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Red Arrow WINTER **TEAMS**

pages 7-10





page 16







pages 10, 11 & 14



For stores that buy and sell precious metals sales are golden

by Ellen Mork contributing reporter

With gold prices stabilized around an all time high, businesses looking to buy and sell gold are as busy

Prices have fluctuated around \$1,700 per ounce the last month, up nearly \$1,400 from its 2000 price. The quality of gold determines the price. Gold can be bought in 10K, 12K, 14K, 18K and 24K. 24K gold is pure gold and taking the remaining purities' respective karats and dividing it by 24 karats can calculate the other purities. This makes them 42, 50, 58 and 75 percent gold respectively.

Two stores in Lowell rely on gold as a significant portion of their sales. East Kent Cash Outlet and Collector's Korner deal with gold and other valuable

East Kent Cash Outlet opened in Lowell in late 2011. They are a selfdescribed pawnshop. They buy and sell DVDs, tools, guitars and electronics, as well as jewelry.

Tony Christie, longtime employee, said they deal in gold everyday. He fields questions on gold often and helps customers when they come in looking to buy or sell. "Business is not bad," he said, "but gold is only a part of it."

This store differs from many others because they often act as a bank, loaning cash to customers. If a customer is short of cash, they can come in, sell their jewelry or any other good for cash immediately. They can then come back within two weeks and buy back their item with a 35 percent interest rate.

Korner Collector's owner Rodger Ackerson loves his work and could not ask for a better job. Unlike East Kent Cash Outlet, Ackerson does not describe

his business as a pawnshop. He prefers to buy items outright rather than act as a lender of money.

He buys and sells coins,



A gold coin and the eagle cutout from the coin Rodger Ackerson made into a necklace.

stamps, pocket watches and other collectible items.

Ackerson said stands out from the other stores that buy and sell gold because he is accredited by the Better Business Bureau. He said there "ain't no sense in going anywhere else."

He stated "probably 25 percent" of his total sales is gold. Once he buys the gold and after a waiting period where police check to ensure it hasn't been stolen, he takes it to a wholesaler and sells it.

Ackerson said over the years, as the price has risen, he has dealt more and more with gold. He doesn't see the price going down anytime soon, meaning his and other shops dealing in gold will continue to have many customers.

Roads an important issue in Gov. Snyder's State of the State

Last Wednesday night, in his third State of the State address, Governor Rick Snyder addressed many issues he hopes to fix in the upcoming years. He mentioned the economy, jobs, good government and people. In particular, he expressed concern over roads, stating it's "the toughest single issue that I think will hopefully be

The roads in Michigan are notoriously bad, in part because of the cold, snowy winters and the high volume of traffic.

He further expanded his definition of roads to include bridges, railways and harbors. Snyder placed emphasis on finding a solution to the roads issue and the need to reexamine the road distribution formula.

"This is not about costing us money, this is about saving us money and building for the future." He stressed the need to spend money now and rather than focus on the high cost now, focus on the fact that over the long run, \$15 billion dollars will be saved because of current spending.

State Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons, R-Alto, was pleased with the overall speech and in regards to being successful said, "we can do better."

"I'm really looking forward to having an honest discussion about finding Michigan solutions to fixing our roads. This isn't a republican issue; it's not a democratic issue. This is a Michigan issue. So I was very encouraged to see the governor was serious about having that discussion."

State of the State, continued, page 3

Brutal brawl outside Moose Lodge leads to two arrests

by Ellen Mork contributing reporter

Arrests have been made in a fight that took place in the early morning of January 6th outside of the Moose Lodge, 210 E. Main St.

One man, from Lowell, 38, was charged with assault and battery and disorderly conduct. A \$1,000 bond was posted for him. A Saranac man, age 42, was arrested on a charge of assault and battery. A \$500 Moose Lodge Facebook bond was posted for him. Both were released pending their arraignments in the

63rd District Court. Their arraignments are scheduled for January 30, 2013, at which time their names will be released.

The details leading up to the arrest were murky and detectives spent nearly two weeks investigating before they were able to make the arrests. A police detective posted a message on the January 7th asking for witnesses to come forward. They received several leads

through phone calls and the Facebook page. Because witnesses came forward, the police were able to make the two arrests with the new evidence.

The Moose Lodge was hosting a billiards tournament January 5th. Throughout the night there were a number of skirmishes that took place inside the bar. which eventually spilled out

> Brawl, continued, page 3

Cause of fire unknown at **Advanced Metal Fabrication**

by Ellen Mork contributing reporter

A fire broke out at Advanced Metal Fabrication Wednesday, January 9, approximately 6:47 pm. It is located at 12958 Christopher Drive.

When fire fighters from several surrounding locations arrived, flames were coming from the roof and smoke was billowing.

The fire was contained

in a cold storage room. This allowed the fire fighters to contain the fire and stave off further damage.

The fire was put out by 11 pm, about four hours after the fire started.

VanOverbeek, Ron fire investigator, said his investigation did not find a cause.

Two other insurance

investigators said reports left the cause undetermined.

VanOverbeek believes the cause will not be found.

There will be a walk through with the Vergennes Township building inspector to further assess what needs to be repaired and the cost to become up to code.



MID-WINTER USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of Englehardt Library will sponsor a midwinter Used Book Sale for adults and children, Fri., Jan. 25 from 9:30 am to 6 pm and Sat., Jan. 26 from 9:30 am to 3 pm, in the Community Room of the library. All proceeds go to library programming.

LADIES NIGHT IN AT THE Y

Fri., Jan. 25, 6-10 pm at the YMCA, 1335 W. Main St. Zumba, yoga, self-defense, healthy snacks, talk to a dietician, financial planner, physician and personal trainer. Have fun and hang out – it's free. Call 616-855-9573 with any questions.

OWL PROWL

Sat., Jan. 26, from 6-9 pm at the Wittenbach/Wege Argriscience and Environmental Education Center, join naturalist Greg Swanson from Howard Christensen Nature Center to learn all about owls. Before heading into the forest, participants will learn owl basics such as identification, behaviors and calls. Everyone will then venture out to call, listen and look for owls. Please dress for the weather. Preregistration is required as space is limited. This program is not recommended for children under 5. For more information, or to register, please call 987-2565 or email mjohnson@lowellschools.com

REMINDER NOTICE REGISTRATION **DEADLINE** FOR THE SCHOOL **ELECTION** TO BE HELD ON **FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT **ANY QUALIFIED ELECTOR BOWNE** TOWNSHIP, LOWELL TOWNSHIP, VERGENNES TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF LOWELL, WHO IS NOT ALREADY REGISTERED, MAY REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE CITY OR TOWNSHIP OFFICES, AT ANY SECRETARY OF STATE BRANCH OFFICE, OR OTHER DESIGNATED PLACES FOR THE SCHOOL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013

THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS WILL BE **MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013**

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

- CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES
- AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township Clerk Lowell City Clerk (616) 868-6846 9am to 3pm

Betty Morlock (616) 897-8457 9am to 5pm

Linda S. Regan Lowell Township (616) 897-7600 9am to 5pm

Mari Stone Vergennes Township (616) 897-5671 9am to 3pm

ST. PATRICK CARNIVAL

treet

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 AND 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.

WINTER FEST

Sat., Feb. 2 from 1-4 pm at Wittenbach/Wege Argriscience and Environmental Education Center. An afternoon of winter-filled fun including snowshoeing, crafts, stories, refreshments and a mushing demonstration with actual sled dogs at 2 pm. Sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library and the Wittenbach/Wege Center. Thanks to the generosity of Lowell Community Wellness, the first 100 snowshoe rentals will be available for halfprice. Come out and join us for a day of winter fun. For more information call 987-2565 or email mjohnson@ lowellschools.com

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.



At Your Local Library

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

Kids Club -

Join our KDL Kids Club programs for fun, interactive crafts, storytimes, games and other activities. For grades K-5. Tuesdays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 26, 4 pm.

Bookworms Adult Book Discussion -

Join us for a friendly, informal discussion and good company. For adults. Tues., Feb. 12, 10 am - Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan.

The New Health Care Law and You

Find out what the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is all about and what it means for you. Presented by Lisa Ross, consumer outreach coordinator for the State of Michigan. Jan. 30, 6:30 pm.

I am never afraid of what I know.

~Anna Sewell (1820 - 1878)

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Brawl, continued

into the alley and parking lot behind the Moose around closing time.

Around 2:00 January 6th, 911 dispatchers received calls regarding these fights. Lowell police arrived on the scene with backup from the Kent County Sheriff Department. The majority of witnesses left the scene when the police arrived. Upon arrival, the police found two men unresponsive and both were taken to the hospital.

There were a number of people involved in the fighting, at least five when police arrived, with indications the number was higher before police arrived.

According to Doug Winglar's family, one of the men arrested harassed him throughout the night, verbally assaulting both Winglar and his family.

When he left at closing time, the first assailant began beating Winglar until he was unconscious. At this point, the brother of the assailant began kicking and stomping Winglar's face into the pavement.

The brother of the assailant was charged with assault and battery and disorderly conduct.

While this attack was occurring, another assailant had grabbed a woman and was choking her because they had been in an argument earlier that evening. Unfortunately, he had grabbed the wrong woman. This suspect was charged with assault and battery.

According to Facebook page set up by Winglar's family members, "Justice for Doug Winglar," he was celebrating his 30th birthday the night he was beaten. He suffered a broken nose, a broken bone in his upper jaw, many of his teeth were knocked out, as well as severe swelling and bleeding of the brain. These injuries left him in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for five days. He will need reconstructive surgery for his nose and mouth. Winglar will need follow up appointments with a neurologist and it is possible he will have permanent brain damage. Family members and Facebook friends are outraged at the charges filed, saying there was intent to kill. They would like more to be done about this incident.

Police chief Barry Getzen said additional charges could be filed if more information comes in.

The Moose Lodge has been cooperative with the police and handed over footage of the evening. The police have forwarded their investigation to the Liquor Control Commission for review to see if the Moose Lodge had any culpability.

The Moose Lodge held a special governance meeting and took action against the two perpetrators in the incident.

Both men arrested were members of the Moose Lodge, while one victim was a member and one was a guest.

State of the State, continued

Snyder thanked Lyons in his speech for her work on education reform and the Educational Achievement Authority.

State Senator Dave Hildenbrand, R-Lowell, upcoming year.

wants to focus on a few certain aspects of the solution to fixing roads. He said shifting funds from other areas of the budget is the best solution. He was not keen on raising taxes or implementing other fees, as Snyder mentioned, if the money already exists in the budget. Overall, he said Snyder laid out a pretty wide-ranging plan and he looks forward to the



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related news, Friday, January 18, Snyder appointed Larry Yachcik of Lowell, among others, to the Michigan Long-Term Care Supports and Services Commission. Advisory Yachcik is the president and CEO of Porter Hills Retirement Communities and Services in Grand Rapids. This committee "provides quality assurance reviews of Michigan's longterm care system."

"These appointees bring valuable experiences to this board and I appreciate

their willingness to serve the people of Michigan in these roles," said Snyder.

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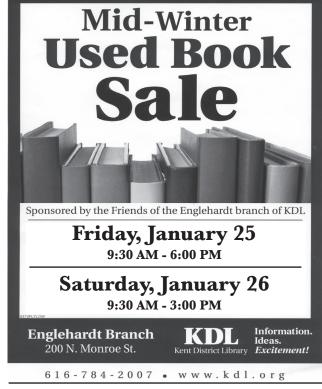
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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Help your children avoid student debt burden

It's not so easy being a college kid these days. The job market for recent graduates has been shaky while, at the same time, students are leaving school with more debt than ever before. If you have children who will someday be attending college, should you be worried?

You might indeed have cause for concern. Americans now owe more on student loans than on credit cards, according to the Federal Bank of New York, the U.S. Department of Education and other sources. For the college class of 2011, the most recent year for which figures are available, the average student loan debt was about \$26,500, according to the Institute for College Access and Success's Project on Student Debt.

This type of debt load, coupled with the struggles to find a well-paying job commensurate with their education, is causing many recent graduates to get off on the wrong foot in terms of developing savings and

investment strategies that could help them throughout their lives.

So, what can you do?

If you want to help your kids pay for college, you may want to consider a 529 plan. When you invest in a 529 plan, all withdrawals will be free from federal income taxes, as long as the money is used for qualified college expenses. (However, non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to ordinary income tax plus a 10% penalty on the earnings portion.) Contribution limits are high, and, contributions may be eligible for a tax deduction or credit for residents in certain states.

A 529 plan, while valuable, is not the only college savings vehicle available. You may also want to consider a Coverdell Education Savings Account, which, like a 529 plan, can generate tax-free earnings if the money is used for higher education expenses. However, a Coverdell account's contribution limits are much lower than those of a 529 plan. You could also establish a custodial account, known as an UGMA or UTMA, which

offers some tax benefits and no contribution limits.

Nonetheless, while these vehicles may help you save and invest for college, they may also divert resources that you might have used for other financial goals — such as a comfortable retirement. Of course, it's not an "eitheror" situation — there's nothing stopping you from contributing to a 529 plan, Coverdell account or custodial account along with your 401(k) and IRA.

Clearly, though, it will take discipline and perseverance on your part to save and invest for both your children's education and your own retirement. Like everyone else, you don't have unlimited resources. But you do have another ally — time. The earlier you begin investing for education and retirement, the greater your chances of achieving your goals in these areas. And by understanding how your goals interact, you can work to make sure you don't inadvertently derail one when saving for another.

Avoiding the student loan "debt trap" while still making progress toward your retirement savings will require creative thinking — and both you and your children may have to make some sacrifices along the way. But the ultimate goals — a college degree that isn't one big IOU and a comfortable retirement — are worth the effort.



ELEMENTARY MENU Week of Jan. 28, 2013

MON: Cheeseburger on WG bun (WG Bosco cheese filled breadsticks served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: broccoli florets, baby carrots, mixed fruit cocktail, peaches, milk.

TUES: Tony's pepperoni pizza, corn on the cobb, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, peaches, pineapple, applesauce, milk

WED: Scrambled eggs, French toast sticks, fruit & veggie bar: fresh baby carrots, fresh celery sticks, peaches, fresh apple, milk.

THURS: Roasted turkey & gravy w/WG biscuit, mashed potatoes, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, cauliflower bites, fresh orange smiles, pears, milk

FRI: Mexican burrito (WG mini corn dogs served at Bushnell), green beans, fruit & veggie bar: cucumber slices, baby carrots, pears, grapes, milk





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ViewDoint

to the editor

reader encourages others to speak out

To The Editor,

I would like to compliment the excellent writing by your contributing reporter, Ellen Mork. One of her obvious gifts is being able to exercise objectivity. This can be seen in her recent article about the Bible Believers Church corner street preaching. Ms. Mork walked smack dab in the middle of this emotional

subject and processed it by informing the reader of both sides of the coin.

Having Ellen Mork contribute to the Ledger's weekly publication is a very positive addition to this community's quality of life.

On the other hand I must admit, after reading her article about street preaching, I was left with a subjective leaning.

Here is the pared down sentiment that Ellen's article pricked within me.

Really, Lowell? Does our community actually believe that it lacks a decent rationale to curtail these assaults on every person that intersects North Hudson and Main Street? They are not holding up signs of love and acceptance. The whole corner package of adults shouting to motorists and passersby and signs of eternal warning displayed little children present, make for a very embarrassing scene for our city. When fate has us at that intersection when the

Langdons are also there, how many of us just look away and try to forget it as soon as possible?

Grand Rapids had a similar situation in the mid-80s and you might be surprised at how they handled their conundrum. Like the Langdons, this person would hold signs of warning on street corners. Like the Langdons, this person used (his) children. He then progressed to larger venues. In fact, he used the Grand Rapids downtown area's hotspots also, just like the Langdons.

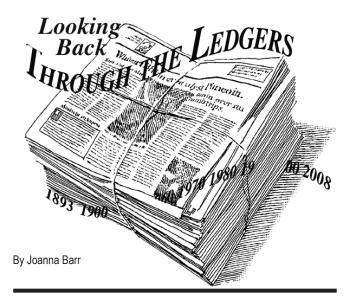
He tried something even more radical in the name of

his belief and for that act he was banned from living in Grand Rapids. Forever.

One of my loves of living in this area is the small-town horse sense practicality and ethics. Part of me wants to tightly hug on to our old-fashioned values and simplicity and never let go. I love small and simple and people treating each other with respect. As a result, here is my message to Lowell. Pardon me, Ellen, for being subjective.

Let's encourage free speech to be exercised, but let's play it out in a manner of common decency. Throw in a few dashes of respect for flavor and worth. Sure the Langdons have a right to their beliefs. Just please keep it inside, under their roof or church's roof. Their option of having a street pulpit and the message delivered to date has been offensive to most area residents. When extremism is oppressive to the majority of people, the people have a right to speak out. That is what I hope our Lowell residents will do, have a conversation and decision as to what is best for the whole community.

> Jeff Lende Lowell



140 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 27, 1898

Those readers in distant states who were told about the January rain storm, are informed that Michigan is herself again, with wind blowing, snow flying and drifts piling up 'till the man with the snow shovel gets tired. The storm of Saturday night and Sunday is said by the oldest inhabitant "to be the worst he has seen since he was a boy." Making all due allowance for the old fellow's failing memory, it was a wild storm just the same; and but few people stirred from their comfortable homes, until the wind went down Sunday evening, and then did a big job of wading through snow drifts. Tuesday noon another storm with a little less wind, but more snow and cold, began raging and at this writing everything is white. Oh, Michigan, we love thee: but thou art a fickle old iade.

Notice to Correspondents and Contributors – You are requested for the coming week to make a special effort to have your contributions in as early as possible and to have them full and complete. The editor wishes to take a few days vacation and attention to this request will be helpful and appreciated.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 23, 1913

Headline: Tooth of Mastodon discovered by Andrew Dutmers in Cannon Township - The tooth was found about four weeks ago by Andrew Detmers, ninteen years old, while he was looking after his traps on the Detmers farm, one and one-half miles northeast of Cannonsburg. The youth, while walking along the banks of a stream, playfully kicked up a bone; it had a peculiar appearance to him and he lifted it from the soft soil. He was surprised to find that it was a tooth.

It was ten inches, measuring from the ends of the roots to the top of the tooth; it was seven and one-half inches in width... Yesterday afternoon he took the find to the museum for inspection of Director Sargent. The curator explained the tooth was a back molar, left side, of a full grown mastodon. This, he determined by reference to the composite mastodon, which is one of the attractive exhibits at the museum. The upper portion of the frame of a mastodon was excavated by Director Sargent and others after it had been discovered seven or eight years ago in a swamp near Muskegon.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 27, 1938

Headline: Main-St. Accident Proves Fatal to Frank M. Blaze, 40 - Fell in Path of Approaching Car. An accident occurred on Main-st. about 9:30 Sunday night which caused fatal injuries to Frank M. Blazo, 40, local bowling alley proprietor. The accident took place at the corner of Washington and Main-sts. where, it is reported, Mr. Blazo slipped and fell on the ice while crossing the street. He fell in the path of a car driven by Arlee Brandebury of Grand Rapids, who drove around Mr. Blazo and stopped, intending to pick the fallen man up, but a second car following Brandebury drove over Blazo. Mr. Blazo's clothing caught in the brake rods of the second car, driven by Fred Roberts, also of Grand Rapids and caused him to be dragged for a block before Brandebury could signal Roberts that something was wrong, according to reports given to Deputy Sheriff A. H. Stormzand by witnesses. It appears quite likely that at least one of the wheels of Roberts' car passed over Mr. Blazo's body.

Greediness proved the undoing of a 23-inch pike which was found floating under the ice of Flat river about 20 miles north of Lowell. Death of the pike was due to a wound caused by swallowing a six-inch bluegill. The back fin of the bluegill had cut a slit about three inches long through the outer skin of the pike. The bluegill's fin was protruding from the cut when the fatality was discovered.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 24, 1963

Headline: Police Chief Tickets Daughter At Accident - Police Chief Avery Block was hailed to the scene of a property damage accident at Chatham and Lincoln Lake Avenue, on Sunday afternoon at 4:20 and issued a summons to his daughter, Sharon R. Block, 19, who was driving one of the cars involved. The accident occurred, according to the report, when Miss Block

who was going west on Chatham Street crossing Lincoln Lake failed to clear the intersection and was hit in the rear fender. She was ticketed for failure to yield right of way.

Lowell Police apprehended three teen agers last Saturday for shooting holes in the smoke stack and shooting at the scout cabin located a mile north of the city limits on Washington Street. The boys were named by members of the troop, who were in the cabin working, when the shooting occurred on Friday. The boys, 15 and 16 years of age, used a 22 rifle to put holes in the smoke stack and also shot the oil drum, but failed to put a hole in that. Police Chief Avery Block stated that it was up to the scouts whether to prosecute the boys or not. Parents are liable for damage caused by children under 17.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 27, 1988

Mention winter, and the response from more than just a handful of people is, "I can't wait for spring." When one finds a group that worships those cold. white shavings that fall from high above, one asks why? The answer comes in the form of an automotive vehicle that uses skis instead of tires. This machine, however, is rendered useless without the assistance of that white powdery substance that visits us 3-4 months out of the year. "It's a short winter for most people if there is a small amount of snow," said Faith Marshall, treasurer of the Flat River Snowmobile Club. "For snowmobilers, waiting for snow makes for a long winter." Members of the Flat River Snowmobile Club haven't been real pleased with the mild winters of the past few years, but a bill that was passed earlier this month made it forget its meteorological problems. "The bill calls for part of the taxes used for roads to be returned so that snowmobile trails may be built," said Marshall. "This funding will come from gasoline taxes and registration." Twelve years ago, the Michigan Association of Recreational Snowmobilers (MARS) started the wheels rolling to get a state refund from the taxes that were being paid for gasoline.



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In The Service

Air Force airman Nicholas Hawks graduated from

basic military training at Lackland Air Force San Antonio, Base, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.



Nicholas Hawks

Hawks is the son of Edward and Marcia Hawks of Ada. He is a 2012 graduate of Lowell High School.

Free throw champions crowned

The St. Mary Knights of Columbus held their annual Free Throw Championship last Wednesday at Cherry Creek Elementary. Thirtysix boys and girls turned out for the competition. Each contestant shot 15 free throws.

Each boy and girl making the most free throws within their respected age group were crowned Lowell's champion, presented with a trophy and will move on to a district competition in February. Winners at districts, to be held in Pewamo, will have a chance to move on to regional and eventually state level competitions.

"It's a fun event for the kids. What kid doesn't like to win a trophy? The Knights are a volunteer group who try to do things to better the local community. This is just one way the Knights give back. They also try to instill within young people that it is important to give

back to the community," commented free throw chairman Brent Noskey.

Several Lowell participants have made it to the state finals over the years. Two Lowell students actually won the state title a few years ago.



Pictured, winners of the competition, front row, left to right: Joseph Antel, Theresa Judd, Tommy Grover, and Kenny Kropf; back row: Mary Jo Buechler, Sara Landon, Madison Jordan, Nathan Bush, and Marc Langlois.

health

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

postpartum depression

Postpartum depression is a serious form of depression that comes after giving birth. As many as four out of five women have mood changes in the first 10 days after giving birth.

Some women feel better within a few weeks. Others may feel depressed for several months. Women who have more serious symptoms or who have had

depression before may take longer to feel better.

Symptoms include sadness, anxiety and crying. Some women may worry too much about their baby or be afraid of making mistakes in caring for their baby. They also may find it hard to concentrate or fall asleep. Some women may lose interest in things they used to enjoy.

The causes of this type of depression are unclear. Some women are very sensitive to the hormone changes in their body after

FIRST BAPTIST

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Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn

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childbirth, which may cause depression.

If you are diagnosed with postpartum depression, your doctor may prescribe an antidepressant medicine. The good news is that these medicines can be used if you are breastfeeding. The amount of medicine that enters the breast milk is very small and not likely to harm your baby. Not treating your depression is more likely to harm your baby. Let your doctor know if you think you might be depressed after delivery.

happy <u>birthday!</u>

JANUARY 23

Amanda Wingeier, Zach Stauffer.

JANUARY 24

Allan Baird, David Szymczak, Haleigh Timmers, Mackenzie Stiles.

JANUARY 25

Molly Doyle, Dean Olin.





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JANUARY 28

JANUARY 26

JANUARY 27

Jacqueline (Bay) Saylor,

Brittani Anderson, Dianna

Roth,

Lori

Steven

Nowak,

Smith,

Andrea

Victor Weeks.

Uzarski, Andy

Alex Dommer.

Rhodes,

Nancy

Dewey.

Ryan White, Cher Mastenbrook, Amy Newhouse, Renee Peters, Kyle Washburn.

JANUARY 29

Brenda Traetz. Kim Call, Karen Potter, Zach DeBold.



churche

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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

Red Arrow WINTER SPORTS TEAMS

BASKETBALL



First row, left to right: Jason Malling, Ben Weaver, Shannon Massey, Ryan Stevens, Grant Peterson, and Andrew Potter; second row, left to right: coach Dan Redder, Tyler Garter, Josh Bearups, Grant Noskey, Austin Lemke, Jonathan Fox, Spencer Lyon, and coach Kyle Carhart.

ccording to boys' basketball coach Kyle Carhart, playing in a difficult conference, the team will be faced with some of the best teams in the area. He says it could be a lot of fun, especially when they beat some of the powerhouse teams.

With half the team being seniors and half the team being relatively new, he thinks they have a shot to go far in the state championship tournament. Senior starters, Jason Malling, Austin Lemke, Grant Noskey, and Shannon Massey, have been playing together for a while, which makes them stronger this year than last. Malling, Lemke and Noskey are all having great senior years, thus far. Massey has been plagued with health issues, but when he's healthy, he's a very tough player for opposing teams to deal with.

Carhart touts senior Jason Malling, a three-year varsity player, as one of the best shooters and offensive players in the area. He can shoot from anywhere on the court and is a big threat for the three-point shot, as evidenced in his play so far this year.

Already, the team has started better than last year, with a 4-4 record. Last year, they were 0-5, so they've already improved. Carhart is looking for a good run at both the conference championship and the state championship.

The short-term goals for the team are to improve every day, both as a team and as individuals. Carhart's long-term goal is to work as a program to update the most recent conference championship banner hanging in the gym, the last conference championship occurring in 1978.



Pictured, left to right: Nate Kyburz, Tanner Barnes, Josh Branagan, Josh Buechler, Danny Bieri, Gabe Steed, Marcus Malling, Parker Travis, and Carter Noskey.



Go Red Arrows!



First row, left to right: Jessica Graves, Danielle Ordway, Jessica Montgomery, Kate Montgomery, and Katie Holzhueter; second row, left to right: coach Jake Strotheide, Sarah Oesch, Aubreigh Steed, Abby Petroelje, and Brittany Branagan.

ake Strotheide, the new head coach for the team, is excited to see the growth of the girls' basketball team. With the team being pretty young, he thinks they'll learn a lot "on the fly," but is hopeful that by the end of the season, they can make a good run at districts. Strotheide comes from Wyoming Park as the JV coach and has been very successful in his coaching career. With two starting seniors leading the way, Danielle Ordway and Jessica Montgomery will show toughness and leadership. According to Strotheide, both are team-oriented players who just want to win. Both are unique in what they do for the team. Ordway will always guard the other team's best player, while Montgomery is a threat to make three to five three-point baskets in a game.

Sophomores Kate Montgomery and Katie Holzhueter are the players to watch in the future. Both have shown leadership on the floor during crunch times and are slated as the team's next leaders. Another force on the team is junior Aubreigh Steed. She has a knack for finding the little things to help the team, including finding others in open space and works hard to get open and help on defense.

Just being in the OK White conference already makes the team's schedule tough. Strotheide believes that the conference, from top to bottom, is one of the toughest in the area. "That being said, I believe we can play with anyone and we hope to compete for a championship," said Strotheide.

The short-term goal for Strotheide this year is to just improve chemistry with the team. Being a later hire, he is still feeling the players out and vice versa. Long-term, Strotheide is looking to bring a toughness back to Lowell basketball that will allow them to compete with anyone. "I'm just excited to be here around this wonderful community that has helped me through a quick transitional phase. I couldn't be happier to be a Red Arrow," added Strotheide.



First row, left to right: Amy Carpenter, Mallery Yaw, Bailey Cummings, Montana Launer, and Tara McQueen; second row, left to right: coach Jesse Vasquez, Catherine Stump, Breanna Oesch, Katie Bush, Taylor Blerling, and Kennedy Coxor.

Red Arrow MINTER SPORTS TEAMS

HOCKEY



First row, left to right: Devin Rosema, Jake Roetman, Justin Pinto, Sam Shaver, Luke VanLaar, Eric Balut, Mitchell Hurbanis, Josh Riemersma, and Ben Smith; second row, left to right: asst. coach Kyle Dykstra, Brandon Delfgauw, Josh Dillon, Jake Rossman, Zack Fogg, Adam Alkema, Josh Vanderlaan; Lowell players: Cam Bonney, Austin Bieri, Eli Barr; and Austin Lovely, asst. coach Mason McGillicuddy, and head coach Tim Beurer.

<u>GYMNASTICS</u>



First row: Lauren Browning, Sarena Wilterdink, Morgan Taylor, Riley White, Danielle Krajewski, Kaezi Bladey; second row: coach Michele DeHaan, Colleen Cater, Bethany Kaczanowski, captain Meghan Plutschouw, captain Lauren DeHaan, Kaylee Wold, Jorie Bennett, asst. coach Alyssa Buikema.

ead coach Michele DeHaan has high hopes for the gymnastics team this year. Hoping to make it through districts this year, she plans to qualify for regionals as a team.

She also sees many of the girls being able to qualify individually for the all around in regionals. Her goal is to have everyone qualify for at least one event. Having placed fifth in the region last year, their goal is to strive for third or fourth place. If they qualify third, that would also qualify them to go to state as a team, which has never happened in Lowell gymnastics' history.

Competing in the "Rainbow conference," DeHaan believes they can do well this year. Because not many schools have a full gymnastics team, they have combined to participate in this conference, so the teams can have quality competition. Other schools in the conference include Rockford/Sparta, Kenowa Hills/Grandville, Forest Hills combined, and East Kentwood. The gymnastics schedule rarely changes, due to the fact that so few schools have gymnastics. DeHaan believes shooting for third in regionals is a realistic goal. "We haven't lost much talent from last year and we've gained two strong freshmen."

With only one senior on the team in Jorie Bennett, the team is still considered pretty young. The majority of the team are sophomores, with six; they only have three juniors and then two freshmen.

Standouts to watch for include Meghan Plutschouw, Kaezi Bladey and Lauren DeHaan. All three have performed well already this season, with DeHaan placing fifth all around at the Rockford Invitational and both Plutschouw and Bladey getting consistently high scores on their events. The girls have also changed around some of their routines for the various events and have added more difficult moves to raise their degree of difficulty for scoring. Also, they've been able to add a second set of bars in their training room, so they will all get more practice and have already improved scores this season because of them.

"We have lots of young talent on the team. Our short-term goal is trying to beat the school team record in the next year or two," said DeHaan.

BOWLLING



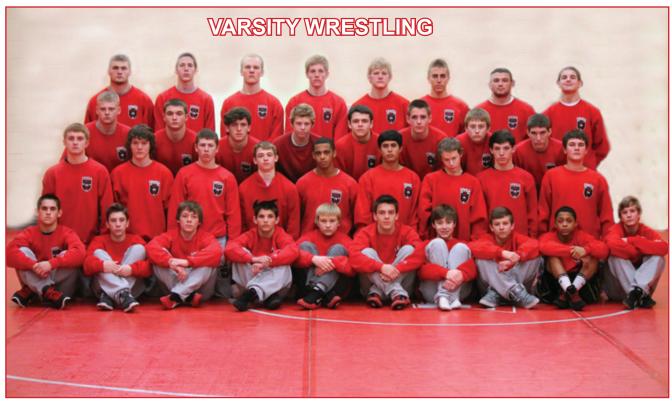
First row, left to right: Catherine McNaughton, Alyssa Darby, Kenya Jones, Ally Stockreef, Veronica Grieves, and Marilla Marks; second row, left to right: coach Rocky Eickhoff, Sidney Anderson, Adele Burnier, Krystal Sheldon, Paige Rozell, assistant Melissa Mosher, and assistant Sarah Mosher.



First row, left to right: Jason Price, Justin Everitt, Dallas Klap, Matt Milstead, Tim Buechler, and Austin Casprby; second row, left to right: coach Rocky Eickhoff, Jordan Dennie, Logan Phenix, Sean Ritsema, Jre Hong Wang, Carl Mitchell, and Josh Rocco.

Red Arrow MINTER SPORTS TEAMS

<u>Wrestling</u>



First row, left to right: Mike Trupke, Isiah Rowley, Josh Kinsley, Zeth Dean, Danny Kruse, Bailey Jack, Noah Houghtaling, Kyle Washburn, Lucas Hall, Scott Hachnal. Second row: Tommy Mahalic, Ethan Pearson, William Nagy, Garret White, Jordan Hall, Louis Hart, Anthony Ripley, Austin Luft, Bailey VanAmburgh. Third row: Logan Wilcox, Collin McGee, Alex McIntyre, Derek Krajewski, Jacob Garcia, Nick Giesen, Logan Blough, Brandon Churches. Fourth row: Taylor Kornoely, Scott VanOosten, James Wierenga, Cody VanOosten, Nick higgins, Zac Graves, Garett Stehley, Kanon Dean.

his year's wrestling team has already struggled with illness and injury. Undefeated so far in conference play, coach Dave Dean expects to keep that record at the end of the season.

Losing five seniors out of the starting lineup, the team is still considered young. With only three starting seniors, the other eleven starters are all underclassmen. "We have some juniors who have stepped up as leaders and I watch them grow to show the leadership I expect out of a senior," said Dean. He says that he looks to both the seniors and the juniors as the teams' leaders.

The team also has seven wrestlers who qualified for individual states, five of which placed. Those qualifiers include Derek Krajewski, Bailey Jack, Jordan Hall, Kanon Dean, Garett Stehley, Taylor Kornoely, and Josh Colegrove.

Coach Dean is expecting all the starters to make it to states this year on an individual basis. He also expects to make it to state finals as a team. "We've built a program so when we do graduate seniors, we can fill their positions with some good kids who have worked hard to fill in those positions. This year, freshmen Lucas Hall, Zeth Dean and Max Dean have stepped up and have already gotten some key wins. The seniors on the team this year are Scott VanOosten, Cody VanOosten, Zac Graves, and Taylor Kornoely. Kornoely placed fourth last year at individual states.

"As long as we work as a team and stay focused, I think we can make a legitimate run for the state finals in division two," added Dean. "I expect to win the conference, districts and regionals, provided we stay healthy. Although we'll be without our big man, Josh Colegrove, who is out for the season due to injury, the other wrestlers will have to get the bonus points for us to win the big meets."

<u>COMPETITIVE CHEER</u>



First row, left to right: Katie Taylor, Khayli Scott, Kailee Dawson, Shelby Mutschler, and Hannah VanWynen; second row, left to right: Baylee Bennett, Jocelyn Polinskey, Katie Haan, Taylor Ergang, Alexis Martinez, and Molly Dawson; third row, left to right: coach Kari Dawson, Kenzie Huver, Kalie Kopecek, Katie Yunas, Michelle Smith, Kylie Antcliff, Tara Propst, and Zoey Kramer.

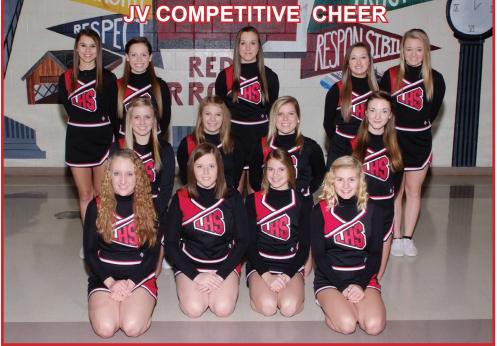
he competitive cheer team is another young team in Lowell's arsenal of athletic teams. Having only one senior, Tara Propst, the team is considered young, with three juniors and three sophomores. Last year, also being a young team, the team finished eighth out of twelve teams in districts, so the coach is looking to match or improve on that.

Again, the realigning of the OK White conference has shaken up their schedule and the team will be competing with teams they haven't faced before. Expecting it to be even more tough now, Coach Kari Dawson is still optimistic about their ability to do well. "The team this season is pretty young, but full of potential. I'm excited about the opportunity that lies in front of us," she said.

As far as finishing in conference, of course the coach says she expects them to finish in the top third of the conference and thinks they can with hard work at practices and improving on errors they've made in competitions.

"So far this season, we have continued to improve at every meet. I feel their scores will continue to get better as their experience grows," said Dawson. Long-term goals are to get out of districts. With twelve teams, they must finish in the top four to advance to regionals.

The standout cheerleaders to watch this year include Katie Haan, Kailee Dawson and Michelle Smith, who all were team members last year. Their experience makes them the natural leaders on the team.



First row, left to right: Alexandra Chapdelaine, Anna VanOverbeek, Kaitlyn German, and Baileigh Ford; second row, left to right: Lexi Corner, Hunter Kramer, Madalynne Iteen, and Emily Roche; third row, left to right: Ciara Cornish, Haley Milks, Braylin Conner, Justine Anes, and Kaylee Tucker.

SKI

he ski team has a disadvantage, just by virtue of its size. Having only four girls and five boys, their success hinges on the performance of all of its members. But that doesn't deter coach Dan Ellis' hopes for finishing well in the Greater Grand Rapids conference.

"I would like us to take fifth or sixth place, which is realistic. We have a very small team, compared to the other schools in the conference," said Ellis. The Greater Grand Rapids conference is made up of teams from all over West Michigan.

Each team has to be composed of four girls and four boys, so this team is a co-op team, with seven of them from Lowell, one girl from Kenowa Hills and one from Comstock Park. The girl team members from Lowell are seniors Abigail Ellis and Emelie Rohden. The boy team members are seniors Sean Khodl, Jacon Khodl, Kaeleb Brown. Frederick Guldbrandsen, and Nick Kloosterman.

The standout skier to watch is Abigail Ellis, based on her performance last year. She took first place in 17 of the 20 races at Cannonsburg, took first place in the slalom and giant slalom at regionals and placed second in the slalom at states, as well as finishing eighth in the giant slalom.

"My ultimate goal for the team this year is for them to stay healthy throughout the season and to have fun," added Ellis.

Red Arrow TEAMS WINTER-SPORTS TEAMS

BOYS' BOWLING

he bowling team has high hopes for this year. With three returning starters, head coach Rocky Eickhoff says they should do pretty well, as long as they stay focused and pick up their spares. They had a good start, finishing second in the Lowell Invitational already this year.

The seniors on the team are the ones to watch for this year. Logan Phenix, Josh Rocco, and Jordan Dennie have all upped their game, staying more focused at practice and reading the lanes better. Eickhoff says the key to improving is being able to read the lanes at other venues, although he says that the Lowell alleys are one of the most difficult in the area. That helps our bowlers, so when they go to other lanes, they're able to adjust as needed a lot easier. "I fully expect them to perform well and make it all the way to states this year as both a team and individuals," said Eickhoff.

Their schedule strength is more difficult this year, with the OK White conference realignment. "Adding Forest Hills Central, Jenison and Caledonia to the conference makes our schedule a lot more difficult, as they're all good teams," said Eickhoff.

Rounding out the team are juniors Sean Ritsema, Carl Mitchell and Ryan Timmer. The sophomores include Justin Everitt and Jason Price.

"I think the team should go a long way this year and I hope to make it to states this year," added Eickhoff.

GIRLS' BOWLING

ith an extremely young team, girls' bowling will have to work hard to make a name for themselves. The team only has three returning starters in Krystal Sheldon, Paige Rozell and Kenya Jones. The team has no seniors this year. Last year, the team finished fourth in the state regionals, just missing out on advancing

to state, where only the first three teams advance. This year, because of the inexperience of the team, the hope is to finish in the top half of the regionals.

They've already had a tough start, not winning their first four meets. Also, with the realigning of the OK White conference, they've had to add some even tougher teams to their schedule. "We're looking to finish somewhere in the middle this year," said coach Rocky Eickhoff. "With this many new bowlers, I'm being realistic in where I think we should be."

Eickhoff says to look out for freshman Ally Stockreef, who has been off to a good start. "She's tough and she's a good bowler. I don't want to put a lot of pressure on her, but I believe in her ability and look for her to make a splash in the Lowell bowling community." Eickhoff says all of the girls have the potential to do well, but it depends on how well they can perform in the big meets that are going to make a difference.

The rest of the team members are Catherine McNaughton, Marilla Marks, Alyssa Darby, Adele Burnier, Veronia Grieves, Alison Finley, and Sidney Anderson.

Red Arrow SPORTS

- GYMNASTICS

Plagued with the flu gymnasts still do well

ov Karen Jack

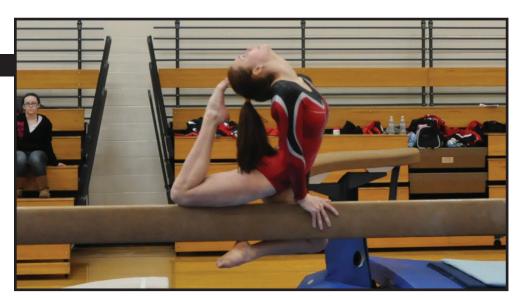
Losing a close meet to Rockford, but winning the meet against Kentwood, plus placing third at their home invitational, made a very good week for the gymnastics team, despite not being able to field their

regular team due to the flu going around the team. Rockford and Kentwood are both in their conference, so the Kentwood meet was their first conference win. Unlike the other sports teams, the gymnastics team participates in the Rainbow conference, made of area schools that have combined teams, due to the fact that many schools can't field a full team.

In the Rockford meet, Lowell fell to Rockford, 132.975 to 121.525. Top performers for that meet were Lauren Browning on vault (8.3), Kaezi Bladey on bars (7.075) and floor (8.75); and Meghan Plutschouw on beam (7.125). One of the starters, Lauren DeHaan, was out with the flu for this meet.

The team beat East Kentwood for their first conference win, 127.475 to 116.175. Both DeHaan and Plutshouw were out for this meet, but they still managed to pull off the victory. Lowell's top performers included Sarena Wilterdink on vault (8.5), Morgan Taylor on bars (6.95) and Danielle Krajewski on beam (8.05) and floor (8.3). Top all-around gymnasts were Wilterdink with 32.725 and Browning with 29.925.

For their own invitational, Lowell finished third, despite still having Plutschouw out due to illness. They just missed second place by .65 to Kenowa Hills. Top scorers included DeHaan on vault (8.575) who finished in



Kaezie Bladey shows flair during her performance.

eighth place for the event and placed second on beam with a 9.0 score. On bars, Bladey finished in seventh place with an 8.25 score and finished third on floor with an 8.8 score. Krajewski finished seventh on beam on the second Lowell team with a score of 8.175.

On beam, DeHaan scored a 9.0, which hasn't been reached in over three years. The routine requirements changed this year, increasing the difficulty in all the events, so to hit a 9.0 was quite an accomplishment. Head coach Michele DeHaan, who is also the mother of Lauren DeHaan, was very pleased. "Of course any one of my gymnasts hitting this mark would make me ecstatic, but sharing that moment with my own child was very emotional for me." DeHaan was only 0.1 out of first. With only one practice under her belt after being ill, she showed what Lowell athletes are all about.

"Kaezi also had a great day, placing third overall. She really pulled things together and was strong in all four events," added DeHaan. Her 8.8 score on the floor exercise was her personal best and also quite an accomplishment with the added requirements and a new routine this year.

The gymnastics team will travel to Kenowa Hills on Saturday for their invitational. The meet starts at 10 am.



Bethany Kaczanowski dismounts.



Jorie Bennett jumps in the air during her beam routine.

Red Arrow SPORTS

- WRESTLING

Grappiers wrestle at MSU before college meet

<u>"lëdger</u>

by Karen Jack

The Red Arrows traveled to Michigan State University (MSU) to wrestle against Detroit Catholic Central on Sunday. The meet was scheduled just prior to the MSU v. Iowa meet and it gave the wrestlers a chance

to be on the stage and get a mini college experience.

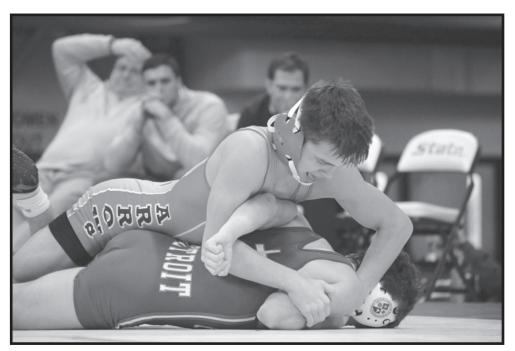
Detroit Catholic Central is ranked the number one team in division one and the Arrows had a tough time against them, especially being out two key starters in Garett Stehley and Josh Colegrove. Losing 42-18, the score doesn't reflect how well some of the wrestlers did against some of the best wrestlers in the state. Some of the matches that were lost had final scores that were only a takedown difference in score (two points). "These kids really stepped up and wrestled their hearts out today. I was pleased with the way they wrestled and some of the kids surprised me at the level they wrestled," said coach Dave Dean.

Winners of the day were Lucas Hall at 103 lbs. who beat Tom Hermann by pin, Zeth Dean at 112 lbs. who beat Zack Prater by decision, Bailey Jack at 125 lbs. who beat Evan Toth (ranked #9 in division one), Jordan Hall at 135 lbs. who beat Myles Amine (ranked #6 in division one) by decision, and Taylor

Kornoely at 215 lbs. who beat Jay Peterson (ranked #9 in division one).

page 11

Lowell travels to Caledonia on Wednesday, with match time starting at 7 pm and then face Forest Hills Central and Carson City-Crystal on Friday at the Middle School, with match time beginning at 5 pm.



Going for the near fall is Bailey Jack.

- BASKETBALL

Arrow basketball struggles last week

by Karen Jack

The boys' basketball team had a tough week, losing to conference opponents Forest Hills Central, 52-37 and Jenison, 58-38; while the girls' team also struggled with both teams, losing to Forest Hills 54-38 and Jenison 52-39.

In the Forest Hills' game, the boys' team kept it close, going into halftime down only four points, but Forest Hills made some adjustments and held Lowell to only six points in the third quarter and seven points in the fourth quarter, while scoring another 24 points themselves. Jason Malling led the scoring for Lowell with 14 points, making four three-point baskets. Grant Noskey followed him with 11 points.

The Arrows trailed Jenison the entire game and couldn't catch them. Being outscored by four points in the first two quarters, there was still hope going into the locker room. But Jenison sealed the win in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Arrows by eight points, to lead by 16 points by the end of the quarter. Both Malling and Noskey were

the leading scorers in that game, with Malling having 13 with three three-point shots and Noskey having 13 points.

The Forest Hills' game would have been a wash for the girls, had they been able to forget the first half. Going into half time down 16 points, they made adjustments and stayed with Forest Hills basket-for-

game. Aubreigh Steed had another stellar game with 19 points and 10 rebounds, getting yet another doubledouble. Kate Montgomery followed with six points.

The Lady Arrows came out strong in the Jenison game, leading at the end of the first quarter by five points, but were outscored the rest of the game by 18 points, resulting in their 52-

39 loss. Montgomery led the scoring with ten points, followed by Steed and Abby Petroelje, both with eight points. Jessica Montgomery threw in six points.

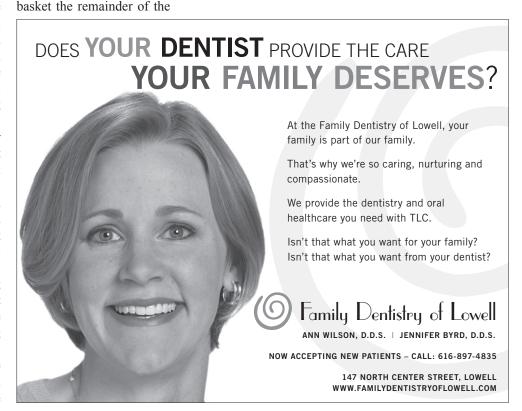
Both teams play again on Friday, hosting East Grand Rapids, with the boys starting at 6 pm. The girls' game will follow 20 minutes after the end of the boys' game.



FLAT RIVER

Zeth Dean battles it out during his match.







obituaries

JOHNSON

Blake Allen Johnson, born January 3, 1950, of Lowell, passed away two days after his 63rd birthday on January 5, 2013. Son of Robert and Virginia Johnson (Schelling), deceased; father of Summer Lacey (Ken), of Lowell; adored grandfather of Briar and Brena. Surviving brothers and sisters are, Mark (Julie), of Greeley, CO., Kim (Diane), of Cedar Springs, Maddie Tsurusaki (Calvin), Kelly Meyer (Eric) and Jody of Tucson, AZ. Blake was born in Grand Rapids, lived briefly in Tuscon and Reno, but mostly resided in the Cascade and Lowell area. He attended EGR and Forest Hills Schools. Born a rebel, his interests included creo cooking, card playing, car and drag racing, boxing, football, hunting, baseball, rock and roll and fishing. Blake made scores of lifelong friends. He expressed his love for both his grandchildren and others with his wry humor and loyalty. Skilled at trading and bartering, Blake provided for himself. Throughout his days, Blake relentlessly planned and arranged gatherings and events amongst his friends. He is greatly missed by his family and friends, Dick, Eric, Guy, Steve, Pete, Roxanne, Ron, Sue and many, many more. Memorial planned in May.

ROBINSON

Edith Louise Robinson, age 69 of Belding, passed away Friday, January 18, 2013. She is survived by

husband. her Patrick; children, Pat Robinson, Scott (Elizabeth) **Nichols** and Shields: Cindy grandchildren. Pablo, Katrina, Jason, Kayla, Jeffrey Baylee, and Laney; seven sister-in-laws; one brother-in-law and many nieces nephews. and Edith loved and enjoyed reading, photography, genealogy and her cats. visitation



gathering was held at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



In Loving Memory of * ALDEN RICHARD HAMILTON 🛪 "Our Shining Star" 🛪 🛪

who crossed over 12 years ago on January 26, 2001

One smile for all, one heart of gold, one of the best this world could hold.

Never selfish, always kind, what a beautiful memory to leave behind.

Love to you on your 34th birthday Alden. 2/5/1979 ~ 1/26/2001



Forever in our hearts, loved always, Dar, Colleen, Lindsay, Molly, Leesha, Chad, Maya and the Ball families

Ledger Ledger

P.O. Box 128 **Lowell, MI 49331** 897-9261

OFFICE HOURS Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm Friday: 8 am - Noon Closed Sat. & Sun.

WOLFE

Gayle (Bunk) Wolfe March 7, 1934 – January 18, 2013

On January 18, 2013, the most kindhearted man you will ever meet went home to a well-deserved, hard fought, peace. When you describe a man, you usually

talk about how he made his living and his hobbies. But Bunk was the kind of man who inspires you to talk about the person he was. His heart was huge and open to everyone. He truly never met a stranger. If you needed help, he was there. He dearly loved his wife, his family and, his friends, of which there were many. Bunk



was always ready for a good time, or a good joke. As a husband, son, brother, uncle, friend, or in-law there are few that could compare. Truly he will be missed by all he touched and he will remain in our hearts forever. Bunk was preceded in death by his mother and father, Ernestine and Clarence; brother, Bob; niece and nephew, Stacey (Wolfe) Ruge and Chris G. Wolfe; and his mother and father-in-law, Deil and Louie Smit. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara (Smit) of Crossville, TN; sister, Sharma Stahl of Clarksville; brother, John (Peg) Wolfe of Kentwood; and sister, Jayma (Tom) Kurnat of Byron Center; sister-in-law, Laura Smit of Bradenton, FL and Cadillac; brother-inlaw, Bob Smit of Mt. Pleasant; and many nieces and nephews. With just a high school education, Bunk started working for NASA in 1959 and worked his way up to Branch Chief on the Shuttle. He retired in 1989 and he and Barb started travelling all over the country. In 1996, they settled in Crossville, TN, going between there, Michigan and Florida. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Bunk would like any memorials, in his name, to be given to Hospice of St. Francis, 1250-B Grumman Place, Titusville, FL 32780 or to the SPCA of Titusville.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Be in the know about Medicare Part B

If you're eligible for and want to be covered by Medicare Part B medical insurance, now is the time to sign up. The general enrollment period for Medicare Part B runs from January 1 through March

There is a monthly premium for Medicare Part B. In 2013, the standard premium is \$104.90. Some high-income individuals pay more than the standard premium. However, your Part B premium can also be higher if you do not enroll during your initial enrollment period or when you first become eligible.

There are exceptions to this rule. For example, you can delay your Medicare Part B enrollment without having to pay higher premiums if you are covered under a group health plan based on your own current employment or the current employment of any family member. If this situation applies to you, you have a "special

enrollment period" in which to sign up for Medicare Part B, without paying the premium surcharge for late enrollment. This rule allows you to:

• Enroll in Medicare Part B at any time while you are covered under a group health plan based on your own current employment or the current employment of any family member;

• or Enroll in Medicare Part B during the eightmonth period that begins following the last month your group health coverage ends, or following the month employment ends, whichever comes first.

If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B when you first become eligible to apply and you don't fall under the special enrollment period, you'll have to wait until the general enrollment period, which is January 1 through March 31 of each year. At that time, you may have to pay a higher Medicare Part B premium.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN **PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-193105-DE

Estate of NELLIE BIRMAN. Date of birth: 12/17/1918.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS:** The decedent. **Nellie** Birman, died 11/04/2011.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Susan Birman, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

01/18/2013

John D. Flynn (P27413) 1275 Hawthorne Hills SE Ada, MI 49301 616-897-6632

Susan Birman 4986 Morse Lake Rd. Lowell, MI 49331 616-868-6796

STATE OF MICHIGAN **PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT**

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 13-193255-GA

In the matter of PHILLIP KLUITER. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Phillip Kluiter, and the missing and unknown heirs of Phillip Kluiter, whose address(es) are unknown whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by following:

NOTICE: **TAKE** hearing will be held on 02/15/2013 at 9:00 am at 180 Ottawa NW. Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of **Bolev** Michele the appointment of a guardian for Phillip Kluiter.

01/18/2013

John D. Flynn (P27413) 1275 Hawthorne Hills Ada, MI 49301 616-897-6632

Michele Bolev 121 Franklin SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 616-826-1975

classifieds Classifieds office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - noon closed Sat. & Sun.

for sale

2008 TOYOTA CAMRY SE - 4 dr., 4 cyl., 34 hwy/24 city, black, spoiler, moon roof, cd player, hands-free phone system, \$16,500., OBO. 616-204-9599.

A BED - A brand new queen pillowtop mattress set in plastic, w/warranty, sacrifice, \$135. Call 989-584-6818.TFN

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

WOOD FOR SALE - delivered, seasoned hardwood. Cut to length, w/bundle of starter \$140 per cord, \$80 half cord, \$45 face cord. Whole or split. 616-755-1515.

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.TEN

NEWSPAPERENDROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUY-ERS GUIDE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. \$3-\$5 each. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

TWIN BED - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy), \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

ACHIEVE ENERGY INDE-PENDENCE - with a Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. 25 year warranty. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available. TEN

MOVING MUST SELL -Hide-a-bed; desk, wrought iron w/chair & matching end table; 7 ft. armoire w/five glass shelves; & dinette set w/chairs. All in great shape, must go. 616-821-6915.

KENMORE REFRIGERA-TOR & STOVE SET -(2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.TEN

for rent

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

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

PRICELESS STOR-AGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.TEN

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818._{TFN}

help wanted

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 ADMINISTRA-TORASSISTANT - 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.

> SOUND OFF **PHONE LINE** 897-0787

help wanted

ANIMAL CARE GIVER - An opportunity for a hard working adult to gain a long term position caring for many small dogs at a large facility. Part-time evenings, involves some weekend hours. Experience not required. Must be able to pass drug test. Alto/Caledonia area. 616-437-0342 and send resume: jenpet. resume@hotmail.com

services

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

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.TFN

FREE APPLIANCE RE-MOVAL!-Wantitouttoday? Call J&J! We remove all household appliances, lawn mowers, cars, batteries, etc., any metal. 616-719-9742.

services

SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!! - Call us for a price comparison. We will need: weight, zip code & dimensions of the box. No Hazardous materials or firearms accepted at this location. Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & AC-**COUNTING SÉRVICE** - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.TEN

COPIES COPIES - Color & black & white copiers! Excellent quality! As low as 10¢ per copy for black & white. Stop by our of-fice, Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

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

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

services

DAYCARE - in my country home, over 10 years experience, many fun activities. Healthy meals provided, full or part time, CPR/first aid certified, low rates. Contact 616-481-1210.

CLEANING LADY - Clean your home. Dependable. reliable, reasonable rates. Call Pam, 616-430-2727.

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

HOMRICHMOBILEWASH-ING & SNOWPLOWING -Lowell & surrounding areas accepted. Seasonal & per time rates available. Salting available upon request. Call 616-897-0269 or 616-723-4020.

HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER...please **DIG OUT around your** newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches! Let's all try to HELP **EACH OTHER survive**

the Winter.

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@l owellbuyersguide.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.

WOMENFORSOBRIETY 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.

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 curriculumbased activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETYmeets 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.

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 LE-**GION 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

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

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 SEN-SIBLY 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.

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

PURPLE HOCKEY GAME - Fri., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. Lowell/ Caledonia hockey teaming up to raise money for cancer research. Kentwood Ice Arena, 6230 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids.

LOWELL AMATEUR RA-DIO 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.

THEEASTKENTCOUNTY 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.

TOTS LOVE & LOGIC PARENTING CLASSES Thurdays, Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14 & 21, 6:30 - 7:45 pm. at Bushnell Elementary, 700 Elizabeth. For more info or to register, call Lori at 987-2532.

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 curriculumbased activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314S. Hudson, Lowell.

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 Pan-try, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CEN-TER-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.

AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF ADA- 7144 Headley, is open every Friday & Saturday 1 - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.

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.

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.

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

LOWELL ARTS! GAL-LERY HOURS - Mon. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; during gallery events open Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit www.lowell artscouncil.org or call 897-8545.

ST. MARY'S PREG-NANCY CRISIS CEN-**TER -** 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.

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.

days 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.

MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNATIONAL - Thurs-

Red Arrow SPORTS



Our Spotlight Athletes This Week:

Jorie Bennett
Team: Gymnastics
Grade: Senior

Logan Phenix
Team: Bowling
Grade: Senior

Logan

Jorie

How long have you been doing gymnastics?

I have been doing gymnastics for about 10 years.

What other sports do you play?

I don't play any other sports; gymnastics is my one and only sport.

Have you received any awards?

I have officially received three varsity letters, but no other awards.



Have you broken any records?

No, I haven't.

Do you have siblings?

I have three sisters and one brother. My sisters are Baylee Bennett (ninth grade), Zoee Bennett (sixth grade) and Bristol Nash (second grade). My brother is Hadyn Nash (sixth grade).

What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy shopping, going to Aerials & Baranis Gymnastics Center and hanging out with my friends. I also like to be with my family during my free time.

What was your personal best?

Last season, I scored an 8.6 on vault and a 7.9 on beam without a tumbling pass.

Why is gymnastics important to you?

Gymnastics is important to me because it makes me set goals for myself and it helps me figure out ways to reach those goals.

Do you plan on attending college?

I plan on going to GRCC for two years and then switching my credits over to Grand Valley State University.

Do you plan on playing any sport in college?

No, this will be my last year of gymnastics, so it's going to be a bittersweet year.

How long have you been bowling?

I have been bowling for ten years total and four years for Lowell varsity boys' bowling.

What other sports do you play?

Currently, only bowling.

Have you received any awards?

Last year I placed third in the huge conference tournament and this year, I am the team captain.

Have you broken any records?

No, I have not broken any records.



Do you have siblings?

Yes, Courtney Phenix, who is a junior in college attending Ferris State University.

What do you like to do for fun?

For fun, I like to snowboard, hunt and hang out with friends.

What was your personal best?

My highest bowling score was a 256.

Why is bowling important to you?

Bowling is so important to me because it is something I love doing and I can compete with myself. It's also important because I am part of a team, yet I can still set my personal goals.

Do you plan on attending college?

Yes, I plan on going to Grand Rapids Community College.

Do you plan on bowling in college?

Not sure at this time.



Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell High School's Sports Action In

The Lowell Ledger



THEME: **SUPER BOWL**

ACROSS

- 1. Idealized image
- 6. Snake in the grass 9. Attired
- 13. Bourne actor
- 14. U.N. labor agency
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- 16. Like NCAA's eight Microprocessor 17.
- chip, for short
- 18. Number of planets 19. *Expensive Bowl purchase
- 21. *Tied with Steelers for most appearances
- 23. Big fuss
- 24. Hoodlum
- 25. Car wash option
- 28. Camera setting
- 30. *Found on many players
- 35. Corner pieces
- 37. Snoopy
- 39. As opposed to best
- 40. Etna output
- 41. Where one is treated for drug or alcohol dependence
- 43. Flood survivor
- 44. Time on the job
- 46. Foolhardy challenge
- 47. Tyrant's power
- 48. Listed on driver's license
- 50. Chapter 11 issue
- 52. "___ for the course"
- 53. Royal Indian
- 55. E in B.C.E.
- *Cause
- Superdome leak 61. One who inspires fear
- 65. Set of values
- 66. *Coach's ____ talk
- 68. Factual evidence
- 69. No person
- 70. Draft choice

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71. Lacks

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*National average annual savings based on data from customers who reported savings by switching to Esurance between 1/1/10 and 5/19/10.

an Allstate company

of 72. Very pleased with

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- oneself 73. *It's won more than
- its counterpart 74. Affirmatives

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- 3. Gulf V.I.P.

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4. " ____ go!"

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- 5. Iroquois tribe
- 6. *Record-holder for touchdowns and points scored
- 7. Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 8. football
- 9. Stewie Griffin's bed 10. Construction set for
- kids 11. Common flu feeling
- 12. Some letter toppers Cheap showy
- 15. jewelry
- 20. Pitcher's domain 22. *Wide receiver, aka
- wide 24. Taqueria offering
- 25. Like one from Prince Charles' domain
- 26. Winged
- 27. *47

dish

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ALTITUDE

9

- 29. Three-_ sloth Dorsett, won
- one Super Bowl ring
- 32. Girl Scout unit
- 33. Japanese port 34. Catchall category
- 36. Belted out

- 38. Bygone era
- 42. Type of sailing ship
- 45. *Joe Montana, only winner of Super
- Bowl MVP 49. "The Joy Luck Club"
- author 51. *Named after Vince
- Lombardi 54. Birthplace of anime
- 56. Saints' lights Barbie dolls'
- 57. boyfriends
- 58. plus Nucleus electrons
- 59. Biblical pronoun
- 60. *Peyton is still seeking his second one of these
- 61. Work detail
- 62 Famous seamstress
- "Going, 63. going,
- 64. Salamander terrestrial stage, pl.
- 67. Will Ferrell played one

Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 12





JANUARY 16 - JANUARY 22

- President Barack Obama is sworn in for a second term. Over a million people crowded the streets of Washington D.C. to celebrate the historic moment that coincided with Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He was sworn in with his hand on the Lincoln Bible and King's Bible.
- Speaking about his divorce from Maria Shriver, Arnold Schwarzenegger tells a German newspaper, "we're not fighting any war: I still hope for reconciliation; I still love Maria."
- The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service has eliminated 168,000 jobs since 2006 and more cuts could result as it struggles to avoid its own "fiscal cliff." As the United States honors Martin Luther King's civil rights legacy on Monday, many African-American workers may be facing new obstacles to achieving and maintaining a middle-class life style.
- The San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens will be playing in the 2013 Superbowl XLVII, now nicknamed "the Harbowl" for Jim and John Harbaugh. This marks the first time that two brothers have coached against each other in Superbowl history.

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The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway Phone 897-9261

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3

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Kristen Meyer Position Behind

Englehardt Branch of Kent District Library branch manager

> Bachelor's from GVSU in social studies and English, master's in library and information science from Wayne State

Experience: Total of ten years with KDL at Kent City, Plainfield, service center, six years as children's librarian at Wyoming branch and two at Englehardt as branch manager

> Husband Chad, married 12 years; three children: TJ, Mackenzie and Adelyn

Reading, kayaking and running



Englehardt branch manager Meyer builds a stronger, smarter community

Family:

Interests:

Education:

by Ellen Mork contributing reporter

Kristin Meyer has always loved reading. But an experience at a library in high school scarred her. She said. "I had a terrible customer service experience," which turned her off. "My whole time at Grand Valley, I hated the library, feared it." So she avoided libraries, finding creative ways to get around having to research papers at the library. Luckily, in her senior year, she met a wonderful librarian who showed her how great libraries could be. She had been in a children's literature class where the librarian had read "the Library Dragon," a story of a horrific dragon librarian and how the children took back the library.

After graduation, unsure of what she wanted to do in life, she had walked into a library when something inside of Meyer clicked and from that moment on she knew she wanted to work at a library.

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Her love of reading, desire to educate kids and need to help people all fit perfectly.

So she got her master's degree in library and information science and set about achieving her goal.

Shortly after graduating, she began working for Kent District Library (KDL). She has worked at the Englehardt branch, a "medium sized branch," for two years.

As branch manager, her position "involves all kinds of things, so everyday is different.'

Many people might not understand what being a librarian entails. Meyer says, "I really think people are surprised at how busy a librarian is. A lot of people think 'Oh, you must spend your day reading,' but we never read on the job."

Instead, librarians help patrons do "everything from getting a library card to finding books. We help them on a computer, format a resume and sign up for Facebook or email for the

"We do a lot of other things too," stated Meyer. She teaches computer classes, visits schools, schedules staff, works on the budget, writes grants for program funding and plans adult programs. Meyer added, "I do spend a large majority of my time helping the public."

She dedicates significant amount of time to the library, although her schedule is not the normal nine to five Monday through Friday. She generally works over forty hours per week, including working a few nights a week and some Saturdays.

"A typical day, I'm probably spending at least five hours at the public service desk and the remaining hours I might be in a meeting or at a community event." You might find her working within the libraries collection, making signs or a display, working on a program or collaborating with community members. She added, "I have a small

amount of time to do the daily tasks like emailing and scheduling."

Participating in a leadership workshop held by KDL guided Meyer into wanting a managerial position within the library. She had worked in a variety of other positions within the district, so she is well versed in her knowledge of KDL.

She credits her success to a few different things. KDL is "an organization that has a lot of heart." Meyer appreciates collaboration within the 18 different branches.

She added, "I think my success comes from my staff, who are passionate about what they do and who are so motivated to help. Also, being in the Lowell community. They are so welcoming and great things are always going on."

The Englehardt branch has eight employees, Meyer, the branch manager; two paraprofessionals, one adult paraprofessional, three circulation staffers and one shelver.

She cannot say enough about her staff. so wonderful to have a group of employees that want to do what they are doing. They all have great communication skills and are compassionate. They know that what they're doing is a huge benefit to the community. It's so wonderful to have a group like that."

The Englehardt branch has 10,000 visitors per month checking out 18,000 materials. As large as these numbers are, they do not even include patrons to the various programs held weekly.

The library is open 43 hours per week, 12-8 Monday-Wednesday, 9:30-5 Thursday and Friday and 9:30-1:30 Saturday. Although Meyer wishes they were open more if funding allowed it, they try to be as flexible as possible with the current hours to accommodate everyone's busy schedules.

Aside from the normal

uses of a library, the Englehardt branch also puts on a plethora of programs throughout each month. They offer computer classes, book readings, book sales, free Internet and programs aimed at various age groups.

"Summer is a huge time for us because kids are out of school, so we have a ton of summer reading programs," Meyer said. Children can also see a magician, pet animals at a travelling petting zoo or learn computer programs. The best part is that everything is free.

Meyer spends many hours planning promoting these events. In the beginning of December she has already started planning for next summer's events.

"We try to tie in what's going on in the community and the holidays to the programming." They also work with various community organizations. In February, they will be partnering with the Wittenbach Center.

In 2013, KDL is starting a program called the 'Happiness Project' based on the book of the same name by Gretchen Rubin. The goal of the project is to make the people who use the library happy. Laughing, Meyer said, "Hopefully we've been doing that all along." Many programs, including yoga and cooking classes will be tied to the concept "a happier, healthier you."

Within the past year alone, there have been technological several advances. Even so, "libraries are still relevant," Meyer stated. "As technology changes, so does the library." The advent of downloadable ebooks and audiobooks brings the library to you. KDL has the largest digital collection of ebooks in the state of Michigan. Meyer said, "Even if you're overseas, if you have your KDL card, you can still get items on your Kindle."

In addition to the ebooks, KDL added freegal, free and legal music that can be downloaded and transferred to any of your devices. They even became part of Zinio, a downloadable magazine service. Music, books, audiobooks, and magazines are all at the tip of a mouse click. And again, the best part, Meyer added, "It's all free with your KDL card."

Meyer credits the success of these programs to the library's innovation. "We are always looking ahead. We are a forward looking library."

Despite recent budget cuts, the library is continuing to thrive. Meyer said, "We've had a 400 percent increase in wireless users the past year." And even though digital downloads are increasing, the number of visitors remains steady.

An integral part of the library community is the Friends of the Library. Meyer said they do a lot of work for the library, including hosting their book sales. "They raise all that money for the library and then grant our requests," she said. "They purchase the things that we request of them for the library."

She is very grateful for their efforts. They are especially helpful in times of budget constraints, because they can purchase needed items. "Our friends are such an active group and contribute so much to the library."

Meyer stressed the importance of libraries and the value they bring to a community. "Libraries are a cornerstone to a literate society." Meyer bringing families together and a high return on the investment as evidence.

With all the new programs and services, in addition to the great customer service, KDL is a wonderful place to learn, read and spend time. Be sure to stop in and find out for yourself that there is no "library dragon" lurking in that building on the banks of the Flat River.



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