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50 CENTS



Defibrillators placed in various locations around Lowell in hopes of saving more lives

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

Rest assured, the city of Lowell is taking heart attacks as serious, as well... a heart attack.

Sergeant Steve Bukala began the process in the summer of 2012 of applying for the Lowell Area Community Fund

community-wide grant to cover the cost of 24 automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

An AED is a small,

portable, battery operated device that detects irregularities in the heartbeat and can shock the heart, stopping the beating and allowing it to return to a proper heartbeat.

to the employees where the AEDs are stationed.

The idea for community-wide AEDs was formed after a volunteer had a heart attack at Flat River Outreach Ministries



Representatives from each AED location, pictured, left to right: Caitlin Clover and Cody Acker, Kent County Fairgrounds; Jeanne Vandersloot, Vergennes Township; Mark Howe, city of Lowell; Tamela Spicer, FROM; Scott Fallasburg, Department of Public Works; Liz Baker, chamber of commerce; Pat Allchin, Lowell historical museum; Tom Russo, Lowell Light & Power; Lorain Smalligan, LowellArts! Council; Dan Desjarden, Department of Public Works; John Zielinski, Lowell Area Schools; Ron VanOverbeek, Lowell fire department; and Steve Bukala, Lowell Police Department.

“Anything to shorten the response time... That is ultimately our goal.”

~ Ron VanOverbeek

Once the AED is turned on, directions on how to properly work it are spoken. There are also pictures showing exactly where to place the pads on the chest. Once the AED is activated and only if irregularities are detected, shocks begin after 55 seconds. According to sergeant Bukala, they are basically “idiot proof.”

Ron VanOverbeek, assistant chief of the Lowell Area Fire Department and sergeant Bukala are offering a half-hour training class

last spring. Having an AED at FROM could have saved this person’s life.

Sergeant Bukala received a test AED last summer, which saved two lives, proving their necessity. These incidents occurred at the Sizzlin’ Summer Concert Series. Two people had heart attacks, but because the AED was close, their lives were saved.

VanOverbeek said the first three to five minutes

Defibrillators, continued, page 2

Board honored during School Board Recognition Month

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

January is School Board Recognition Month. To celebrate this, Greg Pratt, superintendent, presented each board member with a certificate and gift bag.

Pratt spoke to the board about their dedication, saying, “I want to thank you for your time, your efforts and everything you sacrifice to work for the district.”

He believes the school board helps the district stay on the cutting edge of education.

Pratt described the board as “a group that is unselfish, is willing to give time, not only beyond meetings but also time during the day and

weekends. They sacrifice time with their families, sacrifice time after work.”

“It’s the work that goes on behind the scenes, in preparation for these meetings that is truly the dedication that it takes to execute what happens

here on a monthly basis on Monday nights.”

Throughout the conference room were paintings, drawings and thank you cards from the

School board honored continued, page 9

School district holding election for one-mill to fund several projects

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

On February 26, Lowell Area Schools is funding an election to pass a one-mill sinking fund proposal. They are asking that this sinking fund proposal be collected for seven years. One mill equates to \$1 on every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

This sinking fund will address issues such as safety, security and saving energy, as well as to help the schools to maintain valuable assets and return dollars to the classroom.

This will be the first sinking fund for the district. Rather than asking for a bond millage, where the school sells bonds and the taxpayers pay it back over the years, the sinking fund is like a bank account. The taxpayers pay into the fund and the school uses these funds to pay for

Millage increase, continued, page 3



Board members, Pat Nugent, Maureen Fleet, Laurie Kuna, Gary Blough, Jim Turner and Brian Krajewski hold the poster made by Cherry Creek Elementary students.

Defibrillators, continued



Directions and a drawing can be seen on the AED.

following a heart attack are the most critical. After nine minutes of no treatment, someone's chance of living is severely diminished.

"We picked the buildings in the community that are high traffic areas for the public... places where there is always foot traffic," stated VanOverbeek.

By placing the AEDs in well-traveled areas around the city, where it is more likely someone could have

a heart attack, the ability to save someone's life is raised drastically.

Each AED costs \$1,125 and the total grant was for \$30,930.16. The AEDs come from North Star Medical Equipment in Ada. Bukala received them in late December and they are now stationed across the city and ready for use.

AEDs are located at the fire department, the police department, Lowell, Light

& Power, the Department of Public Works, several schools in the district, Flat River Outreach Ministries, the Kent County Fairgrounds, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Lowell Arts! Council, Lowell City Hall, the Lowell Area Historical Museum and Vergennes Township. Several will also be placed in the vehicles of the fire department, police,

Lowell Light & Power and Department of Public Works. These vehicles are used frequently and if a call came about a heart attack, they could easily get to the location.

VanOverbeek emphasized, "Anything to shorten the response time and get the AED on site, the better the chances of survival. That is ultimately our goal."



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ST. PATRICK CARNIVAL

The St. Patrick Carnival will be held Sat., Jan. 26, from 6-8:30 pm at St. Patrick Parish Center (corner of 5 Mile and Parnell). Games, prizes, giant inflatables, dinner. Everyone is welcome.

SPAGHETTI DINNER/SILENT AUCTION

A spaghetti dinner will be held at Murray Lake Elementary on Sat., Jan. 26 from 5-7:30 pm. Dinner includes garlic bread, salad, applesauce and drink. A silent auction with many items donated by many businesses will be held. Proceeds help offset the cost of fifth-grade camp. Call the school at 987-2750 for more information.

CLASS OF 2017 ORIENTATION

The Lowell High School class of 2017 orientation will be held on Tues., Feb. 7, from 7-8:30 pm in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. This orientation is for parents and their students who will be entering high school in the fall of 2013. In addition to an informational session, teachers and club sponsors will also be available for questions. Please call the Student Services Center at 987-2908 with questions.

PARENTING CLASSES

TOTS Love and Logic Parenting Classes are coming Feb. 28, March 7, 14 and 21, from 6:30-7:45 pm at Bushnell Elementary. Free childcare. For more information or to register, call Lori at TOTS, 987-2532.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Section 4.9 of the City Charter, when a Council vacancy occurs in mid-term, the City Council shall appoint a person until the Monday following the next regular City Election. The City is seeking letters of interest for this Council position.

City residents who are registered to vote in the City and are interested in serving on the City council should submit a letter of interest to the City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 by 12 noon on Friday, January 25, 2013.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICE

In partnership with the Kent County Tax Credit Coalition of United Way, Flat River Outreach Ministries is providing free tax preparation and e-filing services to qualifying families with annual income less than \$51,000.

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LHS library receives Library of Michigan Endorsement

The Library of Michigan awarded the Lowell High School (LHS) Library a certificate of completion for meeting the qualified status of the measurement criteria for Michigan school libraries for 21st Century Schools (SL21). To earn this recognition, the LHS Library demonstrated its competence in three categories for school library program evaluation: Teaching for 21st Century Learning, Building the 21st Century Learning Environment and Leading

the Way to 21st Century Learning.

“We are proud that the LHS Library, under the leadership of Mrs. Christine Beachler, has done such good work in providing services deemed qualified by the Library of Michigan,” said Greg Pratt, district superintendent. “By focusing efforts on these key areas, our library has shown a strong commitment to information literacy and student achievement.”

Based on the benchmarking concept of the QSAC (Quality Services

Audit Checklist) used by the Library of Michigan for public libraries, SL21 is a voluntary management standards program that assists K-12 libraries by setting benchmarks in the areas of instruction, student achievement, technology, facility, staffing, budget, instructional materials, curriculum development, school improvement, community engagement, advocacy and additional applicable criteria.

“SL21 represents the collaborative work of several dedicated task force

members, including school librarians from across the state, library educators, Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME), and the Library of Michigan,” said State Librarian Nancy Robertson. “The staff of the LHS is to be commended for achieving this vital endorsement for its school and its library program.”

SL21 criteria are updated on a three-year schedule so certified libraries remain at the forefront of excellent service to their students



and teachers. For more visit <http://www.michigan.gov/SL21> information about SL21,

Short first-of-the-year meeting for planning commission

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

The first monthly meeting of the Lowell Planning Commission on Jan. 14, 2013, started promptly at 7 pm.

The commission's first duty was to elect a new chair and vice chair.

Maryalene LaPonsie filled the position of chair. Rachel Schwab nominated LaPonsie, Shannon Hanley

seconded the motion and all but Al Mathews voted for her. Mathews made certain to apologize to his colleague for his opposition.

David Cadwallader became the next vice chair. Mathews nominated Cadwallader, Jim Salzwedel seconded and the commission voted unanimously in favor of his election.

Planners discussed a package of information concerning signage that is pertinent to zoning ordinance.

LaPonsie suggested that controversial issues like Temporary Sign Regulation should be addressed separately and that other more simple issues could be ratified en masse.

LaPonsie tabled further

implementation of the zoning ordinance Master Plan when it came to the committee's attention that the document is due for a state-mandated review. Planners earmarked the February and March meetings for further discussion.

Members discussed training opportunities

in Planning and Zoning Essentials made available by the Michigan Association of Planning on Feb. 26.

Also discussed at the meeting was an error in the minutes of the Nov. 26 meeting in which LaPonsie was falsely marked absent, a "happy letter" sent to the zoning board members,

complaints regarding the accumulation of brush and the needed replacement of a fence.

The first monthly meeting of the Lowell Planning Commission ended at 7:28 pm, a short meeting, but with much promise for the year to come.

Millage increase, continued

their construction projects throughout the years. Greg Pratt, superintendent for Lowell Area Schools says, “We are not looking for large sums of money in one instance.” Rather, the district is looking for a constant flow of funds over a large period of time.

This sinking fund will raise approximately \$730,000 each year, for a total of \$5.11 million over the seven years.

The timeline on these construction projects will be from 2013 to 2020. Roofs at Alto, Cherry Creek and the high school will be partially or totally replaced. The cost is estimated at just over three million dollars.

Asphalt replacement at Bushnell, the middle school, the high school and the transportation department will cost an estimated \$939,600. Finally, safety, security and energy savings will be implemented in all buildings for \$1,116,323.

Unlike a general fund, a sinking fund will not pay for staff salaries, only capital improvements.

If this millage does not pass, Pratt says they will have to “go back to the drawing board” and the funds will have to “come from the general fund.” This means many programs and salaries funded by the general fund will suffer.

The decision for a

sinking fund was based on a two-year study analyzing the best funding option. Unfortunately, the analysis and number crunching was not finished in time to submit their sinking fund request for the November 6, 2012, election. Instead, the election will be held February 26 and this proposal is the only issue on the ballot.

Pratt is “confidant there is a need here.” He said, “It is really up to our community to rally around the district and help move us forward through these difficult times.”

He believes voting yes is the right thing to do.

Suspected drunk driver damages patrol car

The Lowell Police Department was requested to assist the Kent County Sheriff Department by contacting a suspected drunk driver that had stopped at the Walgreens store, 11980 E. Fulton. The vehicle, a 2005 Jeep, was being driven by a middle-aged woman. She had been observed by other motorists weaving across the lanes of travel. Several of those witnesses had also stopped at the Walgreens store. The incident occurred on Saturday, Jan. 12 at about 12:30 pm.

Officer Lauren of the Lowell Police Department responded to the scene and observed an intoxicated

woman in the car. He informed her she needed to stay in her car until a responding sheriff department unit arrived.

A short time later, the woman became belligerent and tried to leave the scene. She backed her car into the front of the Lowell police unit causing more than \$1,400 in damage. She then physically resisted arrest when Lauren approached her car. She was subdued, placed under arrest and transported to the Kent County jail.

Warrants were issued by the Kent County Prosecutor's office for malicious destruction of

police property, resisting and opposing a police officer and for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

The Kent County Sheriff Department is investigating the driving incident. The subject posted bond and was released from the jail prior to arraignment.

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outdoors

Winter fishing

Dave Stegehuis

The opportunity to catch fish through the ice keeps serious fishermen busy between freeze-up and when the ice goes out in the spring. Pan fish such as bluegills and perch have no closed season and can provide fresh fish for the table year around.

Ice fishing methods have changed significantly from the early 50's. Equipment was limited and simple in those days. Holes were chopped through the ice using a five foot steel bar with a short piece of car-spring welded on one end. A rope looped on the other end kept the "spud", as it is called, from plummeting to the bottom of the lake when it finally broke through. Sometime in the 60's the spud was replaced by a hand auger, which more easily bored a six or eight inch diameter hole. Ice fishing would never be the same.

About that time ice fishing rods were made

of fiberglass blanks with a simple plastic or metal spool turning on an axel and loaded with nylon or monofilament line. Out on the ice, one bundled up in hunting clothes or work coveralls. Military surplus "Mickey Mouse" boots were worn by the most serious anglers. A wooden orange crate or five gallon bucket provided seating while one occasionally dipped accumulated ice from the hole with a metal strainer so a cork bobber could keep bobbing.

Fast forward to today, and you enter a whole new world of ice fishing. The well-equipped angler dresses with high-tech wind and water proof apparel. The Mickey Mouse boots still work, but there is modern footwear which can be backed up with electric socks or chemical warmer packets. Gas and electric powered augers make quick

work of drilling holes in even the thickest ice.

Fish can be located using sonar, GPS, and underwater cameras. Graphite rods and spinning reels spooled with fluorocarbon or braided line present an extensive selection of lures. Don't worry about ice in the hole, because an electric bubbler will keep it open down to -40 degrees. Pop-up shelters with adjustable seating make fishing comfortable in any weather. All of these remarkable up-grades are available but not necessary to catch fish. A productive fishing trip still can be enjoyed with a minimum of inexpensive equipment.

Mild weather may limit our opportunity to get out again this year. Thin or deteriorated ice is dangerous, so always make sure conditions are suitable for any activity on ice. There is no such thing as safe ice, because conditions vary with water depth and currents as well as air temperature so always be cautious. Be safe — have fun.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Investing is a marathon — not a sprint

Investors sometimes may get frustrated with their investments because those investments don't seem to produce quick results. And perhaps that's understandable in our fast-paced society, in which we've grown accustomed to instant gratification. But investing is, by nature, a long-term activity. If you look at it in terms of an athletic event, it's not a sprint, in which you must pull out all the stops to quickly get where you're going. Instead, it's more like

the 26.2-mile race known as a marathon.

And as an investor, you can learn a few things from marathoners, such as:

- Preparation — No one gets up one day and is ready to run a marathon. Marathon runners train for months, and even years. As an investor, you, too, need to prepare yourself for the "long run." How? By learning as much as you can about different asset classes, types of risk and all the other factors associated with investing.

• Patience — Marathoners know they have a long haul in front of them, so they typically create a "game plan" — one that takes into account such factors as their physical condition, the weather on race day, and the characteristics of the course, such as whether it's hilly or flat. Investors should also create a strategy — one that encompasses their goals and ways of working toward them — and stick to this strategy.

• Perseverance — Marathoners may deal with injuries, dehydration and other setbacks, either while training or during the actual race. But as long as they're able to keep going, they do so. As an investor, you, too, will face obstacles, such as market downturns.

Financial Focus, continued, page 15

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viewpoint

to the editor

response to "alert" advertisement

Dear Editor,
I am writing in response to the CITIZEN ALERT in the Buyer's Guide. I am a board member of Lowell Light and Power and disagree with the portrayal of the direction of Lowell Light and Power in the paid ad. As one of five board members, our goal at Lowell Light and Power is to provide safe, reliable, affordable power. To do this, it is a team effort from the lineman, office staff, and management and the policies that the board adopts. It is not just two linemen that keep the lights on, it is a complete team. I first want to address the topic of our general manager. Several years ago the board didn't like

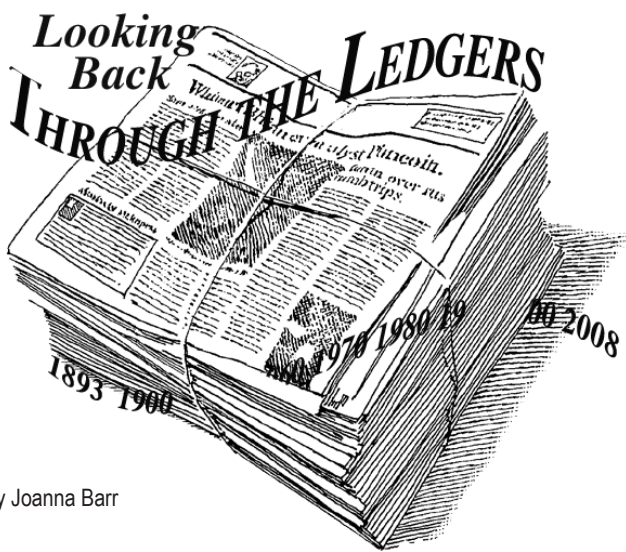
the direction that LLP was going under the direction of our previous GM. LLP had lost money five of the previous seven years along with the tree trimming policy, sale of the cable TV to name a few. The board opted to sever ties and look for a new GM. We worked with the Michigan Public Power Agency and hired Greg Pierce as an interim GM. The board then advertised for a GM through MPPA and APPA and went through the interview process and hired Greg full-time at a pay rate less than the previous GM and below industry standards. And yes, the board was aware and investigated the circumstances of Greg leaving Traverse City

Board of Light and Power and our information differs from the TC Record-Eagle. Under Greg's management LLP recently received a new Bond rating that allows LLP to save \$667,000 over the next 20 years. LLP previously paid anywhere from \$180,000 to \$200,000 for tree trimming outsourcing annually. LLP now does this internally. Through an independent company (Mark Beauchamp) it was determined that LLP needed to raise rates 6% each year for three years and by year two LLP was able to raise rates at a rate less than 5% and year three there was no rate increase. Doing saving measures that Greg implemented and LLP rates are still, on an average, 12 to 15% less than Consumers Energy. As for the Bio-digester, the paid ad states

that "he wants us to finance his bio-digester". Greg did bring the idea to the board and community. It is the Board's direction to proceed forward to help meet the renewable energy portfolio. Under Greg's direction, an independent company is proceeding forward with the project with LLP having the option to purchase in 5 years. The only cost that has and will occur is what it cost to investigate the possibilities and was it a good fit for Lowell. LLP will have the option to purchase if it is beneficial to LLP and our rate payers. Providing power is a very complicated business and I support our GM along with all employees. I want to talk about some of the things that the board has done for all employees. Each year we have to approve benefits for

our employee's. Every year the cost of health insurance increases dramatically. Several years ago the board opted for a healthy choice policy. There was minimal increases in co-pays and LLP was able to save 3% instead of costing an additional 14%. LLP board wants healthy employee's and with the savings that occurred we opted to allow employees to join a health club of their choice and LLP would pay \$400 towards their membership. It was bought to the attention of the current board that a previous board negotiated to have LLP pay 100% for short term disability. The short term disability takes effect on the 8th day. Normally for a policy change like this, sick days are reduced to match the short term disability plan from 12 to 7. For some reason this did not occur. The LLP Board made that correction. The board decided at this time to make other changes to the policy. The Board went to PTO (paid time off) which allows an employee to use the time they have earned for any reason. LLP had a policy of 'use them or lose them'. The board has implemented policies that allow employee's to carry over a portion of PTO time to the following year along with an option to turn in up to 5 days a year in December for 100% pay. So yes, you can say we have changed a benefit but our view is that the board made a correction that should have been done many years earlier. The LLP board policy also pays 90% of our retiree's health insurance until death. The board recognizes that this is a benefit that is no longer common practice. The board voted to terminate this benefit to new hires only. The board believes that it is unfair to delete a benefit that an employee has budgeted for in retirement. The paid ad states that the management proposes to

cut the employee's salaries and benefits by 20-30%. The board has approved merit raises every year that I have been on the board, for all employee's. One year we delayed the raises until July to get on the same budget year as the city. The board has not proposed to cut employee's salaries or benefits, union or non-union. The paid ad also states that the City Council signed a contract paying the GM of LLP. By the Lowell Charter, it is the board of LLP that hires and terminates the GM of LLP. The Board of LLP sets the compensation and not the City Council. In an article in the Ledger, it indicated that changing the lineman hours of work was another reason behind joining a union. The management decided that going to 8am-5pm best met the needs of LLP and its customers. It did not reduce their regular hours but may have reduced the amount of overtime. As a policy board, I encourage our management to seek ways to save our rate payers while not compromising our service. Another benefit of this change, along with others have reduced the amount of delinquent bills that ultimately reduces LLP bad debt write offs that effects all of our rates. When the lineman brought their concerns about the time change to the GM, the GM proposed, as a compromise, to go to M-TH 7:30am-4:00pm (which mimics the Lowell DPW workers) and have one lineman work Friday 8am-5pm and the lineman said no, it was too difficult to change hours for one day. I will continue to support all employee's as a board member of Lowell Light & Power and hope that a settlement with the union can be made without personal attacks. Thank you, Perry Beachum LL&P Board member



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 20, 1898

The improvement of the Grand River by the United States government and the prospects of its waters again being navigated by regular lines of steamers, bring back to the minds of the pioneers many stories of its former greatness. Previous to the war it was covered with large steam packets between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. Daily boats also made trips between Grand Rapids and Lyons, Saranac and Lowell. In those days the shores were dotted with Indian wigwams. The boats carried many passengers and were infested with gamblers and adventurers [who] lived by fleecing the pioneers. Among the most notorious of these highwaymen was "Lish" Henry, who not only gambled on the river boats, but with confederates robbed and plundered the settlers along the river and murdered inoffensive Indians as a pastime.

At the request of many patients Dr. Rickett is again administering gas for the extraction of teeth. By the use of his new apparatus the danger formerly attending the use of gas is said to have been eliminated.

There was a good attendance at the citizen's meeting at the council room last Thursday evening...Mr. [H.W.] Clark read a report of a survey of Flat river from the King mills to the Grand river, same having been made according to suggestions of a citizen's meeting held last summer. The report concerned the fall over that distance and showed the project of building a dam at the mouth of Flat river to back up water around the islands sufficiently high for boating

purposes to be perfectly feasible. It is to be hoped that action will be taken on this report at the proper time. Mr. Finch, representing the Michigan Cutter and Buggy company was present and stated that W. Fox of Freeport would move his planing mill and factory to Lowell and engage in business with the above company for a bonus of \$2,000.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 16, 1913

Grattan Blind Pig Men Sent up by Judge Brown - from The Grand Rapids Herald, January 15. Without being given the alternative of paying a fine, Ernest Lesseter and Anthony Geller, Grattan Centerites who pleaded guilty some days ago to a charge of selling liquor without a license, Tuesday were given straight jail sentences by Judge Brown. Lesseter, a druggist, must do a stretch of fifty days for his violation of the law. Geller was committed for thirty-five days.

One car of a Pere Marquette freight train was derailed and overturned at the junction of that road with the Grand Trunk in this village Saturday evening, the car falling across both tracks. The two Grand Trunk passengers which pass here were delayed nearly an hour and the Pere Marquette train due here from Grand Rapids at 6:33 was held until 11:00. No injuries resulted from the accident. It is believed that the giving way of the trucks caused the trouble.

Better come to the newspaper office and subscribe. Sometimes strange solicitors fail to deliver the goods. Poor time to lock the barn after the horse is stolen. Hereafter deal with people you know.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 20, 1938

Substantiating reports that one or more deer are roaming about in this vicinity was the discovery by Arnold Wittenbach on Saturday morning of deer tracks in the barnyard of Vincent Cary's farm in Vergennes-tp. "The tracks indicated that the animal was a buck of large size," said Mr. Wittenbach to the Ledger.

As you pass by the Bert Charles barber shop, your glance will rest upon a barber pole which has seen 37 years of service as a sign on Main-st. By the way, do you know that "Bert" is an artist of some skill? If you doubt it just take a look at the picture of a horse's head which adorns

Looking Back, continued, page 7

no faith

Dear Editor,
Lowell Light and Power contract negotiations continue as the one year mark approaches was the headline in the Jan. 9 Lowell Ledger. In the article a smooth talking city

manager would like you to think that they were having difficulty figuring out the stances the union had on several issues. After a year

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To The Editor, continued, page 7

engagements

Vaught/Lee



Holly Vaught and Jason Lee

Mr. and Mrs. David Vaught, of Lowell, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Holly Vaught to Jason Lee, son of Dennis and Sally Lee, of St. Michael, MN.

Holly is a graduate of Douglas S Aveda Institute where she received her cosmetology license in 2008.

Jason and Holly met at Word of Life Bible Institute where they were both studying to be in ministry. They plan to move to North Carolina where they will continue their studies.

The couple will be married April 13, 2013, in Middleville at the First Baptist Church of Middleville.

Bible Believers Church preaches on the street corner

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

Chances are you've seen the people holding signs at the corner of Main Street and Hudson Wednesday nights. One man stands on a step holding the Bible and repeating its passages. Others hold signs with verses from the Bible or a sign that read, "Where will you spend eternity? With God or Satan?"

While everyone is entitled to freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment, some believe this is too far.

Michael Langdon, Pastor at the Bible Believers Church, believes preaching the word of God is not only his right, but also his obligation. He mentioned several Bible verses, such as Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." This is where he finds his reasoning to preach to the masses.

The Bible Believers Church has been "street preaching" since 2003. They have run into their fair share of trouble with local government. The police department asked them to restrict their preaching to certain times so they would be less disruptive. They also had to present their reasoning for the street preaching to the city council and get approval



Pastor Michael Langdon stands with his son Joshua Langdon, also a pastor, and his daughters.

to stand and preach at the corner.

Langdon said, "We are not allowed to use a megaphone." He also said they do not block the sidewalk.

Aside from preaching in Lowell, the church preaches outside the Van Andel Arena during events.

In the winter, they have three adults at the corner. In the summer they can have up to eight.

Their purpose is to show believing in God and Jesus Christ is the way to Heaven. By holding the signs and preaching the word of God, they hope to share their love of God with others.

They rarely have people outwardly appreciate their work. Langdon said, "We have maybe five cars that honk per day." They also receive a great deal of anger from people driving by and yelling things like, "I love Satan" and "Satan Rules."

A woman who drives

by their preaching on her way home from work said, "I think it's a distraction to traffic and I don't think they are spreading the message of love by yelling at people."

Another passerby, Herb Early said, "I don't care for it, but I'm glad I live in a country where it is allowed."

It is clear that many people do not agree with the way they go about preaching. Some believe preaching should be left in the churches. Regardless, the Bible Believers will continue their street preaching and exercise their First Amendment right.

area churches

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 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
 www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service.....Sunday -10:00 A.M.
 (Nursery available)
 Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
 897-7060
 Pastor Rod Galindo
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.
 Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Nursery available at both services
 Barrier-Free

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell
 Pastor Tony Shumaker

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 10:30 A.M.Fellowship
 11:00 A.M.Worship

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 Pastor Wes Hershberger

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 Celebration.....10:40 a.m.
 Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service,
 Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Lowell Naz - Where People Matter



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 Robert Holmes, Pastor

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WEDNESDAYS:
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 "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
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 Rev. Jon Pickens

Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn

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 Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.
 AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
 621 E. Main Street
 897-5936
 www.lowellumc.com

Barrier-free entrance

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SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.

Rev. Rick Blunt

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 www.stmary-lowell.com

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 Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM
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- JANUARY 17**
Kevin Rasch, Joe Potter.
- JANUARY 18**
Shelby Weston.
- JANUARY 19**
Tim Stencil, Susan Cook, Tim Schuitema, Trevor Mooney, Mark Ries, Scott Crandall.
- JANUARY 20**
Shelby Baird, Josh Rinard.
- JANUARY 21**
James Vezino, Mark MacNaughton, Krysta Jankowski, Brooklyn Rinard.
- JANUARY 22**
Cheryl DeYoung, Bob Pfaller, Dale Latva, Jenni Magner, Frances Walling, Glenn Vanbuskirk, Shane Gildner, Reece VanderWarf, Frances DeVries, Elijah Barr.

Looking Back, continued

a wall mirror in his shop. All that Bert has to do to make a picture is to smear a mirror with a well known brand of white washing powder, let it dry then wipe off what you don't want and what is left will be the graceful outlines of a horse's head. "It's as easy as rolling off a log," says Bert. If you don't believe it, try it yourself.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 17, 1963

Winter really struck the Lowell area over the week end with blowing snow and sub-zero weather. Over 14 inches of snow fell over the past few days and temperatures registered 20 below here on Tuesday morning. Lowell was the only school outside the city of Grand Rapids open on Monday, but superintendent Nisbet who drove the roads at 6 am on Monday found that most of the roads were passable. All busses were able to cover most of their routes; two-thirds of the high school students were on hand, about sixty percent of the elementary pupils. The Alto school bus was stuck until the county plow pulled them out so only about 66 out of the 150 children made it to school in that community. Most schools were open on Tuesday. Lowell reported attendance normal. Sub-zero temperatures predicted for Wednesday morning failed to arrive and most residents were congratulating themselves over the heat-wave that pushed the thermometer up to above the zero mark.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 20, 1988

Keiser's Kitchen, destroyed by a fire just 11 days ago, has temporarily relocated at the former Keiser's Too location on 109 Riverside Drive. Keiser's started serving breakfast again on Monday, Jan. 18 at 5:30 am. "It's limited in size, but it's a way of helping some of our employees and family members that were left without work due to the fire," according to Chris West, daughter of Keiser's Kitchen owner Darlene Westcott. West said the seating capacity has been cut in half, down from 165 to about 70. West added that Keiser's is leasing the building until the family can get enough money together to rebuild. "We would like to rebuild on the same corner, but a city variance could interfere with that," West said.

Gary Yeiter was adopted in Germany at the age of eight days by Sam and Ida Yeiter of Lowell. Yeiter last saw or felt the touch of his natural mother when he was three months old and returned to the United States with the Yeiters. That will all change come Jan. 23, when Yeiter and his wife, Connie, will fly to Munich where he will be reunited with his natural mother, Barbara Sonnleitner. "I don't know what to expect," Yeiter said. "I do know she understands about as much English as I do German - very little." Yeiter will meet his mother at the Munich airport, but will then travel to Sonnleitner's home in Rosenheim, where Yeiter and his wife will spend a week before flying back on Jan. 30. "With the help of interpreters we've written to one another a couple of times within the last couple of weeks," Yeiter said. The Yeiter couple have two boys, Jason, 8; and Eric, 5. Their flight will take them from Grand Rapids to Chicago and then from Chicago to Munich. The couple will return to the United States on Jan. 30.

To The Editor, continued

of negotiations and they can't figure out where the other sides stands is just a bunch of malarkey.

I believe it's more than that. It was noted in the article by the city manager that employees have the option to leave the union since they have been members for one year. Could it be that the city council and city manager want the employees to leave the union?

It's a well-known fact that management wasn't thrilled about the employees joining a union in the first place. It doesn't take any brains to figure this one out. If the employees left

the union there would be no union for management to contend with, as simple as that. The year-long debacle over contract negotiations has made a mockery out of the justice system. Just think about the cost to the city.

Could that be one reason why there was an administration fee added to the summer taxes?

I have no faith in the city council, city manager or the manger of the Lowell Light and Power in bringing about a just conclusion. It's time to bring in a third party to help bring about a just contract.

Jim Howard
Lowell

"Through the persistence and hard work of Jerry Despres, director of Lowell rescue and police officer, the police reserves and the rescue squad, the city of Lowell has a new rescue unit," Lowell police chief Barry Emmons said. "The new unit was put into service on Jan. 9." In the early part of 1987, it became evident that a new rescue ambulance was needed. With that in mind, rescue capt. Sheri Drevers and police Lt. Paul Roderick, through research, discovered that a new vehicle with features the rescue personnel felt was necessary, would cost approximately \$45-\$50,000. "The present unit was starting to develop mechanical problems as well as rust problems which had already been repaired," Despres said. Lowell police Sgt. Al Eckman adds, "Another major reason for a new unit was that the old unit was too small to accommodate all the medical equipment needed." Drevers and Roderick visited several companies that refurbished and sold ambulances. They also followed up leads on used units. It was through this effort that they

found out about a Rockford ambulance that was about to be phased out for a smaller van type ambulance. "Rockford was asking \$13,500 for the ambulance, a unit that met all the rescue requirements."

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Dear Voice Members,

I am very disappointed in the fact that there was only one member of the public at our January 10 LL&P board meeting. Your group was invited to the LL&P meeting at the Dec. 17 city council meeting after the inappropriate personal attacks that were made on the LL&P general manager and the city manager. Apparently you were too busy putting together your letter of misinformation for the Buyers Guide. You ask, "Who is running the city?" The city charter dictates who runs the city and Lowell Light & Power (LL&P). Had you been at the LL&P meeting you would have heard who runs LL&P. In case you are unable to access the video (www.wlhstv.org) and hear my statement at the end of the meeting during board comments here's what I stated, thrown together hastily 10 minutes before the meeting.

"As board chairman, I must respond to misinformation being stated at council meetings recently and printed in the Ledger. Uninformed citizens have criticized the direction and management of Lowell Light & Power without ever attending a LL&P board meeting, where decisions and the direction of LL&P are openly discussed and voted on.

The general manager reports to the board, consisting of local city residents whom the city council felt were the best available individuals to fill these seats at the time there were openings on the board. The general manager brings ideas and suggestions for board and public review, debate and discussion. This is where the direction of LL&P is determined, by the board, not the general manager.

Under the current general manager (and board), LL&P has reversed the (previous five year) trend of losing \$100,000 to \$200,000 per year and instead shows a profit of \$100,000 to \$200,000 per year (for the last four years), which allows upkeep and reinvestment to the infrastructure.

The downfall of the Lowell cable was due to no updating or maintenance. Unlike previous general managers and boards, this will not happen to LL&P thanks to the excellent skills of the current general manager.

Recently, due to the excellence of the operations here (at LL&P), our bond rating was upgraded, allowing a refinance of bonds (loan) that saves our ratepayers \$670,000 over the remaining 20 year life of the bonds (loan). Yet you complain about a \$10,000 raise. Show me a better return on investment!

I will not stand idly by while personal attacks are made on a man of excellent character and skills. Let's keep this professional. If you want a voice in running Lowell Light & Power, come to the meetings and voice your opinion here."

End of statement from board meeting.

I am very satisfied with Greg Pierce; I knew his track record in Traverse City before we interviewed him as an interim general manager; he was the best interim candidate. He was hired as interim general manager (GM), did a great job stepping into a company that had low morale, unhappy employees, some unproductive employees, ratepayers livid over past practices, such as the tree cutting debacle, sale of the cable company, etc. Talk about being thrown into the lion's den. We advertised for a GM in all the trade journals, paid headhunters, received about twenty resumes, of which about five were qualified to apply. We held interviews with the top three (one of which withdrew after that) and felt that Greg Pierce was far and away the best candidate. He was offered the permanent position and accepted.

This is a very complicated business; Greg Pierce is very knowledgeable about the industry and we are lucky to have him. I am aware of the reasons a couple employees are unhappy but LL&P is a business that needs to be run by management, not the employees. I'm sorry that your hours got changed but that is management's right. You were offered a compromise but refused it. I'm in a difficult spot here having friends on both sides of this but my obligation as board chairman is to serve the ratepayers and help LL&P be the best it can be.

Lowell is a great community! The city workers and LL&P workers provide service that is second to none. This contract negotiation is something that will get worked thru, it takes time. However, we don't need to start a mudslinging contest like has recently begun or have members of other unions standing in front of the camera saying let's sit down and settle this when they know it legally can't be done. Contract negotiations take place in scheduled meetings with both sides, not at city council meetings. There are many great things happening in Lowell. Let's focus on the positive, not the negative. Thank you!

~ Greg Canfield

*PAID FOR BY GREG CANFIELD

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell hosts largest youth wrestling in the state 53 local wrestlers and 11 champions participate

by Karen Jack

The Lowell youth wrestling club hosted a Michigan Youth Wrestling Association tournament on Sunday, with 800 wrestlers in attendance and had 33

placers from their own club, including 11 champions.

With teams coming from all over the state, the Lowell club expected anywhere from 500-600

wrestlers, but didn't in anyway expect to have 800 wrestlers coming. "This is the largest event that's been hosted thus far by any local



Jeffrey Leach sets up a move.



A little Arrow hears his dad say, "I'm so proud of you, son."

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

All meetings are held at the Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., at 7:00 pm. For further information, phone 897-5671, or visit the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org.

THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2013 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| January 21 | July 15 |
| February 18 | August 19 |
| March 18 (Annual Mtg at 6pm) | September 16 |
| April 15 | October 21 |
| May 20 | November 18 |
| June 17 | December 16 |

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2013 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| January 7 | July 1 |
| April 1 | October 7 |

The Zoning Board of Appeals meet as required or requested.

Mari Stone,
Vergennes Township Clerk

college news

Emma Duvernay, a student at North Central College, has been named to the dean's list of scholars for the 2012 fall term. To be eligible for the dean's list, undergraduate students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.6 (4.0=A) for the term and be enrolled as full-time students.

Courtney Schmidt, daughter of Daniel and Tonya Schmidt of Lowell, was named to the dean's list for the second semester of the 2012-13 school year. To be named to the dean's list a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

wrestling club in this area," said coach Dave Dean.

As both a novice and open tournament, the majority of the wrestlers ended up being novice wrestlers, or those with two years or less experience. The event separates wrestling by age and weight classes, so there were over 1,000 matches during the day.

Lowell's own youth wrestlers participated, some for their very first individual event. The youth club broke all kinds of records in this meet, including having 53 wrestlers wrestling and having 33 placers - 23 of them in the finals, with 11 champions and 12 runners-up.

Champions were Brenden Hill (06-08, 43 lbs.), Casey Engle (06-08, 58 lbs.), Jaxon Sias (06-08, 61 lbs.), Hunter Browning (01-00, 80 lbs.), Doak Dean (02-03, 90/95 lbs.), Mason Potter (02-03, 100 lbs.), Jose Garcia (00-01, heavyweight), David Kruse (98-99, 122 lbs.),

Eli Boulton (98-99, 145 lbs.), Colton Churches (98-99, 155 lbs.), and Logan VanderMeulen (98-99, 220 lbs.).

Taking second place was Landon Foss, A.J. Thompson, Ramsy Mutschler, Carter Blough, Derek Mohr, Dawson Jankowski, Zeth Strejc, Soren Hanson, Tyler Lynch, Keegan Yuhas, Cody McGee, and Maxwell Bishop.

Rally Shade, Carson Crace, Logan Ryan, Luke Skinner, John Russell, and Channing Perry all took third place and rounding out the medals for Lowell were Cody Foss, Corbett Phillips, Nathan Mohr, and Jarrod Willson, all placing fourth.

Six other Lowell youth wrestlers competed in Mebane, NC, at the fifth annual hurricane duals this weekend, as part of the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association (MYWAY) Blue National team. Lowell club members competing

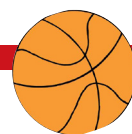
there were Austin Boone (5-0), Jarred Boone (4-1), Grant Pratt (5-0), Sage Serbenta (4-1), Chase Potter (2-1), and Jacob Lee (3-2). The MYWAY Blue team were the champions of this event, beating the South Carolina Bears in the finals, 55-21. Austin Boone received the award for outstanding wrestler of the tournament, as he pinned every opponent he faced.

Another group of six Lowell youth wrestlers competed this weekend on the MYWAY Red National team, traveling to Tiffin, OH, for the Dragon Youth Duals at Tiffin University, taking second place. Those wrestlers were Austin Engle, Austin McKechnie, Avry Mutschler, Max Brown, Jerrod Hutson, and Nick Korhorn.

The boys on both national teams had to try out to make the team, beating out wrestlers throughout the state to represent Michigan.



Red Arrow Sports



GO TO:
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Caring for our kids

by Theresa Heethuis
contributing reporter

Last week, we took a look at several administrative assistants that play an important role in the Lowell Area School District. This week we will get to know Tina Stranger and Jan Bennett, two more integral parts of the Lowell Area School District.

Tina Stranger started her career at Lowell Area Schools in 2001. After working at several schools in the district, Stranger now finds herself at Unity High School once again, because it is where she truly loves to be.

“Students here have been through a lot. We encourage them not to give up. To be here for them is the most rewarding part of my job,” said Stranger. “We don’t let them give up.”

One-on-one relationships are built at



Unity High School to ensure students feel comfortable and welcome at all times. Stranger said, “It is our goal to keep it casual here, to relate to the kids.”

This recipe, in conjunction with a wonderful staff, seems to be the key to success for the students who attend Unity High School. Each day as the students

return to school, Stranger feels she has accomplished something. “Every morning I come in and make sure that they all are here,” said Stranger.

“The reason we are here is [to] help the kids finish and go on to the next step and that is my favorite part.”

After years as an office assistant at Lowell Middle School, Jan Bennett followed the middle school students up to the high school last year, where she is currently in her new position.

For years, Bennett volunteered at Lowell schools. She decided that she was volunteering so much that a job in the district would be a great idea. Since that time Bennett said, “I have worked to create a

calm, happy, professional based environment for students, staff, parents and visitors.”

Day in and day out, Bennett has the responsibility of ensuring that over 1,000 students are where they are supposed to be, when they are supposed to be there. While surrounded by the chaos of keeping attendance, Bennett said, “My favorite part of my job is seeing the kids on a daily basis and listening to what they have to say.” Bennett especially loves it when former students return and share their stories of success after they have left Lowell High School.

When asked how she would like to be remembered, Bennett said, “As a positive person that students get to see on a daily basis.”



School board honored, continued



The board listens as Paul Jacobus congratulates them on their hard work.

local schools. The children wanted to let the school board know how much they appreciate the work they do. Cherry Creek Elementary students gave the board a large, handwritten poster with inspirational words.

“Tonight,” said Pratt, “we just want to take a step back and as you can see across the room, not only have us, as an administrative team, but our staff, our students have taken the time out of their day to write brief notes, cards, do some artwork for you.”

Paul Jacobus, a fifth-grade teacher at Murray Lake Elementary, thanked the board for their hard work as well.

“The job that you do is not an easy one, it’s a tough one. You’re asked to make very difficult decisions that affect a great number of people.” He continued, “I know the time, the effort that you put into this and we appreciate it. We appreciate your guidance. And we appreciate the relationship we’ve had with you the past few years and we hope that it continues for many years

to come. On behalf of all teachers I just want to say thanks.”

Jim Turner, president of the school board said, “Because we have such dedicated people, it’s really made being on the board easier. The decisions are more difficult... but that has more to do with the people working in Lansing.”

Overall, it was an excellent start to Laurie Kuna’s first board meeting. She was the only new member elected in November’s election.

college news

Western Michigan University has announced the dean’s list for the fall 2012 semester. To be eligible for the dean’s list, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average (on a scale of 4.0 being all A’s) in at least 12 hours of graded class work.

Local students who qualified included:

Lowell: Athmann, William; Bliss, Alexander; Gillan, Kaily; Mark, Thomas; Ritenburgh, Jaime; Scholten, Rebecca; Smit, Lauren; Smith, Connor; and Wolfe, Lauren.

Ada: Dodge, Theresa; Dragan, Ashley; Harris, Mikaela; Hedeman, Eliot; Hilgendorf, Johnathon; Lee, Sara; Morse, Devean; and White, Heidi.

Alto: Forsythe, Alexandra; Haverkamp, Kelsey; and Phillips, Maria.



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Red Arrow SPORTS

- GYMNASTICS

Close meet against Forest Hills Northern

by Karen Jack

The gymnastics team lost a close one to Forest Hills Northern on Wednesday with a final score of 130.95-127.5.

For the vault, the top scorers were Lauren Browning with an 8.6 and Colleen Cater, Kaezi Bladey and Lauren DeHaan all received 8.5 scores.

On the bars, Bladey scored 7.95, Browning and Sarena Wilterdink both scored 7.1 and DeHaan scored 7.0. "Kaezi continues to keep the top spot on bars. Her connections and release move helps her keep the lead against her teammates," said coach Michele DeHaan.

DeHaan led the scores on the beam with 8.95, while Morgan Taylor (8.5), Meghan Plutschouw (7.6) and Bethany Kaczanowski (7.45) followed.

On the floor exercise, the top scorers were DeHaan with an 8.1, Bladey with an

8.0, Wilterdink with a 7.85, and Kaczanowski with a 7.75.

The team has improved significantly on the beam, compared to last year, with DeHaan and Taylor continuing to stand out. Taylor seems to have found her way, staying

on the beam with focus and determination. At the beginning of the season, she struggled with her back walkover/front walkover combination, but in the last two meets, she's shown that she's a force to be reckoned with, nailing the combination. DeHaan has

added difficult turning jumps that are guaranteed to bring high scores, as they also raise her degree of difficulty.

The team travels to East Kentwood on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 6 pm.



Morgan Taylor manages the high bar.

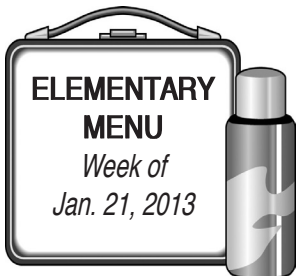


Danielle Krajewski does a handstand on the beam.



Sarena Wilterdink on the vault.

LUNCH MENU



MON: No School.

TUES: Homemade cheese pizza, seasoned corn, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, fresh cherry tomatoes, applesauce, peaches, milk.

WED: Grilled cheese on WG bread, tomato soup, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, strawberries, fresh apple, milk.

THURS: Chicken poppers w/WG dinner roll (WG breaded chicken nuggets served at Bushnell), mashed potatoes w/gravy, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, cauliflower bites, orange slices, fruit pudding, milk.

FRI: Beef taco on soft shell tortilla, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, mixed fruit cocktail, peaches & blueberries, milk.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP MEETINGS 2013 TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS - 3RD MONDAY EACH MONTH

JANUARY 21	FEBRUARY 18	MARCH 18	APRIL 15
MAY 20	JUNE 17	JULY 15	AUGUST 19
SEPT. 16	OCT. 21	NOV. 18	DEC. 16

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 7:30 P.M.
IN THE HISTORIC TOWNSHIP HALL - 8240 ALDEN NASH SE
ALTO, MI 49302 616 868-6846

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS - 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH.

JAN. 3	FEB. 7	MAR. 7	APR. 4
MAY 2	JUNE 6	JULY 4	AUG. 1
SEPT. 5	OCT. 3	NOV. 7	DEC. 5

7:30 P.M. BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC HALL

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 3RD THURSDAY

JAN. 17	FEB. 21	MAR. 21	APR. 18
MAY 16	JUNE 20	JULY 18	AUG. 15
SEPT. 19	OCT. 17	NOV. 21	DEC. 19

7:30 P.M. BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC HALL

Red Arrow SPORTS

- BASKETBALL

Seniors lead boys' to overtime win while girls' stomp Kenowa Hills

by Karen Jack

Seniors, Jason Malling and Grant Noskey, showed their leadership through poise and determination in their overtime win against Kenowa Hills, beating them 64-61.

Malling shot five three-point baskets in his 23 points for the game, while Noskey scored 20 points. Coming from the bench was John Fox with 11 points. Malling also had five rebounds.

"Jason has been doing a

great job all year of scoring the basketball and tonight he was on point," coach Kyle Carhart said. "Grant's a captain and he did a great job in leading us tonight. He was finding ways to score down low late to keep us ahead and he was a rock for us in overtime. Both of those guys were key."

The girls' team had an easier time beating Kenowa Hills, with a 41-28 victory.

Coach Jake Strotheide

said that this entire week they were working on getting more physical, controlling the boards and taking care of the ball better. It paid off, outrebounding Kenowa Hills 40-23, grabbing 19 offensive rebounds. Aubreigh Steed got eleven of those rebounds and Abby Petroelje got ten. Sarah Oesch had seven steals.

"I really thought that Aubreigh and Abby set the

tone for us tonight. They can both be a force rebounding the ball and I thought the team responded well when they saw that those two could get some easy rebounds. Sarah Oesch was also unbelievable with her defensive pressure tonight, being in the right spot every time," said Strotheide.

Leading scorers were Steed with 15 points and Kate Montgomery with 14 points. Steed had a double-

double with her 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Both teams host Forest Hills Central on Friday for their conference opener.

The boys' team starts at 6 pm and the girls' follow 20 minutes after the completion of the boys' game.

- WRESTLING

Wrestlers beat Christian take second at Gary Rivers Memorial tournament

by Karen Jack

The Lowell wrestling team started off the week beating Grand Rapids Christian in a landslide, 65-12.

Bailey Jack (125 lbs.), Logan Blough (135 lbs.), Jordan Hall (140 lbs.), Kanon Dean (189 lbs.), Logan Wilcox (285 lbs.), and Zeth Dean (112 lbs.) all got pins. Kyle Washburn (103 lbs.) won by technical fall, Austin Luft and Jake Garcia both won by decision. Derek Krajewski (119 lbs.), Cody VanOosten (160 lbs.) and Nick Higgins (171 lbs.) all won by void. Lowell voided the 215 lb. weight class to give Christian six of their twelve points.

At the Gary Rivers Memorial tournament, Lowell hosted 14 other teams in an all-day tournament, with Lowell as the runner-up, getting beaten by Hartland. Taking third in the tournament was Allegan and fourth was Stevensville Lakeshore.

Hartland, the number three-ranked team in division one, beat Lowell in the finals 46-25.

Winners for Lowell in

the finals included Lucas Hall (103 lbs.) with a pin, Jack (125 lbs.) won by major decision, Kanon Dean (189 lbs.) won by void, and Zeth Dean (112 lbs.), Jordan Hall (145 lbs.) and Max Dean (160 lbs.) all won by decision.

For the day, Lucas Hall, Zeth Dean, Bailey Jack, Jordan Hall, Kanon Dean, and Taylor Kornoely all were undefeated.

"This is always a great tournament, with some great teams here. It gives us a chance to see where

we're at for the year and see what we need to work on," said coach Dave Dean. "I'm pleased to see some of these kids step it up a notch for those bonus points, which can make a big difference at the end of the year."



Kyle Washburn gets the pin.



Garret White takes control.



Wilcox goes for the pin.



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Expires January 30, 2013

obituaries

COPRON

Alfred (Burt) Copron, age 80, of Lowell, passed away January 14, 2013, in Grand Rapids. He was born April 19, 1932, in Fife Lake, Michigan, the son of Clarence and Laura (Cole) Copron. Burt married Elsie Smith September 20, 1968, in Saranac. He served in the Navy during the Korean War. He loved to golf, fish, bowl and help Dale with his racing. Burt is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Elsie Copron of Lowell; children, Renee' Reed of Grand Rapids, Dale (Kari) Copron of Grant and Steven (Christine) Copron of Grand Rapids; sisters, Betty (Vince) Sattleberg of Caro, Leann (Mike) Parker of Johannesburg and Lillian Duncan of Marian; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Wayne, Jack, Clarence and Lyle; and sisters, Evelyn Simmons and Nona Enos. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, January 16, 2:30 pm at Lake Funeral Home in Saranac. Visitation will be Wednesday at 1:30 pm until time of service at the funeral home. Contributions in Burt's name may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

DEHAAN

Abraham 'Abe' DeHaan, age 92 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, January 8, 2013. Son of Minnie and Ben, brother to John, Bernard and Helen, all deceased. He is survived by nieces, Helen (Michael) Grant, Barbara (Ken) Bazan; nephews, Jeff VerVeer and Bill (Dawn) Braman. Lifelong resident of Lowell, Abe was a gentle, quiet and hard working man. Funeral services were January 11. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to make a memorial, Abe would appreciate donations be made to the Humane Society of West Michigan, 3077 Wilson Drive NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

MILLER

David William Miller, age 88 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, January 13, 2013. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Miller; son, Charles Miller; sister, Eunice Kawamoto. He is survived by his children, James (Bonnie) Miller, Lloyd Miller, Paul (Ann) Miller; 10 grandchildren; numerous great grandchildren. David worked for the Michigan Department of Transportation for 31 years. He enjoyed fishing and spending time with friends on the Flat River. He was a graduate of Lowell High School, a very active member of Masonic organizations, Lowell School District Board of Education, Lowell Historical Society and The Grand Rapids Museum. Memorial Service will be Saturday 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Rev. Dean Bailey officiating, with Masonic Services under the Auspices of Belding-Ionia Lodge #355. Visitation one hour prior. Memorial contributions may be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, Lowell, MI 49331



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

SHARROCK

Robert (Bob) J. Sharrock, age 57, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday morning, January 8, 2013. Bob is survived by is wife, Vikisu Condon-Sharrock; two sons, Robert P. Sharrock and James C. Sharrock; daughter, Rache; and two grandchildren, Christopher and Lilly; two brothers, Victor L. (Bergette) Sharrock and John W. (Elaine) Sharrock. Bob was a avid bowler and golfer with a great sense of humor. A memorial was held January 12, 2013 at the Moose Recreation Center to celebrate his life with family and friends.

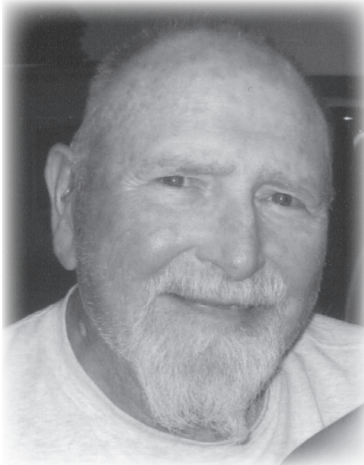
STEDMAN

William Stedman, age 65 of Lowell, went to be with the Lord on Saturday January 12, 2013. He was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin and Grace Stedman. He is survived by his wife Joan; children, Susie, Bill Jr. (Amanda) Stedman, Bob Stedman, Julie Stedman; brothers, Jerry Stedman, Oliver (Sue) Stedman; sister, Sally Vos; nine grandchildren; one great grandchild; and nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

VANNOLLER

Mr. Robert "Colonel" VanNoller, aged 76, passed away Friday, January 11, 2013. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bert and Eva. Surviving are his children, Roger (Jean), Robert (Gail), Barbara VanNoller; eight grandchildren, Kristina (Aaron) Lee, Natasha VanNoller, Baily VanNoller, Tara Bates, Austin Bates, Jennifer (Colin) Shepherd, Kriste Warren, Tracy (Jeff) Wolfe; five great-grandchildren, Keira and Ayden Lee, Kasey, Lucas and Chelsea Wolfe; special family member, Marlene McDermott-VanNoller-Cook; and brother, Christopher VanNoller. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2013, from 1 to 4 pm at Rollaway, 805 E. Main in Lowell. Our father, also known as "Colonel" was a lifelong resident of West Michigan except for his military service in the mid 50s. Although diagnosed with prostate cancer at age 55, he soldiered on another 21 years before he was called home. He thoroughly enjoyed the last 10 years of his life as a resident of Lowell helping his son with his Family Entertainment Business. He loved his family, churches, lunches at the senior center and fellowship with the members of Gilda's Club. Colonel will be deeply missed. He often said, "Everyday is a bonus. If today is the day, that's OK, I am ready," "God Bless." To share a memory or photo and to sign the family's guest book, please visit www.stegengafuneralchapel.com



WENGER

Mary E. Wenger, of Alto, passed away January 8, 2013 in Alto. Mary was born October 17, 1939 in Alto; the daughter of John and Lucille (Johnson) Watts. Mary enjoyed watching football, reading, airplanes, space program and most of all spending time with her family. Mary was a member of Bowne Center United Methodist Church and the Prairie Club of Chicago. On July 21, 1967, in Alto, Mary married Chris Wenger. Mary is survived by her husband Chris Wenger of Alto; her children, Cathy Schumacher of Alto and Shawn Wenger of Alto; brother-in-law, Robert (Helen) Wenger of Middleville; aunt Maxine Johnson of Alto; several nieces and nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her parents. Mary's family received friends Friday, January 11, 2013 at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home, Middleville, where a memorial service was conducted on Saturday, January 12, 2013 with Pastor Gary Dougherty officiating. Private burial will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions to Pennock Hospice will be appreciated. Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to view Mary's online guest book or to leave a condolence message for the family.

WITTENBACH

Lawrence R. Wittenbach, of Kalamazoo, died December 5, 2012 at the age of 67. He was born December 16, 1944 in Grand Rapids to the late Rudolph "Rudy" and Dorothy (Raglin) Wittenbach. Surviving Lawrence are his brothers, Alan (Pat) Wittenbach and Robert Wittenbach; sister, Beth (Bob) Wilson; and several nieces and nephews. Also preceding Lawrence in death was a brother, Douglas Wittenbach. At family's request cremation has taken place. No visitation or services are scheduled at this time. Memorials may be directed to The Michigan chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill located at 921 North Washington in Lansing, Michigan.

NEW LEDGER WEBSITE

At this time we are just beginning to get our new website up and running.

As of now, readers can still submit articles, events, weddings, engagements - email

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

lowellbuyersguide.com

Soon you will be rerouted to

YourNews.com
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and enter the **49331 zip code** more national and international news

AND OF COURSE
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FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

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NOW HIRING - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250..TFN

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT - Grattan Township is looking to hire a part-time Office Administrator Assistant. This position will involve approximately 14 hours per week for the initial training period, which should be up to one year from date of hire. Office hours are Mon. thru Thurs., 9 to 4 p.m. & applicants must have flexibility to work any of these hours. Applications & a complete job description are available online at grattantownship.org or at the Grattan Township office. Application & resume should be submitted to Supervisor, Frank Force at Grattan Township, 12050 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI 48809 & will be accepted up to 4 p.m., Jan. 24, 2013.

for rent

CALEDONIA - 2 bedroom apartment near lake/park/trails, 4plex, (cats okay, sorry no dogs), \$545, Caledonia schools. 616-891-1840.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. FREE All Vets Coffee Hour at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303..TFN

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900..TFN

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YOGA CLASSES - at 901 W. Main, \$8 walk-in, Mon. 7:30 a.m., Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m., specials/schedule. 893-5661, www.thehammockllc.com

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GRAND RAPIDS PRESS ROUTE OPENING - Cansonsburg area. Call Paul 616-541-0564.

GUITAR LESSONS! - Beginners to intermediate, \$15 per session. Call Audrey at 616-897-0458 to sign up or to ask questions.

ASSISTED LIVING ALTO - Modern country home, Cathy 616-891-1840. AssistedLivingAlto@charter.net Private-pay, long or short term.

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BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

PIANO LESSONS - openings for beginning students. Just 4 miles W. of Murray Lake Elem., 2 Mile/Parnell area. \$13 per 1/2 hr. Jane, 676-9451.

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misc.

FREE PERSONAL BIBLE INSTRUCTION - Do you have a sincere desire for a better understanding of the scriptures, but your schedule prevents you from attending small group studies at your church? I am offering free personalized Bible instruction to the first 10 homes to call. If you are interested in free studies that fit your schedule then call Greg at 616-325-8699.

Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & **ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN**. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

FROSTY'S WINTER FUN FEST - Tues., Jan 22, 6:30 p.m. Snowy crafts & frosty fun for ages 6 & younger at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, 784-2007.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

KID CRAFT SATURDAY - Third Saturday of each month. Drop in anytime between 9 a.m. - noon. Make a craft & take it home. All ages are welcome. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

AMERICAN LEGION CLARK-ELLIS POST 152 - meets the fourth Monday at 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. New meeting place through Jan. 1320 E. Main.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

THE EAST KENT COUNTY REPUBLICANS (EKCR) - meets the second Saturday of the month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (113 Riverwalk Plaza) from 8:30 to 10 a.m. to discuss current events on the local, state & national levels. Bring your concerns & issues to our meeting for open discussion! Share information about what you can do to become involved! For more information, please call Dave Emmette, 644-0759 or Nancy Steckler, 897-6380.

IONIA-MONTCALM CHAPTER #6 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREE'S ASSOC. - Wed., Jan 23, 12p.m. will hold its monthly meeting beginning w/luncheon at Admin. Bldg. of Ionia Intermediate School District, 2191 Harwood Road, Ionia. Reservations are necessary. Call 616-527-1825 by noon Mon. Jan. 23.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. & Fri. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Food Pantry, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5 p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

GROOVIN' WITH PETE THE CAT - Thurs., Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m. Pete-inspired crafts & singing & dancing to silly songs for ages 6 and younger at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 784-2007.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m.; Thursday: 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. The first step is always the hardest. If your life has become unmanageable due to alcohol, please join us at 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

EVERY THURSDAY - Night service at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome.

NEW CLASSES FOR EVERYONE - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is invited to attend.

MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNATIONAL - Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Friendship Country Chapel, 10200 Grand River Ave. Moms & grandmas come pray for our kids & schools. Contact Missy at 308-7920 or missykooistra@gmail.com with any questions.

ORIGAMI - Each Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. Learn the ancient art of paper folding. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

CANCER - TEEN & TWEEN TALK GROUP - Each Tuesday, 6-7:15 p.m. - A group for youth in middle or high school on a cancer

or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

CANCER - KIDS TALK - Each Tuesday, 6-7:15 p.m. - A group for children in first - fourth grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

KNITTING - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Instructional knitting class by Cathie Richter. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

TODDLER THURSDAY - Every Thursday 11-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes & learning. Ages 18 mo. - 36 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

SUPPER TOGETHER - Each Tuesday, 5:30-6 p.m. Join in a meal together before group begins. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson.

KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. Beltline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716.

MOVIE MATINEE - Thurs., Jan. 27, 2 p.m. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid Dog Days" showing at Village Hall, sponsored by Clarksville Area Library, 616-693-1001.

STORYTIME - Jan. 22 & 29, 10 a.m. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 642-9146.

KNITTING 101 - Jan. 23 & 30, 10 a.m. - noon. Beginners to advanced knitters. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac, 642-9146.

LHS Students of the Month for January

Charlotte Hayden, 11th grade; and Derek Massey, 9th grade; are the Lowell High School (LHS) January Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Hayden and Massey. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Hayden was nominated by Christine Beachler and she writes, "Charlotte

Hayden has been an unbelievable volunteer in the library Media Center over the past three years she has been at LHS. She is reliable, dependable, takes initiative and is very



Charlotte Hayden

personable with every type of student and adult. When I have requested volunteers to come in to work a shift or two during the orientation days over the summer, she has been the first to volunteer



Derek Massey

and not just for one shift as I request...she has come in every single day and stayed for all of the shifts. While many of the other also great kids will sit and chat in between busy times, Charlotte will continuously ask what else she can do to help us. She puts books away, helps other students, cleans, etc... just anything we ask her to do, she will do it with a smile. She also is the kind of person that just 'jumps in' when something needs to be done or someone needs help. I do not have to constantly ask her to help at all. Charlotte is the type of worker that can see what needs to be done and can do it well all on her own. The most wonderful thing

about Charlotte, while she spends her free time helping us, is that she is the kindest and most caring student I know. She constantly has a smile on her face and treats the other students very respectfully and kindly."

Sara Ellis nominated Massey and she writes, "Derek has a great deal of enthusiasm, volunteering for activities, engaged in each lesson and is helpful to those around him. Derek is a positive influence in my Spanish 1 class and his enthusiasm is contagious. Derek is respectful to others, polite and hardworking. Derek is always on task, has his homework done and is currently getting an A in Spanish 1. He is a model

student and individual!" From Chaye Klomprens, "Derek has been a great asset to student council. Many times Derek has been here during lunch and after school with activities such as the food drive and the candy cane sale. Derek is truly a well-rounded student who wants to help others and improve his school."

This program is made possible by the support of the LHS Academic Boosters, who support the high school in many ways. If you are interested in helping support the LHS Academic Boosters you may contact the office at 987-2900.

Anderson named Staff Member of the Month

Robyn Anderson was named Staff Member of the Month for December at Murray Lake Elementary. This is Anderson's first year at Murray Lake.

Anderson and husband Cory, who is the athletic supervisor at Forest Hills Eastern High School, reside in Lowell with their three boys. Cas is a kindergarten student at Murray Lake, Trey, who is four attends preschool and Ty turned one in September.

Although this is Anderson's first year teaching in Lowell, she is no rookie. She started teaching in 1999 in Tri County Area Schools. She taught two years there. She then moved to Big Rapids and taught nine years there in kindergarten. She also taught two years

in a first grade room in Forest Hills. Anderson received her undergrad and a special education graduate degree from Grand Valley State University. She also received a ZA endorsement from Ferris State.

"We were so lucky to snag Robyn to Murray Lake. She has a wealth of teaching experience, a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. She also brought a lot of experience with all day everyday kindergarten (which Lowell implemented for the first time this year) with her. She is doing a wonderful job for us," commented principal Brent Noskey.

"I absolutely love coming to work everyday at Murray Lake. The people that I work with

are absolutely phenomenal at what they do! They are truly here for the kids! They have embraced me as a new member of the staff. All of the extra things that this staff does to involve each other and others is an added bonus. It is all of the little things that make a huge difference in building a warm, loving environment and I can say that we have that here at Murray Lake for sure!" said Anderson.

In her free time Anderson loves to spend time with her family going to basketball games, playing outside, riding bikes, playing baseball and basketball, and hiking in the woods. In the summers their family loves to camp and swim. She also loves to read if she can find the time.



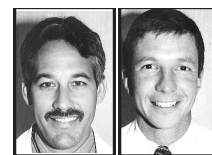
Thebes Players present Charlotte's Web

LowellArts! and Thebes Players will present the play, Charlotte's Web, based on the beloved children's book written by E.B. White.

There will be a public performance at Cherry Creek Elementary on Wednesday, Jan. 30 beginning at 7 pm.

For more information, call LowellArts! at 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

health



With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

Preventing malaria during travel

Malaria is an infection that is carried by mosquitoes in some areas of the world. It is most common in parts of Africa, India and Southeast Asia. It is also found in Mexico, Central America and South America.

Symptoms of malaria include high fever, chills,

muscle aches, joint pain and headaches. You should get medical attention if you have any of these symptoms while traveling in any area where malaria is common. Symptoms can appear up to one year after travel to these areas.

The best ways to protect

yourself from getting malaria include using bed nets, wearing insect repellent and wearing clothes treated with pesticides. There are medicines that you can take to prevent malaria and are started before your travel. Talk to your doctor before you leave. He or she will choose a medicine for you based on where you are going, your age and your medical conditions. Some malaria drugs are not recommended if you are pregnant.

If you need more information on malaria prevention, contact your local health department.

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

~ Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)

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To Sell Your House

AMERICAN LITERATURE

ACROSS

1. Sweeney Todd's weapon
6. *Recluse from "To Kill a Mockingbird"
9. Dumbfounded
13. *"Fear of Flying" author Jong
14. Unit of electrical resistance
15. Groom, to a bird
16. Brightest star in Cygnus
17. Anonymous John
18. Shadow
19. Covered with scabs
21. *F. Scott Fitzgerald's mysterious millionaire
23. Nada
24. Circle overhead?
25. Douglas ____
28. Lowest brass
30. Catch in a net
35. Bad day for Caesar
37. Grey, of tea fame
39. Spanish saint
40. Church section
41. *Poe's talking bird
43. Bucolic poem
44. Chirp, as in bird
46. *"Twilight" series, e.g.
47. "The farmer in the ____"
48. Bonnie and Clyde's doing
50. Mythical bird, pl.
52. Without professional help, acr.
53. Sound of impact
55. Tint
57. *T. Williams' fading Southern belle
60. *J.D. Salinger's young cynic
63. Pilaff or plov
64. ET carrier
66. Unbroken
68. Dadaist Max ____
69. Rip off
70. Savory taste sensation

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JANUARY 9 - JANUARY 15

- New York becomes the first to pass the toughest gun control law in the nation and the first since the Newtown, Conn., school shooting. It simply calls for a stricter assault weapons ban and provisions to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill who make threats. It also contains restrictions on ammunition and the sale of guns.
- Wal-Mart Stores will buy an additional \$50 billion in U.S.-made products over the next decade and as the largest private employer and retailer in the United States, also said they plan to hire 100,000 newly discharged veterans over the next five years. Critics claim Wal-Mart does not pay its workers enough.
- During an interview with Oprah Winfrey, cyclist Lance Armstrong apparently admits he was doping while winning his seven Tour de France titles.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 71. Kind of moss 72. Affirmative English rock band 73. Torn down | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Home to largest mammal 5. *John Updike's "____, Run" 6. *Stephen King novella "The ____," adapted into "Stand by Me" film 7. Exclamation of surprise 8. The end 9. They're missing from Venus de Milo 10. He played Sergeant Joe Friday 11. Suggestive of supernatural 12. Piece of evidence 15. Capers or charades 20. Gloomier 22. Brewpub offering 24. *John Updike's alma mater 25. *Harper Lee's Atticus ____ 26. Gem State 27. Live it up 29. Bleats 31. *Occupation featured in "The Help" | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 32. Terminated 33. They're found at checkout 34. *Truman Capote's party girl 36. Garden starter 38. Toy block 42. Jack Black's "____ Libre" 45. Blow out the candle, e.g. 49. Sigma ____ Epsilon 51. S 54. Shylock's practice 56. Swelling 57. ____ Straits 58. Arm bone 59. Cat-headed Egyptian goddess 60. Gremlins 61. Timeline divisions 62. What one goes by 63. ____ rally 65. *Wicked Witch of the West to Dorothy Gale 67. Jack-in-the-box part |
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DOWN

1. *Like Stephen Crane's Badge of Courage
2. Mars, to the Greeks
3. Brass component

•••
**We judge ourselves
by what we feel capable
of doing, while others
judge us by what we
have already done.**

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(1807 - 1882)

**Financial Focus,
continued**

But as long as you continue investing and don't head to the "sidelines," you have a good chance of making progress toward your goals.

• Vision -- Marathoners study the course they're on, so they know what's ahead — and where they're going. As an investor, you also need a vision of what lies in front of you — the number of years until your retirement, the type of retirement lifestyle you anticipate, what sort of legacy you plan to leave, and so on. Your vision will help drive your investment decisions.

• Proper coaching — Not all marathoners have individual coaches, but many have at least gone to clinics or joined running clubs so they could learn more about the various aspects of this grueling event. And an

investor, you can certainly benefit from guidance or "coaching" in the form of a financial professional — someone who knows your individual needs, goals and risk tolerance and who has the experience to make recommendations that are appropriate for your situation.

Every marathoner is familiar with the difficulties of the challenge and the satisfaction of finishing the race. As an investor, you also will be tested many times. Furthermore, you'll never really cross the "finish line" because you'll always have goals toward which you'll be working. Yet, by emulating the traits of successful marathoners, you can continue working toward your objectives — and perhaps you'll avoid the blisters, too.

*Puzzle Solutions for
this week are on page 12*

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