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## There's no place like Lowell 17<sup>th</sup> annual Lowell expo set for March 23

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

This year marks the 17th annual Lowell Community Expo. The event will be held at the Lowell High School from 9 am to 3 pm, Saturday, March 23. The expo is put on by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and

receive free handouts, see what's new in Lowell and become more familiarized with businesses that are serving the community.

There are over 150 booths this year, spread across three rooms and several hallways at the high school. Whatever you are looking for, you are sure to find it at the event. Longtime participants include Greenridge Realty, the YMCA and the Lowell Arts Council.

This year, the expo welcomes twenty first-time booths.

The event is great exposure for businesses that have a hard time getting their name out and expanding their client base. Local organizations

showcase how they can help the community and churches use this as an opportunity to share their views and invite people to their services.

Registration is still open for businesses or organizations that would like to participate, but space is filling quickly. Each year the applications are available starting January 1.

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker's ultimate goal is for the booths to be filled by Jan. 30.

The expo was started because of a suggestion from a local merchant. They had seen a home trade show and wondered how to put together something similar. Baker said she

began investigating a way to make the idea into a reality. When the expo started, only 30 booths participated and it only covered a fraction of the space it does now.

Baker said, "It was a good start to what now is a very good expo. It has slowly grown over the years."

The concept of the expo is to promote local businesses and show the community what a variety of businesses, organizations and churches there are in the Lowell area. Baker said, "We also try to bring people to our community as well."

The money that is raised from the sale of booths goes back into the chamber marketing fund.



a majority of the booths are members of the chamber.

This event is known for bringing together a variety of businesses, churches and local organizations.

About five thousand people visit the expo each year. They come to

## Gymnastics coach DeHaan named coach of the year

by Karen Jack

Head coach Michele DeHaan was named coach of the year by the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association (MHSGCJA).

DeHaan has devoted many years to the gymnastics program here in Lowell. She has created a program that is one of the last hold-out teams to have only local girls on the team. Many of the teams are co-ops, where the team is made up of girls from different areas, but she has worked hard to keep the team intact throughout the years.

DeHaan, herself, was a gymnast when she was younger and then joined the Lowell team as a freshman. She admittedly wasn't a standout, but grew a love for the sport and stayed with it all these years.

A graduate of Lowell High School in 1989, she was an assistant coach behind Annette Pearson. Pearson stepped down in 1994 and DeHaan applied for the job and got it.

In her first year of coaching, she had nine girls participating and then



the second year, she had only four. Realizing they needed a feeder program, she went to the YMCA and asked them to start a youth gymnastics program. Claiming they didn't have a coach, DeHaan volunteered for the job.

After about seven years on panel mats at the high school, they moved the program over to Lowell's continuing education building. In 2008, she created a non-profit organization called Red Arrow Youth Gymnastics (RAYG) and now has classes all year round. RAYG is affiliated with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) so the young

girls can gain competition experience prior to entering high school.

DeHaan claims that throughout the years, two of her assistants have had the biggest impact on her and the kind of coach she is. Daniel Vosovic and her current assistant, Alyssa Buikema, both were competitive gymnasts. "The knowledge and ideas they brought to the program over the years is priceless," said DeHaan.

"I cannot express what that means to me. I have worked so hard the last 19 years to build this program into what it is today and it makes me so happy to see that my hard work is noticed by my peers," added DeHaan.

DeHaan is married to Bill DeHaan and they have three children. Lauren is a sophomore and currently on the high school team, Paige is in eighth grade and Blake is in sixth grade.

"Thank you to my husband (of almost 18 years) for being so supportive of my goals over all these years," said DeHaan.

## Lowell FFA successful at state convention

submitted by Kevin Nugent  
Lowell FFA advisor

The Lowell FFA completed a successful trip to the Michigan FFA Convention March 6-8. Twenty-seven members from Lowell traveled to Michigan State University to receive awards or compete in state-level competitions.

Lowell senior Sarah Crosby was elected to serve as the 2013-2014 State FFA vice president. Crosby advanced through regional and state level interviews and gave a speech in front of the convention delegates. After counting the votes, Crosby came out on top and will represent the Michigan area as one of twelve state officers. Crosby is the fourteenth member to serve as a state officer from Lowell and joins a list that includes Sen. Dave Hildenbrand and Rep. Lisa Lyons.

Members from Lowell competed in four State FFA Leadership contests. The leadership contests are designed to help the students build teamwork and communication skills in order to make them better leaders and more prepared for the future. In order to qualify for the state contests, members first had to advance through district and regional contests, finishing in the top two at each level. Lowell had 34 members compete at the district level, 23 advanced to regionals and 14 competed at the state contests.

Jacey Culross won the State FFA Job Interview contest. As the state winner, Culross earned the right to represent Michigan at the national contest held at the National FFA Convention this October in Louisville, Kentucky. The job interview contest requires members to prepare a resume and cover letter, complete a job application and go through a mock job interview.

In prepared public speaking, Emma Blough received a gold award while placing third. Blough presented her speech comparing organic and conventionally raised beef several times in order to finish near the top of the standings.

FFA state convention, continued, page 16



# along main street

### BLOOD DRIVE

Lowell High School Student Council is sponsoring a Blood Drive Friday, March 15 from 7:30 am until 2:30 pm in the small gym. Cookies and ice cream will be provided to all donors. Please visit MI Blood to sign up or contact Heather DeJonge at Lowell High School 987-2945. Be a hero and sign up to save lives today!

### LHS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

General Local Scholarship applications are available in the Student Service Center. To be fair to all students, applications will not be accepted after 3 pm on Friday, March 15. Don't forget to include two letters of recommendation, transcript and personal statement. For more information call Lisa Nauta at 987-2913.

### MOVIE AT LAHM

"The Ten Commandments" starring Charlton Heston and Yul Brynner, will be showing at the Lowell Area Historical Museum on March 16 and 17. Open 1-4 pm and the movie starts at 1:15 pm. Only 12 theater seats but will add a few more if needed. Admission and popcorn is free.

### MAPLE SYRUP FEST AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Celebrate the coming of spring and attend the Maple Syrup Fest, Sat., March 16 at the Wittenbach/Wege Center. Pancake breakfast (served from 9 am -12 pm) and a chance to go back in time and learn how maple sap was harvested and processed by both Native Americans and early settlers with the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child and children 5 and younger eat free.

### MACCABEE HALL FUNDRAISER

Annual dinner to raise money to maintain the historic Maccabee Hall in Smyrna on Sat., March 16, from noon to 5 pm. Sandwiches and music from 7 to 9 pm. Take-out dinners are available. A euchre tournament will begin at 1:30 pm. All monies raised will be used for maintenance of the hall.

### LHS SOFTBALL & TRACK MATTRESS SALE FUNDRAISER

Save 30-60 percent off retail at the Mattress Sale at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes on Sat., March 16, 10 am to 5 pm and Sun., March 17, noon to 5 pm. Proceeds go to LHS softball and track programs.

### LOCAL AUTHOR PRESENTATION

Local author Tobin T. Buhk will present a riveting program on true crime in the Civil War, based on his book about murder, treason, counterfeiting, massacre and more in America during the 1860's. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library and the Lowell Area Historical Museum and will be held at the Lowell Township Hall on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 pm. Light refreshments will be served following the program. Please call the museum for more information about this program 897-7688.

### LAFD PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee and milk on Sat., March 23, 7 to 11 am at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson. Cost: donations at the door; proceeds to go toward fire equipment.

### SEED SWAP

The Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) will be hosting a seed swap on Sun., March 24 from 2-3:30 pm at the center. Bring out any seeds you have to swap. Seeds can be up to four years old but please don't bring anything you know isn't viable. Make sure all packets are labeled with type and variety name. The WWC will have heirloom and traditional varieties available for a small donation. For more information call 987-2565.

### TOTS SPRING PRESCHOOL ALMOST NEW SALE

Do you have outgrown infant, toddler or preschool clothing, toys, books and baby essentials? Help area young families by participating in our sale. Stop by if you are looking for items for your family. April 27 from 9 am-1 pm, setup 8-9 am at Cherry Creek Elementary. Free to participate. Call Lori at 616-987-2532 or email lbuys@lowellschools.com to reserve a space. TOTS is an early childhood project of Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell Area Community Fund.

*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.*

**The true harbinger of spring is not crocuses or swallows returning to Capistrano, but the sound of the bat on the ball.**

~ Bill Veeck

## college news

Central Michigan University has announced the December 2012 graduation list. The following are local graduates and their degrees:

Ada: Aaron Breinling, Bachelor of Applied Arts; Steven Geelhoed, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; and Jacob Kelley, Bachelor of Science; Alto: Kurt Rempe, Bachelor of Applied Arts; and Kimberly Williamson, Bachelor of Science in Education; Lowell: Heather Burger, Bachelor of Applied Arts; Aaron Hamm, Bachelor of Applied Arts, Becky Osborne, Bachelor of Science in Education; and Peter Scudder, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Central Michigan University has announced the honors list for the fall semester ending December 2012. To be named to the

honors list a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Local students who qualified included:

Ada: Jacob E. Aronoff, Steven Bradley Geelhoed, Meredith Joan Greengard, Peter Joseph Konyndyk, Jenna Marie Pope, Molly Przybysz, Gregory Eugene Roy, and Allysa Whalen; Alto: Linnea Suzanne Churches, Zachary Sven Jacobson, Tara Lynn Kendall, Kaycee Morgan Lee, Bridgette Lynn Smith, and Kevin Daniel Wilder; Lowell: Kristin Darlene Bouwhuis, Heather Ann Burger, Jone Wesley Destine, Dylan Jackson Dues, Chelsea Catherine Dyer, Emily Kristine Jelsma, Kelsey M. Mankel, Matthew Thayer Schloop, Taylor Leigh Schumacher, Peter Allen Scudder, Jordan Bryanna Timmer, and Brianne Warren.

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*~ Georges Duhamel (1884 - 1966)*

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# Rotary auction funds programs in our community

submitted by  
Tamela Spicer

The Rotary Club of Lowell will hold a fundraising auction on Friday, April 12 beginning at 5:30 pm at the Grand Volute Banquet Center to fund programs in the Lowell community and across the globe.

This year, the Lowell Rotary Club hopes to raise \$40,000 with the charity auction. Funds raised will

support three international programs: a clean water project in Haiti, helping to equip a medical clinic in Haiti and providing polio vaccinations to bring an end to the debilitating disease around the world.

In addition to the international programs, the auction will also provide funding for programs in the Lowell community. These programs include partial funding for a Riverwalk

stage, an outdoor community stage for summer concerts and various productions to enhance the arts in the community; helping fund Flat River Outreach Ministries' Neighbor to Neighbor program that provides home repairs, such as roof replacements, electrical repairs, plumbing repairs, and various other projects for families in need; and helping to fund the Lowell Area School

District's Arrows on the Move literacy program that helps kids develop reading skills throughout the summer.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. The commitment to Service Above Self has

been fostered in the Lowell Rotary Club for nearly 80 years.

The public can join the Rotary Club of Lowell in putting Service Above Self by being part of the auction. You can support the auction with the purchase of a table, individual tickets or by donating a unique time for the auction. For further

information or to purchase a table or tickets, contact Dave Abel at [dabel@rlflomaster.com](mailto:dabel@rlflomaster.com)

The Rotary Club of Lowell meets at noon every Wednesday at Lowell City Hall and is open to members of the business community. For information on the Rotary Club of Lowell visit [www.lowellrotary.org](http://www.lowellrotary.org)

## Getting a replacement SSA-1099 is easy

Millions of taxpayers are busy gathering all the forms and documents they need to file their Federal, State, and local tax returns. If you receive Social Security benefits, one of those items may be your SSA-1099 from Social Security.

Some people who receive Social Security may have to pay taxes on a portion of their benefits. If you're one of these individuals, a Social Security Benefit Statement (Form SSA-1099) is an important tax document for you to have.

Social Security mailed the SSA-1099s for tax year 2012

to all beneficiaries in January. If you receive Social Security and need a replacement SSA-1099 for 2012 in order to file a tax return, you can request it online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/i1099](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/i1099).

The SSA-1099 shows the total amount of benefits received in the previous year and is used to find out if any Social Security benefits are subject to tax. The Federal tax laws about Social Security benefits provide that:

- Up to 50 percent of Social Security benefits may be subject to Federal income tax for individuals with a

combined income between \$25,000 and \$34,000, or for couples with a combined income between \$32,000 and \$44,000; and

- Up to 85 percent of Social Security benefits may be subject to Federal income tax for individuals with a combined income above \$34,000, or for couples with a combined income above \$44,000. (Note: "Combined income" means

adjusted gross income, plus nontaxable interest, plus one-half of Social Security benefits.)

For more information on taxation of Social Security benefits, visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

*Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or via email at [vonda.vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov)*

### — LEGAL NOTICE —

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-193475-DE

Estate of JEANNE MAE  
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TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jeanne Mae Kinsey, died 02/18/2013.

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decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Robert W. Kinsey, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids and the named/ proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

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## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING

The residents of Vergennes Township will hold an Annual Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Regular March Board Meeting at 7. There will be opportunity for residents to comment on any issue regarding the state of the township. The proposed 2012-13 budget will be reviewed and considered for adoption during the Regular Meeting. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township offices.

The Annual Meeting, Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting will all be held at the township offices located at the intersection of Bailey Drive and Parnell Road, address of 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331.



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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Time for gen-xers to put IRAs to work

If you're a "Gen-Xer," born between 1965 and 1980, you've still got many years to go until you retire. At this stage of your life, what can you do to help build resources for the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned?

Besides having time on your side, you've got another key advantage in saving for retirement — specifically, you probably haven't reached your peak earning years. This helps you in at least two ways. First, of course, it means you should be able to increase your retirement savings in the future. And second, it might mean you're still eligible to contribute to one of the most effective retirement accounts available — the Roth IRA.

When you invest in a Roth IRA, your earnings are distributed tax free, provided you've had your account at least five years and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're at least 59 1/2. For the 2013 tax year, you can put in up to \$5,500 to a Roth IRA; when you reach 50, you'll also be able to make "catch-up"

contributions. (Currently, the catch-up limit is \$1,000.)

However, the ability to make Roth IRA contributions is limited by income. For 2013, you can make the full contribution to a Roth IRA if you are single and your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is less than \$112,000. Above this amount, your contribution limit will be gradually reduced, and if your MAGI reaches \$127,000, you won't be able to contribute at all. If you're married filing jointly, the lower limit is \$178,000 and the cutoff amount is \$188,000.

Of course, if you have to consider these income limits, you're making a reasonably good living, and you may well be on a career path that will take you to even greater earnings — which is why you should think about putting in as much as possible to a Roth IRA while you're eligible.

If your earnings are already over the limit for the Roth IRA, you can still contribute to a traditional IRA. Your contributions can grow tax deferred,

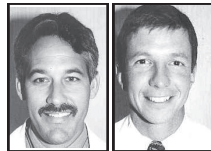
which means your money can accumulate faster than it would on an account on which you paid taxes every single year. Taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.

But what if your income level is such that you could contribute to either a Roth IRA or a traditional IRA? Which one should you choose?

There's no "right" answer for everyone. On the one hand, the Roth's tax-free distributions may be more attractive to you than the tax-deferred growth potential of a traditional IRA if you expect your tax rate to be higher in the future. However, depending on your income level and whether you have access to a 401(k) or other retirement plan at work, your traditional IRA contributions may be fully or partially tax-deductible. But these types of calculations are not easy, so before making the traditional-or-Roth choice, you'll need to consult with your tax advisor.

In any case, now is the time to capitalize on your Gen-X status and use the years ahead to invest consistently in an IRA and other tax-advantaged retirement accounts. As an investor, time is your greatest ally — so take advantage of it.

## health



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

### lupus

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), also called lupus, is an autoimmune disorder in which the body's immune system (the cells in the

body that fight infection) incorrectly attack the body's own tissues and organs, leading to inflammation and damage. Lupus most commonly affects women of childbearing age but also occurs in children, adolescents and men. The cause of lupus is unknown, but it has been associated with genetic, environmental and infectious causes. The disorder may affect almost all organs in the body. It may be mild in some cases (for example, only affecting the skin) and very severe in other cases (affecting multiple organs, including the brain). The disease course is characterized by flares and remissions.

Because lupus can affect any organ of the body, it causes a wide range of symptoms. Some of the common symptoms are fatigue, fever (maximum

temperature usually less than 102), joint pain or swelling (most commonly in the hands, wrists and knees), muscle pain, hair loss, rash (typically in a "butterfly" distribution on the face, across the cheeks and under the eyes), painless ulcers in the mouth or nose, and photosensitivity (development of a rash on sun-exposed skin).

In addition to a complete medical history and physical examination, your doctor will order blood tests to measure your red blood cells, platelets and white blood cells. Your doctor may also order blood tests to assess for organ damage and to measure the extent of inflammation and autoimmune activity. Your doctor may refer you to a rheumatologist (a doctor with specialized training in autoimmune disorders). There is no cure for lupus, but appropriate treatment can prevent or slow the disease process and control the associated symptoms. Lupus is treated with medications that target the body's immune system. Medication choices depend on the severity of disease and the specific organs involved.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### An open letter to Representative Lisa Lyons

Representative Lyons, We hope things are going well for you. That flurry of activity after the election in Lansing was impressive. We followed that holding our breath.

The reason I'm writing is I think there has been some terrible mistake. I know you ran this past election saying that you were opposed to raising taxes. We were reviewing our tax situation for the past year and we find that our taxes for the State of Michigan went up almost \$3000.00! That's a lot of money out of my budget.

You see, when you voted with the governor to tax the pensions of retired state employees and school teachers, that hit us very hard. When we started working for the state and the local school district way back at the beginning of our careers, we were told that when we retire, our pensions would not be taxed. If we

had known that the State of Michigan would break the promise made to us years ago, we probably would have got a job working in the private sector to make some serious money.

I need you to do us a favor. I need you to walk over to treasury and ask them to return the money withheld from our pensions. They know the exact amount. As I said before, we know you've told everyone that you would not support raising taxes on the people in your district, and yet, our taxes went up! Some things are beyond comprehension...

We appreciate your time and the effort you and your colleagues will make to fix this problem.

Thank you for your outstanding representation.

Sincerely,  
Roger A. Gillespie  
Lowell

### reader enjoys musical

Dear Editor,

Wow! What a wonderful production of "The Music Man" put on by the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center. Congratulations to all who had a part in putting on the play. We can be proud of you all. If you haven't

seen the play yet, there are still two nights left to see it, March 15 and March 16 at 7 pm. It will be worth your time.

Sincerely,  
Doris Roth  
Lowell

### outdoors

pay attention



Dave Stegehuis

People of each generation talk about the good old days. History shows that every generation has enjoyed good times, as well as faced serious challenges. These experiences have been unique to a particular window of time.

The role of parents in the lives of children has changed significantly over the last century. Parents today find themselves raising children in a much different social and economic environment than those of past generations.

Because of this shift in our culture, the opportunity for kids to spend time in a natural environment has become limited for the majority of our youngsters. Studies have shown that there are long term mental and physical benefits related to experiencing nature firsthand.

Although our way of life has changed dramatically over the last century, nature has not. Acorns still drop off oak trees and deer still eat acorns. A breeze blowing through pine boughs still sounds the same. The point is that with all of the

adaptations we make to deal with current circumstances, we can count on nature to be a constant in our lives. The challenge is to find the time and place to connect with nature. Early Native Americans had no problem getting outdoors and interacting with nature — it was their life.

Today, depending where one lives, it's more difficult to find places to get outdoors. It is easy for children to plug in an electronic game, communicate with anyone anytime, or participate in adult organized activities, but more difficult to walk in the woods, wade a shallow creek, or watch waterfowl coming and going on a farm pond.

Because many adults haven't had these kinds of outdoor experiences themselves, it becomes an out of sight out of mind scenario. Not having these experiences as young

children, it becomes less likely they will seek them out as adults. While skiing at a nature center this winter, we came upon a group of school children on what appeared to be an educational nature hike. I thought about the fact that it is likely many children on these types of outings may have never been in a woods. As parents, relatives, or family friends, we should be on the lookout for chances to introduce youngsters to the natural world. Not to do so could deprive someone of achieving a better quality of life.

We live in an area where opportunities are close at hand. It could be a scouting organization, summer camp, Uncle Ted's lakeside cabin, camping, fishing, hunting, or just a long walk in the park. If we pay attention we can take advantage of these opportunities when they arise.

### Taking on the challenges of the next two years



Sen. Carl Levin

I have decided not to run for re-election in 2014.

This decision was extremely difficult because I love representing the people of Michigan in the U.S. Senate and fighting for the things that I believe are important to them.

As Barbara and I struggled with the question of whether I should run again, we focused on our belief that our country is at a crossroads that will determine our economic health and security for decades to come. We decided that I can best serve my state and nation by concentrating in the next two years on the challenging issues before us that I am in a position to help address; in other words, by doing my job without the distraction of campaigning for re-election.

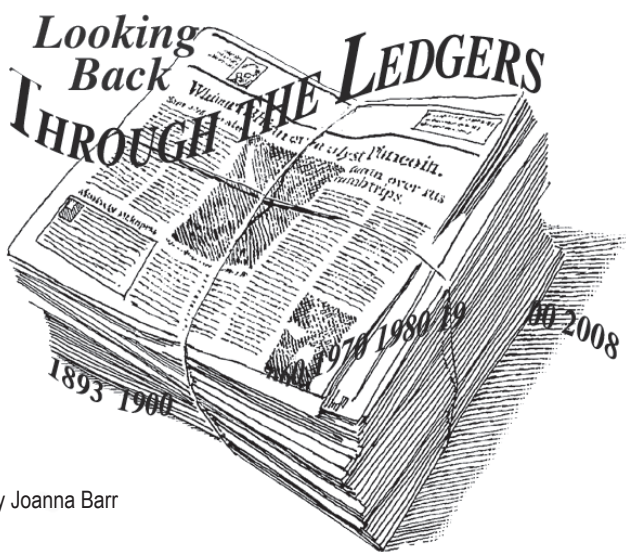
Here are some of those issues. Years of bipartisan work by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations that I chair have shed light on tax avoidance schemes that are a major drain on our treasury. The huge loss of corporate tax receipts caused by the shift of U.S. corporate tax revenue to

offshore tax havens is but one example of the egregious tax loopholes that we must end. Thirty of our most profitable companies paid no taxes over a recent three year period although they had over \$150 billion in profits.

Tax avoidance schemes that have no economic justification or purpose other than to avoid paying taxes may be legal but they should not be. These schemes add hundreds of billions of dollars to the deficit. They lead to cuts in education, research, national security, law enforcement, infrastructure, food safety and other important investments in our nation. And they add to the tax burden of ordinary Americans who have to pick up the slack and accelerate the economic inequality in our country. I want to fight to bring an end to this unjustified drain on the Treasury.

Second, I want to ensure that the manufacturing renaissance that has led Michigan's economic comeback continues. We've

Levin, continued,  
page 7



By Joanna Barr

### 115 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 13, 1898

Grand river is the highest as the point it has been since the flood five years ago and the basements of many business places have been full of water. The flats between the village and the Grand are one big lake and the boating is good on the Island park picnic grounds, with the stands, tables and benches under water. Some of Lowell's businessmen found it necessary to bend the Sabbath a little by removing to places of safety the goods stored in their basement. Water has broken through the dam near the Wisner mill and has worn quite a hole and the flood has put a quietas on the operations of both mills. A considerable portion of the village road leading south over the east Grand river bridge is under water and it requires a big stretch of the imagination to think there ever was such

a thing as a highway in front of John Matthewson's house. That gentleman takes the back track when he comes to town.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 20, 1913

Headline: Returns the money. Wm. Costelo gives up Jos. Wilson's pocketbook. The pocketbook lost in Lowell by Joseph Wilson of Greenville, while drunk recently, was returned to him Monday by William Costelo of Moseley, who claims that he found it at the Pere Marquette depot here, where Wilson lay in a drunken stupor, immediately after the trial of Wilson for being drunk. Deputy Sheriff Raimer questioned Costelo as to his knowledge of the missing pocketbook and he professed to know nothing about it. Costelo kept silent during the arrest, holding and hearing of James Bingham, accused of robbery by Wilson, until Bingham had been examined and bound over for trial in the Circuit court and all the time the pocketbook and contents were in his possession. Bingham had his hearing before Justice Andrews Friday and Saturday, Assistant Prosecutor Smolenski appearing for the people and Attorney Shivel for the defense. The latter made an able plea for dismissal of the case; but appearances were against Bingham and the evidence, though circumstantial, warranted the Justice in holding him for trial.

Advertisement: We the undersigned, make an exclusive business of shoeing horses in all its branches from the heavy truck horse to the light driver or race horse. Special attention given to all diseases of the feet such as corns, contraction and all faulty gaits. We guarantee to stop every case of interfering, overreaching or knee hitting or no pay. At the same old

Looking Back, continued, page 7

# engagements

## Lowe/Gustafson



**Hilary Lowe and Michael Gustafson**

Ginny and Pete Gustafson are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Michael, to Hilary Lowe. Michael was a 2001 graduate of LHS and 2005 graduate of Northwestern University. He now works as a writer and video producer. Hilary is the daughter of John and Kim

Lowe. She grew up in Ann Arbor and attended Scripps College. She worked for Simon & Schuster in NYC, where the couple lived prior to relocating to Ann Arbor. They plan to open Literati Bookstore in downtown Ann Arbor this spring and will be married June 1.

## D'Agostino/Beachum



**Sophia D'Agostino and Zachary Beachum**

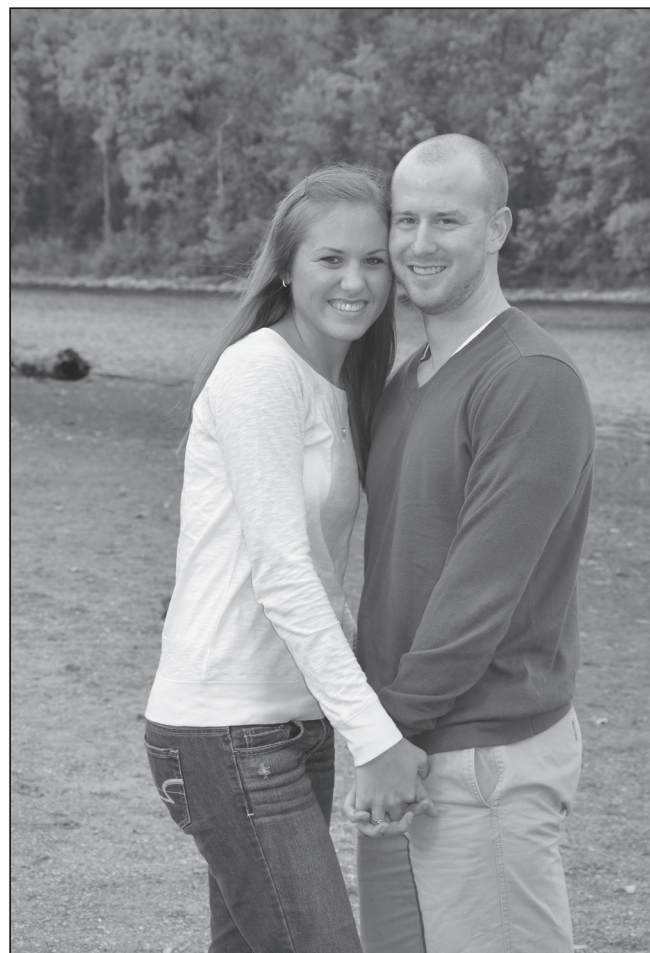
Sophia D'Agostino and Zachary Beachum, both of Lowell, will be married this July at the Lowell Showboat.

D'Agostino, the daughter of Lou and Melinda D'Agostino of Alto, received an undergraduate degree from Western Michigan

University and her Master's from Grand Valley State University. She is a special education teacher.

Beachum, the son of Perry and Teresa Beachum of Lowell, graduated from Western Michigan University and is a physical education teacher.

## Ziebart/Hanson



**Becky Ziebart and Ben Hanson**

Dale and Jan Hanson are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Ben and Becky.

The groom-elect is a 2006 graduate of Lowell High School and a 2010 graduate of Cornerstone University and is employed with Enwork.

The bride-elect is a 2007 graduate of St. Joseph High School and a 2011 graduate of Grand Valley State University. She is employed with Byron Center Schools.

A June 29, 2013 wedding is planned.

**Alto United Methodist Church**  
**Soup and Salad Dinner**

Saturday, March 16  
 5 PM - 7 PM

Cost: Donation to the building fund

Vegetable Beef • Cheese Broccoli • Chili  
 Salad Bar • Rolls • Dessert

11365 64th Street, Alto

# area churches

**LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
 201 N. Washington  
 Lowell, MI • 897-8800  
 Pastor Wes Hershberger

Sundays - Christian Education.....9:15 a.m.  
 Celebration.....10:40 a.m.  
 Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service,  
 Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

**Lowell Naz - Where People Matter**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
 Internet: <http://www.fbclowell.org>  
 Rev. Jon Pickens

Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn

Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
 Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
 AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
 Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times  
 Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)**  
 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery

**Robert Holmes, Pastor**  
**SUNDAYS:**  
 Worship: 10 a.m.

**WEDNESDAYS:**  
 Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.  
 "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
**Loving God ... Loving People!**

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
[www.stmary-lowell.com](http://www.stmary-lowell.com)

Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 10:30 AM  
 Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM  
 Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM  
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915  
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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
 621 E. Main Street  
 897-5936  
[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com)

Barrier-free entrance

**SUNDAY WORSHIP....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Rick Blunt**

**Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.**

**First Congregational UCC**  
 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • Lowell  
 616.897.5906 [www.OurBigChurch.org](http://www.OurBigChurch.org)  
 Worship! Sunday 10am • Thursday 6:30pm  
**You are welcome here!**

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
[www.goodshepherdlowell.org](http://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**

9:45 A.M. ....Sunday School  
 10:30 A.M. ....Fellowship  
 11:00 A.M. ....Worship

**897-9863**  
 Nursery & Children  
 Worship Programs Provided   
**A friend...a family...a mission!**

# happy birthday!

- MARCH 13**  
 Sophia D'Agostino, Dode Dey, Paul Seese, Tyler Schneider, Jack Robert Malone.
- MARCH 14**  
 Venita Wheeler, Mike Stevens, Dan Baird, Kari Merriman, Chase Peterson, Shannon Lambert, Sara Schoen, Layla Yeiter.
- MARCH 15**  
 Daniel Vegter, Ward Boulard Jr., Brett Hobria, Margot Miller.
- MARCH 16**  
 Greg Briggs, Louise Weeks.
- MARCH 17**  
 Renee Barnes, Logan Landman.
- MARCH 18**  
 Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Treglia, Jim Hacker, Denise (Brenk) Woolfenden.
- MARCH 19**  
 Jeremy Barber, Elmer Czapek, Terry B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon, Sean Ellison, Alberta Ryder.

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 MarkJohnsonAgency.com

# Looking Back, continued

stand north of Scott Hardware where we can show you all the time what we can do. Geo. W. Rouse & Son, Lowell, Mich.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 17, 1938

'Member when – when electric light plants for rural farms were a new departure in this vicinity? They were powered by storage batteries and served successfully for a number of years. Today rural electric lines cover the vicinity to a large extent and the "home" lighting plants are being replaced by the latter system. When a Maxwell runabout sold for approximately \$800, without top, windshield or spare tire? When auto license tags were made of heavy leather with metal figures riveted thereon? When the young bloods of the town strutted around on Sundays wearing derby hats, then commonly called "iron lids?"

Charles Fisher, former Lowell boy, was promoted to the position of chief clerk of the Banker's National Bank of Chicago, where he had been employed for six years.

Mrs. Edwin Pottruff was quite badly burned on her hands and arms while carrying a blazing gasoline stove from her kitchen, the stove having flamed up unexpectedly while she was using it.

Yeiter & Wadsworth traded their store building for that of Mrs. Kopf, which was built for and so long used as a furniture store. J. H. Hamilton, Marble Works, moved into the store vacated by Yeiter & Wadsworth.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger March, 14, 1963

Karen DeLoof, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold DeLoof of Route 3, Lowell, was admitted to Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Chicago, Illinois, on March 1st. Lowell members of the Shrine were instrumental in securing admission for her to the hospital, that is sponsored by Shrine members of the nation. These hospitals do an outstanding job of helping crippled children.

Mr. Nisbet recommended that we take bids at our next school board meeting for four sixty-six passenger busses which will replace three busses purchased in 1918, 1949, and 1951. These old busses can be kept on standby basis so that we may better service our present busses. An investigation

of leasing busses led to the conclusion that this would be more expensive than buying the busses outright and servicing them ourselves. Mr. Nisbet is to ask the dealers for bids on three, four, and five, sixty-six passenger busses.

Vandalism and the danger of some women being attacked has led to the closing of the Eberhard's Self-Serve Laundry on East Main Street from midnight to 6 am. Police reported that vandals have stolen furniture and broken into the machines. One woman saw three young men in the laundry trying to pry open a coin box.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 16, 1988

Headline: Cancer Society arraigns local merchants. The most wanted merchants in Lowell had their day in court Wednesday, March 9, in front of honorable judge Dick Hooker, 1988 chairman of the American Cancer Society Great American Lock-up program. During a brief arraignment, Judge Hooker read Lowell's 10 most wanted merchants their charges, listened to their plea and then like any honorable judge found each one guilty and sentenced them to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Each one of the merchants was asked to raise a minimum of \$1,000 in cash and or pledges. "This is a fun and very effective way to raise the much needed funds in our battle against cancer," Hooker said... Despite being found guilty, all the merchants, except one, pleaded innocent to the charges, that exception being Ron McCullum. McCullum was being tried on charges of overstating the age of everything in the mall except his own and attempting to sell old refrigerators complete with their original food and dairy products. The charges brought up against [Roger] Brown were listing on his resume the fact that he was a reporter for "The Daily Planet" and for using as the Ledger's motto: "All the news that's fit to print... plus the stuff that people read" and "The truth must never be compromised, unless sales are down." Town photographer Roger VanVleek was brought up on three charges, the most cruel of which was making people smile for their picture, then cry over their bill. [Louis] Haeck of Attwood, was guilty of impersonating a big shot and secretly lusting in his

heart for a Herman Miller office environment. Hooker said [Bob] Jeldersma was guilty of listing the engine as an "attractive option" and encouraging people to buy new cars by telling them he's not the kind of guy they'd want to buy a used car from. [Larry] Coleman of Family Fare, was charged and found guilty of keeping his thumb on the scales while weighing meat and produce and for undercutting the competition. "We will hold a wrap-up session of the court on March 23, at 5 pm," Hooker said. Not unlike the arraignment, it will also be held at Larkin's Saloon, where all the money and pledges will then be collected. "We're thankful for all the merchants that helped in our effort to raise funds in our battle against cancer," Hooker said.

# Levin, continued

made progress in building the partnerships we need to help U.S. manufacturers succeed, but the next two years will be crucial to sustaining and building on that progress.

A third item I want to tackle is a growing blight on our political system that I believe I can help address: the use of secret money to fund political campaigns. Our tax laws are supposed to prevent secret contributions to tax exempt organizations for political purposes. My Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations needs to look into the failure of the IRS to enforce our tax laws and stem the flood of hundreds of millions of secret dollars flowing into our elections, eroding public confidence in our democracy.

years will also be important in dealing with fiscal pressures on our military readiness. As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am determined to do all I can to address that issue. I also believe we need to pursue the rapid transfer of responsibility for Afghan security to the Afghans. And, as our troops come home, we must do a better job of caring for those who bear both the visible and invisible wounds of war.

These issues will have an enormous impact on the people of Michigan and the nation for years to come, and we need to confront them. I can think of no better way to spend the next two years than to devote all of my energy and attention to taking on these challenges.

Finally, the next two

### I Don't Believe It's Asking Too Much

The constituents of Lowell which are the owners of the Lowell Light and Power and pay the wages of the employees of the Department of Public Works have been denied for over a year their right to partake in contract negotiations between the city of Lowell and the LL&P and the DPW. The constituents of Lowell should be allowed to judge for themselves and be part of the decision making. I have no doubt that if the constituent would have been part of the decision making in the first place that a contract would have been settled long ago. Management is acting as the sole decider. It's all about power and control. It's hard to conceive that management is going to do right by the employees under those circumstances. But after more than a year of negotiations I don't believe it's asking too much of management that they do right by the employees of the LL&P and the DPW and finalize a contract.

This political ad is paid for by Jim Howard for better city government, 222 1/2 Jackson St., Lowell, MI

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# Lowell Granite to celebrate 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

Lowell Granite Company has been a great part of the Lowell community for longer than any living person. This year marks their 140th anniversary.

It is the oldest monument company in the West Michigan area and is also one of the few engraving shops left in West Michigan. Their store houses the laser engraving shop on-site behind their large showroom.

Lowell Granite Company creates memorials and monuments for many occasions. A large part of their work deals with headstones, but park benches are also a popular item to commemorate someone's life.

JC Hare opened the store in 1873. Throughout the years owners changed, but a commitment to providing great service and quality products has remained. Judson Wilterink bought the store from Harold Englehardt in the late 1970s, after managing it since the 1950s and it has remained in the family ever since. Jeff and Wendy Wilterink currently own

the business. They have a saying, "Family owned. Christian focused," which shows their compassion and level of integrity.

Several hundred families turn to Lowell Granite Company each year. Jeff Wilterink attributes

their success to several things, saying, "Many of these families represent third or fourth generations

to choose Lowell Granite Company due to our excellent service, quality of workmanship and our ability to keep up-to-date on the latest technologies."

As the price of burials rises, more people turn to cremation as an alternative to standard burials. Almost half of the monuments Lowell Granite Company creates are for cremations. The company now offers a wide selection of ways to bury the ashes within a memorial.

Over the last twenty years, technology has taken off and helped the engraving process. Wilterink says all engraving used to be completed by hand, but almost all engraving is now

done by a computer.

The latest technology is placing QR codes on gravestones. By downloading the QR reader on a smartphone or tablet, the code is scanned. This brings up a website created by the family for the deceased. The site can include a biography, pictures, genealogy and much more about the deceased. It is a way to have a living memorial of the person that is easily accessible.

Over the history of Lowell Granite Company, technology and owners have changed, but a commitment to providing great service and lasting products has remained constant.



The Lowell Granite Company storefront prior to 1959.



New picture: The storefront currently.

**BRANDON & EMILY MULNIX FAMILY ADOPTION FUNDRAISER**

*"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE. I WILL COME BACK TO YOU."*  
JOHN 14:18 GWT

FOLLOW THEIR STORY:  
[mulnixfamilyadoption.blogspot.com](http://mulnixfamilyadoption.blogspot.com)  
[facebook.com/mulnixfamilyadoption](https://www.facebook.com/mulnixfamilyadoption)

The Mulnix family cordially invites you and your family to attend a silent auction fundraiser to aid in the adoption of their son on Friday, March 15, 2013 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The Grand Volute Ballrooms 655 Lincoln Lake Avenue SE Lowell, Michigan

The evening includes hors d'oeuvres and cash bar with a presentation at 7:00. Silent auction bidding ends at 8:30.

RSVP to [Karen@ModernPhotographics.com](mailto:Karen@ModernPhotographics.com) - 616.897.5606 or <http://anyvite.com/9nu8girw48> by February 28th.

**ONE LESS ORPHAN DAY CLOSER AMAZING GOD**

## Cherry Creek students raise funds for animal shelter



submitted by  
Sierra Hieshetter

"Everyone thinks that kids are greedy and selfish and that they keep money for themselves," says fifth grader Sierra Hieshetter. The kids at Cherry Creek Elementary challenged that concept by raising over thirty dollars for MacKenzie's Animal Shelter. Pictured, from left to right, are some of the Cherry Creek students involved in the fundraiser: Bailey Wolters, Emalie DeBoer, Morgan Buffum, Dillon Hieshetter, Sierra Hieshetter, and Phillip MacDermaid.

**CELEBRATE WITH US!** and **Patty's Cure**

Sat., March 16 for traditional Irish Music

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301 W. Main • Lowell • 897-5977





# Do you think people are too thin-skinned these days? Do you think people are too politically correct?

From time to time our Ledger reporters will pose a question while out on the streets of Lowell. This is your chance to speak out. If you have a question you think would be an excellent conversation starter, feel free to suggest one.



**Lori Ingraham**

That is not an easy yes or no question for me. In general, yes, I believe in being politically correct. I think we should all be sensitive to other people's feelings, needs and situations. However, it's easy to use a common word or phrase from our childhood without thinking, or even knowing, of its derogatory origin or meaning. I think there is always room for a little forgiveness for innocent "slips of the tongue."



**Laura Becker**

I think some people are too sensitive these days. It's going a little far because now you might not put yourself out there as much because you're afraid you'll offend someone on accident. For example, someone might be afraid to say "God Bless you" because it could offend someone who doesn't believe in God.



**Shannon Hanley**

I think sometimes people are too willing to say politically incorrect things—especially on social media, but I also think sometimes we make a bigger deal out of a comment than it was really worth.



**Dave Beach**

I think everyone has a perception of what is right. What I've noticed is people tend to be a little less civil about their opinions. I think humility would help everyone.

Send your Street Smart questions to:  
[ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)



## history mystery answer

Answers we received from our readers included:

- *I think this item is a heater device for vehicles or sleighs. - Mark Nyp*
- *If I am correct, the item in the Ledger is meant to warm the feet of the passenger in an old automobile or buggy. It was filled with hot coals and placed on the floor of the vehicle. Carpeting was wrapped around it so it didn't burn. This mystery item has no carpet attached to it so I could be wrong. - Bonnie Grooters*
- *My guess is a powdered insecticide container that you could take to the garden to directly apply the product to the plants; the top had a disk to rotate to open the holes for the rate of application. - Brad Potter, Lowell*

This is a picture of a Diamond Hot Blast carriage heater. If you were traveling in cold weather you would hope to have a foot warmer of some kind in your unheated carriage, sleigh or train compartment. In the 18th century, a metal carrier like in the picture was used. This foot warmer had a place for hot coals or hot brick to keep your feet warm. This and others like it were used into the 19th century. Stylish brass and silver warmers were used by the wealthy. Poor people traveling would carry just preheated stones or bricks with them, even baked potatoes or flatirons were heated to keep their feet warm. In the United States, these warmers were called foot stoves and were often taken to church and town meetings. As rail travel took off, foot warmers moved into the trains and first-class rail services often supplied foot warmers before the days of fully heated railcars. This foot warmer is on display inside our "Cutter" sleigh, in our retail exhibit space. This Cutter was built in the Lowell Cutter Factory and donated to the museum by Don Leeman and Jeanne Leeman Amos.



## city update



**Mark Howe, Lowell City Manager**

For more than a year the city council has been spending a great deal of time and energy developing a Strategic Plan for city government. A final plan was recently adopted and is available for public review and input on our website or in hard-copy format by contacting us at city hall.

A Strategic Plan defines the vision and mission for an organization and creates strategic steps to achieve the vision and carry out the mission. Put more simply, it tells us where we want to go and how we're going to get there.

A Strategic Plan is one important tool that is used by the city council to set the direction for city government; it gives me as the city manager a blueprint for how our leaders want the community to evolve. From there, I work with city staff to develop a work plan to ensure that we make regular progress toward the strategic objectives established by the city council.

The Vision for the City of Lowell is to "Be the Vibrant Core of a Thriving Community." We

recognize that we are part of a thriving community that includes the townships and the school district and it is our desire that as a whole our community thrives. At the same time, we also note that with the historic downtown, west end business district, various neighborhoods and industrial centers, we are the core of the overall community and the core must be vibrant in order for the community to thrive.

In order to achieve this vision, the council has established five Strategic Objectives: Community Collaboration, Government Efficiency and Effectiveness, Quality Neighborhoods, Economic Vitality and Sustainability and Diverse Recreational and Cultural Opportunities.

Within each of these objectives there are four to six focus areas that the council has identified that will frame the work plan that is developed and implemented by the staff. For example, a focus area under Community Collaboration is to "Engage with individuals and organizations within the community." My

regular updates to you in the Lowell Ledger are part of the work product that helps us engage with you and keep you informed about what we're doing so that we can collaborate to build a vibrant core and thriving community.

Another focus area, this time under Government Efficiency and Effectiveness, is to "Manage financial, human and capital resources to reflect the Strategic Plan." This is especially important during the coming months as I develop a recommendation to the city council on a budget for the next fiscal year outlining how we spend your tax dollars.

An important element of the Strategic Plan is the Dashboard in which the city council annually reviews progress from the prior year, evaluates the current status of each focus area, then sets priorities for the current year. The Dashboard will heavily influence recommendations and decisions about the upcoming budget.

Please take a few minutes to read through the Strategic Plan and provide feedback to members of the city council or myself. Together, through this strategic process, we can certainly be the vibrant core of our thriving community.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - BASKETBALL

### Boys' end season at districts

by Karen Jack

The Red Arrow basketball team finished their season this past week, falling to Forest Hills Northern in districts, 55-41.

In a game of turnovers by both teams, the action started with Lowell winning the jump ball, but the Huskies stole the ball and scored on the first play of the game. Lowell got the ball back, had it stolen again on the next play, but senior

Austin Lemke blocked the next shot by the Huskies. The next two possessions by both teams resulted in missed shots. Forest Hills scored again, but Lowell answered with two of their own. The Huskies then scored another four points, but Lowell answered with four more as well. Senior Grant Noskey then took it to the basket, but got fouled and scored one free throw,

making the score 10-7 with the Arrows down. Forest Hills then shot and missed and senior Andrew Potter got the rebound. Lowell shot and missed, but then stole the ball from the Huskies. Senior Jason Malling shot the ball, but missed and Noskey rebounded the ball and re-shot, got fouled and sunk two at the free throw line, making the score 10-9.

That was the closest Lowell would get for the game. The Huskies responded with two three-point baskets to end the quarter at 16-9.

In the second quarter, Lowell managed to outscore the Huskies by one point thanks to a long three-point shot by Ryan Stevens with

Basketball,  
continued, page 11



Coach Kyle Carhart gives the team final instructions at the start of the game.



Grant Noskey blocks out to get the rebound.



Andrew Potter brings the ball down the court.



Lemke goes for the block.



Jason Malling takes a shot off-balance and sinks it.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - GYMNASTICS

### Four Red Arrow gymnasts headed to state meet

by Karen Jack

Four Lowell gymnasts qualified for individual states this year, making history with the most Lowell has ever qualified and made the trip to Canton High School for the competition this past weekend.

With three qualifying for the beam competition, the girls were able to help each other stay focused and try not to fall off the beam. The qualifiers were Bethany Kaczanowski, Meghan Plutschow and Lauren DeHaan. DeHaan finished in the top 20 with 8.875, Plutschow finished in the top 30 and Kaczanowski finished in the top 40.

Kaezi Bladey qualified on the uneven parallel bars and finished in the top 30 with 8.125. Her coach, Michele DeHaan, feels she was at a disadvantage, as she didn't have any of her teammates being able to root her on right by the bars. At the state meet, only the coach and athlete may be on the floor, where at regular meets the team is right there, with words of encouragement for each other before, during and after their performance. "It is always harder to compete by yourself when you are

used to your team being right beside you," said DeHaan.

This was the first year that they combined division one and division two for the individual finals. Division one is any girl that has competed at the USA

Gymnastics (USAG) level eight or higher and division two is everyone else. All the Lowell girls are division two, which can be a little intimidating, knowing they're competing against girls with much more experience.

Senior Jorie Bennett, although she didn't compete at the state meet, was awarded a sportsmanship award from the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches & Judges Association.

"Overall, it was a great

day," added DeHaan. "My assistant and I were just so happy that we were there with four of our girls, taking in every moment. Even though they didn't place, just the experience of being there will help motivate them to stay focused on

their goals to make it back there next year and place. I'm so glad that so many other girls from our team came with us, too. I wanted this experience to motivate the others to set goals and focus in the off-season to try to get there next year."



From left to right: coach Michele DeHaan, Lauren DeHaan, Kaezi Bladey, Meghan Plutschow, Bethany Kaczanowski and assistant coach Alyssa Buikema.

### Basketball, continued

0:02 seconds left in the quarter. The third quarter was low-scoring for both sides, with Lowell holding the Huskies to only ten points, yet only scoring six of their own points. The Arrows were also outscored in the fourth quarter by four points, ending the game with a final score of 55-41.

The leading scorer

for the game was Malling with 23 points, followed by Noskey with nine.

"Jason Malling was once again outstanding," said coach Kyle Carhart. "He worked so hard for every basket he was able to get and kept us in a position to compete. He has been our catalyst all year."

Carhart said he's pleased with the season, specifically the seniors on the team and saw tremendous growth from each and every one of them. "They will be very difficult to replace, but have set great examples for our younger levels to learn from. Our guys did a great job of competing all year,

had some memorable battles and several close games."

Individually, Malling was named to the OK White all-conference team and Noskey was honorable mention. "Truly deserving honors for both guys. They have put a lot of time in and the results were evident," added Carhart.

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# What's Your Sport?

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



# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Player Spotlight

### Our Spotlight Athletes This Week:

*Grant Noskey*  
Team: Basketball  
Grade: Senior

*Bailey Jack*  
Team: Wrestling  
Grade: Junior

*Grant Noskey*



**How long have you been playing basketball?**  
*My whole life.*

**What other sports do you play - and for how long?**

*Lacrosse and football. Lacrosse since sixth grade and football since fifth grade.*

**What is your favorite sport?**

*Basketball.*

**Have you received any sports awards?**

*Unanimous team captain and honorable mention all-conference - basketball.*

**Have you broken any records?**

*No.*

**Do you have siblings?**

*Zach is a junior at the University of Michigan and Carter is a freshman at the high school.*

**What do you like to do for fun?**

*Hanging out with friends, golf, watching wrestling, volleyball and other Lowell sports.*

**What was your personal best during any of your sports?**

*For basketball, I scored 24 points against Grand Rapids Christian.*

**What's the best thing about playing sports?**

*The friendships you make with teammates.*

**Do you plan on attending college?**

*Yes, MSU or Grand Valley State University.*

**Do you plan on playing sports in college?**

*Possibly college basketball, but most likely none.*

*Bailey Jack*



**How long have you been wrestling?**

*Since I was four or five.*

**What other sports do you play - and for how long?**

*I used to play football and will be running track this year. I played football up until my freshman year and ran track in middle school.*

**What is your favorite sport?**

*Wrestling.*

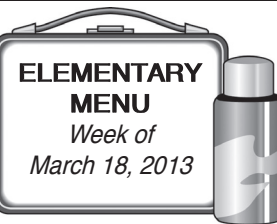
**Have you received any awards?**

*Yes, I was all-state my freshman, sophomore and junior years.*

**Have you broken any records?**

*No.*

### LUNCH MENU



**MON:** WG French toast sticks w/scrambled eggs, tator tots, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, baby carrots, orange juice, fresh apples.

**TUES:** Baked macaroni & cheese, steamed broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, baby carrots, grapes, pears.

**WED:** Hot ham & cheese on a WG bun (WG mini corn dogs served at Bushnell), steamed carrots, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, watermelon slices, mandarin oranges, mixed fruit.

**THURS:** Sloppy joe scoops, (WG chicken nuggets served at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: red pepper strips, broccoli florets, applesauce, fruit goop.

**FRI:** Homemade pizza, corn on the cob, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, cucumber slices, peaches, pineapple.

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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7	8	4	1	3	6	9	5	2
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**office hours:**  
**Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Fri. 8 a.m. - noon**  
**closed Sat. & Sun.**

# classifieds

## for sale

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

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.

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.<sup>TFN</sup>

YOGA CLASSES - at 901 W. Main, \$8 walk-in. Mon. 7:30 a.m.; Sat., 9 a.m., Tues. & Thur., 6:30 p.m. Specials. www.thehammockllc.com, 616-893-5661.

10 WOODED ACRES - Ada Township, \$189,000. 10 acres, mostly rolling oak & cherry woods. Several building sites. Secluded, off private drive - beautiful setting. Appraised in 2012 for \$208,000. Bruce 616-560-5157.

WOOD HEAT - Clean, safe & thermostatically controlled. Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace. 25 year warranty. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

**MARCH MADNESS CONTINUES - with an Alaskan Pollock basket for just \$4.99 the week of March 18. 608 W. Main, Lowell.**

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICKS DAY AT LARKINS - Serving corned beef & cabbage on March 16 & 17. Traditional Irish music by Patty's Cure on Sat., March 16. Larkins Restaurant, 301 W. Main, Lowell.

COMPUTER SALES & REPAIR - Telephone sales & repair. Home or small businesses. Call 616-446-0240, ask for Jim.

3 BEDROOM RANCH - for sale by owner. Appliances included. Family room in basement. 2 fireplaces. Back deck facing woods. Attached garage. 651 Birchwood Ct. Call 897-0128.

8.76 ACRES +/- ON PERE MARQUETTE RIVER - \$169,000 (Baldwin). Approximately 860 feet of frontage on Middle Branch of the Pere Marquette River, South of Baldwin. Clean, 10x50 mobile. Deck is only a few feet from the river. Two sheds, lots of salmon, steelhead, deer. Gorgeous setting, 3/4 miles off main road on a private drive. Furnishings included, ready to move in! Call 616-560-5157.

## for sale

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.<sup>TFN</sup>

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.

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

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

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

FIRST MONTH FREE - at Snap Fitness, Lowell with the coupon in this edition.

## help wanted

GENERAL CLEANING - Accepting applications for PT positions, \$9/hr. in Lowell after 3 p.m. Drug screen & FBI fingerprinting required at no cost to you. Must be at least 18, have your own car & have a clean criminal background. Please apply online at www.grbsinc.com

LOWELL DAYCARE - in need of a PT assistant. Call Tammy at 889-4356.

OWNER OPERATORS - 100% No-touch. Dedicated loads. Heber Springs, AR to Lansing, MI. 2000 or newer tractor, CDL-A, 18 mo. exp. Tabitha: 800-325-7884 x4.

MICHIGAN LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION - is looking for office person. Part-time for now, must know how to use Quickbooks. Also an experienced concrete finisher. Call 616-318-2926.

RN/LPN - Green Acres of Lowell Retirement Community is seeking a part-time RN/LPN. The ideal candidate must have strong managerial & communication skills & a love for seniors. Previous experience in geriatrics is a must. We offer the right candidate a generous compensation package, benefits & the opportunity to join a winning team. For consideration, please apply in person at: Green Acres of Lowell, 11530 Fulton S.E., Lowell, MI 49331.

SALES REP - Avg. \$20-\$30/hr! Choose days, control commission. Must have car & cell. Call Face to Face Marketing, 616-644-0659.

## help wanted

CAREER OPPORTUNITY - King Milling Company is seeking a qualified individual for a second shift (3 p.m. - 12 p.m.) production position (miller). Applicant should have five years of production experience (food industry preferred) & strong mechanical skills. Please apply at 115 S. Broadway St., Lowell.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT NEEDED - Retirement Living Management, located in Lowell is seeking an experienced full-time bookkeeper. We own & operate Assisted Living Homes throughout Michigan. Experienced in Accts. Receivable & Accts. Payable using QuickBooks is a must. Multi-company experience is a huge plus! This is an awesome opportunity for the experienced accounting individual. We offer excellent compensation & benefits. Come join an outstanding company that is growing. Send resume & cover letter to: Kathy Leathers, 1845 Birmingham SE, Lowell, MI 49331.

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.<sup>TFN</sup>

## for rent

NICE CLEAN 3 BEDROOM HOME IN COUNTRY - Big yard. No pets. No tobacco. 897-7203 evenings/weekends. Thank you.

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

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.<sup>TFN</sup>

## wanted

I WANT TO BUY - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.<sup>TFN</sup>

## services

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

## services

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.<sup>TFN</sup>

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 the is location. Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

UPS SHIPPING PRINTING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-noon Closed Sat. & Sun. Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

## sales

INDOOR MOVING SALE - Mar. 15 & 16, 9 to 4, Furniture, household, tools, misc. Priced to sell. 3333 Segwun.

## in memoriam

In loving memory of **ALCIDE J. BAKER** Who passed away **30 years ago on March 17, 1983** If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever. Love, your family

## misc.

FROM FOODMOBILE - Free food distribution, Sat., March 16, 10 a.m. until food is gone. Lowell Fairgrounds, Foreman building. Bring your own box or bag.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY FAMILY DANCE OUTTING** - 5-7 dance lessons, 7-10 dance. \$5 per person or \$15 for family. Non-alcoholic event, but bring own refreshments & snacks. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. For more information call 897-8677.

# 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 Rumage 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.

HEALTH COVERAGE & NEW HEALTH CARE LAW - Tues., Mar. 26, 7-7:30 p.m. Presentation by State of Michigan. Preregistration required by Fri., Mar. 15 at Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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

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

GRIEF - KIDS GROUP - Second & fourth Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. A committed group for children in first - fourth grade on a grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

FAMILY BUILDING BRICKS PARTY - Thurs., Apr. 4, 1:30 p.m. Bring the whole family to create a towering monument at Alto Branch Library, 6071 Linfield Ave. SE, Alto, 616-784-2007.

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

STORYTIME - Thursdays, Mar. 14, 21 & 28, 10:30 a.m. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

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 Tues-

day, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Key Heights, 11335 Fulton, Lowell.

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.

KNITTING 101 - Wednesdays, Mar. 20 & 27 10 a.m. - noon. All levels welcome. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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.

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.

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.

**THEME:**  
**MARCH MADNESS**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Old Toyota model
- 6. Priestly garb
- 9. "Yes, \_\_\_!"
- 13. Shrek and Fiona, e.g.
- 14. Neither
- 15. "Dancing with the Stars" number
- 16. Country alliances
- 17. \_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
- 18. Potter enemy
- 19. \*Sweet number
- 21. \*Some fill out more than one
- 23. Mork's planet
- 24. Kind of moss
- 25. Company that loves logistics
- 28. \*The shot clock measures how much you have
- 30. Loose Hawaiian unbelted dress
- 35. Stanislavski's rifle, e.g.
- 37. Persian backgammon
- 39. Open disrespect
- 40. Musician's time to shine
- 41. Assumption taken for granted
- 43. Lincoln \_\_\_
- 44. Kindle download
- 46. Senegal's neighbor
- 47. Toward the lee
- 48. Electric car maker, pl.
- 50. Living quarters
- 52. Short for abstract syntax tree
- 53. Cher goes by one of these
- 55. Refrigerator sound
- 57. For spicing things up
- 61. \*Ultimate NCAA tournament destination
- 65. Diver's lung
- 66. Yes move
- 68. One who tries
- 69. Ups the stakes
- 70. \*A shot below the line is worth this

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**MARCH 6 - MARCH 12**

- In a recent interview Today show host Matt Lauer said he offered to step down from the show after receiving bad press and low ratings. Lauer said of the time period, "It was a hard time for everybody" when discussing Ann Curry's leaving the show and being replaced by Savannah Guthrie. He called Curry's exit "messy" and "abrupt."
- A U.S. military plane assigned to a Washington state Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island crashed during a routine training flight, killing all three crew members on board, Navy officials said.
- A new study shows that frequent aspirin users are less likely to develop skin cancer.

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- 71. Washer setting
- 72. R in RIP
- 73. He is
- 74. "The Second Coming" poet

**DOWN**

- 1. Boohoos
- 2. Tangerine and grapefruit hybrid
- 3. In the next month
- 4. Right-hand page

- 5. Declare with confidence
- 6. Shakespeare's "at another time"
- 7. Tennis shot
- 8. Grease one's palms
- 9. Painter \_\_\_ Chagall
- 10. Every which way
- 11. Competent
- 12. Grain in "The House That Jack Built"
- 15. Facebook \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Augmenting
- 22. \*VCU fans, " \_\_\_ Nation"
- 24. Diffuse
- 25. \*16 seed over 1 seed, e.g.
- 26. Investigate thoroughly
- 27. Arias, e.g.
- 29. Permanently disfigure
- 31. \*Championship record-holder
- 32. Cabbage
- 33. Prods
- 34. Not fixed or appointed
- 36. \*This one is not for swimming
- 38. Sub station
- 42. \*Many teams start season with "Mid \_\_\_ Madness"
- 45. \*Last year's runner-up
- 49. Cul de \_\_\_
- 51. Oppressively hot and humid
- 54. \*NCAA's Big Dance occurs in the third one
- 56. Donny's singing sister
- 57. Peter the Great, e.g.
- 58. High school breakout
- 59. Goes with ifs and ands
- 60. Drive a getaway car, e.g.
- 61. Fusses
- 62. Fashion house founder Ricci
- 63. Reason to cram
- 64. Aphrodite's lover
- 67. Be obliged to pay

*Puzzle Solutions on page 12*

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		6		8		1		
			7		1			6
	2	1						7
	8			3	6			2
6			8					

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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.

# World's largest waterfowl at home in Michigan

The trumpeter swan is the only native swan that breeds in Michigan. At four and a half feet tall, weighing upwards of 30 pounds with a wingspan exceeding seven feet, it is the world's largest species of waterfowl. The trumpeter swan also is long-lived, commonly reaching a life expectancy of 20 to 30 years. Still, the trumpeter swan is a Michigan threatened species due to challenges from previous decades. Trumpeter swans were excessively hunted for their skin and long flight feathers. Additionally, the boom of the industrial revolution and the consumption of wetland habitats caused a large decline in population numbers. By 1900, it was widely believed that the species had become extinct. Only a small population survived in remote parts of the Rocky Mountains and Alaska.

In the 1980s, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, along with like-minded

conservation groups, started a swan reintroduction program as part of the North American Restoration Plan. The goal was to have three self-sustaining populations in Michigan of at least 200 swans by the year 2000.

Many hours were spent rearing young cygnets until they reached two years of age; at that time they were released into the wild in hopes to rebuild the population. Michigan Audubon's Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary and Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary near Bellevue were a few of the original release sites for these birds.

The program was a success, in 2000 over 400 individual trumpeter swans were counted in Michigan. "One of the greatest successes in the reintroduction program was the availability of quality, natural nesting areas in Michigan," said Peggy Ridgway, former Michigan Audubon president.

Today, Michigan has more than 500 trumpeter

swans; the numbers look promising, but they are still a threatened species here. Population numbers are challenged by competition for breeding territory, loss of vegetation and invasive species, such as the mute swan.

Three locations in Michigan are well populated with trumpeter swans. The Schoolcraft County/Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the Upper Peninsula is home to half of the trumpeter

swan population in the state. The four-county region of Oscoda, Alcona, Ogemaw and Iosco counties in the Northern Lower Peninsula have great viewing numbers.

"There are currently 130-plus trumpeter swans at the Westgate Overlook along the Au Sable River in Iosco County," said Ridgway.

Additionally, several counties in Southwest Michigan also have established good trumpeter

swan populations. Trumpeter swans are residents of several Michigan Audubon bird sanctuaries, including Baker, Haehnle, Otis Farm and Riverbank.

They are most likely to be seen in March through May and again in the fall.

"Join a wetland/waterfowl conservation organization, like Michigan Audubon, that helps fund conservation efforts; volunteer on a public wetland restoration project;

or, if possible, restore wetlands on your property."

Any trumpeter swan observations may be shared at [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) where agency and nonprofit conservation organizations like Michigan Audubon can access this information.

Trumpeter swans at a glance:

- Only swan native to Michigan.
- Can grow up to 4 1/3 feet tall, and weigh 30 pounds.
- Year-round Michigan resident; needs open water in winter.
- Most likely to be seen in March through May.
- Prefer quiet lakes free of mute swans.
- Males and females are identical in appearance. Only females will sit on the nest.
- Female is called a pen; the male is a cob.

This is the second in a monthly series by Michigan Audubon that features stories on birds unique and specific to Michigan. The series is meant to educate and bring to light birds of Michigan. For more information, visit [www.michiganaudubon.org](http://www.michiganaudubon.org)



Trumpeter swans are a year-round resident in Michigan, and can be found in winter if open water is available. (Photo by Cory Gildersleeve.)

...  
**There is new life in the soil for every man. There is healing in the trees for tired minds and for our overburdened spirits, there is strength in the hills, if only we will lift up our eyes. Remember that nature is your great restorer.**

~Calvin Coolidge, speech, Jul. 25, 1924

## BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for the fiscal years 2013-2014 at the Bowne Township Historic Hall – 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, MI 49302 on Monday, March 18, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. **"The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing."** A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Township Office at the above address on Wednesday, Thursday 9am to 12 noon and 1pm to 3pm and Friday 9am to 12 noon.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk

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# FFA state convention, continued

The team of Maria Blough, Mary Leasure and Anna Reynolds received a silver award in the agricultural issues contest. Their presentation showed the issues facing the new school lunch program.

In the jr. high conduct of meetings contest, middle school members show their ability to run an efficient meeting using correct Parliamentary Procedure. Team members included Keana Fahrni, Jenna Harper, Abigail Kastanek, Lizzie Kuhns, Elise Marshall, Keegan Mebert, Samuel Misak, Connor Nugent and

Tess Reagan. The team competed on the first day of contests and received a silver award.

In addition to the leadership contests, individual members were recognized in other award areas.

In the State Proficiency awards, Caitlin Clover, Sarah Crosby, Jacey Culross and John Mark were all recognized. The proficiency awards recognize students that have outstanding supervised agricultural experiences (SAE). Culross received a gold award in the area of equine science for her

work training horses. Clover received a silver award in swine production for raising and showing pigs. Crosby earned silver in agricultural education for organizing the children's barnyard at fair and presenting about agriculture to elementary students. Mark earned silver in diversified crop production for working at Geldersma Farms.

Six members from the Lowell Chapter received their State FFA degree. The State FFA degree is the highest award that the State association can bestow upon one of its members. Of the

over 6,300 members in the Michigan FFA, only 373 were chosen to receive this award. The Lowell FFA members that received the award were Sarah Crosby, Jacey Culross, Kaitlyn Johnson, Olivia Kauffman, John Mark, and Sarah Misak.

In order to be considered for the state degree, students have to show that they have worked on a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) and have been active in the FFA. A student's SAE project combines the information learned in the agriscience classes with the leadership experiences in the FFA. The SAE is tailored to the student's interests in agriculture. These projects can range from fair animals to jobs to community service activities. In order to qualify for the state degree, the student has to document that they have either earned \$2000 from their project, spent at least 450 hours on the project or a combination of the two.

The outstanding junior

award was given to four students from Lowell. The requirements for the outstanding junior award are similar to the state degree but with lower numbers. Students receiving the award from Lowell were Emma Blough, Levi Churches, Jessica Graves and Jacob Poll.

The State FFA band and choir performed during the convention sessions with members from Lowell participating in both. The State FFA band, which is directed by former Lowell Middle School band director Dale Latva, included Maria Blough and Mary Leasure. Kaylee Depew and Taylor

King represented Lowell in the State FFA choir. Serving as delegates for the Lowell FFA were Paul Crosby, Brianna Raspor and Lexie Shaffer. In addition to electing the 2013-2014 state officers, the delegates had the opportunity to travel to the Capitol building to meet with legislators concerning issues facing the agriculture industry. FFA is a national youth leadership organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



Members of the Silver Award jr. high conduct of meetings team from Lowell include, front row, left to right: Tess Reagan, Connor Nugent, Lizzie Kuhns; back row: Samuel Misak, Keana Fahrni, Jenna Harper, Keegan Mebert and Abigail Kastanek. Not pictured is Elise Marshall.



In the prepared public speaking contest, Emma Blough finished in third place with a gold award.

Sarah Crosby was elected to serve as the 2013-14 State FFA vice president.



Jacey Culross won the State FFA Job Interview contest and will compete at the National FFA Convention this October.



The team of Mary Leasure, Anna Reynolds and Maria Blough received a silver award in the agricultural issues contest.

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Lowell FFA members that received the State FFA degree were, front row, left to right: Kaitlyn Johnson, Sarah Misak; back row: Jacey Culross, Sarah Crosby, John Mark and Olivia Kauffman.