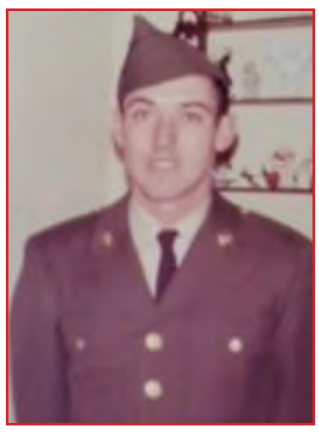
Evan C. Hedlund
USMC
2013 - 2017



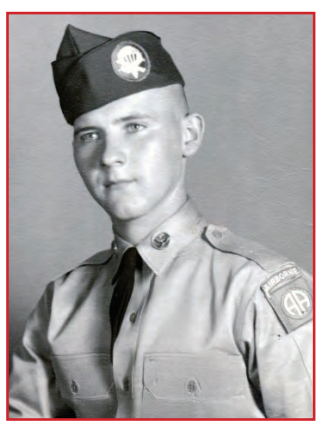
Bill Dommer
U.S. Air Force
1962 - 1966



Thomas Joseph Malone
U.S. Army 1965-1968
National Guard 1970-1972



Michael Malone
U.S. Army 1068 - 1971
Army Reserve 1971-1988



William Bibbler
82nd Airborne
1960-1962



Jacob Clayton Callier
Army
1971-1974



W. James 'Jim' Sowle
U.S. Navy 1953-1955
Fireman on a harbor tug



Pete Mulder
WWI



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Veterans Day
November 11

Saluting Our Area Veterans



Paul Blattner
US Army
Korean War



Bill Denick
Marines
1950 - 1953



Hugh Onan
Army - Air Corp
1941 - 1945



Rick Onan
U.S. Army
1972 - 1974



John Sinning
US Army
1957 - 1964



LCDR Mark T. Adamy
US Navy Retired
1985 - 2008



CE3 Mark S. Adamy
US Navy Reserves
2020 - present



SCPO Kenneth Adamy
US Navy Retired
1959 -1979



Capt Ethan Adamy
US Air Force
2012 - present



Gerold Maranka
US Air Force
1956 - 1960



Andrew Hoover
US Army
1942 - 1945



George Hoover
US Army
1942 - 1945



Michael Hoover
US Army
1941 - 1945



Franz Blattner
US Army
1954 - 1955



Richard Johnson
US Marine Corps
1951 - 1953



Henry Hoover
U.S. Navy SeeBees
1942 - 1946



Jacob Hoover
Army Air Corp
1943 - 1946



Dale L. Johnson
US. Army 1956-1957
National Guard 1958-68



Gordon Kelley
US Air Force
1957 - 1961



Karl Moser
US Army
1953 - 1955



Harry Golub
US Army
1944 - 1946



Steven M. Bauer
US Army
1941 - 1945



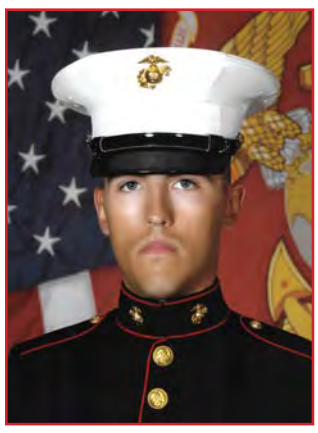
Tony Meyers
Vietnam
1968 - 1969



Leo Taylor
US Army
Two Tours in Vietnam



Matthew Crawford
US Army
20 years



Kolhton S. Clouser
Sargent - Marines Reserve
2017 - present



Ralph E. Clouser, Jr.
US Army
1961-1964



Richard J. Thomson
US Army Military Police
1979 - 1982



James W. Bushway IV
Sergeant Major - USMC
30 years



Fred Moss
US Navy
1952 - 1955

Veterans Day
November 11

Saluting Our Area Veterans



Brendan Albert
US Marine Corp
2003 - 2010



Thomas 'Joe' Malone
Army
1941 - 1945



Thomas C. Russell
Navy
1965 - 1971



Leo Pfaller
US Army
Armored Div.



Brady John Chambers
US Army
2020 - present



Glenn Marks
Army
1944 - 1946



Robert J. Stevens
Army
1979 - 2011



Virgil Roudabush
US Air Force
1948 - 1949



Matthew Garner
US Army
1991 - 2001



John M. Freund Jr.
US Air Force
1982-1987



Joseph A. Freund
US Air Force
1984 - 1989



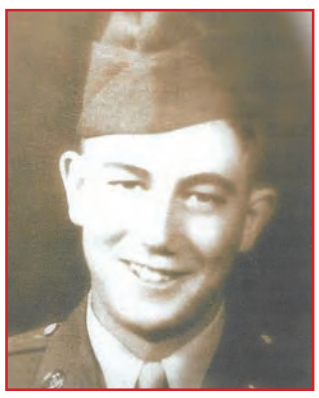
William J. Onan
U.S. Navy
active duty 1977-1995
civilian Mariner 2002-2017



Patrick G. Malone
Army
1955-1957



James Breen
US Army
Vietnam



Hollis Merle Alexander Snowball
US Army
1945 - 1946



Robert L. Grummet
US Air Force
1954-55



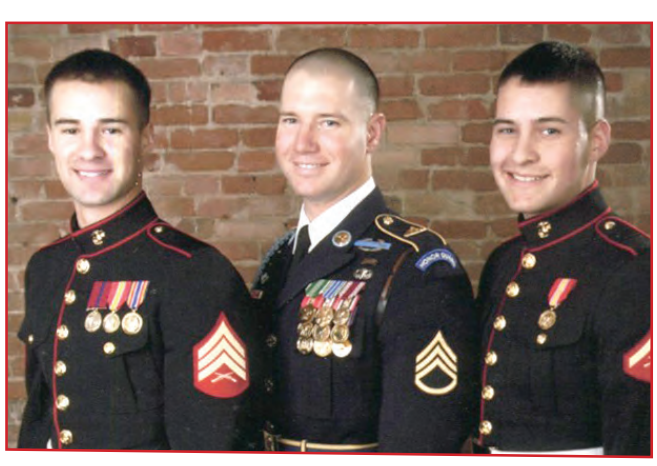
Richard Horsch
USAF Retired
1962 - 1983



Vikisu Condon
U.S. Navy
1971-1998



Phil Johnson, Don Beachum
U.S. Navy
1945



Kyle M. Neubecker Marines 2006-2011
Jon Lyons Army 2002 -
Keith A. Neubecker Marines 2009-2012



Luis Luna
USMC CPL
1967 - 1969

Saluting Our Area Veterans

Veterans Day
November 11



Dennis Stauffer, Chris VanDyke
U.S. Army
1967 - 1969



Thank You
VETERANS
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
For your service,
For your courage,
For your sacrifice,
For your dedication
Jones Farm Meats, LLC.
7965 Potters Rd, Saranac, MI
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for six generations



At Your Local Library

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

Storytime

Monday, 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.

Loose Parts Play

Fridays, beginning Dec. 1, 10 - 11 am. Give your young child's imagination room to grow through open-ended play with a variety of manipulative materials. For ages 0-5.

Learn Beginning Skills for Hand Sewing

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Complete a Friendship Star quilt block while learning hand sewing skills that transfer to mending and other endeavors in this fun and easy sewing introduction. 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+

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, Nov. 16, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel Brown. For ages 18+

Teddy Bear Check-Up

Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 - 11 am. Bring your favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal to a check-up visit where you're the doctor! With eye charts, stethoscopes and even band-aids for boo boos, your stuffie will be healthy and happy by the time they leave. For ages 0-5.

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 4-5 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts. For ages 5-10.

Subscribe NOW!
the lowell ledger
Fast & convenient right over the phone with a credit card!
Don't miss another week!
897-9261

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*



Bench where the Flat and Grand Rivers meet

X Marks the Spot!

X marks the spot of a piece of land in Lowell that witnessed the early events in Lowell as they happened. The irony is that today this spot is a scenic overlook and even has a bench for rest. Instead of the hustle and bustle of the growth of a community, today this spot is a getaway from the busy world around.

This spot, 'where the rivers meet', is the west side of the Flat River, where it joins the Grand River. In studying history, sometimes we study events or people. For perspective, this article looks at how this spot witnessed those events and people.

The early inhabitants of this spot were the Odawa. According to Historian, Kevin Finney, there were Odawa villages just west of this spot ,'where the rivers meet', on each side of the Grand River ,in 1830. After living in the Odawa village of Wobwindgo for two years, French fur trader, Daniel Marsac, opened a trading post on the south side of the Grand River, just east of this spot, in 1831.(1-2)

Michigan became a state, and the settlers came and began farming. The north side of the Grand River was fertile planting ground. Lewis Robinson and Philander Tracy planted crops and operated a trading post here in 1836. Anna Christler North, oldest daughter of James and Amelia Christler, came with her family to Lowell in the spring of 1836. Anna called herself 'Chief Ferry Girl.' There was no bridge across the Flat or Grand River at the time so Anna ferried people in a canoe. She remembered only one person offering to pay her for her service. He offered her a sixpence, but she declined with a thank you.

The heyday of riverboats traveling on the Grand River was from 1837 to 1858. The Lowell landing was upriver from this spot, on the east side of Lowell, east of S. Division. All the river traffic between Lowell and Grand Rapids passed by here. In 1838, this spot witnessed the sinking of the John Almy. It sank on the maiden voyage from Grand Rapids to Lowell. The museum collection includes a picture of the J.F. Porter Riverboat, which operated along the Grand River in the 1850s. (3)

In 1856, John and Mary Kopf bought 12 acres of land on the south side of the Grand River, just east of this spot. They built a house in 1857. John built his furniture factory on the land and started production in 1867. The business grew to include fourteen buildings. The museum collection includes a chair and dresser from the Kopf Furniture Factory.(4)

This spot also saw the train come through the settlement of Segwun, on the south side of the Grand River, in 1858. The Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad was later called the Grand Trunk Railroad. A two-story depot was built just west of this spot.

Logging in Michigan flourished between 1870 and 1890. The annual log-drive, down the Flat River and into the Grand River, was watched carefully by the newspapers and townspeople. The first sawmill in Lowell was built by Seth Cogswell, in 1856, just east of this spot on a creek, on the south side of the Grand River, on land formerly owned by Daniel Marsac.(5)

Just north of this spot, on the west side of the Flat River, where today's Recreation Park and old fairgrounds are, was Train's Track. This was a half-mile

ABCs, continued page 15

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

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists
"Praying and studying together"
Saturday service begins at 10:30 AM
10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell
616-987-0267
www.lowellsda.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.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • 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

happy birthday



NOVEMBER 9

Roxanne Goff, Danielle Bundy, Katie Mendez, Carol Sue McGregor, Angie Briggs, Tom Mohr, Daryll Gildner.

NOVEMBER 10

Ann Bellah, Sarah Mogor, Alex Peel, Tyler Dewey, Jay Brown.

NOVEMBER 11

Mike Roudabush, Tom Roudabush, Dan Wingeier Jr., Rachel Burns, Zachary Ligman, Justin Warren, N. Steve Kelley.

NOVEMBER 12

Deborah Malloy, Al Olszewski.

NOVEMBER 13

Brian Gerard, Dan Schneider.

NOVEMBER 14

David Durkee, Doris Rhines, Deaken Roth.

NOVEMBER 15

Beth Stouffer, Emily Myers, Gina Gildner, Doug Decker, Alyssa Rash, Dave Hildenbrand, Janet Allison.



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

classifieds

for sale

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misc.

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for rent

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events

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.

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.

TOPS(TAKEOFFPOUNDSSENSIBLY) 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

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.

help wanted

Development Scientist III, Product & Process Development sought by Fortis Life Sciences. Candidate must have a Bach of Science deg in biochemistry, molecular biology, bioengineering or a related field. Candidate must have 4 yrs of lab exp in a cGMP compliant & ISO-13485 setting. Skills must incl: exp w/ multiplex RT-qPCR assay dvlpmt; Recombinant expression & purification of common molecular biology enzymes (e.g. DNA polymerases, thermostable enzymes) from e.coli; Exp optimizing master mix formulations to meet new product applications; Exp w/ technology transfer & mfg & QC verification & validation process; & Clinical assay validation such as limit of detection (LoD), sensitivity, specificity, cross-reactivity, microbial interference & endogenous interference substances. To apply: please send resume to Attn: HR Dept., 4635 40th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49512 or apply online: https://www.fortislife.com/careers.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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Red Arrow
- VOLLEYBALL
SPORTS

Volleyball season ends at regional doorstep

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

If you haven't been to playoff volleyball, you're missing out. Every point is celebrated as if it's a match point. Every set seems to go down to the wire. Every volley of the ball is watched with peak interest. Volleyball participation in the United States is up nearly 10 percent in the last decade, and with schools like Nebraska featuring their teams in outdoor stadiums in front of nearly 100,000 people, it's only likely that will continue to happen.

That excitement is exactly what Lowell's 3-1 loss to FHN was in a battle of two, of Division 1's top squads, in their Division 1 district championship match. A match that could've been flipped on its heels, particularly in the second set, which went FHN's way.

The first set was all in favor of the sixth-ranked Huskies, who won 25-13, thanks to a run to end the set. Annalise Clark led Lowell in the digs department with 17, and helped Lowell fend off a potent FHN attack throughout the match.

A difficult ending to set two, made it 2-0 FHN, in a 27-25 set that saw Lowell have a set point at 24-23. FHN bounced back with two straight points, before a Jordyn McClymont block squared things back up at 25, before FHN won the next two points. One of those points was a violation that Coach Jordan Drake challenged without success, and Lowell faced a 2-0 deficit in the best of five.

Lowell jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the third set, with a Laney Bieneman block, giving Lowell the fifth point. That lead became 21-14 at one point, until the Huskies clawed their way back to 24-24. Braxcynn Baker had two kills to give Lowell two set points before the Red Arrows converted at 26-25, drawing a huge roar from the Lowell stands and getting LHS back into the match.

Sophomore setter Rylie Barriger was a key part of Lowell's third set win; she had 32 of Lowell's 36 assists.

In the fourth set, Natalie Cornell hit an ace to make it 10-10, but the Huskies would pull away winning the fourth set 25-16 and the match 3-1.

As the final points were played out, Lowell's only two seniors, Baker and Piper Risdon, would glance at the scoreboard on occasion, knowing their high school careers were coming to an end. Both Lowell seniors led the Red Arrows in the kills department with 13 and 11 each. A young squad, Lowell will have their sights set on high expectations next season. Freshman Laney Bieneman scored some big kills of her own, with an impressive 40 percent kill percentage. Junior Jordyn McClymont had a similar percentage, in addition to a team high four blocks.

The Red Arrows finished the season 24-15-1, including the 3-0 win for LHS in round one of the playoffs against FHC.



Lowell celebrates a point against FHN in the district finals.

Claire O'Boyle closes out '23 XC Season

Submitted by Coach Paul Judd

There is no better place to end a XC season than at Michigan International Speedway racing in the State Finals. Claire O'Boyle did just that as she toed-the-line with the fastest runners in the state, this past Saturday.

Claire was put in the 36th box (out of 40), which put her on the far-right side of the field, which isn't the preferred place to be but worked her best to get into the mix. She finished the 5k course in 20:44, which was about 50 secs slower than the PR she set last week. It was a great way to end the season as it showed what a person can accomplish by putting in miles and hard work.



Claire O'Boyle running in the State Finals this past weekend at Michigan International Speedway.





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



Michigan's Motto is 'Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice.' which translates to: If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you. The motto was adopted in 1835 on the coat-of-arms. It was never proclaimed the **official motto, but when** the state legislature created the coat of arms, it was then included in the act.

Lights through Lowell

Lowell area residents and businesses are invited to participate in Lights through Lowell, a community-wide holiday lighting event to benefit youth services programs through the Lowell Rotary Club. Lowell Light & Power will make a $20 donation (up to $1,000) to the Lowell Rotary Club for each address entry!

Lowell Light and Power (LL&P) has hosted a holiday lighting competition for the past four years, to raise money and awareness of The Rotary Club of Lowell. This year, LL&P teamed up with the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce to expand awareness of, and participation in, the revamped and renamed community-focused event, Lights through Lowell.

"We know what a strong sense of community Lowell has, and really want this event to be a celebration of the love and support Lowell has for local organizations, while sharing in some community-wide fun. By registering your home or business, participants will help to secure a donation for the Lowell Rotary Club, and they'll be able to share the beauty of the season with their holiday lighting display. It's our hope that the event will be something everyone in our community can enjoy!" said Emily Mackie, Communications Specialist at LL&P.

New this year: Every residential participant will be entered into a "Nice List" drawing for $100 in Lowell Buck$ (sponsored by Betten Baker). No display is too big or too small. Let's make this the event of the area, bringing people from all over Michigan to see beautiful Lowell!



1580 Carol Lynne Dr., Lowell.



1160 W. Main Street, Lowell.

Registration for Lights through Lowell is now open. Residents and businesses must have a Lowell area address and register before November 27th at www.discoverlowell.org/ lights-through-lowell or by calling Lowell Light & Power at 616-897-8402.

By registering, your address will be listed on an interactive map available to the public by December 1st, making it easy for the community to pile into the car with loved ones and enjoy the lighting displays.

Those who really enjoyed the competition aspect in the past can still compete for various awards, such as the Clark Griswold Award - honoring the best "over the top" light display that can be seen from outer space (sponsored by Lowell Light & Power). All awards come with a prize valued at $100.

Other awards:

• The 34th St. Classic Christmas Award - A simple traditional light display with an elegant, classic look (sponsored by Lowell Rotary Club)

• The Whoville People's Choice Award - Voted by the public, this award will recognize the address decked out with all the presents, ribbons and wrappings, snoof, fuzzles, tringlers and trappings (sponsored by King Milling)

• The 12 Days of Christmas Business Award - Count down the final shopping days of the year with drummers drumming, ladies dancing, swans a-swimming, and more; use your street front window(s) to join in the fun (sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce).

• Judging criteria includes originality, creativity, use of theme, and overall appearance.

LL&P is again offering its customers a $3 rebate per set on LED holiday light sets (limit 10). Customers should buy new holiday light sets from any retailer, bring in the original receipts to the LL&P office, and receive a cash rebate. Visit LL&P's office, website or Facebook for details.

Details about the Lights through Lowell event, including awards and official rules, can be found at www.lowell-light.org or www.discoverlowell.org

*ABOUT ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Lowell currently has active Early Act groups at Alto Elementary and Interact at Lowell High School. These programs teach awareness and knowledge of our community and the world, while developing leadership skills and the Rotary model of "Service above Self". They also sponsor high school students to attend the annual Rotary Life Leadership conference.

ABCs, continued

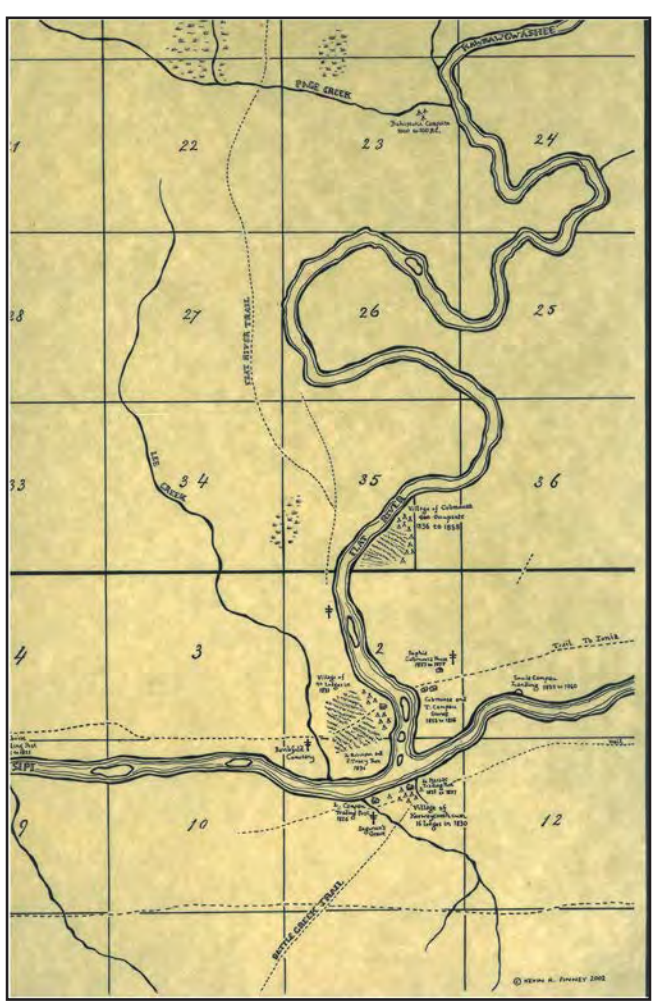
horse racing track with horse barns. Train's track was known to be there by 1878. Horse racing was popular in Lowell from the 1870's through the 1920's. (6)

In 1891, a railroad bridge over the Grand River, just east of this spot was built for the Pere Marquette. The Malta tower was built at the intersection of the Grand Trunk & Pere Marquette, for the signalman to control the rail traffic.(7)

This spot witnessed the years of Odawa life and the early years of Lowell settlers. Today there is no rush, save for the fishermen finding just the right spot.

To view more on these topics visit our website, www.lowellmuseum.org. Click on "Collections and Research" then "ABCs of Lowell" to read more about the topics referenced in the article.

1. X Marks the Spot, Round 1
2. K is for Ke Way Coosh Cum
3. R is for Riverboat
4. K is for Kopf, John
5. L is for Logging
6. J is for Jarvis Train
7. M is for Malta



Map of Lowell "where the rivers meet", by Kevin Finney

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PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-214139-DE
Court address:
180 Ottawa NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Court phone number:
616-632-5440

Estate of PATRICIA LYNN SCHENK, deceased. Date of birth: 11/28/1947

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, PATRICIA LYNN SCHENK, died 9/25/23.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kurt C. Schenk, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste 2500 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

October 30, 2023
Meredith Curless (P78235)
FOX LAW, PLC
410 Bridge St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-458-3699

Kurt C. Schenk
10650 Oak Trail SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-633-4363

BC Pizza Lowell's chicken bacon ranch pizza

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The "BC" in BC Pizza Lowell stands for "Best Choice," and since the local food chain's inception in 1988 in Boyne City, franchise owners of over 30 restaurants across the state of Michigan have viewed "Best Choice" as their mission. There is a lot of intentionality around BC Pizza, whose motto is "Hometown Handmade Gourmet." It would be easy to brush off the "hometown" portion as a mere aesthetic choice—"Let's put up pictures of the high school volleyball team and a token pennant from some other sport and call it good"—but that's not how BC Pizza does business. The employees in Lowell are friendly, and they remember customers, even those who return after a while away, but the chain is also committed to community support. On October 16, BC Pizza Lowell held a fundraiser for the Dedonado family, after the young husband and father passed away unexpectedly. BC also holds a vote for elementary teacher of the month, rewarding the winner with a pizza party for their classroom, and encourages its patrons to adopt animals from the Humane Society of West Michigan through the Pizza and a Pet program.

Living-up to its name, BC Pizza Lowell really does not have a bad choice on its menu, and the lunch buffet, Monday through Friday, from 11 am - 2 pm, makes it easy to test that theory. (Warning: Those interested in trying BC's delicious cinnamon sticks may wish to place an order ahead of time and pick them up. They are so popular during the lunch buffet that they often disappear just as quickly as they appear.) Though each menu item is satisfying and the pizza buffet is filling, some items emerge as clear victors. For example, the traditional red sauce pizzas are delicious and they come in far more variations, but pizzas with the creamy ranch sauce, like the chicken cordon bleu, chicken parmazeti, and the brand new dill pickle pizza, have a leg up on the competition. Of these pizzas, the chicken bacon ranch is the best.

When it comes to BC Pizza Lowell's chicken bacon ranch pizza, it is worth discussing each layer of the pizza individually, because great care is put into every step of the process. The crust is soft and fluffy, which may not seem like the most important benefit when the pizza is still hot, but a hard crust can lead to a sore jaw when the pizza is served cold the next morning for breakfast. BC's dough also has a sweet after-taste, which is pleasant in contrast to the typically savory pizza. The ranch sauce is zippy and decadent. Many pizza sauces feel like a backdrop for other toppings; BC's creamy ranch sauce is just as much of a headliner as the chicken and the bacon. One, two, even three days later, as the flavor from the other toppings mellows, the ranch continues to pack the same punch, clinching the CBR's place as the best pizza, hot or cold. As for the chicken and the bacon, both ingredients cook at different rates, compared to the pizza dough, so it is incredible that each ingredient ends up with a perfect cook and great flavor every time. There's some kind of magic taking place in that kitchen at BC Pizza Lowell, and there are likely a number of competitors across Michigan who would love to learn of its secrets.

After long deliberation, it is possible to pick the best entree at BC Pizza Lowell, but it is a bit more difficult to choose a favorite side. The bread sticks are small, soft, and club-like; they are buttery and the parmesan cheese really pops. The garlic butter sauce is fantastic but you cannot go wrong with pizza sauce or ranch as your dip. The cheesy bread is essentially a flatbread pizza without sauce, just butter, garlic, and loads of ooey, gooey cheese. Since the breadsticks and cheesy bread each employ a different breadstick philosophy, it is difficult to compare, but listening to the word on the streets of Lowell, it sounds like the popular vote goes to the cheesy bread, but only by a narrow margin. Of course, there are also those who are obsessed with the spi-rolls, which are basically meat and cheese rolled up in pizza dough. Those ordering for a family of four may have to choose between these sides, and some hard decisions will have to be made, but not so for larger gatherings where you have an excuse to get all three.

Some have teased online that the BC Pizza Lowell dining room is unextraordinary and bland, but that seems to be precisely its charm. Years ago, there was a walkway down the middle with dividers that separated one side from the other, and if you had a large enough party, it might seem as if different members of the same group were dining at different restaurants entirely. Now, diners are guided along the right-hand side as they enter the restaurant, leaving a broad dining area to the left. Children know to sit at the long table to the left of the entrance because they are likely to see *Bluey* or *Spidey and His Amazing Friends* on the TV just above them. Friends casually gather to play Dungeons & Dragons or Magic: the Gathering. Athletes show up to the lunch buffet to achieve maximum caloric intake, and even bowlers and chess players turn into sprinters when the staff brings out that next exciting pizza. BC Pizza's dining area feels a lot like home, if your living room were huge and cleaned by someone else.



BC Pizza of Lowell's chicken bacon ranch pizza.

For a couple of years, the only thing people in Lowell heard about BC Pizza were complaints, and the restaurant lost a number of patrons, who previously would have been happy to be called lifelong BC Pizza customers. Conversations since 2021, however, have been different, and complaints are usually met with the statement, "They're under new management now. Yup, new ownership too." In other words, BC Pizza is back, and this is a message that ought to be spread far and wide to anyone who felt fed-up with the restaurant, prior to the leadership change in 2021. If you head into BC on a slow night, you might see a couple of bored teens and twenty-somethings joking around with one another in the back as you walk up to the counter, but this is not some Mickey Mouse operation where you can expect to be ignored for ten minutes while trying to get someone's attention. The counter staff are friendly, respectful, and incredibly competent; the pizzas are prepared quickly and meticulously, and there is a casual professionalism that you do not find anywhere else. These employees appear to enjoy their jobs, the company of their colleagues, and the opportunity to serve high-quality food to thankful customers.

BC Pizza Lowell is the "Best Choice," and there are a number of pizza restaurants to choose from. Whereas, the wings may be better here, and the meat lovers pizza may be better over there, the clincher for BC is the fact that the restaurant is more than the sum of its parts. If you took the sum total of Lowell, shrunk it down, and removed the internet trolling, the appropriation of national political talking points, and the general bickering about pot shops and Aldis, the result would be BC Pizza. BC Pizza Lowell is located at 1335 West Main Street in the city of Lowell. It is open Sunday through Thursday, from 11 am - 9 pm, and Friday through Saturday, from 11 am - 10 pm. The lunch buffet takes place Monday through Friday, from 11 am - 2 pm. Patrons can enjoy their meal in the dining room, pick it up, or have it delivered to their home by a friendly BC Pizza employee. To order, simply call 616-897-9776, or use BC's easy online order system.

