

ABC'S  
OF LOWELL

page 6

City Council



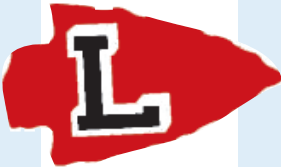
page 3

Aquire  
structure burns



page 8

Lowell Area  
Schools Sports



page 10, 11 & 12

# The voices you hear

Shown here are Connor Rapson (sophomore), Kyle Stauffer (sophomore) and Tray Coulier (freshman). They are the voices you hear on your WRWW 92.3 FM radio station, lowellradio.org streaming station, and MHSAA.tv, when you are tuned into your local Lowell High School varsity sports events.

This past fall, and for the past three years, all three of them have ‘aired’ the home and away varsity football games. In addition to football, they can be heard doing basketball and baseball games.

Because these student sportscasters are affiliated with the MHSAA (Michigan High School Athletic Association) as members of the Student Broadcast Foundation, they have received the opportunity to broadcast from unique venues. Shown above are the three of them preparing to broadcast from Ford Field on Sunday,



November 26th. They were able to broadcast the Division 3 MHSAA state final between Forest Hills Central and Mason, followed by the MHSAA Division 5 final between Grand Rapids Catholic Central and Corunna. WRWW is using students, seventh thru twelfth grades, as sportscasters, camera operators, or laptop graphics technicians. If interested, contact Al Eckman at aeckman@lowellschools.com

# Comedian, Heywood Banks, delivers distinct performances

By Emma Palova  
contributing writer

Comedian, Heywood Banks, delivered a stunning performance to a sold-out audience, at The Old Theater in downtown Lowell, last weekend. He

played a combination of sing-alongs, inventive, bizarre songs, sung and played in a variety of styles, from folk, to country, to rock, to pop and beyond. His style interspersed

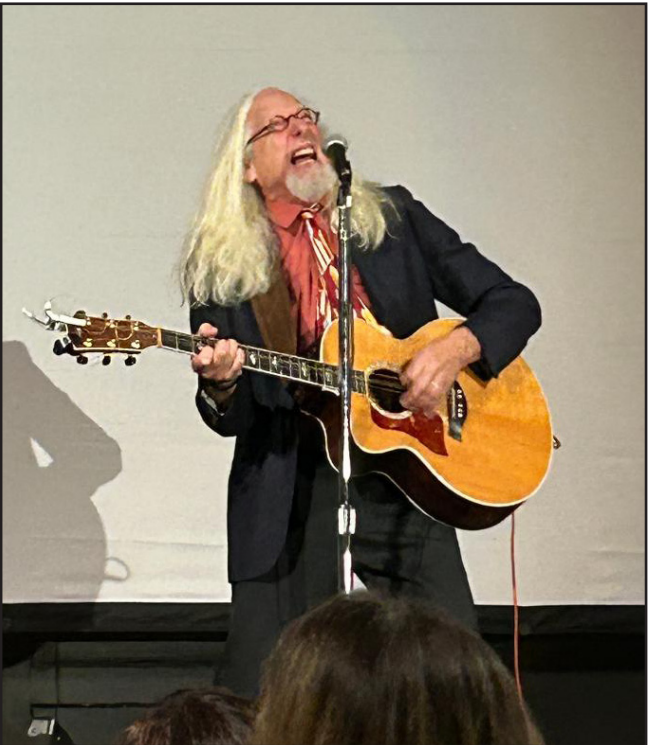
humorous observations of life, with twisted and inventive appeals to a wide variety of audiences.

Banks considers himself, first and foremost, a comedian and then a guitar player. His oddball, off-the-wall antics and tunes have won audiences nationwide.

Strolling onto the TOT stage, Banks opened with his laid-back approach, asking, “Is there any place in Lowell where you can’t buy marijuana?”

He played the song *Interstate 80 Iowa* singing about corn, corn, corn, and he plans on composing *Interstate 94 Michigan*.

Throughout his interaction with the crowd, he talked about sink holes and disappearing Corvettes in Florida, and then a man who went to bed and also disappeared by a sink hole, but wasn’t found because he wasn’t a Corvette; as well



Heywood Banks delivered outstanding performances at TOT in Lowell.

Heywood, continued page 2

# It’s not too late to get vaccinated

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is recognized National Influenza Vaccination Week last week and reminding Michigan residents that it’s not too late to get flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines. All three of these vaccines can help protect against respiratory illnesses and can be given at the same time.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual influenza vaccination for all persons ages 6 months and older, with rare exceptions. According to data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, as of Nov. 18, approximately 2.2 million people in Michigan have received their flu vaccine for the 2023-2024 flu season, which is 55 percent towards the state’s goal of reaching 4 million doses of flu vaccine administered this season.

For people younger than 65 years, CDC recommends any flu vaccine available during the 2023-2024 flu season. Options for this age group include inactivated flu vaccine, recombinant flu vaccine or live-attenuated flu vaccine for those ages 2-49.

It takes about two weeks after the vaccine is administered before the body builds up enough immunity to protect from severe illness from the flu. Michiganders should get their vaccine now to protect themselves before flu activity peaks in Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) also reminds Michiganders that flu shots are an essential health benefit under the Affordable Care Act and are covered with no out-of-pocket costs by most health plans in Michigan.

Flu vaccines are widely available now at local health departments, physician offices and pharmacies around the state. Find a location near you using the Vaccine Finder. Visit [Michigan.gov/flu](https://Michigan.gov/flu) for more information or visit [IVaccinate.org](https://IVaccinate.org) to find answers to vaccine questions.

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### Managing difficult emotions during the holidays

For some, the holidays are not “the most wonderful time of the year”. While the holidays may increase stress and anxiety symptoms, they can also increase feelings of loneliness, grief, regret, sadness, and heighten depressive symptoms. Before it gets to the point of feeling like it’s just “too much,” stop, take a deep breath, regroup, and reach for this article.

#### Tips to deal with difficult emotions

It’s better to deal with difficult feelings and symptoms before you get

to the point of overwhelm and end up shutting down. Below are some ideas that may help you work through these feelings before they become disabling.

**Acknowledge your feelings.** If you have lost someone close to you for any reason, or you have had a life-altering change, it’s normal to have occasional feelings of sadness, loneliness, guilt, anger, or even regret. If you keep stuffing these feelings down and avoiding them, instead of acknowledging and working through them, they will continue to surface

more and more until you are forced to deal with them. It’s OK to take time to cry, vent, or talk with someone you trust about your feelings. You don’t have to be happy all the time, and honestly, no one is. So, acknowledge, feel, and process the emotions so you can get some relief and resolution.

**Create a plan.** Map out your days but also plan in time for fun activities and for connecting with friends and family.

**Don’t isolate yourself.** Feelings of sadness, grief, anxiety, and loneliness tend to be worse when you’re alone. Even though you may not feel like it, reach out to those close to you that are supportive, caring, and lift you up. Avoid spending time with people that are negative, only talk about sad topics, drain you emotionally, or have drama-filled lives, as they will just make you feel worse and drain you. If you don’t have someone that

you can go to, try the next suggestion.

**Seek support.** Find events or groups in your community through the library, chamber of commerce, church, non-profit organizations, or local support groups. If you can’t find something you’re interested in attending or a support group, then search online. The internet may have more options in terms of support groups, social media clubs, or areas of interests.

**Volunteer.** There are a lot of organizations that need volunteers. Feeling the warm fuzzies that go along with helping others can really help decrease feelings of loneliness, grief, sadness, and even some depressive symptoms.

**Random Acts of Kindness.** Random acts of kindness can also lift your mood. It can be a small act or something monetary based. This category is as

endless as your imagination. The bottom line is that it is as much for you as the person receiving the random act of kindness, because it helps ease feelings of sadness, loneliness, and loss.

**Make time for yourself.**

that’s just for you. After trying these suggestions, if you find yourself still struggling with difficult emotions around the holidays or any time of year, it may be time to seek professional help. This



Even if you have a huge “to do” list or don’t feel “up to it”, it’s crucial to take time for you. Eat healthy, get good sleep, take a long bath, take a nap, read a book, or exercise. The point is, to take the time and do something you enjoy,

article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to diagnose or treat. I hope everyone stays safe, healthy, and has wonderful holiday season.

## Heywood, continued

as, practicing yoga, which was followed by a song about ‘only bending so far’.

As part of his repertoire, he played *The One Eye Love*, and *The Noise in the Basement*, punctuated with a powerful scream at the end,

causing people to jump, followed by uproarious laughter.

One of his last performances was his famous *Big Butter Jesus* about a 60-foot-tall statue of Jesus with his hands raised

to the sky. The statue erected in 2004, sat in front of Solid Rock Church in Ohio and could be seen from I-75. The statue was nicknamed “Touchdown Jesus”, as it depicted Jesus with his hands in the air similar to a field goal, and could be seen from his chest up as he emerged from the water.

However, in 2010 “Big Butter” was struck by lightning and burnt down to its framework. A new statue was built in its place, named “Corpus Christi” which was the full body of Jesus with one foot placed slightly forward.

His grand finale was the master play, *Yeah Toast*, drumming two forks on a metal toaster, which he recorded around 1986.

“Heywood Banks delivered distinct performances last Friday and Saturday nights, each concluding with the crowd-favorite “Toast”, said TOT co-owner, David Reed.

On Saturday, he showcased some of his classic tunes. Renowned for his seasoned expertise, Banks displayed i m p e c c a b l e timing in both his monologue and the humor between songs, according to Reed.

“I saw audience members in tears, they were laughing so hard,” Reed said. “Overall, fantastic performances. Which of his songs are you still hearing in your mind? His songs are like earworms that get stuck in there.”

All in all, it was a crowd-pleasing event, many showing their appreciation as they left the show, purchasing items



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from a variety of T-shirts and CDs. The appreciation was returned by Heywood, posing for group photos and humble conversation; seems a lot of people from coast-to-coast like toast.

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# Council member Yankovich’s last council meeting rife with tough decisions

By Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing writer

At the beginning of the City Council meeting on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 pm, it was a bit curious that Mayor Mike DeVore and Council members, Leah Groves and Marty Chambers, were decked out in Christmas sweaters, but later, when the Council voted to cancel the December 18 meeting, it became clear: this would be the last City Council meeting before the holidays, and the last meeting for Council member, Cliff Yankovich.

“Cliff, five years ago, we had a resignation, and we were going through a bunch of stuff that nobody wanted to do,” said Mayor DeVore in his toast to Council member Yankovich. The vacated

Yankovich was placed next to the lawyer. “I don’t pretend to know where everyone’s political leanings are, but one of the things I’ve enjoyed is that people are pretty good at putting that aside... I think I’ve done a good job, because I pissed people off on the left and on the right, so I considered my work here done.”

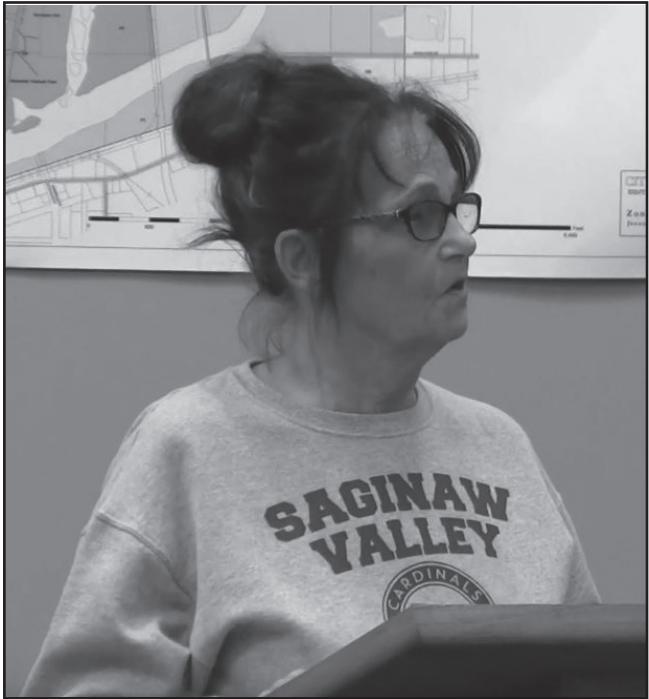
Council member Yankovich was met with kind words, fun stories, and a standing ovation, but he also went out the same way he came in, making difficult decisions about highly contested matters that most would prefer not to be in the middle of. In particular, the City Council faced two weighty issues on Council member Yankovich’s last

Burns suggested that the city use the remaining reserve fund balance for Ware Road, a total of approximately \$79,000, to cover the well-water testing.

The city contracted BLDI Environmental Engineering years ago to monitor the Ware Road landfill site, and City Manager Burns recently contacted the CEO of BLDI to express his concerns about the lack of communication in the matter. Though City Manager Burns mentioned that the city has been in constant communication with neighbors surrounding the Ware Street site, neighbor Rob Schurter, who lives 1,000 feet from the site, claimed that the city has never contacted him. The only time it has been addressed was when Schurter discussed it with Council member Yankovich at the latter’s jewelry store in town.



At his last City Council meeting, Council member Cliff Yankovich expresses his admiration for how community leaders put aside political leanings in order to work together toward the good of the community.



Neighbor Pam Rowley expresses sadness at the perception that the city sold her and her neighbors out to CopperRock Construction.

seat in question was that of former Council member, Jeff Philips, who resigned due to work reasons. “You volunteered to do it and then volunteered to run again. Now, you’re choosing not to.”

Council member Yankovich’s seat, along with those of Mayor DeVore and Council member Jim Salzwedel, was up-for-grabs during the election last month. Mayor DeVore and Council member Salzwedel secured re-election, and resident Eric Bartkus won Council member Yankovich’s vacant seat, as the latter chose not to run for an additional term.

“I appreciate everybody’s patience with me,” Council member Yankovich said, “especially the lawyers. When I started out, I put my foot in my mouth a few times.” Mayor DeVore insinuated that this is why Council member

day, a PFAS alert at the City of Lowell’s landfill on Ware Road in Ionia County and a legal opinion that the city should reverse its objection regarding the vacation of Horatio Street.

Near the beginning of the council meeting, City Manager, Mike Burns, lamented the fact that Wood TV 8 broke news on the PFAS contamination before he could get clarification from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), colloquially referred to as “Eagle.” City Manager Burns explained that the testing was done at 60 feet below ground, and most of the water people draw off for their wells is between 150 and 200 feet. As a result, Eagle has not suggested any restrictions on drinking water, but the city is required to foot the bill for well water testing, which is estimated to cost between \$56,000 and \$79,000. City Manager

“You think you’re frustrated today, Mike, with six hours of not getting word from BLDI?” Schurter said. “It’s been two years, and I am a stakeholder. I own property there. We should have been notified.”

As for the neighbors surrounding the old Rollaway building, which is likely to become an apartment complex if their resistance is not able to stop it, there was a feeling of defeat and smoldering anger. At the podium, neighbors felt that their City Council had failed them as the city’s legal council gave advice to reverse the filed objection to the vacation of Horatio Street. City Attorney, Jessica Wood, clarified that the city had already approved zoning for the project, and the planning commission had approved the site plan. The question at hand was limited to whether the city should change its legal stance on Horatio.

For neighbor Bob Rowley, the issues of construction approval and the vacation of Horatio are one and the same. “We feel that this case is much stronger if the city is with us rather than consenting,” Bob said. “I’m sad that the planning commission has failed us, and we have to use Horatio as leverage.”

Where Bob Rowley appealed to the head, Pam Rowley appealed to the heart, expressing a feeling of betrayal toward her elected officials. “I have to believe that somewhere, someone told CopperRock, ‘Yeah, you can have their street, probably,’” Pam said. “These people, they’re

middle class. They don’t live in very expensive homes. They aren’t that smart. They don’t have money. You can have their street.’ But whoever told them that is wrong.”

Three CopperRock representatives spoke in favor of the construction project, but only one, Greg Taylor, who spoke at the previous meeting about the “friendly lawsuit” in question, gave his name as per the expectations of public comment.

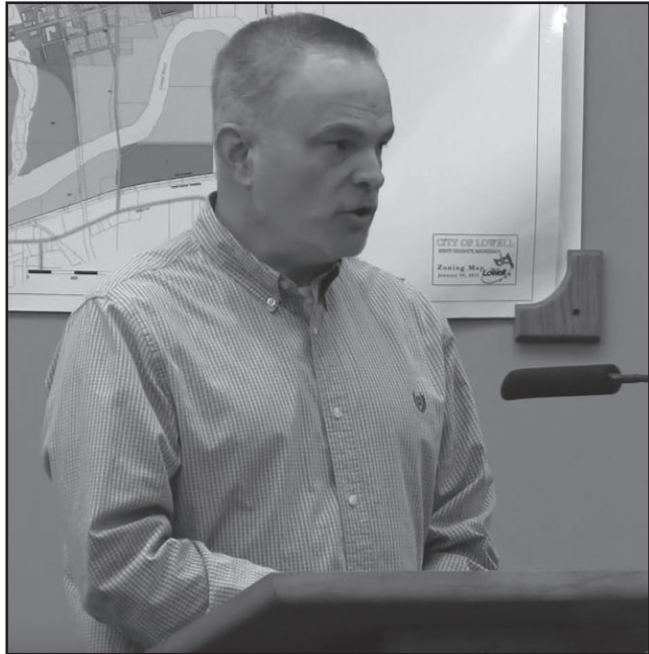
The Council was divided going into this discussion, and equally divided at its conclusion. Ultimately, the city chose to withdraw its objection to the vacation proceeding, with three in favor — Council members Chambers, Groves, and Yankovich — and two opposed — Mayor DeVore and Council member Salzwedel.

In other news, the city’s move to a 4/10 schedule for city employees was described as a huge success. The only negative City Manager Burns heard was a check that was delivered on a Wednesday, that bounced on a Friday, but that was not even an issue with the city’s hours, as the check was delivered to the bank that Wednesday. “I think Suzie would lead a mutiny if we

went back,” City Manager Burns joked.

With no objections, the City Council chose to renew the 4/10 schedule, indefinitely. Also, after clarification from Council member Groves, that she was only concerned with

Following the cancellation of the December 18 City Council meeting, the Council will not meet again until Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at which point, they will welcome Eric Bartkus to Yankovich’s vacated seat and select a mayor. Those



Resident Rob Schurter is troubled by the city’s lack of communication regarding the Ware Street contamination, despite his close proximity to the site.

the City Council’s treatment of holidays, the Council voted not to hold meetings on Martin Luther King Day, Juneteenth, or Veterans Day, providing that the latter two fall on a Monday.

interested in watching the December 4 meeting can find it on the City of Lowell YouTube channel, @cityoflowell. The agenda can be found at the City of Lowell home page, lowellmi.gov.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION POST 528.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15  
5:00-7:30 p.m.

STEAK DINNER  
*Potato, veggie and roll*

A black and white photograph of a steak dinner, showing a piece of steak on a plate with a potato and vegetables.

Public Welcome

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# Same as it ever was

## By Bill Lee (Kind of)

### Puppy Power!

“Don’t forget the poop in the fridge,” my wife said to me as she headed out the door to go to work.

“Oh, right. Thanks for the reminder.”

Okay, I know. Not the most delicate opener around but let me give you some context here. We recently decided to get a puppy. It has been a few years since our last dog, and our daughter is about to turn five so... why not? The stuff in the fridge was for our veterinarian, just to make sure the new puppy’s insides were working okay. And really, this is a good metaphor for why I should have thought a little bit more before deciding to get the said puppy.

Our last dog was an English bulldog named Lulu. A real beaut, she was. Lazy and slow, but friendly and funny. We decided we’d go in a similar direction, so we got ourselves another pushed-in-face dog, a pug. We found out right quick that she is definitely not lazy and slow! Just the opposite, actually.

No bigger than the size of my shoe when we got her, Poppy the pug, came into our lives in September. Since then, our lives have revolved around bathroom schedules and doing our best to make sure she gets potty-trained. We’re battling about .500 at the moment, as we have a few accidents, but we’ll take it as a win for now.

When deciding whether or not to get a puppy, I consulted my wife (of course), who warned me that a puppy would come with some unforeseen obstacles. My response? “I made an appointment with the breeder. You want to take

a family trip just to look at the puppy?” Begrudgingly, my wife agreed. Well, of course, when we saw Poppy and saw our daughter’s excitement, it was ‘game over.’ But then, reality kicked in.

Things you forget when you get a puppy:

1. Money. You lose a lot of it. Food, puppy toys/items, and veterinarian visits take a bite out of your wallet.
2. They need constant action, and if you don’t give it to them, they will force the issue. Poppy has been tugging on the cuffs of our pants and shoe laces, just in case we have forgotten about her.
3. Privacy. I work a lot from home and am used to peace and quiet while I work. Now I have a literal, lap dog in my home. In fact, she is on my lap right now. It’s not easy to type with a dog in your lap, but you manage because she is pretty cute.
4. Chewing. She chews everything from coat sleeves to shoes, to corners of furniture to my daughter’s dolls and toys, to coffee table books to metal, to ... well, you get the point. Right now she is off my lap and is chewing the paper tray of our new printer.
5. Potty stains. I won’t go into detail here, but Poppy subscribes to the old saying, “When you gotta go, you gotta go.” My wife found one of her accidents the hard way. As my father would say, “That went over like a lead balloon.” Poppy left her present for everyone by the front door.
6. Puppies have small bladders so I have to wake up at 3:00 in the morning to take her outside to ensure that #5 does not happen.
7. Travel becomes an issue. What are we going to do with the puppy? A kennel? (Puppies have to be about 6 months old before going to a kennel). Kennels equal cost. See #1. We had to drive her to Ohio and northern Michigan to visit family a few times, so we’ve added about 30 minutes to each adventure for feeding and potty time.
8. Depreciation of your home. See #3 and #4 for examples.

The main reason we got Poppy is for our 5-year-old daughter. She is an only child and the puppy has



been a playmate, more than we could have expected. In a sense, they are both puppies with incredible energy. They will run around together, wrestle on the floor, cuddle on the couch and even fight like sisters. “No! Poppy, stop chewing my slipper! Mom, Poppy won’t leave me alone.” So that goal has been fulfilled. Is the puppy worth a few stains on the floor, extra cost, and depreciation of valued stuff? In that moment, when you mistakenly step in something, the answer is a clear “no.” In the remaining moments? I would unequivocally respond, “yes.”

Consider this article as a warning for those thinking of getting a puppy. There are many pros and cons, so try to go into it with your eyes wide open. And just know, that when you finally decide to make that appointment to “just go see the puppy,” there’s a good chance you’ll be coming home with a new family member.

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## to the editor

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

Letter to Editor -

This year’s successful “Christmas Through Lowell” brought back memories from 70 years ago.

In 1953, I was a 12-year-old sixth grader growing up in Lowell. I had saved \$15, from my Grand Rapids Press newspaper delivery route, to spend on holiday gifts for my parents and four younger siblings. That amount doesn’t seem

like much, but would equal \$173 today.

With commendable zeal and hometown loyalty, I decided to spend it all in Lowell, supporting my friendly local merchants – most of whom also lived in Lowell, hired local people, and were my neighbors, newspaper customers, or parents of my school classmates. Buying all my gifts locally was sometimes a challenge, but was also a

creative and even fun thing to do.

We paper delivery boys earned 7 cents a week, for each of our 40-60 customers, with 6 days of delivery: in rain or shine, sleet or snow, ice or bitter winds. Blizzards and drifting snow might close the schools, clog village streets, or halt mail delivery – but youthful newsboys trudged out every winter day, carrying our large cloth bags filled with folded newspapers, on our back or slung over a shoulder.

For 35 cents a week, people expected their daily newspaper to be delivered by 5 pm after school, without fail. Boys who delivered the morning Grand Rapids Herald newspaper, 7 days-a-week, were out on the streets, walking or biking, by 6:30 am, before school or church, in every weather condition, usually in darkness.

At that time, Lowell had fewer than 2000 residents, and most people shopped locally anyway. There were not yet large strip malls in Grand Rapids or online internet sellers. Instead, you could order items from the colorful Montgomery Ward or Sears Christmas catalogs, to be

Letter, continued page 5

## LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, William A. Cook, date of birth May 29,1927, who lived at 525 High Street, Lowell, Michigan, died on November 11, 2023. There is no personal representative of the settlor’s estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the William A. Cook and Olive G. Cook Revocable Living Trust, dated February 14, 2007, will be forever barred unless presented to Linda

Hamp, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

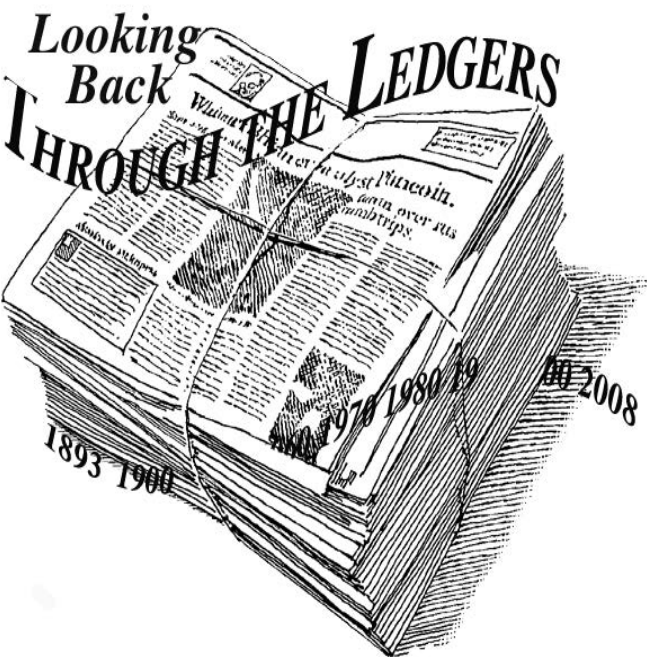
Notice is further given that the Trust will there after be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: December 4, 2023

Mary L. Benedict  
4519 Cascade Rd SE,  
Ste 14  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-942-0020

Linda Hamp  
918 Lincoln Lake  
Lowell, MI 49331

# viewpoint



## 150 years ago The Lowell Journal December 17, 1873

Mr. J. C. Train, assisted by two lawyers, one landlord, a clergyman and five boys, who chew rubber for gum, drove his big porker on Mr. Fairbank's platform the other day. The hog weighed 685 lbs.

Last Thursday, four gentlemen of Grattan, took John W. Turk, a raving maniac, to Grand Rapids and remained over night, and the next day Mr. Turk was transported to Kalamazoo to the Sylum for the Insane. Mr. Turk is about 20 years of age and has been subject to epileptic fits for a long time. There is but little hope that his reason will ever be restored.

## 125 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 22, 1898

Boy wanted at the Ledger office to learn the printer's trade.

Lowell schoolchildren are collecting toys for the needy.

Teamster Gott had the misfortune to lose one of his horses last Thursday. The animal fell and broke a hip and had to be shot. Marks Ruben took the matter in hand and began shaking up a purse among business men to replace the old man's loss.

Fishing through the ice is now the order of the day.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 13, 1923

The Congregational Ladies Aid of South Boston puts on a chicken pie supper, followed by songs from he Lowell High Girls' Glee Club and an interesting talk on forest conservation.

The Farm Department page reflects current interest in the science of farming, with studies, new equipment and techniques suggested.

Earl Thomas reopens the L.P. Thomas & Co. elevator at Hudson Street, Pere Marquette crossing, after a three-year retirement.

The recently-organized Lowell Teachers Club meets at Miss O'Harrow's for a short talk on Mental Tests and Measurements and cost of education per pupil, after which games and refreshments are enjoyed.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 16, 1948

The annual Nativity Scene, sponsored by the Garden Lore Club and Congregational Church, will be erected again in Richards Park, with carol-singing each evening by different groups.

In November, voters approved legislators fixing their own, and other state state salaries, and they do, to the tune of about 250 percent increase.

Raymond Hesche Jr. receives Kent County's first "American Farmer" award, a high honor given to high school graduates who continue in FFA chapters.

The worst ice storm in years hits Lowell, Tuesday and Wednesday. School is not canceled, but tree and falling limb damage is heavy.

## 50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life December 13, 1973

Lowell's newest youth group is the Jayteens, sponsored by Lowell area Jaycees. Meg Reynolds is the president.

Bud's Ambulance Service will have a unit stationed in Lowell with two paid employees and two trained volunteers.

Boulders have been placed in the new traffic diverters on Lincoln Lake Avenue, to thwart drivers who go right over the curbs. Someone suggests reflectors to warn motorists of what's ahead.

Water and sewer rates rise, and bills will be computerized starting in the new year.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 9, 1998

The Lowell City Council took a major step forward in renovating City Hall.

Ron Holcomb has taken over the superintendent position with Lowell Light and Power and Lowell Cable Television.

Lowell ushered in the holiday season with its annual Christmas Parade on Saturday. There were 62 entries taking part in the gala event, which culminated with Santa's horse and buggy ride through downtown Lowell.

Flat River Outreach Ministries Thrift Shop has received a check for \$5,000 from the American Legion Post 152. The money will be used to help put in heating, electricity and plumbing.

## to the editor

CONTINUED

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

delivered by the post office, within a couple of weeks.

Or shop at the huge multi-story downtown Grand Rapids department stores, like Herpolsheimer's and Wurzburg's – each with its own parking garage and spacious toy department, plus a real Santa Claus for children to visit. Sometimes, also a Mickey Mouse or Rudolph Reindeer, if Santa was especially busy. Herpolsheimer's even had a ceiling-mounted "Santa Express" monorail children's train that circulated above the crowded toy aisles below. It cost ten cents a ride, but only for kids. No adult could fit in the small cabins of the wondrous ceiling train.

The downtown department stores also had marvelous outside window displays of movable and life-like Christmas themes: Santa's workshop, elves, reindeer and sleigh, as well as religious nativity scenes. Lowell families went to downtown Grand Rapids for the full "Christmas experience" – even if not so much for shopping.

Then, as now, it's simply good economic sense to buy locally as much as possible. Your dollars spent will recirculate many times over, in your own community, to benefit all.

Merry Christmas, Lowell!

Bob Thaler  
LHS Class of 1960  
Bay City, MI



## We love to hear from you!



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

The requirements are:

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

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



## At Your Local Library

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

### Homeschool Hangout

Thursdays, 1-2 pm. Welcome to our hangout, where homeschoolers can connect with other kids and learn through engaging activities including STEAM, writing, crafts and games. The theme changes every week, so there are always new opportunities to learn and explore together! For ages 5-10.

### Teen Advisory Board

Thursday, Dec. 14, 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.

### KDL Lab Experience: Architecture Adventure

Sat., Dec. 16 and Sat., Dec. 23, 10-11 am. Don't miss your chance to have your own architecture adventure and build the tallest tower or coolest castle with all sorts of different materials. The only limit at this program is your imagination — and the amount of supplies available. For ages 5-10.

### Kids Zone

Monday, Dec. 18, 4:30 - 5:30 pm. It's a special time for fun, interactive programs just for school kids! Join our KDL Kids Zone programs for crafts, storytime, games and other activities. For ages 5-10.

### One Shot RPGs

Monday, Dec. 18, 6-8 pm. Explore new RPG systems during our monthly one-shot adventures! Join an all-raccoon racing team, take on a quest as a reanimated skeleton or plan a fool-proof heist as a group of bears. New and experienced players are welcome for these easy-to-learn adventures. For ages 11-17.

### Chess Anyone?

Saturday, Dec. 23, 3-4 pm. Drop-in and play chess at the library! All skill levels welcome. An adult is usually on hand to help with your game or match you with a worthy opponent. For all ages.

# ABCs of Lowell history

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

## B is for Beachnaw, Lucas

The Lowell area can boast of many heroic soldiers, from the earliest settlers who had fought in the War of 1812, to the young soldiers fighting today's battles. Lowell also has its own Roll of Honor, those soldiers who gave their lives for their country. One of these is Sgt. Lucas Beachnaw.

Luke was born in 1986 to Kevin and Jeanne Beachnaw and older sisters, Terra and Jamie. His sisters called him "Mama's boy" and "Mama's baby". Mom called him her "Boy Wonder". It was said he was mischievous, curious, industrious, adventurous, fun loving, and a friend to all. Luke loved everyone, and everyone loved Luke. When he became an uncle, he easily became little



Emma's favorite person. Luke graduated from Lowell High School in 2004. He dreamed of a future in small engine repair and enjoying his great love - snowboarding.

As the nation became involved in Operation Enduring Freedom, Luke decided to join the military. At his mom's request, he put off enlisting for a year to be sure of his decision. During that year, he ran a crew in Louisiana, cleaning

up after Hurricane Katrina. On April 6, 2006, solid in his decision, he enlisted, walking in the steps of both his grandfathers, his uncles, and his oldest sister.

Lucas was part of the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade. He ranked at the top as a soldier and in pathfinder school. He was an incredible marksman, graduating at the top of the class in sniper school, earning the "top gun" award.

Lucas' adventurous, fun, people-loving personality came through even in the military, the following adventures illustrate that.

Out and about in Italy, a couple was lost and asked for directions. Luke started to give directions to them, then invited them to join his group and included them, making sure they saw all the sights.

One day Luke called his sister asking, "Guess where I am right now?" He

was snowboarding on top of a mountain in the Alps and wanted to share that with his sister.

Special events were held at the base, and instead of playing football or doing one of the sports, Lucas volunteered to do face-painting for the kids.

In Afghanistan, whenever the top brass would come to the deployment area, they would always ask for Lucas to be their driver. Growing up in the country, he grew up driving on the back roads. This helped him learn difficult road conditions. In Afghanistan, they had to drive through treacherous terrain in the mountains. They trusted Lucas to get them there and back, safely. Acknowledging this with humor, the guys in his

ABCs, continued  
page 12

# area churches

**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

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
Pastor Ryan Landt  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Website: calvarylowell.org  
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays ....7 PM  
Barrier-Free

**St. Mary Catholic Church**  
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820  
Website: www.stmarylowell.com  
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am  
Confession: Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm  
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm  
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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

**DECEMBER 14**  
Chris Kropf, Bryan Robert Roth, Perry Beachum.

**DECEMBER 15**  
Karen Latva, Tammy Baird, Roger Brown, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin Ellis,, Marea Borg, Kimberly Kline, Kelly Potter.

**DECEMBER 16**  
Timmy Buechler.

**DECEMBER 17**  
Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott, Amy Riddle.

**DECEMBER 18**  
Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Julie Alberts, Heather Walendzik.

**DECEMBER 19**  
Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.

**DECEMBER 20**  
Ed Mohr, William Henry Burr, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo, Morgan Taylor.

# Acquired structure burns help firefighters respond to real-life threats

By Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing writer

Those who follow the Lowell Area Fire Department Facebook page know that training is a central tenet of the department's success, and yet, many new firefighters have never entered a burning structure. Candidates may graduate from fire academy and receive state certification without ever walking into an active fire, making firefighters some of the only first responders who are not required to prove their skills, in the live environment, to do the job. As a result, the ability to train within a controlled-burning environment is held at a premium. Shannon Witherell is Fire Chief of the Lowell Area Fire Department.

"It's pretty rare that we have an opportunity to have a house that we can do live exercises in," Chief Witherell said. In all, the department has had four opportunities in the past six or seven years.

Recently, the department stumbled onto one of those rare training opportunities by way of an acquired structure at the corner of 36th Street and Segwun Avenue. New owners had recently purchased the property, with the intention of building a new home on the lot, which meant that the existing large, older house, built in the mid- to late- 1800s, would have to go. That is where the fire department stepped in.

Lowell Fire has already used the house for several training exercises, including search and rescue and hose-line training. Following a handful of bureaucratic steps and scheduling, the department intends to use the house for a series of live-burn sets.

Lowell has been fortunate, as the house at 36th Street and Segwun Avenue will be the second opportunity in less than a year to train using a live house fire. The first training took place in Belding, where the Lowell Fire department was joined by Belding, Saranac, and Grattan Fire. The reason these opportunities are few and far between is that conditions must be just right. Typically, they only take place when a pre-existing residential structure is dilapidated and unsafe, as with a failing foundation, for example, or where renovation would be so costly that rebuilding becomes a better option. Since many such homes are in such extreme states of disrepair, they are not able to meet the safety needs for the structure fire-training. Even if a house checks all the boxes, the homeowner must reach out to the fire department, provide proof of no mortgage and no insurance, and conduct asbestos abatement, among other things. For most people, the process is simply a bridge too far.

Like almost any two-story building prior to World War II, the house at 36th Street and Segwun Avenue is a balloon-frame construction home. This means that the same 2x4 lumber reaches from the basement to the roof, with no fire breaks between floors. As a result, a fire can spread quickly and unexpectedly, as with the house fire on Flat River Drive in late October that claimed the life of a four-year-old. A loss like this only underscores the importance of live-fire training.

On the day of the burn, the department will start early, likely with a first ignition by 8:00 am. There will be a series of live-burn

sets with accompanying exercises, each fueled by clean-burning materials, like pallets and straw. For the safety of the firefighters, a training-fire cannot contain toxic materials like shingles, and fortunately, the house in question has a metal roof. The goal during these burns is to simulate realistic smoke and fire conditions so members of Lowell and other neighboring fire departments can work through search and suppression drills. By about noon or 1:00 pm, the department will complete a full set in the basement that will burn the house down to the foundation. Live burns can only be done during daylight hours, which is a short window during the winter, so the house will have to be burnt to the foundation by 4:00 to 5:00 pm to stay in compliance.

Without the help of residents and their live-burn houses, the closest thing a firefighter can get to training in real life fire conditions is using a type-one facility, typically constructed using shipping containers. Lowell Fire recently trained in a type-one facility in Barry County that was built to simulate a two-story home with multiple entry and egress points. The department is currently in the process of putting together a single-story type-one facility behind the fire department building, and they have already acquired two shipping containers for this purpose. "This is the first step of our training facility dreams here," Chief Witherell said.

Lowell fire is currently exploring options for larger-scale two-story and three-story options at an off-site location. The current location would not be optimal for such an operation, due to its proximity to the flood-plane and the smoke clouds



At the invitation of Fire Chief, Tim Lubitz, and the Belding Fire Department, Lowell fire joined Saranac and Grattan Fire for live-fire training earlier this year. The Lowell Fire Department has another live-fire opportunity coming up, as a result of an acquired structure at 36th Street and Segwun Avenue in Lowell.

it would produce for the fire department's neighbors and traffic on Hudson Street.

Since acquired structure burns are so uncommon, they become a great opportunity for inter-departmental cooperation, and they help different municipalities iron out problems before they stumble upon them in the field. For example, working with Belding, Grattan, and Saranac, earlier in the year, exposed a communications challenge between the departments, as Kent County and Ionia County public safety communications systems are currently on different frequency bands. This becomes integral when one considers that many large

fires require cooperation between neighboring departments, often in shifts.

Prior to the structure burn, neighbors and local officials are contacted, and in this instance, part of Segwun will be closed to traffic. In addition to tankers, engines, and 5,000 gallons of water on standby, Witherell expects spectators to show up. Witherell and other firefighters have spoken with many neighbors since the fire department was given access to the house. "Neighbors came up and visited, shared stories," Chief Witherell said, "some not so sad, some are sad."

Some folks had concerns about historical preservation of a building that has been around for

almost 150 years. Others needed assurance that the burn could be done safely, and still others worried that squatters might take up residence in the building.

Chief Witherell originally aimed to conduct active-burn exercises on Saturday, December 9, crossing his fingers that the date would stick. Not unexpectedly, the date did not pan out for the burn, but the department was still able to conduct training exercises. Even if a live-burn shaves minutes off a fire rescue response, those minutes can be the difference between life and death, and the Lowell Area Fire Department's motto is, "Those are not our minutes to waste."

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# Three Brothers Pizza’s Meat Lovers Pizza

By Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing writer

For decades, Lowell has been an oversaturated pizza market, and it is noticeable after even a quick drive through town. Comedian Mike Vecchione commented, while doing a LaughFest set at First Congregational UCC, that Lowell is composed of “eight to nine pot dispensaries and two to three pizza huts.” In fact, there are four pizza restaurants in town - BC Pizza, Jet’s, Little Caesars, and Three Brothers - and the upscale Gilmore restaurant, Flat River Grill, is known for its wood-fired pizza, as well. Just outside of town, there’s Vitale’s of Ada, Mike’s Pizzeria and Tavern, and Bricks Pizza at the Alto Marathon. The fact that a small, local pizzeria, like Three Brothers, could keep up with a bigger chain like, Little Caesars, and a bigger dining area like BC Pizza, just speaks to the quality of the pizza produced there.

Nancy Wilks Shoemaker summed up the Three Brothers pull nicely in a Facebook review, written during February of 2022: “I have places closer to me. Their last chance was last week. I will now drive eleven minutes, each

way, to get Three Brothers. Twenty-five minutes spent on a good pizza is worth it! Plus, no cooking or cleanup!” Warren Buffet infamously recommended that investors spend their money on products that they would continue to purchase, even if they cost significantly more than their competition. Shoemaker’s investment of time and effort proves that Three Brothers is as close to a blue-chip restaurant as Lowell can get, and she made this post during a snow day no less, which means she would be willing to venture the longer drive, even in snow up to her knees.

Three Brothers is transparent with their pizza preparation process. From the entryway, the pizza oven is visible, making it easy to know when the pizza you ordered is done. As it emerges from the oven, an employee butters the crust, slices the pizza, and finishes it with parmesan cheese. While some prefer simpler specialty pizzas, like the Eric Special - buffalo chicken, bacon, and ranch, prepared specially by Eric, the pizza artist, when he’s not up at Northern Michigan University - Three Brothers is best known for its big,

meaty pizzas, and the meaty pizza with the best balance for all audiences is the Meat Lovers Pizza.

The Meat Lovers is decked out with pepperoni, ham, meatballs, bacon, and sausage, and these are large slices of meat, clumped together so the customer gets the most bang for the buck. This is a meaty, greasy pizza, what Mike Kilbourn described in a Facebook review as “a knife and fork pie,” and the base for some of Three Brothers’ other great pizzas. Some folks like to add green peppers and onions, jalapenos, or in the case of Kilbourn, mushrooms, and one of the more popular specialty pizzas, the Raptor, adds sirloin burger and eight buffalo chicken wings, but the standard Meat Lovers is plenty good, all by itself. The crust is firm, buttery, and uneven like it is served in many East Coast pizzerias; the cheese sticks to the crust, and the meats are of the highest quality. A Three Brothers pizza is typically a bit more costly than some of the other pizzas in town, but you get what you pay for, the best ingredients on a meticulously-crafted pizza.

People who love Three Brothers Pizza make a lot of the fact that the restaurant

has such a diverse menu. When it comes to appetizers, there are breadsticks and cheese bread like most pizza restaurants, but there are also buffalo tenders, pepperoni pizza logs, and stuffed jalapenos. Those not interested in pizza can order strombolis, subs, spaghetti, manicotti, lasagna, or macaroni and cheese, as well. Outside of Americanized Italian food, Three Brothers also serves Mexican entrées, like burritos and quesadillas. However, it is the variety of pizza options that really makes Three Brothers shine. While the toppings list may not seem much larger than what you would find elsewhere, the crust options are much more abundant. There are deep dish pizzas, like the Raptor and the Mac Daddy, pan crust pizzas, crustless pizzas for those counting their carbs, gluten-free crust pizzas for those suffering from Celiac disease, and the ever-popular cauliflower crust pizza, as well.

If you are watching your cholesterol, Three Brothers Pizza’s Meat Lovers Pizza is not for you, but if you are watching the



Meat Lovers Pizza at Three Brothers Pizza.

big Lions game on a Sunday afternoon, this is the pizza to get. Forget greasy spoon - this is a greasy fork, greasy hands, greasy paper plate pizza, but the high-quality meat and buttered crust is going to leave you with a smile on your face, even if the Lions do not show up for all four quarters. Three Brothers is the flagship

pizza restaurant in Lowell for a good takeout pizza that you set up on the kitchen counter or stove and watch the entire family come and go until it is gone. In other words, if it is a Three Brothers Pizza party, it would be foolish to show up late, unless you are the one who picked up the pizza.

## Social Security’s Top 10 webpages for 2024

By Hillary Hatch,  
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

SSA.gov is your best resource to learn about Social Security programs and do business with us. Our website is designed to make it easy for you to find what you need.

Here are our top 10 webpages:

**my Social Security** — You can open a personal my Social Security account to verify your earnings, view your Social Security Statement, get benefit estimates, and more, at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

**Social Security blog** — You can find the latest Social Security news and updates at [blog.ssa.gov](http://blog.ssa.gov). You can easily share these informative articles with others.

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** — Do you need answers to Social Security-related questions? Visit [www.ssa.gov/faq](http://www.ssa.gov/faq) to find answers to common questions and other valuable information.

**Retirement Application** — You can complete and submit your online application for retirement

benefits in as little as 15 minutes at [www.ssa.gov/retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/retirement).

**Disability Application** — You can apply for disability benefits online at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability).

**Publications** — Visit our online publication library for information on key subjects at [www.ssa.gov/pubs](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs) (includes audio versions).

**Medicare** — Sign up for Medicare at [www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up](http://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up).

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# CCE Early Act delivers 128 toys to FROM

In a display of compassion and community spirit indicative of our Red Arrows, the Cherry Creek Elementary's Early Act Club students bring joy to the season by donating 128 toys to the Flat River Outreach Ministries Christmas Distribution Program. Under the guidance of Cherry Creek Elementary teacher and Early Act Advisor, Joseph Audia, and with the support of the Lowell Rotary Club, these students worked hard to organize a toy-drive to positively impact the lives of families in need during the holiday season. The students carefully stacked the unwrapped presents around the tree in the FROM lobby, where Arianne Hall,

Director of Development, thanked them for their efforts and told them that many families would have a happy holiday, thanks to their hard work. Their efforts embody the true essence of the season, reminding us that the spirit of giving can make the holidays brighter for our community. Amanda Rodgers provided guidance, as the Lowell Rotary Liaison, and Arianne Hall gave the students a tour of the facility, and ensuring a seamless distribution process. Together, they have woven a tapestry of goodwill, creating memories and spreading warmth long after the decorations are taken down.



## Over 168,000 Michiganders were renewed for Medicaid in October

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced it has renewed Medicaid or Healthy Michigan plan coverage for 168,088 people whose eligibility was up for redetermination in October. Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries must renew their coverage over the next year to comply with federal legislation that requires states to resume the redetermination of Medicaid eligibility. Annual renewals were paused for three years during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Michigan annual renewals are being staggered to take place monthly through May 2024.

Medicaid renewal events, hosted in partnership with The Salvation Army Great Lakes Harbor Light System, have assisted Medicaid beneficiaries going through the redetermination process. Recent events helped 1,500 Medicaid beneficiaries in Southeast Michigan with the renewal process.

“MDHHS is working to preserve health benefits for all qualifying residents and will continue to use every option available to achieve that outcome,” said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. “We want to be sure that as many Michiganders as possible can continue to receive Medicaid coverage and appreciate the partnership of The Salvation Army and others in this effort.”

The latest data on Medicaid renewals can be found on MDHHS’ online dashboard. The dashboard – which is updated monthly – shows that 804,613 people have been renewed to date. The department is awaiting completed enrollment forms

from another 85,795 people, who were up for renewal in October and have until the end of November to return their paperwork.

There were 13,618 people who were disenrolled in October because they were no longer eligible and 2,806 whose eligibility was not renewed for procedural reasons – such as not providing requested verification documents like driver’s license, pay stubs and bank statements. MDHHS can reinstate eligibility back to the termination date for people who were disenrolled, based on a procedural reason, and are subsequently found to be eligible for Medicaid during a 90-day reconsideration period.

Additional MDHHS efforts to help Michiganders keep their coverage are possible as a result of the federal government releasing new flexibilities and strategies to state officials to lessen the impact of the resumption of Medicaid renewals.

This includes:

- Extending the renewal date to May 2024 for beneficiaries undergoing life-saving treatments, such as chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy infusions or dialysis.
- Sharing lists with managed-care organizations of their enrollees, who are due for renewal or have not responded to provide additional outreach to those beneficiaries.
- Reinstating eligibility back to the termination date for people who were disenrolled based on a procedural reason – such as not returning reenrollment forms on time – and are subsequently found to be eligible for Medicaid during a 90-day reconsideration period.

• Providing beneficiaries an extra month to submit paperwork to help avoid loss of health care coverage.

MDHHS advises all Medicaid enrollees to check their renewal month and renew online at Michigan.gov/MIBridges. MDHHS will send monthly renewal notices four months before a beneficiary’s renewal date and follow up with text messages, phone calls, and emails during their renewal month.

MDHHS advises families to return any renewal paperwork from the department, even if they believe they are no longer eligible for Medicaid. Some members of a household can obtain health care coverage even when others are not eligible. For example, a child may be eligible for MiChild, even if their parent is not eligible for other Medicaid programs. Or some Michiganders may have income that is over the income limit for one program and still be able to obtain health care benefits through another program.

MDHHS will assess a household’s eligibility for all Medicaid programs – not just for the programs in which someone is currently enrolled, and also for each family member in the household.

Michiganders, who no longer qualify for Medicaid, will receive additional information about other affordable health coverage options available, including on HealthCare.gov. Affected Michiganders will be able to shop for, and enroll in, comprehensive health insurance as they transition away from Medicaid, and many Michiganders can purchase a plan for less than \$10 per month.



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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

# Wrestlers take on first Saturday tournaments

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

Not many programs can field a varsity A and B team in any sport, but Lowell wrestling knows they're fortunate to be one of them. The ability to field B teams in varsity settings means more match experience for wrestlers being developed for the future, and letting the A team compete against the best-of-the-best in the midwest.

On Saturday, Lowell A went out to the elite Grapppler Gold Invitational at Dundee, while Varsity B went to Allegan to take on other varsity programs.

In Dundee at the Grapppler Gold, the hosts, ranked No. 50 in the country, took home the win in a battle of three nationally-ranked squads not at full strength. Dundee finished with 186 points, down two starters. Lowell, No. 39 nationally, was down two starters (Jackson Blum and Juan Acosta) and finished second with 174 points. No. 34

nationally, Hartland scored 161 points, similarly down two starters.

Lowell wrestlers, Casey Engle (1st), Jarrett Smith (1st), Ari McFarland (2nd), Owen Segorski (2nd), Trevor Boone (2nd), Carter Cichocki (3rd), Logan Dawson (4th), Tacho Gonzales (5th), Cody Foss (6th), Kenny Kinyon (6th) Braddock King (6th), Mason Saylor (7th), and Jack Lamoreaux (7th), all placed.

Trevor Boone scored a marquee victory, knocking off D1 top dog, Easton Culver out of Hartland. The sixth-ranked wrestler in D2 took on D2's top-ranked wrestler, Brady Orcutt of Goodrich, in the finals, where Orcutt scored a narrow 2-0 decision; a match we could certainly see again in the future.

Logan Dawson scored a solid win over Hartland, a 10-8 decision over D1 No. 3 Dallas Korponic. Those two wins over Hartland

were key to Lowell edging-out the Eagles for second.

Jared Boone won a battle between D2's third and fifth ranked wrestlers, beating Allendale's Harris Meekhof 4-0.

In Allegan, Varsity B was competitive, a testament to the team's strength, given they wrestled other A teams. The B squad scored higher than Lawton, Portage Central, Otsego, Grand Haven, Edwardsburg, Hudson B, Allegan, Mendon, BC Lakeview, and Niles. Three Rivers won the tournament with 176 points, followed by Harper Creek (170.5), Plainwell (162), Constantine (158), Byron Center (145), and Lowell B (102.5).

Cole Cichocki, the highest ranked of the Lowell wrestlers, went 2-1, placing second at 113.

Gage Lyons scored two wins by fall, before falling in the semifinals. He bounced back, with a win by decision, to take third at 120.



The Lowell A team after finishing runner-up at Grapppler Gold.

At 165, Seth Harvey placed third, winning a 6-4 decision over Carter Godfrey from Constantine in the third-place match.

Petey Gonzales placed sixth, including a season opening pin. At 215, Brady Smith scored a fall over his

wrestler from Niles in the consolation semifinals, then scored a 5-0 decision over Grand Haven.

Gabe Olin scored two falls on his way to taking sixth place. Chase Wilder placed fourth at 157, a quarterfinal win over a

Lawton wrestler to secure his spot.

Varsity A is out at Crown Pointe (IN) next Saturday, while Varsity B is at the Cedar Springs Tri on Wednesday, then the Kent County Classic at East Kentwood on Saturday.

# Shamrocks win battles of national powers

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

It was never going to be easy. Lowell wrestling went to Novi on the east side of the state, where they were bested by the thirteenth-ranked team in the country, Detroit Catholic Central, 33-21.

Below are the match-by-match synopsis and final thoughts:

Detroit Catholic Central is ranked number 13 in the nation for a good

reason. They're loaded top to bottom. The Red Arrows opened the season with a loss, in a battle of two teams ranked top of their divisions. Logan Dawson won a swing match to start the year on a good foot. Jarrett Smith and Owen Segorski recorded pins. Both Boone brothers recorded wins as well. The Red Arrows will be a little disappointed they didn't pick up a couple more

swing matches, but down two ranked wrestlers in a difficult environment, they wrestled DCC pretty well. Final score - No. 39 Lowell - 21 | No. 13 DCC - 33

190 and 215 lbs - Casey Engle nearly picked up an upset for Lowell, fell 4-3. DCC gets a pin by returning state champion Bercume at 215 to take a 9-0 lead.

285 lbs - Lowell No. 6 Juan Acosta, out with an injury at heavyweight; he was replaced by Kenny Kinyon, who battled valiantly against DCC's Benny Eziuka. Falls 4-2 and Shamrocks lead 12-0. A couple narrow decisions that go the way of the home side.

106 lbs - No. 1 Jarrett Smith came out with a pin over DCC No. 2 Totten. Really impressive stuff

from the Fargo champ. 12-6.

113 lbs - Really stacked here at the lower weights, as Lowell No. 8 Braddock King took on DCC returning state champion Lees. Wyatt Lees did get the win 11-4, but King kept bonus points off the board. 15-6 DCC.

120 lbs - No. 8 Moscovic (DCC) wrestled No. 13 Mason Saylor. Saylor is one of many multi-sport athletes on the team he ran cross country this fall. He did get the late takedown to avoid giving up bonus points, fell 12-5, and DCC went up 18-6.

126 lbs - Two time state-runner up and No. 2 Carter Cichocki took on fellow No. 2 Grayson Fuchs. Fuchs beat Cichocki 2-1, as school let out at DCC. Some students mulled out of the assembly.

Plenty stayed though.

132 lbs - Simon Dominguez, No. 4 in the state for DCC, against No. 11 Cody Foss at 126. Another pretty similar match result as Foss competed against a higher-ranked wrestler. Battled well, fell 8-3. DCC leads 24-6, but Lowell was still within striking distance.

138 lbs - Lowell No. 10 Logan Dawson came out to wrestle No. 8 Michael Cannon. Dawson, the sophomore, picked up Lowell's second win of the day, 5-1. 24-9 now.

144 lbs - No. 6 Trevor Boone against No. 14 Brewer (DCC). Boone went down 2-0 early, giving up the immediate takedown, but bounced back to dominate the rest of the match. Tried to work back points for the major, but not quite able to get them. Still a solid 8-2 win to bring Lowell within 12. Two No. 1's left for DCC, but Lowell was hanging around here.

150 lbs - No. 1 Owen Segorski (Lowell) up against Nagy (DCC) at 150. Nagy is one of very few unranked wrestlers in this Shamrock starting lineup, only because of injury last year. He gave Segorski a bit

of a fight, but Owen secured the pin. 24-18 DCC. Six point deficit with three matches to go, but Lowell needed some upsets to swing their way if they want the win at this stage.

157 lbs - No. 6 Tacho Gonzales lost 9-3 to No. 1 Mason Stewart of DCC by decision. Lowell did a really good job of avoiding giving up bonus points and keeping DCC wins to decisions.

165 lbs - This match pitted three-time individual state champion Darius Marines against Lowell's Jack Lamoreaux. Marines secured the dual for DCC with a pin. DCC winning the dual is not really a surprise, given how things have transpired. Lowell did a great job of avoiding majors, technical falls, and pins, but DCC just won too many close swing matches in a day Lowell needed to win them and get a small upset or two.

175 lbs - No. 5 Jared Boone up against another Krieger for DCC to close-out the dual. Jared Boone finished the dual with a 6-3 win for the Red Arrows, and started his senior season on a positive note. Final score, 33-21 DCC.

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HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Basketball conquers River Cities Duo to go to 3-0

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

They're not flashy, they're not going to be throwing up alley oops or windmill dunks. They'll outwork you, though; they'll out-hustle you, and in assistant coach Brian Daller's words, "they'll outgrit you." So for the first time since 2015, Lowell boys basketball is 3-0. "These guys hustle. They give it their all every possession. Getting down, getting gritty. That's this team."

Following a season-opening win against Potter's House, Lowell had a pair of away games against two future conference opponents starting next year in Sparta and Cedar Springs.

Last Tuesday, Lowell knocked-off the Red Hawks of Cedar Springs 57-50. Both teams played evenly throughout the first quarter, as the hosts held an 11-10 lead. A Ben Gaskin layup, Jackson Reisbig driving floater, Gaskin jumper, and Gaskin layup while being fouled and successive free-throw, all in four straight possessions, gave Lowell a 19-11 lead and the separation they needed to get the early upper hand.

In front of a loud Cedar Springs student section, the Red Arrows kept their composure. Basketball is one sport where the fans are, at times, mere feet from the players. Students getting rowdy and excited for their team is part of the atmosphere. Often, the student section will try to distract teams, especially during free throws.

"It's never really bothered me. When you're locked in, we just focus on what's ahead of us," senior Ben Gaskin told the *Lowell Ledger*, in a podcast that can be found at [lowellledger.org](http://lowellledger.org)

After a big run and your opponent starts to claw back, it's sometimes one or two baskets and momentum changers that deliver a morale blow. A Gaskin step-back three, in the second quarter, did just that to give Lowell a 30-19 lead. The Red Arrows stretched the lead to as much as 15, leading 34-24 at the break.

"We try to play up tempo," Coach Daller said. "We want to pressure on defense, push the tempo on offense, and on Tuesday night, our shots were falling. We've got a lot of shooters on the floor, and they typically all have the green light. That really helped us. We also limited their offensive rebounds, and being undersized, boxing out is even more important," added Daller.

A Will Mrozinski steal and score kept the momentum on Lowell's side to make it 38-26, as the teams went back and forth, giving Lowell their first points in a 10-4 run that made it 46-30.

Down 54-38, with three minutes left, the Hawks mounted a furious rally



Lowell celebrates a win. The Red Arrows have started the season 3-0.

Competitive cheer begins season

The Competitive Cheerleading team headed to St. Johns on Saturday for their opening round of competition this season. LHS took third place to kick off the year with round scores that followed:

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| Round 1: | 197.3  |
| Round 2: | 175.03 |
| Round 3: | 235.7  |
| Overall: | 600.02 |

Lowell will compete next on January 11th at Byron Center.



The 2023-2024 Lowell Competitive Cheer team (Photo - Lowell Athletics)

forcing three turnovers, hitting three-of-three on three-pointers, and an "and-1" layup to bring the score to 54-50 with 54 seconds left.

"This group of seniors has been through plenty of adversity on the court; we'll continue to fight adversity, and we, as seniors, are trying to step-up when we need to," Reisbig added.

Time, though, was still not on the Hawks side; Cedar Springs was forced to foul. Lowell hit a free throw, Reisbig came up with a defensive rebound, and hit two more free throws to shut the door on the comeback attempt, and walk away with a 57-50 win. Gaskin hit his last three free-throw attempts to close off the win.

"Most of us have been playing sports together for a long time, we've built up a lot of chemistry, and I think that helps us on the court," Reisbig concluded to the podcast.

On Friday, Lowell out-rebounded Sparta 38-19 in a 62-51 win. Lowell shot 52 percent from the field, as well, to help bring home the victory on the road. Lowell is home against Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg and Comstock Park this week.

RED ARROW WINTER  
SPORTS SCHEDULES

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

*\* Denotes a home game at Lowell High School*  
12/19 at 7 pm Jenison\*  
12/22 at 7 pm Kenowa Hills\*

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

*\* Denotes a home game at Lowell High School*  
12/21 at 5:30 pm East Kentwood  
at Cornerstone University  
12/23 at 4:30 pm Wayland Union  
at Cornerstone University

BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING

*\* Denotes a home game at Hillcrest Lanes, Belding*  
1/6 at 8 am Jenison Invitational at Fairlines Bowling

GIRLS VARSITY CHEER COMPETITION

*\* Denotes a game at LHS*  
1/11 at 6 pm OK White competition at Byron Center

VARSITY WRESTLING

*\* Denotes a home game at LHS*  
12/22 at 1 pm Red Team Assembly  
Lakeshore High School\*  
12/29 & 30 time TBA, Red Team, Brecksville Invitational  
12/30 at 9 am, White Team at Livonia-Stevenson

GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS

*\* Denotes a home game at LHS*  
12/20 at 6:30 pm at Kenowa Hills  
1/6 at 10 am at Rockford Invitational

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

*\* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena*  
12/15 at 8:30 pm at Rochester Adams  
12/16 at 3:30 pm Kenowa Hills\*  
12/20 at 5 pm at Forest Hills Central  
12/23 time TBA at Forest Hills Northern

BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE

12/16 at 12 pm at Jenison  
12/19 at 6 pm at Forest Hills Northern

BOYS-GIRLS VARSITY SKIING

*\* Denotes a home meet at Cannonsburg*  
1/9 at 7 pm Conference Meet\*  
1/16 at 4 pm Conference Meet

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\*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

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Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS



Girls basketball uses overtime to best Caledonia

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

Despite their differences, Lowell Athletics and Caledonia Athletics have veered in different directions. The two schools share a bond thanks to their hockey and swimming program co-ops. Since 2008, Lowell has seen a consistent enrollment decline from 1,329 (2008) to present day 1,078. Caledonia on the other hand, peaked at 1,538 students in 2019, currently sitting at 1,431 students after a near constant decline from 600 students in the 1980's. It's why Caledonia sits in the big-school OK Red division.

On Friday night, the Lowell girls basketball team, led by three college basketball commits went into Caledonia and knocked off the Fighting Scots in overtime by a score of 51-49.

The three names Red Arrow fans will certainly be familiar with are those three college basketball commits. Taryn Jackson (Northwood), Piper Risdon (Vermont), and Braxcyn Baker (Murray State).

The last division one player to come from Lowell on the girls side was Kendra Gallert in 2005, who went to Eastern Michigan.

Baker showed why she was the best player on the floor and Lowell's all-time leading scorer on Friday night with 37 points, 10 rebounds, and four assists including 17 for 20 from

the free throw line. Jackson added nine points for Head Coach Heath Kent's side, entering his eighth season with the program.

Both teams started slow, with Caledonia leading 15-12 after halftime. It was a tough night shooting for both teams at 25 and 26 percent respectively.

It was Caledonia though who came out strong in the third quarter and beginning of the fourth quarter to take a commanding lead. Down 41-28 in the fourth quarter, Lowell mounted a furious comeback starting with a Taryn Jackson three. Down 43-36, Gracyn Hamilton came up with a steal, one of four on the night, that led to a transition bucket. She added five rebounds as well. The Red Arrow defense would hold the Fighting Scots scoreless over the last two minutes.

With 26 seconds left and down two, Baker would hit a running floater to tie the game, Caledonia missing a corner three as time expired. Both teams ended regulation at 43-43.

"Sophomore Alison Smith grabbed a huge offensive rebound and kicked it out to Brax to set up that game tying basket. Without that rebound we're looking at a different outcome, but it was a huge effort play by Alison," Coach Heath Kent told the Ledger after the game.

In the four-minute overtime, Lowell against trailed with under a minute

to go, and a Baker lay-in gave them a 50-49 lead, after a tacked on free throw and one final defensive stand, Lowell came away with a hard fought season opening win.

"We were down by 11 with about 3 minutes to go, so we made a few defensive adjustments to pick up the pressure and tempo which led us to creating some turnovers and converting on the other end. In those moments we just preach one possession at a time, good shots on offense, and more importantly getting stops on defense. We've got some senior leaders who've played in many high level close games over their careers and they don't get rattled in those moments," Kent concluded.

This Monday, Lowell defeated Muskegon, of note for two reasons. The first is Muskegon would have



Braxcynn Baker went 17-20 from the free throw line in the season opener against Caledonia.

been a conference opponent next year, had Lowell not left for the River Cities. The biggest thought of the matchup though, it's a huge matchup. Muskegon

is a state basketball power, and Lowell has high expectations this year with a goal of winning a conference title, and a deep playoff run. A recap will be available

in next week's Ledger. After that, Lowell's next game is the 21st in the Cornerstone Holiday Tournament against East Kentwood.

## ABC's, continued

platoon made a T-shirt for him that said, "Taxi Driver".

On January 13, 2010, Lucas was a squad leader on patrol in Eastern Afghanistan, when a firefight erupted and he was killed. This Bronze Star of Valor recipient, Purple Heart recipient, and hero of the highest caliber, gave his life in service for his country.

Luke returned to his hometown in death and was honored for the hero that he was. People lined the streets with flags and signs of support for his family.

Patriot Guard riders were there to "wrap him in honor and show his family that we understand, nothing anyone does can top what Sergeant Beachnaw did" said Mike Welch of the Patriot Guard. In lieu of flowers the family set-up a memorial to offset the expenses of soldiers coming to Lowell for the services.

Luke's mom, Jeanne, began a scholarship for students, with financial needs, to enjoy what Luke enjoyed, snowboarding. Recipients were gifted a season pass and their rental fees were covered.

In July of 2010, a Battlefield Cross Memorial, honoring Sgt. Lucas Tyler Beachnaw, was unveiled at the Lowell Veterans' Memorial Park on Main Street. The battlefield memorial is a cast bronze statue that includes a pair of military boots with an M-16 rifle and bayonet, thrust into the earth between them, along with a Kevlar battle helmet resting atop the stock of the rifle. The funding for the memorial had been raised by the American Legion.

Throughout his life, some things never changed. He was always his Mama's baby and his sisters' best friend. He made his dad proud every day and he loved his hometown. Luke

had a Winston Churchill quote tattooed on his ribcage that read "We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm." Luke lived by those words, and they represented what being a soldier meant to him. Although he was not a violent person, he understood, as a soldier, you have to be strong enough to fight the battles, brave enough to face the unknown, passionate enough to work hard, and loyal enough to lay down your life for the people you love. So, while he may have become many things in his life, a son, a brother, an uncle, a friend, maybe he was a soldier all along.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of  
RICHARD VANDER,  
Guardianship File  
No. 18-203,308-GA,  
Conservatorship File No.  
18-203365-CA.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his children: Jason Lee, Kim Young, Sonja Vander, and any other unknown children or spouse, 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 February 02, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court,

180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Modification of Appointment of a Guardian and Modification of Appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: December 08, 2023

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner, 121 Martin Luther King Jr., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 260-5694

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

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE  
23-214386-DE  
Court address: 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Court phone number:  
616-632-5440

Estate of JAMES A. FLEISCHER, deceased.  
Date of birth 4/11/1939

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:  
The decedent, James A. Fleischer, died 11/3/2023.

Creditors of the decedent

are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Janette L. Fleischer, 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.

December 5, 2023

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

Janette L. Fleischer  
6126 Parview Dr SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
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## coming events

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

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

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.

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.



## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

# 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester Lowell High School Honor Roll

Lowell High School has announced the Honor Roll for the 2nd trimester – 2023-24 school year. 2nd trimester term GPA must be a 3.000 or higher to qualify based on final grades

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| <b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b><br>Hannah Ake<br>Mattea Alexander<br>Jonathan Allen<br>Logan Arnswald<br>Anabel Austhof<br>Kara Bacon<br>Clive Baker<br>Gabriel Barrera-Wilder<br>Michelle Barrett<br>Remmi Beauchamp<br>Keira Berg<br>Sophia Bergsma<br>Connor Berrington<br>Laney Bieneman<br>Emma Bolt<br>Natalie Boonstra<br>Madeline Bracey<br>Noah Brandt<br>Saige Brandt<br>Finn Bredin<br>Peter Brillhart<br>Cody Bromley<br>Eston Brown<br>Mikaela Burrows<br>Amalia Burton<br>Cailey Bush<br>Elliott Butler<br>Bella Calhoun<br>Camden Cardinel<br>Alessandra Chappel<br>Isabella Cherpes<br>Cole Cichocki<br>Kyleigh Cisler<br>Ethan Cobb<br>Lilah Cone<br>Robert Cooper<br>Wesley Cooper<br>Isaac Cortez<br>Traiton Coulier<br>Christina Crawford<br>Rowen Creasy<br>Nash Darling<br>Peyton Dragoo<br>Evan Dressander<br>Mitchell Eikey<br>Alan Eldred<br>LenaEsch<br>Ella Fleet<br>Reilly Frueh<br>Landon George<br>Noah Germanese<br>EliseGolden<br>Elijah Goldsmith<br>Taylor Graham<br>Drew Gramza<br>Claire Greenwood<br>Ella Halfmann<br>Molly Handlon<br>Tyler Hart<br>Kara Havey<br>Frances Hawley<br>Madelyn Hayes<br>Riley Haynes<br>Brooklyn Haywood<br>Mason Hoevenaar<br>SawyerHoff<br>Allyson Hollern<br>Benjamin Homolka<br>Marshall Huhn<br>Sabin Ingram<br>Clayton Inman<br>Molly Inman<br>MikenaIsmail<br>Brooklyn Jackson<br>Colton Jackson<br>Logan Jannenga<br>Trinity Johnson<br>Wilson Johnston<br>Jolene Jousma<br>Rowin Keely<br>Abram Kennedy<br>Kamden Kennedy<br>Adelle Krueger<br>Ian Kuntz<br>Emily Kushion<br>Landon Lamoreaux<br>Olivia Landes<br>Evan Langenbach<br>Nolan LaRose<br>Erika Leazier<br>Khloie Liddell<br>Beck Limbers<br>Olivia Lothian<br>Delaney Lowe<br>Mya Loyd<br>Grace Lyon nais<br>Brayden Marchal | Brenden Massey<br>Emma McCaul<br>Weston McFarland<br>Noah McIntyre<br>Haven McLaughlin<br>Evan McMinn<br>Dawson Morgan<br>Grayson Moss<br>Maxwell Munger<br>Kennedy Munson<br>Ayden Muxlow<br>Alexis Nauman<br>Henry Oesch<br>Jacob Ort<br>Turan Pektunus<br>Jackson Pelletier<br>Neriah Peters<br>Adelaide Plank<br>Lindsey Plumley<br>Ashley Pohl<br>Wyatt Putnam<br>Addysen Raden<br>Allison Raison<br>Keagan Redman<br>Elisabeth Repp<br>Kaila Richards<br>Boden Rogers<br>Daphne Rogers<br>Gideon Rootes<br>Andilynn Rottier<br>Andon Ruis<br>Hailee Rykse<br>VadaSchenk<br>Logan Shores<br>Carter Sible<br>Gavin Simmet<br>William Smith<br>Spencer Spike<br>Colin Stawasz<br>Kaylee Stein<br>Kaylyn Steinhaus<br>Drew Swayze<br>Tanner Swayze<br>Analyze Tapia<br>Emma Thomas<br>Bryleigh Thompson<br>Evelyn Uzarski<br>Olivia VanderWerf<br>Elijah VanGroningen<br>Cade VanLaan<br>Levi VanLaan<br>Allison Videan<br>Ellery Vogel<br>Mia Vonderheide<br>Hudsyn Wagamon<br>Lilyann Webber<br>SawyerWilder<br>Caleb Wilterink<br>Joshua Wolters<br>Kayla Word<br>Brooke Worden<br>Maya Zaske<br>Brezlyn Zielinski<br>Caiden Zimmerman | Brayden Brubaker<br>Cooper Byrne<br>McGuire Carpenter<br>Panita Chairattanamanokorn<br>Brynn Chapman<br>Ayla Charon<br>Faith Chipman<br>Remington Christensen<br>Annalise Clark<br>Keagan Clark<br>Lily Collins<br>Preston Compton<br>Isabella Cook<br>Natalie Cornell<br>Bruce Covell<br>Isabella Cramer<br>Christopher Crawford<br>Nathan Curtis<br>Suri Darling<br>Emilyn Davidson<br>Max Davidson<br>Logan Dawson<br>Marley De Jong<br>Jadyn Deible<br>Evelyn Deur<br>Maddyson DeWitt<br>Madilyn Dexter<br>Kaleb DeYoung<br>Morgan Diekevers<br>Ethan Doeze ma<br>Frances Eddy<br>Rowan Eldred<br>Myla Elliott<br>Harmon Esch<br>Hannah Faylor<br>Anna Ferrandi<br>AlessioFerrari<br>Lorelei Fonner<br>Alexander Force<br>Cody Foss<br>Rylee Foster<br>Holly Fountaine<br>Evalynn Frey<br>Ana Fritzsche<br>Jose Garcia<br>Gianna Gates-Duprey<br>Julia Geelhoed<br>Ruby German<br>Hailey Grochowalski<br>Ralan Gwisdalla<br>Seth Harvey<br>Brayden Hekman<br>Kaidlin Hettinga<br>Evan Hudson<br>Jack Hughes<br>Anika Huhn<br>Brianna Huisman<br>Miranna Hulbert<br>Mileah Ismail<br>Amaya Jackson<br>James Jannenga<br>Calihan Janowiak<br>Jacob Johnson<br>Kylie Joyce<br>Daniel Judge<br>Emmett Kelley<br>Elliott Kemp<br>Mia Kinney<br>Julia Kinsey<br>Saphyre Knowlton<br>Kenton Kolp<br>Owen Kreps<br>Avery Krieger<br>Myles Kuehle<br>Aliya Kyes<br>Audrey Latchaw<br>CeaganLavallee<br>Talia Lejeune<br>Sophie Liley<br>Yu Chun Lin<br>Molly Lincolnhol<br>Irina Loskoutoff<br>SydneyLuxford<br>Ava McCormick<br>Micah McDonald<br>Lyn Melby<br>Bryce Mervau<br>Ella Mikulski<br>Madelyn Miller<br>Hannah Minier<br>Viola Morlotti<br>Ethan Nanninga<br>Evan Nanninga<br>Brennen Nelson<br>Thu Nguyen<br>Noah Nielsen<br>Jenna Niemeyer<br>Benjamin Nisbet | Olivia Nisbet<br>GabrielOlin<br>Eleanor Osmar<br>Delani Ostrander<br>Laura Palen<br>Nicholas Parcheta<br>Madilyn Parker<br>Pawanratt Parnpoonsarp<br>Collin Pellerito<br>Owen Perkins<br>Madison Pethers<br>Haiden Phillips<br>Andrea Plantz<br>Griffin Ponchaud<br>Cody Proctor<br>Maria Pujol<br>Santamarina<br>Sawyer Raden<br>Connor Rapson<br>Ransom Rathbun<br>Ainsley Ray<br>Abigail Rice<br>Callan Richardson<br>Sophie Richmond<br>Brooke Riemer<br>Mason Rose<br>Calli Rottier<br>Corrie Sakowski<br>Ava Sanchez<br>Lily Sandborn<br>Mason Saylor<br>Morgan Saylor<br>Natalie Saylor<br>Emmett Schaedig<br>Reece Schroeder<br>Mayah Schuch<br>Julian Schultz-Forward<br>Cole Schulz<br>Leah Schwinkendorf<br>Nathan Shaffer<br>Brooke Shellenbarger<br>Leni Siebert<br>Gracen Simmons<br>Alison Smith<br>Brady Smith<br>Brayden Smith<br>Jarrett Smith<br>Oliver Sobie<br>Tyler Stauffer<br>Gabrielle Stodola<br>Jozelyn Stroud<br>Gavyn Sullivan<br>Paige Swanson<br>Emily Swint<br>Veronica Tapia<br>Cooper Teft<br>Carson Thompson<br>Abigail Tuuri<br>Grace Valle<br>Elyse Veldman<br>Jordan Velzen<br>Emerson Vriesman<br>Claire Weeks<br>Elijah Wilcox<br>Paige Wilcox<br>Kalin Williams<br>Daniel Winkler<br>Brooklyn Wobma<br>Quinn Wood | Sydney Darling<br>Lauren Deeds<br>Owen Dennings<br>Madison DeSmyter<br>Cadence DeWit<br>Eyan Dial<br>Jaidyn Dutkiewicz<br>Rylie Elsie<br>Bradley Farman<br>Anika Ferrill<br>AniaFleszar<br>Hannah Flickinger<br>Aliina Forester<br>Anna Forney<br>Paul Fowler<br>Clara Frederickson<br>Ariana Fredricks<br>Maya Fritzsche<br>Mercie Fuentes<br>Brianna Fullerton<br>Colin Garrison<br>Gracie Gasper<br>Abigail Geelhoed<br>Isabel German<br>Jace Gleason<br>Ezequiel Gonzalez<br>Jeremey Granholm<br>Kadence Granholm<br>Kailyn Gustin<br>Josephine Hackett<br>Ava Halfmann<br>Gracyn Hamilton<br>Luke Hancock<br>Jason Harden<br>Sarah Harper<br>Thomas Hayes<br>Brady Hays<br>Haley Haywood<br>Elizabeth Hoffman<br>Kaitlyn Hofman<br>Brandon Hofmann<br>Patrick Hoke<br>Roger Jean<br>Emma Jenks<br>Peyton Kahn<br>Zaiden Keith<br>Braddock King<br>Jacob Kissinger<br>Sophia Konyndyk<br>Joash Kooi<br>Franklin Kraft<br>Leah Krieger<br>Tyler Lamoreaux<br>Molly Landgren<br>Austin Lay<br>Megan Lillie<br>Ivy Marsh<br>Quinn Massey<br>Andrew Mathews<br>Harlie Mays<br>Jordyn McClymont<br>Julia Meier<br>Alyse Miles<br>Marisa Miller<br>Claire Mitchell<br>Jacob Mitchell<br>Mackenzie Moore<br>William Mrozinski<br>Allison Munson<br>Joset Nelson<br>Owen Newland<br>Claire O’Boyle<br>Norah Orth<br>Spencer Orth<br>Emily Patyi<br>Brody Pearson<br>Kari Petersen<br>Elizabeth Plank<br>Dylan Polczak<br>Harper Postema<br>Jonathan Rapelje<br>Carter Ray<br>Anna Reedy<br>Analashia Reid<br>Wyatt Remar<br>Kaci Reynolds<br>Titus Rhodes<br>Ashlyn Richards<br>Lilian Richards<br>Elsie Ries<br>Deaken Roth<br>Jackson Roudabush<br>Kaylee Royer<br>Alexandria Roys<br>Graham Rutz<br>Jackson Sage<br>Parker Salgat<br>Corey Sandman<br>Maya Schilling<br>Taylor Schray<br>Lauren Seevers<br>Owen Segorski<br>John Seif<br>Gabriel Selover | Makenzie Simkins<br>Blake Sitzler<br>Romyn Slagell<br>Gabrielle Sluss<br>Logen Steffen<br>Gavin Stewart<br>Mason Stiegemeier<br>Anderson Stoner<br>Ethan Swanson<br>Calla Swayze<br>Gwyneth Taylor<br>Eliana Thompson<br>Brantley Tiede<br>Claire Uzarski<br>Aysha VandenBosch<br>Natalie VanLaan<br>Hunter VanSpronsen<br>Zachary Vaughn<br>Hayden Videan<br>Emmitt Visscher<br>Benjamin Vonderheide<br>Reese Wagamon<br>Ty Wasilenski<br>Maximus Wasilew<br>Makenna Waters<br>Noah Wattenhofer<br>Alanna Wester<br>Tyler White<br>Tucker Wilk<br>Rowan Williams<br>Elijah Wilterink<br>Mason Wilterink<br>Abygail Winglar<br>Rylan Winn<br>Ava Winter<br>Allie Wirth<br>Landon Wolfe-Pearce<br>Hope Worsley<br>Kaylee Ybarra<br>Canon Zaske<br>Emily Zou | Brooklyn Elsie<br>SamuelElve<br>Lynsi Fetterhoff<br>Logan Foss<br>Jadyn Franciscotty<br>Jayden Franks<br>Skylar Frazee<br>Micheal Andrew French<br>Wyatt Fuss<br>Emily Garcia<br>Isabella Garcia<br>Benjamin Gaskin<br>AntonyGieske<br>Weston Godbold<br>Jailizza Gomez-Tellez<br>Tacho Gonzales<br>Hayden Gough<br>Jacob Graham<br>LillyAnn Gravitt<br>Anne Greenfield<br>Kieryn Gruizenga<br>Maris Guppy<br>Emmah Handlon<br>Elizabeth Harrington<br>Jacob Hasapis<br>Eli Hawk<br>Samantha Hayes<br>Leo Hiler<br>Reese Hilton<br>Jacob Hofman<br>Timothy Hollern<br>Brayden Holst<br>Lincoln Homolka<br>Carly Hornbrook<br>Kiara Hulbert<br>Braylon Iakiri<br>Mason Inbody<br>Taryn Jackson<br>Elle Jenks<br>Rosalia Jimenez<br>Hannah Johnson<br>Charlotte Jones<br>Oliver Jones<br>Hope Kaminski<br>Gwynneth Kelly<br>Maya Kemp<br>Kenneth Kinyon<br>Joseph Korcek<br>Hannah Kovich<br>Brayden Krueger<br>Isabella Kuntz<br>Tori Labron<br>Brena Lacey<br>Noah LaMore<br>Benjamin Landis<br>Jacquelyn Landman<br>Owen LaRose<br>Nichole Larsen<br>Aubree Lee<br>Jackson Liley<br>Liam Lincolnhol<br>Nicholas Lothian<br>Nolan Lowrie<br>Charlie Lyons<br>Ava MacPherson<br>Lauren Malone<br>Alexis Martin<br>Kyra Martino<br>Breanna Mason<br>Jonathan Mathews<br>Abigail McDonald<br>Megan McDonald<br>Ari McFarland<br>Trevor Mead<br>Anders Melby<br>Cole Meyer<br>Carmen Mika<br>Kaylee Miller<br>Lance Miller<br>Daniel Mitchell<br>Nathan Mohr<br>Addison Molter<br>Madilynnne Morgensen<br>Jacob Morrell<br>Maia Moser | Noah Moser<br>Kayleigh Nanninga<br>Claire Nead<br>Rylee Nichols<br>McKenna Nietupski<br>Jenna Ohlrich<br>Ellery Ostrander<br>Austin Parcheta<br>Todd Parcheta<br>Adam Patyi<br>Mya Pender<br>Brycen Peters<br>Josiah Peters<br>Elly Phillips<br>Claire Pohl<br>Leianna Posati<br>Ashley Powell<br>Victor Preiss<br>Danica Ransom<br>Jacob Rapelje<br>Joseph Rapelje<br>Kelsey Rasch<br>Taylor Rasch<br>Skylar Redumski<br>Jackson Reisbig<br>Alexander Repp<br>Elaina Reutter<br>Austin Riemer<br>Piper Risdon<br>Andrew Rogers<br>Christopher Rogers<br>Katie Rogers<br>Reed Sarniak<br>Jackson Schaedig<br>Kylei Schmid<br>Jake Schmidt<br>Grace Simkins<br>Andrew Smith<br>Jacob Spaulding<br>Owen Spike<br>Kelsey Staley<br>Denton Starkweather II<br>Haleigh Stickney<br>Kailen Stokely<br>Melanie Swanson<br>Brady Swift<br>Mayson Swift<br>Mitchell Swint<br>Carter Szymanski<br>Bryce Thompson<br>Ella Todd<br>Joseph Tuuri<br>Tristan Tyler<br>Tevin VanderBoon<br>Wyatt VanderMeulen<br>Faith VanDuinen<br>Spencer VanVeelen<br>Marshall VanWagner<br>Kamie Venema<br>Matilyn Vogel<br>Melanie Wade<br>Molly Wade<br>Evan Wasciuk<br>Naomi Wattenhofer<br>Drew Weber<br>Nicholas Williams<br>Leah Wills<br>Alexander Winter<br>Nathaniel Worsley<br>Mackenzie Wyant<br>Elijah Young<br>Jadyn Young<br>Xavier Young<br>Samuel Zandstra |
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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in New York on December 12, 1970. I began my career as a child model and eventually segued into acting. I’ve been in films with Robert DeNiro, David Bowie, Tom Cruise, and Jennifer Aniston. Much of my work has garnered critical acclaim.

Answer: Jennifer Connelly

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |          |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|
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|    |    |    | 10 |    |    |    | 11 |    |    |    | 12 |    |          |
| 13 | 14 |    |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    | 17 18    |
| 19 |    |    |    |    |    | 20 |    |    | 21 | 22 |    |    |          |
| 23 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 24 |    |    |    |          |
|    |    |    |    | 25 |    |    |    |    | 26 |    |    |    |          |
| 27 | 28 | 29 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 30 |    |    | 31 | 32 33    |
| 34 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 35 |          |
| 36 |    |    |    | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |    | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 |          |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 46 |    |    |    |          |
| 47 | 48 | 49 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 50 |    |    |    | 51 52 53 |
| 54 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |          |
| 56 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 57 | 58 |    |    | 59 |          |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |          |
|    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    | 62 |          |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |          |
|    |    | 63 |    |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    | 65 |          |

DECK THE HALLS WORD SEARCH

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

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

- Puzzle solutions on page 13
- DECK THE HALLS WORD SEARCH
- ANGEL  
BELLS  
BOUGH  
CHRISTMAS TREE
- DECORATE DISPLAY  
FIREPLACE  
GARLAND  
HOLLY  
INFLATABLE  
MANTEL
- MENORAH  
MISTLETOE  
NUTCRACKER  
ORNAMENTS  
POINSETTIA  
SANTA  
SLEIGH
- SNOWMAN  
STAND  
STOCKINGS  
STRINGED LIGHTS  
WINDOW  
WREATH

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to holiday decorating.

NGLEA

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

Answer: Angel

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Mimic  
4. Payroll firm  
7. Perform in a play  
10. Opine: \_\_ philosophical  
11. Crony  
12. Political action committee  
13. 1991 Wimbledon winner  
15. Affirmative  
16. Exclamation of disgust  
19. Action of connecting  
21. A way to calm  
23. Especially fine or decorative clothing  
24. Walked proudly  
25. Group of people related through male heir  
26. Supplemented with difficulty  
27. Soft touch  
30. Erases  
34. Spanish river  
35. A princess can detect it  
36. Clouds of gas  
41. A way to get through  
45. Part of a book  
46. Southwestern US state  
47. Fields where rice is grown  
50. Area in Ghana  
54. Sayings  
55. Involve deeply
56. Compels to act  
57. "Ignore all rules"  
59. Indoor entertainment space  
60. Born of  
61. Back muscle  
62. Sea dweller  
63. Tools that resemble an axe  
64. Prefix denoting class or kind  
65. Tooth caregiver
- CLUES DOWN
1. Inspiring  
2. Put into a box  
3. Breathes out  
4. Pacify  
5. Patriotic society for women  
6. Fell down  
7. Clothing  
8. Dishwasher detergent brand  
9. Former French republic  
13. Single lens reflex  
14. Men's fashion accessory  
17. Consumed  
18. Marry  
20. \_\_ up: intensifies  
22. Body of water
27. People of southern Benin  
28. Decorate a cake with frosting  
29. Snag  
31. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)  
32. Records brain activity (abbr.)  
33. Car mechanics group  
37. Brought up to snuff  
38. \_\_ faire: Economic approach  
39. Phil \_\_, former CIA  
40. Affixed  
41. Period of adolescence  
42. Substance  
43. Danced  
44. Baked without its shell  
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)  
48. Satisfaction  
49. Balkans river  
51. Christmas carols  
52. Partner to tonic  
53. "The Godfather" character Johnny  
58. Swiss river

# As rain patterns evolve, farmers adjust to droughts and deluges

Seasonal weather patterns are changing and farmers are facing new challenges as a result, including how to handle their water management and irrigation practices.

Dennis Kellogg, a crop farmer in Ithaca, has felt the impacts of increased rain and longer droughts.

“When we get some of these rains, it seems like the amount of rain is greater than what it has been in the past,” he said. “We have added additional tile to our farmland and improved our drainage outlets to make them bigger. That has helped some, but we still have those low areas that will flood over.”

Michigan and the entire Great Lakes region are seeing major changes in rain and water volumes, said Laura Campbell, the senior conservation and regulatory relations specialist for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

“We’re getting more intense precipitation in the spring and fall, which is not a great time for us to have huge gullywasher rains, but we’re also seeing drier conditions in the summer,” she said. “This creates problems that our traditional conservation practices aren’t really able to handle.”

The months of May and June brought long periods of drought, which affected Kellogg’s crops.

“We wondered if we were going to get a crop planted and be able to get it out of the ground and raise anything,” he said. “As it turned out, we had a long fall without a frost, so we do have a crop.”

While it isn’t the largest crop Kellogg has raised, he is grateful to have a harvest at all.

There are more than 46,000 farms in Michigan, and 99 percent of them are family owned. The state is one of the country’s most agriculturally diverse, growing over 300 products, according to the Michigan Agriculture Council.

Agriculture is highly sensitive to the climate, with changes in the growing season having a positive effect on farmers in certain areas and a negative impact on others, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

An increase in precipitation can be detrimental for fields as it can cause heavy erosion and a lack of soil nutrients. Increased soil runoff into streams and lakes also harms water quality, the agency said.

“A lot of this extra water coming in is causing problems that farmers have never had before in Michigan in terms of providing irrigation management for their farms,” Campbell said. “It’s also becoming a problem when we start to get longer and longer drought periods.”

A 2022 report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projected that Michigan would see more extreme rainfall events, especially in the winter and spring, possibly increasing the number of floods.

“When you get too much rain, nothing really compacts the soil like a raindrop,” Kellogg said. “Most of our land would classify as sandy clay and that gets a lot of compaction. We have to be careful when we’re out there so we don’t add to that compaction by running farm equipment over it.”

Increased spring flooding could potentially delay planting due to damaged soil structure, according to the report. It could also negatively impact crop yields.

The Farm Bureau is creating technical and financial support programs and looking to find new methods of water management.

“We’re looking a lot more at building soil health and creating ways for soil to become more absorbent,” Campbell said. “We’re also working on edge-of-field practices to slow water down when it hits the ditches so we’re not sending a huge flush of nutrients down into our Great Lakes.”

She said, “Being surrounded by the lakes, farmers in Michigan are uniquely positioned to be aware of water quality issues and how they tie to climate change.”

*This story was originally published by the Capital News Service.*



Intense rains from climate change are leading to more flooded farm fields. (Jeremy Nagel/Michigan Farm Bureau)

# Write a Letter to Santa

and your letter will be published in the 12/25 edition of the Buyer's Guide.

Deadline date is 12/18

Send your letter to:

Mail: P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331

Email: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)

Or drop your letter off at our *santa door* anytime at 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

Santa will reply if you include your name and address