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city council meeting



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50 CENTS



A banner year as the Lowell community shows its support for Pink Arrow Pride

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The Pink Arrow Pride football game against Chicago's Hubbard High School was the biggest and most successful in the event's history. Lowell beat Hubbard 49 - 12, but when you're talking about Pink Arrow Pride, there are no winners or losers.

Bob Perry stadium was draped in pink. Even the garbage cans were wrapped in pink plastic. Banners from past events and handmade posters and signs decorated nearly every bit of free space. There was a distinct feeling of community in the atmosphere. Almost every single person was

wearing a bright, neon pink "Arrow Force VI" t-shirt. Some wore the t-shirts from previous years' Pink Arrow Pride events. Many had personalized their t-shirts by putting the names of their own honorees on the back; "Grandpa John," "Grandma Judi," "Friend"

and "Survivor" were some examples.

The gates opened at 2:30 pm and people trickled into the facility for the next several hours, eventually filling the stands and grounds. Kids under the age of 10 seem to have one speed, running as fast as possible; and one volume, hollering as loud as possible. Pink Arrow Pride was an event where nobody minded at all.

In fact, boisterous fun was encouraged and there were plenty of free distractions for the kids. An inflatable "bouncy slide" was behind Restaurant Row, magician P.J. Weber was on hand and a photo booth was set up by Lowell's Modern Photographics.

Smoke and smells from the grills in Restaurant Row filled the air, making the crowd hungry. Backwater Café had pulled pork and macaroni and cheese, Riverbend Bar & Grill was



Hubbard's assistant band director Patrick Benson and his aunt Lori Nelson.

Photo by Tim McAllister

grilling chicken wings, Sneaker's Bar & Grill had Italian sausage sandwiches, Keiser's Kitchen offered deep-fried chicken strips and French fries and other stalls offered various other treats.

Aaron Kaeb, representing Heidi's Farm Stand, was selling something he called "apple

Community support, continued, page 7



Photo by Kathryn Atwood

Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts this weekend

Plans are underway for the 45th annual Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts. Presented by LowellArts!, the festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14 and 15, from 10 am to 5 pm at Fallasburg Park four miles north of Lowell.

This festival offers something for everyone from fine art and crafts, pumpkin painting with your children or enjoying live music.

The event features 100 fine art and fine crafts booths with artisans chosen by jury each year. Demonstrations of turn-of-the-century skills are provided in the covered pavilion include such crafts as origami, wool spinning, woodcarving, felting and more. Many artisans give hands-on lessons.

Guests can enjoy

a variety of musical entertainment including bluegrass, country rock and classic folk music.

There will be a children's craft area with fun, new activities every two hours in addition to pumpkin-painting. Food booths will offer homemade chili, BBQ sandwiches, pasties, caramel apples and much more.

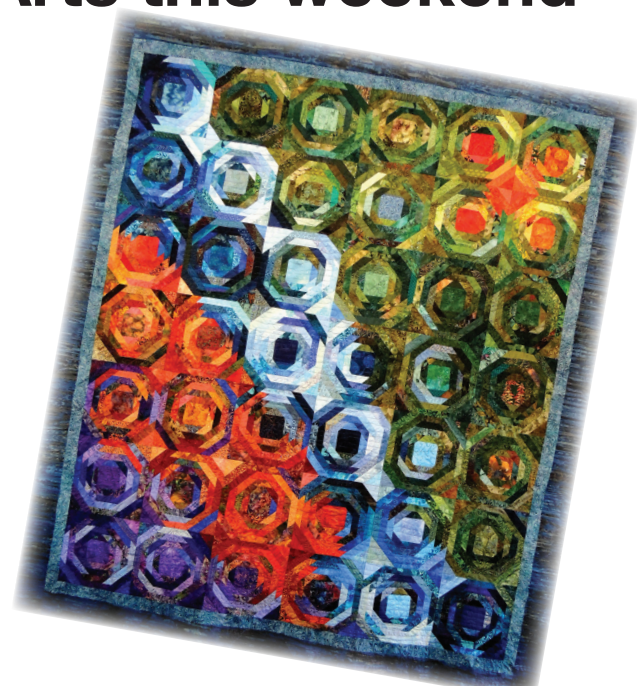
The quilt raffle drawing starts at 4 pm on Sunday. The first ticket drawn wins the quilt and after that several more tickets will be drawn, for up to 80 additional items, donated by the festival artists.

This year the quilt, entitled "Fallasburg Palette" is designed by Bev Anderson, of Lowell.

"The Fallasburg quilt idea was born from a

picture of a similar, though much smaller, wall hanging quilt. I loved the colors and the gradation of colors and imagined it done with a river running through it. I am a fabric lover and struggle with using five to 10 fabrics in a quilt, when/if it is possible to use literally hundreds," said Anderson.

She continued, "I designed and executed several raffle quilts and was commissioned for a couple of large quilts while working for the Franciscan Life Process Center (FLPC) where I met Kacey Cornwell. She knew my work from the FLPC. When she contacted me last year about possibly doing the Fallasburg quilt, I was extremely honored and, after giving it some thought, accepted the challenge.



Bev Anderson's quilt, Fallasburg Palette.

The challenge for me was combining a traditional pattern and process with the art quilt process, as they are two very different things."

Tickets for the drawing are \$2 each, four for \$5 or 10 for \$10. They are available at Lowell Arts! and will be available at the festival.

Admission to the festival is free with a freewill donation for parking. Fallasburg Park is located at 1124 Fallasburg Drive, off Lincoln Lake Road north. No pets are allowed. For more information, contact LowellArts! at 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

Freedom lives on

We will never forget the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and today we honor their memories and those who have sacrificed to protect our freedom and our way of life in the wake of those terrorist attacks 12 years ago. In the face of adversity, the strength and resilience of our nation makes us proud to be Americans today and always.

We Remember 09.11.01

Visiting Chicago Hubbard students enjoy farm tour

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Family farms are non-existent in the windy city of Chicago. Urban neighborhoods and skylines brushed by towering buildings are more likely to be the scenery enjoyed by the varsity players of the Chicago Hubbard football team, who came to Lowell this past Friday to participate in the sixth annual Pink Arrow game.

Prior to the big

game, which they dubbed the "Pink Bowl," the Greyhounds were treated to a tour of the area. The tour included breakfast at Keiser's Restaurant and a stop at Swisslane Farms in Alto.

Swisslane Farms was founded by Fredrick Oesch nearly one hundred years ago and continues to be run by family in the Alto area.

The dairy farm, which milks 1,300 cows a day, hosted the team for lunch

and then invited them on an excursion through the 91-acre farm.

Donna Oesch greeted the players as they arrived at the farm and led an active question and answer session. The Dairy Discovery Tour, which is open to the public, included a trip through the barns and a hayride across the property where the footballers learned more about the day-to-day operations of a dairy farm.

Hubbard's head coach,



Hubbard teammates listen on as the Swisslane host explains the milking process at the farm.



Members of the Hubbard team on a hayride with Swisslane employee Donna Oesch leading the tour.

Elton Harris, who has led his team to the state playoffs more than fifteen times, was excited about the learning opportunity for his team.

"They have never been on a farm before. This is a whole different experience

for these kids right here. For these guys to see things like this and go back to school and say "hey look where we went." To experience this is like a field trip for them," said Harris. He added that

they travel often to compete because, "You want to play somebody different and you want to experience something different. I mean look at what they are learning right now!"

The Greyhounds, who host an event similar to Pink Arrow every October, know the importance of the project.

"We have been talking about this game since last spring," said Harris. "We have a couple kids' parents affected by cancer so they understand that this is more than just a game."

Oesch had nothing but compliments for the respectful squad who stopped to pray before their meal.

"From the moment you guys walked in, to the moment you prayed," said Oesch to the group, "you showed us what kind of team you are. We are very impressed and honored to have you here."

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The Laurels of Kent would like to welcome Julie Libriani, RN, RN Nurse Navigator

Julie was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI. She earned her LPN from Grand Rapids Community College and furthered her education by receiving her RN from Ferris State University in 1982. Julie has over 30 years of experience as an RN specializing in Complex Medical Care including Emergency Room and ICU nursing care.

Julie believes in being a strong patient advocate for her residents. Julie understands and takes pride in exceeding expectations for her residents on a daily basis. In her free time, Julie enjoys volunteering at Lake Michigan Academy for children with learning differences.



Welcome Julie to The Laurels of Kent!

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Hall reveals personal challenge at regular council meeting

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

On Tuesday, September 3, the Lowell City Council held a meeting at 7:00 pm at city hall. Present were

mayor James W. Hodges, mayor pro tem Sharon R. Ellison, councilmembers Andrew T. Schrauben, Jim Hall and Reverend Chris R.

Schwab, director of Public Works Daniel C. DesJarden, city clerk Betty R. Morlock, and city manager Mark A. Howe.

Aside from the approval of last month's regular meeting and closed session meeting, various projects were reported on, such as



City Councilmembers: Andrew T. Schrauben, mayor pro tem Sharon R. Ellison, mayor James W. Hodges, Jim Hall and Rev. Chris R. Schwab.



Deb Apol discusses Larkin's Restaurant hosting their charity Chili Cook-Off.

the sidewalk replacement project, which Howe said was going along nicely and a waste water treatment project that Howe and Desjarden are interviewing candidates to help with.

Larkin's Restaurant was approved for a special event permit in order to hold a charity Chili Cook-Off special event on city property. Contingent on insurance, the event will be a team-up between Larkin's and the American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

"This is always a great event," Howe said. "It's a wonderful thing that Larkin's does."

Larkin's is currently looking for judges for the Chili Cook-Off. Interested parties should call Larkin's Restaurant.

After reporting on the various meetings that each member attends, councilmember Hall revealed that he is currently in treatment for cancer.

"It's going to be a challenge," Hall said. "My wife and I both have cancer now."

The council was excited about the Pink Arrow Pride game, where the entire community of Lowell comes together in order to battle cancer. In the spirit of this event, Hall added, "We're looking forward to the challenge."

City manager Howe added that the Arbor board, planning commission and downtown historic commission are looking for newly appointed members. Following this, the council went into closed session at 7:18 pm.



along main street

FLEA MARKET FUNDRAISER

Lowell Women's Club flea market fundraiser for local scholarships. Donations from 10+ families. At the Farmers' Market parking lot of Tractor Supply on Thurs., from 11-4 pm.

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Join Michigan Butterflies for a chance to learn about monarch butterflies and their incredible journey, Sun., Sept. 15, 1-4 pm at the Wittenbach/Wege Center. Cost is \$10 per family and includes two butterfly tags. Additional tags can be purchased for \$1 each. Call 987-2565 to register (tags cannot be guaranteed for families that do not register).

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thurs., Sept. 19 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

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.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Outdoor Bluegrass music concerts Sept. 20-21 at Lowell fairgrounds. Campground jamming, instrument workshops, slow jams, vendors, bake sale, kids activities. Camping available. For details call 891-8825 or see www.wmbma.org.

FLU SHOT REMINDER

No cost/low cost flu shots for Kent County residents age 60 to 64 will take place Thurs., Sept. 26 from 10 am to noon at Schneider Manor, 725 Bowes Rd.

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS

Ready, Set, Move, senior exercise class will start Sept. 30 at the Lowell YMCA on Mondays and Fridays from 10:45 to 11:45 am. For more information call 855-9570.

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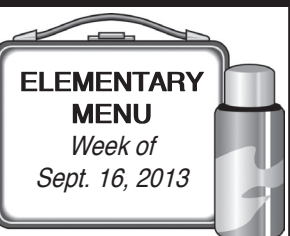
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LUNCH MENU



MON: Hot dog on WG bun, sweet potato coins, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, chilled pears, milk.

TUES: Beef & cheese nacho, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh red pepper strips, banana, (fruit goop served at Bushnell), mixed fruit, milk.

WED: WG pancake & scrambled, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, grapes, orange wedges, milk.

THURS: Grilled cheese on WG bread, tomato soup, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, mandarin oranges, fruit goop, (banana served at Bushnell), milk.

FRI: Homemade cheese pizza, seasoned corn fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, pineapple, apple, milk.

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health



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

Hypertension

High blood pressure is known as hypertension. A blood pressure of 140/90 is typically considered the cut off value to treat. A “normal” blood pressure is 120/80.

Most people have no symptoms of hypertension even when it is dangerously high. This is why hypertension is called “the silent killer.” Some people will notice headaches, dizziness, and/or nosebleeds – but these do not appear until blood pressure has

reached critically elevated levels.

Most people have “essential” hypertension, meaning no specific cause can be found. This is a combination of age and genetic factors. “Secondary” hypertension is caused by some other medical condition, such as kidney disease, thyroid/other endocrine disorder, or certain drugs.

Risk factors for hypertension include advancing age, race, family

history, obesity, sedentary lifestyle, tobacco use, alcoholism, stress, too much salt intake in diet, and sleep apnea.

Untreated hypertension leads to heart attacks, strokes, aneurysms, heart failure, kidney disease, and memory or cognitive disorders.

The diagnosis is made by taking two or more blood pressure recordings on separate days, or it may be made on a single occasion if it is critically high. Blood tests will be done to rule out secondary causes.

Treatment includes diet changes, exercise, weight loss, and prescription medications. Your blood pressure should be monitored every three to four months by your doctor to ensure proper treatment.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It

allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.

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viewpoint

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Christopher C. Godbold

Are you an "efficient" investor?

Generally speaking, if you're efficient at a particular task, you'll get good results without wasting effort. As you've already learned from your life experiences, it's usually far better to be efficient at something than to be inefficient — and that's certainly true with investing.

So, what can you do to become a more efficient investor? Here are a few ideas:

- Invest systematically. If you put a few dollars in an investment, such as a stock, that you heard was "hot," and then a few months later put some more money in another vehicle that strikes your fancy, and you continue this pattern indefinitely, you may not be maximizing your

resources. By taking this type of haphazard approach, you could end up owning a bunch of investments without rhyme or reason — a motley assortment that may not help you reach your goals.

Instead of following this route, consider a systematic approach, sometimes known as dollar cost averaging. To do so, you'll first want to identify some investments that are appropriate for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon. Then, automatically move the same amount of money each month from your checking or savings account into the investments you've chosen. When the price of your investments falls, your contribution will buy more shares, and when the

price rises, you'll buy fewer shares — in other words, you'll be fulfilling the "buy low" part of the classic investment formula. Over time, this technique should result in a lower average cost per investment. Keep in mind, though, that dollar cost averaging does not ensure a profit or protect against loss — and you'll need to have the financial resources available to continue investing, even in "down" markets.

- Reinvest dividends. Among your investments, you may own stocks that can pay dividends. You can take these dividends as cash, but if you don't need the money to meet everyday expenses, you may be better off by reinvesting the dividends. This is an efficient way to increase your shares — and boosting your share ownership in quality investments can be a key way to help build wealth. (Be aware that companies can reduce or discontinue dividends at any time.)

- Look for tax-efficient techniques. Another type of efficiency associated with investing is tax efficiency, which refers to your ability to defer taxes as long as possible. Tax-deferred accounts, such as a traditional IRA or a 401(k), can help you put off the tax bill until retirement, when you may be in a lower tax bracket.

- Consolidate investment accounts. If you have one IRA with one financial services provider, another IRA with a second, and a separate investment account with a third, you may end up paying more in expenses, fees and commissions than is necessary — and since these costs can eat into your investments' "real" rate of return, this scattershot ownership method may be inefficient. You may be better off by consolidating all your investment accounts with one provider.

Seek to become an efficient investor. You may be pleased with the results.

outdoors



easy does it

Dave Stegehuis

Research from credible sources has shown that connecting with nature has a positive effect on our physical and mental wellbeing. That connection has become more difficult to make in recent decades as times change.

Many young people today have very little, if any, exposure to nature and outdoor experiences. This is a disadvantage for the affected youth as well as nature because people who regularly interact directly with nature are usually more satisfied with their lives and also tend to be more concerned with the conservation of our natural resources.

Hunting and fishing are ways to get actively involved with the land and the creatures living there. Getting young people involved may require the guidance and support of an adult. If you are the adult here, then your task may take some time and effort.

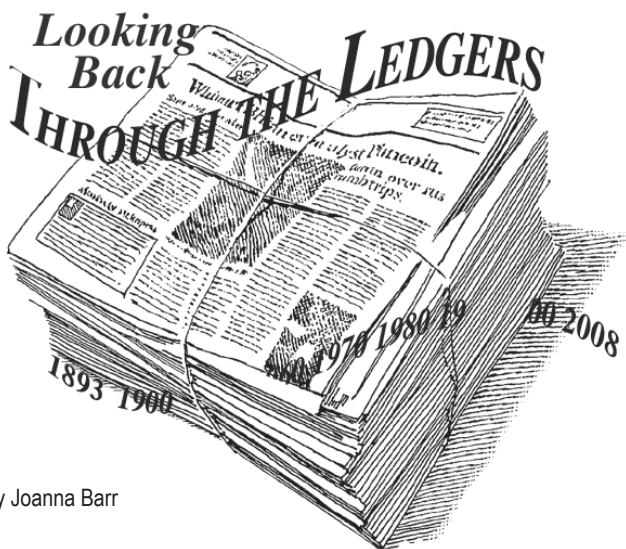
Hunting and fishing activities can be time consuming and expensive but don't have to be. The answer is to keep it simple as illustrated by the following examples.

Fishing can be productive and enjoyable using very basic equipment and choosing easily accessible species. Fish can be caught from the bank of a stream or lake. Pier fishing has become more popular as government agencies partner to construct accessible

structures in selected areas. Serviceable equipment can be found for reasonable prices at discount stores as well as garage sales or from generous friends and relatives. Fellow fishermen like to talk and can provide instructions and advice if asked. One can find anything on the internet, of course.

Small game is a good place to begin the hunting experience. Squirrels are easy to find and challenging to hunt. A youngster can have an exciting hunt under the direct supervision of a thoughtful and experienced adult. Turkey hunting has the same advantages. I have hunted big game in other countries and on another continent, but the wild turkey is at the top of my list of exciting and rewarding hunts, and you don't need a lot of gear and time, or go very far to hunt turkeys in Michigan.

Hunters and fishermen have a vested interest in our wildlife and the habitat required for their survival. License fees and federal tax on firearms, ammo, and fishing equipment supplies the majority of funding for managing our natural resources, including the improvement and expansion of habitat. The more people involved the better. Not everyone will be lifetime hunters or fishermen, but everyone should have the opportunity to find out if they could be. Make it easy and give them a chance.



By Joanna Barr

horse, when it jumped and brought the front wheel of the buggy against his leg, breaking the large bone below the knee. He is doing nicely under the care of Dr. McDannell.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 11, 1913

Headline: Tipplers beware - wife can haul you before probate court. Lansing, Mich., Sept. 5th - Tipplers must beware of their wives from now on, for under a law passed by the last legislature, a wife can petition the court to appoint a guardian for her husband.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 15, 1938

The fine points of modern football will be demonstrated at Recreation Park next week Tuesday evening at 7:30. The purpose of the demonstration is to enable the public to become better posted on the fine points of the game. Coach Carroll Burch and the members of his team will appreciate your attendance and interest.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 12, 1963

A reward of \$100 is being offered by the Lowell Granite Company on East Main Street, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals who destroyed \$4,100 worth of monuments last week.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 14, 1988

Mike Dumas, a sophomore cornerback from Alto, Mich. and Lowell H.S. is a member of the 1988 Indiana University football team. Dumas, a 6-0, 175-pounder will be playing for Bill Mallory, the 1987 Big Ten Coach of the Year, now in his fifth season with the Hoosiers.

140 years ago Lowell Journal September 17, 1873

One day last week, two or three of our street boys who have homes but are seldom found there, entered Train's Hall and commenced fooling with the drop curtain. One of the boys got behind it and began to dot the landscape with his fingers, making here and there an indentation just for fun. One of the boys the other side of the curtain, seeing this, concluded to warp those fingers once or twice for fun, so he picked up a stick and cut a gash in the curtain about fifteen inches in length, in the attempt. The curtain was a handsome one—and of Dr. Edie's best efforts—and cost \$60.

125 years ago Lowell Journal September 14, 1888

Frank T. King was so unfortunate Monday as to have his right leg broken. His horse, which was standing in front of Enos & Bradfield's store, started on a walk toward the lumber yard and Mr. King started after him and at the corner endeavored to catch the

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Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.yournews.com select "submit news" icon on the top left, then select "opinion".

college news

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design has announced the graduation list for the semester ending May 2013. The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors:

Ada: Anthony Amato, Bachelor of Science, architecture and sustainability, magna cum laude; Emily Canda, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice – law enforcement, cum laude; Jessica Covert, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice – law enforcement, cum laude; Brooke Hanson, Bachelor of Science, applied math/actuarial science,

magna cum laude; Associate in Applied Science, accountancy, magna cum laude; and certificate, international business; Barry Hartwell, Associate in Applied Science, CAD drafting/tool design tech.; Fiona Hert, Doctor of Education, community college leadership, highest distinction; Jonathan Lodden, Associate in Applied Science, building construction tech. and Bachelor of Science, cons. mgt./commercial; Marek Mikesell, Bachelor of Applied Science, digital animation/game design; Julie Mooney, Bachelor of Science, nursing, summa

cum laude; Amanda Rosen, Bachelor of Science, elementary education; Kasey Stowell, Bachelor of Fine Arts, illustration; Kyle Symon, Associate in Applied Science, HVACR technology; Nicholas Szymanski, Bachelor of Fine Arts, painting; Daniel Van Otteren, Bachelor of Science, medical technology, cum laude; and Rachel White, Bachelor of Science, public relations and certificate, marketing.

Alto: Anthony Jackson, Bachelor of Science, manufacturing engineering tech. and certificate, quality technology; and Brittany Wilkerson, Bachelor of Science, accounting/prof. directed.

Lowell: Luke Barnard, Associate of Science, pre-

science; Austin Blough, Bachelor of Fine Arts, industrial design; William Burt, Associate in Applied Science, heavy equipment technology and Bachelor of Science, heavy equip. service eng. tech.; Logan DeClercq, Associate in Applied Science, architectural technology; Amanda Ezinga, Bachelor of Science, health information; Kathryn Fisher, Bachelor of Fine Arts, digital media; Matthew Foster, Bachelor of Science, manufacturing engineering tech. and certificate, quality technology; Nicholas Poulias, Associate of Applied Science, heavy equipment technology; Matthew Weidman, Bachelor of Science in Business, business administration, magna cum laude and certificate, leadership and supervision; Jonathan Woods, Bachelor of Fine Arts, industrial design; Melissa Zuiderveen, Bachelor of Science, professional tennis, cum laude and certificate, ski resort management.

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design have announced that more than 4,105 students received academic honors for the semester that ended in May 2013. To be eligible for academic honors, undergraduate students must have accumulated at least a 3.5 GPA in no fewer than 12 credit hours of coursework at the 100 level or higher


during the given semester, while part-time students must have accumulated at least 12 credit hours of graded coursework at the 100 level or higher with a 3.5 semester GPA. The following are local students:

Ada: Derek Phelps, Rebecca Thompson, Jessica Covert, Cameron Eidenier, Scott Teliczan, Rajeshree Sawant, Megan Moore, Brooke Hanson, Anthony Amato, Chelsea Broekema, Justin Hall, Kasey Stowell, Emily Ciosek, Zachary Sturgeon, Claire Vredevoogd, Daniel Van Otteren, Scott Werkema, Julia Todd, Stephanie Facer, Emily Canda, Scott Mooney, Julie Mooney, Justin Holmes, and Nicholas Szymanski.

Alto: Steven Sutherland, Kristine Huberts, Richard Clements, Lauren Clements, Brandi Miller, Kason Cook, Bradly Freiberg, Danielle Stephenson, April Beresford, Steve Yonker, and Kristin Nagy.

Lowell: Megan Willemstein, Matthew Weidman, Matthew Haan, Parker Liu, Shannon Johnston, Jodi Nederhoed, Monica Mcrae, Mitchell Mcrae, Devon Chopp, Logan DeClercq, Courtney Wierzbicki, Bailee Emelander, Mark Preston, Sandra Bewell, Austin Blough, Chelsey Treglia, Amanda Ezinga, Jacob McVey, Nicholas McVey, and Jordan Whitman.


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Pep assembly fires up Lowell students before pink games

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell High School (LHS) exploded in Pink

Arrow Pride on Friday afternoon as students filled the stands at Bob Perry Field



to celebrate the pending game against Chicago Hubbard with a pep rally.

Hosted for the sixth time by morning D.J.'s Tony and Brook from STAR 105.7, the outdoor assembly was an energetic preamble to the Pink Arrow game which took place later Friday evening. "We love being part of Pink Arrow Pride every year!" exclaimed the duo while addressing students and staff.

Along with a musical performance of the school fight song by the LHS marching band, the crowd also enjoyed a visually stunning performance by the color guard team and were led in spirited chants by the cheerleaders who performed special "pink" themed cheers for the event.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in some fun activities during the assembly, including a

tug of war, which pitted classes against one another in a jovial celebration of competition. While these games each had a victor declared at the end, it is clear from the spirit of the crowd that the real winner here is the community of Lowell and those battling cancer.

The Pink Arrow Pride project, an idea that began with varsity football coach Noel Dean, started as a

simple service learning assignment but has since turned into a national phenomenon and inspired varsity squads across the country to follow suit. It is clear from the enthusiasm of Friday's rally attendees and the community members lined up outside the gate for hours waiting for doors to open, that Pink Arrow Pride is strong and continues to grow.

Community support, continued

cider slushies" out of what looked like a converted milkshake machine.

"I don't know what kind of machine it is, but hey, it works," Kaeb said. "Doughnuts are our headline item."

At 3:45 pm there was a varsity soccer game and at 4:25 pm a volleyball game, both pitting Lowell against Greenville.

The Survivor and Honor Walk was held at 6:00 pm. Led by a police car and a military color guard, hundreds of cancer survivors and their supporters marched down the long, winding path from the high school to the football stadium. It was an emotional event for many, as tears flowed down faces and people hugged each other.

One of the participants in the Survivor Walk was Lowell High School English teacher Kristin Schutte. Schutte was Kent County's High School Teacher of the Year in 2010 and has taught in Lowell since 1994.

"There's a group of four kids from the high school that have had cancer," Schutte said, "and for the last two days we've been touring all the buildings doing presentations for kindergarten through 12th grade."

The four students: Anna Organek, Jordan

Basinger, Nick Hess and Danielle Knight, went from school to school with Schutte giving presentations focused on what are called "The six L-words:" Live, Laugh, Love, Learn, Listen and Lead. Dozens of "L-words" posters created by classrooms throughout Lowell Area Schools lined the fences all around the football field.

"We met a few times a couple weeks before school started and put together some different presentations and speeches," Schutte said. "Presentations that revolved around the six words, but also the experiences they had with cancer and with going through their cancer process. Our presentation for the elementary school was 10 minutes long and then Gilda's Club of Lowell presented for 10 minutes. So much of what we do is in partnership with Gilda's Club. Then, at the middle school and high school, we presented for about 25 minutes. The kids got up and told their stories. It was a positive, powerful experience. They were very nervous at first, but every speech they gave over the two days; they just got better and better every time. So much improvement. They were straight-forward, positive and very funny, which was helpful. I just



Laura and Aaron Kaeb with the "apple cider slushie" machine. Photo by Tim McAllister

love those kids. They're very special."

Schutte is a relatively recent breast cancer survivor.

"I was diagnosed on March 14, 2012," Schutte said. "I had Stage 1 breast cancer, but I had other precancerous cells, so I had a double mastectomy. I did not have to do chemo or radiation because they got everything. Then I had reconstruction over the course of a year."

Schutte participated in Pink Arrow Pride last year and found the experience emotionally overwhelming.

"Last year it was extremely emotional, because I'd had surgery a week and a half before school started," Schutte said. "The support was overwhelming. The people at Lowell High School during the whole ordeal took care of my family. The teachers and staff provided meals for six weeks for us and sent cards, flowers, gifts, and emails. I got a chance to thank them yesterday when I spoke at the high school."

As Schutte said this, a passerby shouted, "Amazing job yesterday, Kristen!" Schutte laughed and waved, and the two women spoke briefly.

"This year, the four kids who spoke are doing the coin toss," Schutte said.

Two of the four students had football players wear jerseys for them last year and two are getting their Pink Arrow jerseys this year.

"They're very excited

and honored." Schutte said.

After the Survivor Walk the honorees stood along the edge of the football field. Lowell senior Nick Smith sang the song "Hero," originally written and performed by Mariah Carey in 1993.

"The Pink Arrow group came to me and asked me to sing," Smith said. "I wanted a slow ballad that wasn't about a relationship and that was uplifting, so I picked 'Hero.'"

After Smith's performance, they introduced all of this year's honorees, along with the football players who will be wearing jerseys with their names on them. Then Lowell High School graduate Brennan Prill sang the national anthem. They had the coin toss and by 7:15 pm the game was underway.

The fans and supporters from Chicago's Hubbard High School were just as deeply invested in and proud of their players as Lowell fans. The Chicagoans' style of cheering may have been a little different than Lowell is used to, but everybody got along well. A lot of local people approached the Hubbard fans in the stands and had conversations about the game, the differences between Chicago and Lowell, exactly where on the southwest side of Chicago Hubbard High School is, what are good places to eat in Lowell and various other topics. The conversations were friendly and high-spirited,

with everybody laughing, smiling and joking together.

The parents from Chicago were most impressed by Lowell and its community. Barnett Pettis, father of Hubbard High's running back Brandon Pettis, was enthusiastic about Lowell and Pink Arrow Pride.

"It's nice, I like it," Pettis said. "You all did a good job, a beautiful job. I give it five stars. The set-up, everything. Everybody's looking good."

Elton Harris, Hubbard High's head football coach, had nothing but praise for Pink Arrow Pride.

"It's a good thing they're doing here," Harris said. "We did something like this, but we didn't do it as big as these guys do. Very impressive. This whole thing isn't really about the game, it's about trying to fight cancer."

Harris was also impressed with the community in Lowell.

"We've been here since yesterday and we've met a lot of interesting people," Harris said. "We went to eat this morning at Keiser's Kitchen. We met the lady and her husband. They treated us good. We went to a farm today, Swisslane Dairy Farm. We had a good time there. The kids are loving what's going on here."

Hubbard High's assistant band director Patrick Benson was also happy with the Pink Arrow Pride experience.

"We've had a good time so far," Benson said. "It's been a really positive trip. Everybody's really nice. We want to thank them for inviting us. We've had an excellent time and we're very thankful for them having us out here."

Benson's aunt, Lori Nelson, lives in Lowell and had cancer in the past. Nelson declined to speak on the record, but she was proud of her nephew and very supportive of Pink Arrow Pride.

Hubbard High's players were also pleased



Lowell senior Nick Smith

by the Lowell trip. Darion Henderson, wide receiver, felt acceptance from the local community.

"It was a good time," Henderson said. "They showed us respect. They treated us like we were part of their family. They were good to us."

Henderson wasn't as pleased with Hubbard's performance in the game.

"It was a good game," Henderson said. "We could've done better. They fought hard, we fought hard. But they were just more disciplined than we were and that's why they came out on top."

When the game ended all the honorees and players gathered in the end zone. In an incredibly emotional scene, the players removed their jerseys and in some cases their helmets and presented them to the people whose names were on the back.

One of Lowell's five touchdowns was scored by Benjamin Bigham, who was wearing a jersey dedicated to the late Joann Helpap, a resident of Midland. Helpap's daughter, Ashley Rich, won Bigham's jersey in an auction at the football field on Aug. 30. Rich was on hand to receive the jersey from Bigham, who also removed the pink arrow sticker from his helmet, signed it and presented it to Rich.

"It was pretty neat," Bigham said. "I'd like to take them to dinner or something. It was very emotional. It's a good thing that we do around here and I'm glad to be a part of it."



Kristin Schutte with her four "very special" students. Photo by Tim McAllister

Pink Arrow Pride Day - a day filled with competition, fun and perseverance



Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell plays Chicago Hubbard for the 6th annual pink game

by Karen Jack

In front of a crowd of about 8000 people, the Pink Arrows crushed Chicago Hubbard Greyhounds for the sixth annual Pink Arrow game, 49-12 on Friday.

Lowell won the coin toss and elected to kick off to Hubbard, so Austin Bieri kicked the ball 51 yards to the Hubbard nine-yard line and Hubbard returned it for 33 yards. Hubbard then got two first downs, but couldn't move the ball any further and gave up the ball to Lowell after a failed fourth down attempt.

Kyler Shurlow came out hot, as the Pink Arrow quarterback successfully passed three times to Dylan Brower and Jeff Houston and rushed for another 11

yards for the touchdown in the Pink Arrows' first possession. Kanon Dean and Brower also rushed for a total of 26 yards on the drive. Hubbard couldn't score on their second possession and the Arrows took over just before the end of the first quarter.

The Pink Arrows scored another touchdown in their first drive of the second quarter. That drive consisted of an 11-yard pass to Ben Bigham, a three-yard pass to Kyle Blough, rushes from Dean and Shurlow for a total of seven yards, then a 52-yard touchdown pass to Bigham for the score. The Arrows scored again in the second quarter, thanks to rushes from Houston for a

total of 26 yards, Dean for 16 yards and Shurlow for a total of 30 yards. Shurlow also completed passes to Bigham for a total of 15 yards. Shurlow scored the touchdown on an 18-yard run to make the score 21-0. Hubbard scored a touchdown on their next drive, but were unable to convert the extra point attempt, making the score 21-6.

Lowell then scored another touchdown before halftime, with rushes from Brower (13 yards), Shurlow (18 yards) and Dean (4 yards). Shurlow passed to Bigham for 10 yards and Dean rushed it in for the touchdown on an eleven-

Football,
continued, page 11



Kyler Shurlow runs the end around.

Volleyball hangs in for the win against Greenville

by Karen Jack

Greenville proved to be a tough opponent for the Lowell volleyball team in their match on Friday, but the Pink Arrows hung tough and pulled off the win, beating the Yellow Jackets 2-1.

In the first game, the Pink Arrows were up by a couple of points most of the game, but stalled out to lose 25-23. True to Pink Arrow fashion, though, they came back in the second game to win 27-25. The score was 24-24, when our coach had asked the table if they had any more time outs and the table told her she had another one. She called time out, but in reality didn't have one, so Greenville was awarded a point, making it

25-24. In volleyball, they must win by two points, so the game went on. Lowell won the next two points to send the match into the tie-breaker game.

For tie-breaker games, they only play to 15 and Lowell took charge the entire game, never down, and beat Greenville 15-7.

Each member of the team also played in honor of someone and presented personalized mini volleyballs to their honoree prior to the match.

Bethany Kaczanowski played in honor of her aunt, Ruthanne Largent and Kortney Beachler honored retired high school teacher, Marsha LaHaye. Abbi Bladey honored her

grandmother, Kristine and Grace Quiggle played in memory of family friend, Oliver Wilson. Abby Petroelje played in honor of Bev and Jim Hall, both survivors. Tara McQueen honored her grandmother, Eudor and Aubreigh Steed honored her grandfather, Frank Steed. Paige Wilson played in memory of her papa and busha. Catherine Stump honored her grandmother, Catherine Heckman and Katie Bush played in memory of her grandmother, Dale Anne. Rachel Fox honored her uncle, Larry Fox and Lydia Tawney played in honor of family friend, Tom Blackport.

Bev Hall, who was

honored by Abby Petroelje was touched that Petroelje asked her again this year, but this year Petroelje also wanted to include Bev's husband, Jim, who was diagnosed just a couple months ago with bladder cancer and very hopeful to beat it. "Abby honored me last year and I had just been diagnosed. When she called us this year, Jim and I said yes without hesitation." The Halls met Abby, her mother, grandmother, and brother at lunch one day to all get together and get to know each other a little better. "Her family made us feel a part of them and very special and this really means a lot to us," Hall added.



Katie Bush spikes the ball.

Soccer players school Greenville

by Karen Jack

The soccer team shut out Greenville in their annual Pink Arrow game on Friday, beating them 5-0.

Raul Damian came on strong right out of the gate, determined to put the ball in the goal and did so with a vengeance, scoring the first two goals for Lowell in the first half. Isaac Henderson helped in the effort, scoring a goal late in the first half, sending the Pink Arrows to the locker room at halftime up 3-0.

In the second half, Nick Proefke and Brandon Cole both scored goals in the shutout. Proefke and Spencer Lyon both had two assists and Austin Sirowatka had one assist.

Defense really was the name of this game, though.

The Arrows stood tough from the first whistle to the last whistle, only allowing Greenville two shots on goal for the entire game. The Arrows had 22 shots on goal. Liam Kelly blocked both shots as the goal keeper.

The team also honored friends or family affected by cancer prior to the game. Liam Kelly played in memory of his great-grandfather, Albert Zigmont, Sr. and Anthony Pollock played in memory of his great-grandpa, Robert Bass. Nick Proefke played in memory of a family friend, Jeanne Crone and Jason Cupp honored his Grandma Eva. Spencer Lyon honored his grandmother, Mary and Curtis Bramble

played in memory of his grandfather, Mike Bramble. Collin Bowers honored his grandfather, Edward VanPortfliet and Robbie Dubisky honored his mother, Denise Dubisky. Isaac Henderson honored his grandfather, Bruce Cheadle and Collin Pawlowski honored his father, Paul. Brandon Cole played in memory his grandfather, Richard Cole and Joshua Theisen honored his Aunt Rene. Coach Rich O'Keefe coached in memory of his mother, Gigi and coach Ryan O'Keefe coached in memory of his grandmother, Yoshiko Silvestri.

Jacob Sweet, team captain, played in memory of his uncle, Joe Patulski, who passed away at the age

of 20 with cancer. According to Sweet, he thought it was great that this was his second year to be able to honor someone. "I told the team we weren't playing for ourselves or the team in this game - we were playing for our family members and friends affected by cancer, because that's what Pink Arrow is all about."

He said it was icing on the cake winning the game as well. "Greenville has always been a force to be reckoned with, but this year we were ready for them. Our defense did the job the whole game and wouldn't let up the entire game and it showed with the final score," said Sweet.



Nick Proefke takes it to the net.

The Arrows travel to Forest Hills Northern on Wednesday. Game time is 6:00 pm.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Football, continued

yard run, sending the Arrows into the locker room up at halftime 28-6.

Josh Branagan opened up the second half with a kick-off return of 30 yards to put the Arrows on the Hubbard 42-yard line. Brower rushed for a total of 31 yards on the next drive and Shurlow rushed for a total of three yards, including the touchdown run. Hubbard then fumbled and the Arrows recovered to get the ball right back and scored yet another touchdown on a pass to Bigham for six yards, rushes by Dean for 31 yards and Shurlow rushing for a total of six yards, including the touchdown run.

Hubbard couldn't get the ball moving on their next drive and were forced to punt after three plays. On the next drive for the Pink Arrows, Garret White was the total offense for the drive, rushing a total of 73 yards on seven carries to cross the goal line. The Greyhounds managed to score a touchdown on their next possession, but once

again couldn't convert the extra point and that was the last score of the game.

White led the offense with 102 rushing yards, followed by Dean for 84 and Shurlow for 68. Shurlow also was 10 for 17 for the day, for a total of 124 yards passing. Bigham led the offense in pass receiving with 94 yards and Houston followed with 26. Bieri had a perfect game with six extra point field goals.

Defensive leaders were Houston with six tackles, Josh Colegrove with five and Blough and Jake Stephens both with four. Stephens and Brower both shared a sack and Alex Kaminski had a sack.

Each player also played in honor of someone and just prior to the game walked with their honoree or designee and then presented their jersey to that person after the game.

Andrew Metternick honored his grandmother, Sue Krebs. Grant Peterson played for his grandmother,

Bert Gahan. Austin Bieri played for his Grandpa, Jim Serne and Kyle Blough played in honor of his grandmother, Donna Blough. Kanon Dean honored his grandfather, Allen Setzke and Jeff Houston played in memory of his cousin, Mike Grabbe. Jake Stephens played for a friend, Gwen Spaulding and Tanner Barnes played in honor of his great-grandfather, Ollie Risner. Anthony Alderink played for Traci Botruff, a family friend. Garret White honored his grandmother, Carole Lenon and Ben Bigham played in memory of Joann Helpap. Derek Massey honored Irvin Propst and Alex LeClair honored Julius Meiste. Dylan Brower honored Lou Goosen and Dakota Barry honored Katie Stuursma McIntosh. Ryan Walters played in honor of Doug Beimers, a youth football coach. Josh Colegrove honored Jeff Timpson and Austin Hoekstra honored his aunt, Rosemary Reichardt. Duncan Elliott played in



Josh Colegrove takes down the opponent.

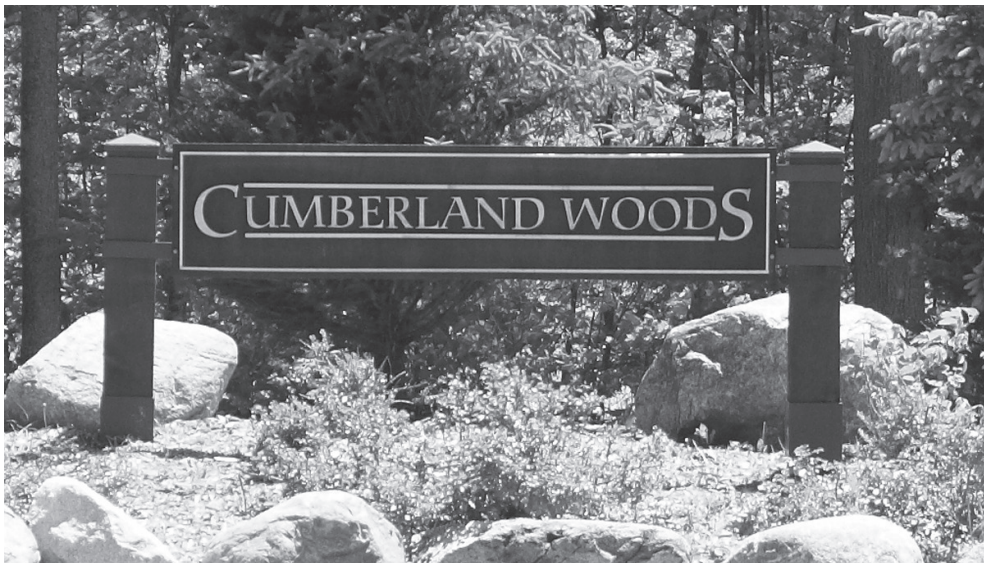
memory of his uncle, Darwin Canfield and Daniel Bieri honored Anna Greidanus. Lonnie Smith played for his grandpa, George Smith II and Max Dean played for Liz Pratt. Max Barber played for his grandma, Ardis Barber and Alex Kaminski played for his grandfather, Ray Kaminski. Zach Kaywood honored his grandmother, Gladys Kaywood and Karson Murley honored James McFall. Nick Higgins played in honor of Nick Hess, a current senior at LHS and Josiah Buys honored Leslie Bennett, a former student athlete and daughter of athletic director and assistant principal Dee Crowley. Matt Reitsman honored his uncle, Chris Helsen and Nick Devito honored his grandmother, Toni Nasca. Andrew McCormick remembered his grandfather, Patrick McCormick and Kenny Duke honored Tom Boersma. Brendan Spencer

played in memory of his grandma, Kathleen Ring and Bailey VanAmburgh honored his grandma, Diane Thomas. Ryan Tarchala honored Jordan Bassinger, who is a senior at LHS and Logan Wilcox honored his grandmother, Marsha Wilcox. Josh Branagan remembered Jackie Carroll and Josh Bearup honored his 4th grade teacher, Len Adams.

One of the honorees, Liz Pratt, is a survivor of breast cancer and also happens to be the wife of Lowell schools superintendent, Greg Pratt. She's a math teacher at Muskegon Reeths-Puffer schools and battled cancer last year. In fact, at last year's game, she had to be driven around because she had just had a procedure that morning, but it was important to her to be there for the game. This year, she walked the walk and it meant so much to her because right

now, she's cancer free. Pratt said that she enjoyed the Pink Arrow game so much more this year, because she was at a different point in her journey. "I was so very honored that Max Dean selected me as his honoree," she said. "If it wasn't for my family and friends and the help of the Pink Arrow organization, I would have had a much tougher road." Pratt said she received \$500 from the Pink Arrow organization, which went for gas to and from her treatments. "That money really helped in my journey of healing. I was having to go all over, like so many other cancer patients and the relief it gave me was priceless. They were always checking up on me as well and it's just so wonderful to be part of this community."

The Red Arrows travel to Grand Haven on Friday, with the game time at 7:00 pm.



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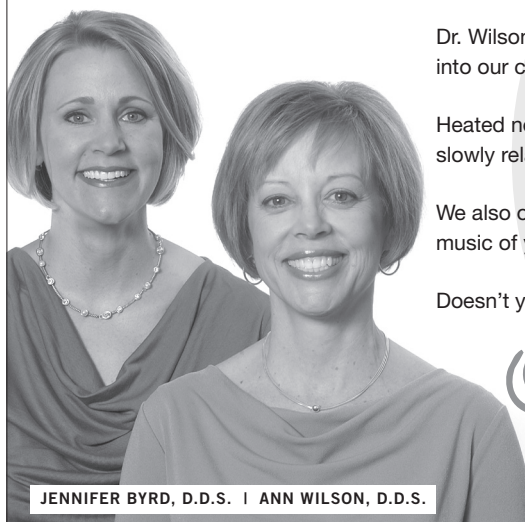
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obituaries

FRIESNER

Bruce L. Friesner, age 77, ceased his struggle with COPD on August 31, 2013. He is survived by his adoring wife, January; sons, Bruce Lee (Michelle) and Donald Friesner; their mother, Shelby; stepchildren, Suzanne (Ray Fedewa, James (Laurie) Potter, Craig (Debbie) Potter, Scott Potter and Cheryl Lucas; 19 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; siblings are, Jack Friesner, Kay (Mike) Fosnaugh, Roger Holtz, Bill Holtz and Debbie Vogel; sister-in-law, Carol (Roger) Conant; brothers-in-law, Gary (Lee) Schut and Alan (Patricia) Schut. We benefitted from his sense of humor, wittiness, carpentry, mechanical know-how and deer hunting expertise. He will be greatly missed. Per his wishes, cremation has taken place. A gathering to celebrate his life will be held on October 6, 2013 from 3-5 pm at his home away from home – Keiser's Kitchen in Lowell. In lieu of flowers, contributions to Heartland Hospice would be appreciated. Access: MichiganCremation.com



HAIGHT

Todd B. Haight, age 49 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Friday, September 6, 2013 at home. He is survived by his sons, Benjamin Todd and Jeremy Lee Haight; his parents, Harry and Donna Haight; brother, Harry (Mary) Haight; sisters, Gloria (Rex) Greenawalt, Kathleen (Arlin) Patterson, Delories (Tom) Thwaites, Connie (Jon) Sawmiller, Bonnie (Pablo) Esparza, Joy (Larry) Peterle and Terry Haight; special friend Beverly Earl; many nieces and nephews. Todd loved working with his hands whether working on vehicles or woodworking. He loved his family, which will miss him dearly. A private memorial gathering will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 88877, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49588-8877.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

MILLER

Ferris Grayling Miller, 96, of Grand Rapids, went to be with the Lord on Friday, July 19th, 2013. A memorial service in celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, September 15th at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1025 Three Mile Rd NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49505, the Rev. Michael C. Fedewa officiating. The memorial service will be part of the worship service which begins at 10:00 AM. During this time his ashes will be placed in the Church's Memorial Garden. A memorial luncheon and dessert will follow at the church approximately 11:30AM. Family, friends, and church family are invited to participate in any or all of the above. Ferris was preceded in death by Lucy his wife of 71 years, and his brother Bernard Miller. He is survived by his children: Jerry Miller, Bonnie Miller, Karen Silverstein (Michael), and Judy Moon; grandson, Corey Moon; sisters Elaine Duggan and Beulaine (Betty) Hilaski; brothers Ward (Joan) Miller and Dale Miller; several nieces and nephews; and many friends. Ferris was an electrician for the CSX Railroad for 40 years and the General Chairman for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). He retired in 1977 and continued volunteering in his community including membership in National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees (N.A.R.V.R.E.) Unit 152, and a charter member and a former President of the Fallasburg Historical Society. His family, neighbors, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church were blessed by his loving tireless gifts of wisdom and time. Ferris was cremated according to his wishes. The family thanks the staff of Beacon Hill at Eastgate Assisted Living and Health Care Center for caring for their father, and Gentiva Odyssey Hospice during his final weeks. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests any memorial contributions be sent to the Mary & Martha Fund of Beacon Hill at Eastgate, St. Andrew's Memorial Fund at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, or Gentiva Odyssey Hospice.



business matters



Smeelink Optical and Lowell Vision Center announce acquisition



Doctor Patrick J. Holser with optician Charlene Wood and Kelly Hansen.

From the outside, Lowell residents might not notice anything new about Lowell Vision Center, but there is plenty of excitement happening inside.

Effective August 23, the doctor and staff at Lowell Vision Center welcomed new ownership and new optical staff to the practice. Dr. David G. Durkee, an optometrist practicing in Lowell for over 31 years, sold his practice to a local optometry and ophthalmology group who also owned the Smeelink Optical at 505 W. Main Street in Lowell.

Having the same values and patient-minded customer service was what brought the

whole acquisition together. "I strongly recommend and endorse the new owner and anticipate a seamless transition. As well, the team looks forward to continuing to provide the highest standard of excellence and service as they work together to care for your family's optical needs," says David Durkee, O.D.

Doctor Patrick J. Holser will remain in the practice along with optician Charlene Wood. The office warmly welcomes manager/optician Kelly Hansen to this location. Hansen was the manager at the Smeelink Optical location in Lowell before the merge.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Meeting Synopsis

August 26, 2013 • 7:00 p.m.

The Board discussed upgrades for the Grattan Vergennes Sewer System.

No decisions were made.

To review the minutes, please visit www.grattantownship.org

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

Date of birth:
07/15/1923.

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS: The
decendent, Jean M.
Butler, died 03/11/2013.

FILE NO. 13-194342-DE

Estate of JEAN M.
BUTLER, deceased.

Creditors of the
decendent are notified

that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Judy Campbell, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

September 6, 2013

R. John Stephan
(P71686)
3875 West River Dr.
P.O. Box 327
Comstock Park, MI 49321
616-784-5080

Judy Campbell
9220 – 28th Street SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-813-7671

Gone But Never Forgotten



BETTY J. POWELL

8/12/30 - 9/4/10

You are constantly in our thoughts and prayers. We miss you.

Love you always,
Lloyd Sr., Jane Lewis and Lloyd Jr.

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Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

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.^{TFN}

FEDEX PICKUP NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE - for **PREPAID** boxes only. We will be able to process boxes to be delivered via Federal Express soon. Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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

GET THE SMOKE, ASH & WOOD MESS OUTSIDE - Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace with a 25 year warranty. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME - for a very well-behaved, male, golden retriever. Please call to inquire, 897-8591.

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.^{TFN}

DOG FOR SALE - 8-year-old mixed female, medium sized, spayed, housebroken, preferred to be outside, \$5. Lowell, 616-828-8020.

WOODSTOVE FOR SALE - Schrader brand, large, good condition, \$300. Lowell, 616-828-8020.

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

1998 CHEVROLET VENTURE MINIVAN - Runs well, transmission needs work. Driven daily. \$1000. Call 616-826-1046.

ATTN: AREA VISION CARE PATIENTS - West Michigan Eyecare Associates is a private practice that is dedicated to maintaining that special relationship that exists between a patient & their family eye doctor. Call us for personalized care, 949-8500.

SAND FILTER - 150 lb., \$150; pool covers: winter & solar, 16 x 32, used one season, \$50 ea. 676-9347.

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

2008 PUMA 19FT. TRAVEL TRAILER - Pull behind, air conditioning, fully self contained, awning needs repair. Price reduced to \$6,900. Call Joe, 616-706-1838.

for sale

RECLINER - dark brown, like new, \$25. Moganydesk, needs refinishing, \$100. Call 897-9924.

FOR SALE - Garmin Nuvi 205 w/GPS, \$50; cedar chest, \$100; electric wood-stove looking heater, \$75; 36 in. TV, \$30; oak TV cabinet, \$40; bookcase, \$20. Lowell, 897-7883.

ACREAGE FOR SALE - Ada, 10 wooded acres. Located on private drive. Prime building spot. \$99,900. Call 616-481-7702.

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. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

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.^{TFN}

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.

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

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

ASSISTED LIVING - Beautiful modern country home in Alto, excellent care. Cathy, 616-891-1840. AsistedLivingAlto@charter.net

wanted

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

PERENNIAL PLANTS NEEDED - for Flat River Outreach Ministries landscaping. Call Mark at 616-540-3080.

CASH PAID - walnut trees. Call Bob Sayers, 616-527-4142, Ionia.

help wanted

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - for sm. Christian Assisted Living facility. Apply in person at 6117 Charlevoix Woods Ct. SE, G.R., MI 49546. Phone # 616-954-2366.

HAIR STYLIST - Looking for a busy & progressive salon? At City Looks, your earning potential is unlimited & benefits/training are excellent! Contact Nicole, 269-979-4247.

P.T. ACTIVITY ASSISTANT - for sm. Christian Assisted Living facility. Experience helpful. Apply in person at 6117 Charlevoix Woods Ct. SE., G.R., MI 49546. Phone # 616-954-2366.

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}

GREEN ACRES LOWELL - an assisted living home is currently seeking a part-time direct care worker for 1st and 2nd shifts, experience preferred. Applicant must pass a background check and have a high school diploma or GED. If you have a passion to work with the elderly and truly want to make a difference then we want you! Apply in person at: 11530 Fulton Street, Lowell, MI 49331.

P.T. HOUSEKEEPING / LAUNDRY - experience preferred. Apply in person: Emerald Meadows, 6117 Charlevoix Woods Ct. SE, G.R. 49546.

THE LAURELS OF KENT - is seeking experienced housekeeping and laundry staff. Must pass background check and drug screen. Apply in person at The Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331. To the attn. of: Jim VanHeulen.

misc.

DAVE POWELL'S 80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY - Please come to Schneider Manor Community Center on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013 from 2-5 p.m. to wish Dave Powell a Happy Birthday.

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave SE, will serve a family style turkey & dressing dinner on Wed., Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$10 & children 6-12 are \$4, and children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

sales

GARAGE SALE - Sept. 14 & 15, 10 to 5, 624 N. Hudson & Mercer. Home decor and household items. Free gift to buyers.

sales

GARAGE SALE - 523 Suffolk, next to the middle school. Thur. & Fri., Sept. 12 & 13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MASSIVE BARN SALE - 9 to 6, Thurs. - Sat., Sept. 12-14. 10968 Vergennes (west of high school). Antiques, collectibles, bird houses, sporting goods, & more.

GARAGE SALE - Part of neighborhood sale - 9762 Centerline, 9-6, Fri. & Sat., Sept. 13 & 14. Off M-21 between Lowell & Saranac between Whites Bridge & Pinckney Rds.

2646 LINCOLN LAKE - at 3 Mile. Sept. 12, 13 & 14. Mother-in-law moved in sale. Stuff that did not fit. A to Z then some.

GARAGE SALE - Antique furniture & glassware, children's items, dressers, misc. household items. 8710 Alden Nash Ave SE, Alto. Sept. 13, 9-5 & Sept. 14, 9-3 p.m.

GARAGE SALE - Sept. 13 & 14, 9 to 5, 10820 Sconewood Dr. Lots of household decor, furniture, kitchen appliances, baby boy clothes, girls clothes (3T to 16) & toys.

GARAGE SALE - Sept. 13, 14 & 15. Fri., noon to 6; Sat. & Sun., 9 to 6. 287 Lincoln Lake Rd., 2 miles north of Lowell. Household goods, toys, furniture, antiques & tools.

HUGE GARAGE SALE - Furniture, toys, clothes & other household items. Near Fallasburg Park, 13651 Downes St. Sat. & Sun., Sept. 14 & 15, 9-4 p.m.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE - Fri. & Sat., Sept. 13 & 14, 9-5 p.m. Treasures galore! 3391 Lincoln Lake Ave. See Craigslist.

GARAGE SALE - Sept. 12, 13 & 14, 9 to 5 p.m. Glass dining room table, rocking chair, misc. & much more. 989 McCabe Ave., Ada.

GARAGE SALE - Fri., Sept. 13, 9-5 & Sun., Sept 15, 9-3 at 222 S. Division. Baby boy & girl clothes, 3T, baby equipment, furniture, home decor & much more.

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH - 1125 W. Main., Thurs. & Fri., Sept. 12 & 13, 9 a.m. Household, furniture, toys, clothing & much more!

found

PLEASE NOTE - All ads in this category must be prepaid.

FOUND 8/12/13 - lost adult male black & white short haired cat - near Township office & Ryan Ridge, Unique markings. Call 897-8385.

LEDGER OFFICE

105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Phone 897-9261 Fax 897-4809 www.lowellledger.com

free

PLEASE NOTE - All ads in this category must be prepaid.

FREE KITTENS - Two black & white males, one orange male. Very cute. Need loving homes. Call 897-7994.

in memoriam

In memory of **Kenneth R. Kropf**
 Out through the fields and the woods,
 And over the walls I have wended;
 I have climbed the hills of view,
 And looked the world, and descended;
 I have come by the highway home,
 An lo, it is ended.
 Robert Frost
 Remembering you and missing you on your birthday, September 10.
 Your brother & his family

services

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

PIANO LESSONS - by seasoned, professional, performing musician. Patient & personable. 616-915-9515.

AYERS QUALITY KNIVES - USA, Germany, Italy & Japan. Brand new & A+ used. Outdoor hunting, pocket folding, collectors' edition, vintage, steak knife sets. Buy - sell - trade. Free appraisal. 616-498-0476.

RETIRED VETERAN SEEKS WORK - on small projects. Car or garage cleaning, deck sealing, have a chainsaw and other saws. Reasonable. 616-647-7563.

services

WALNUT HILL LAWN SERVICE - Mowing, rototilling, general cleanup, trim small trees & shrubs & fertilize. Free estimate, reasonable rates & licensed. Call Aaron at 616-328-9558.

JIM'S POWER WASHING - Dirt, spores, mildew washed away. Call today 616-915-1745.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS - for drums, guitar & trumpet. 11 years exp. Affordable. 1st hour lesson is a free trial. Your home or mine. Jake, 881-1535.

BASEMENT WATER-PROOFING - Professional Basement Services waterproofing, crack repair, mold remediation. Local/licensed. Free estimates. 517-290-5556.

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.^{TFN}

NEED A DUMPSTER? - 14 to 20 yards available. Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. Dependable service & affordable prices. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.^{TFN}

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

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.

Coming Events

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

KIDS TALK - CANCER OR GRIEF - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. A group for children in 1st - 4th grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum based activities, discussion & playtime. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR - Third Thurs. of each month. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell. Call 868-7426 or 897-8303 for more information.

GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEETING - Call the clubhouse to schedule your introductory meeting for grief support groups. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

KNITTING GROUP - Tues., Sept. 17 & 24, 10 a.m. - noon. Beginning to advanced meets at Village Hall in Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

TEEN & TWEEN TALK - CANCER OR GRIEF - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. A group for youth in middle or high school on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities & discussion. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

A talk with the principal

Week two of our principal interview series puts the spotlight on Cherry Creek Elementary and their leader, Shelli Otten. This Michigan State University (MSU) graduate and former teacher has spent six of her fifteen years as a principal at Cherry Creek Elementary (CCE), which educates Lowell students from second to fifth grade.

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

(Ledger) What role does the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) play in your school?

(Otten) Our PTO has transformed itself in the past five years and the results have been amazing. They contribute thousands of dollars that fund field trips, our Accelerated Reader program, technology, assemblies and enrichment items. The PTO contacts new parents, does school tours and has organized special family events. They volunteer everywhere! We love our Bushnell-Cherry Creek PTO. In June, they were awarded Honorable Mention in PTO Today's Parent Group of the Year. It was a well-deserved recognition.

(Ledger) What changes or projects are in store for CCE in 2013-2014?

(Otten) We're excited about building positive relationships with students and having a safe school through activities related to our theme, "Go 4 It - We are safe, responsible, respectful, and kind." Our staff will be trained in the MiBLSi (Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative) model over the next two years. The idea with MiBLSi is that when student behavior expectations are clear and positively supported, academic achievement increases.

(Ledger) How did you come to be the principal at CCE?

(Otten) This is my sixth year at Cherry Creek. Prior to that, I worked as a principal in Grand Rapids Public Schools. I love working in Lowell, which is like the town I grew up in. The community is so supportive of our schools.

(Ledger) What would you most like to see more of from parents?

(Otten) We receive parent support in so many ways—through our great PTO, volunteering in the classroom, on field trips, etc. I think the most important thing parents can do is to talk with their child about their school day and set aside time daily for at home reading and math practice. Every minute counts!



Principal Shelli Otten with a few of her students at Cherry Creek Elementary.

(Ledger) How do you help fifth graders make the transition to secondary school?

(Otten) Fifth graders visit middle school in the spring. Many of our fifth-grade staff have taught in the middle school and can share expectations with students. Every former Cherry Creek student that I've talked with loves being in middle school; that seems like a sign that our transition is successful.

(Ledger) What are some of the goals you have set for the 2013-14 school year?

(Otten) Our goal is for every student to make at least one year's growth in every academic area. We will also focus on behavior choices that are safe, responsible, respectful and kind—every day.

(Ledger) What is the best thing about your staff?

(Otten) Our staff cares about kids and they work hard at providing learning experiences that will prepare students for a successful life. Cherry Creek's staff is willing to try new ideas, share their expertise and think creatively. It's a treat to observe teachers' work in our classrooms.

(Ledger) What do you think are the three most important factors in elementary education?

(Otten) At Cherry Creek, we work very hard to provide students with a safe learning environment, positive relationships with the adults at school and learning opportunities that are challenging and meet individual needs.

(Ledger) What is the current student to teacher ratio?

(Otten) Classroom size in our second to fifth grade building is running between 24-27 students per class.

(Ledger) How important do you think art, music and physical conditioning (PE) are to elementary students?

(Otten) Research tells us that PE and fine arts' education helps improve learning in all academic areas. Art, music and physical education are strength areas for many students and helps them stay engaged in school. Surveys that my students have done tell me that too!

(Ledger) What makes Cherry Creek unique?

(Otten) I'm proud of how our students, families and staff participate in projects that make a difference. Last year, our "Pennies for Pages" program during March is Reading month resulted in a \$4000 donation to FROM. Students in fourth grade organized a project where they raised money for water filters in Haiti. Kids have sold crafts at our school store to benefit an animal shelter. We have a student group, Early Act, that helps facilitate projects that benefit our school, community and the world. It's exciting to see the impact when we all work together. Kids really want to help others and we try to foster this at Cherry Creek.

(Ledger) What change from state government would help education most?

(Otten) Our state has given us challenges and uncertainties with school budgets; it would be great to have more stability with this for program-planning purposes. I'd also like to see more positive comments about what is going well in public education. At Cherry Creek, I see staff adjusting to major changes in curriculum, using personal funds for classroom projects and doing what it takes to educate every child. Students are making gains. Technology is being incorporated. Parent involvement has increased. All of this is happening in a challenging financial climate. While we certainly have room for improvement, there is a lot to celebrate with public education in Lowell.

(Ledger) During your time as an educator, what was one of the most endearing moments?

(Otten) Two years ago, I accepted a challenge to run a 5K with our Girls on the Run team. Students asked me every day how I was doing with training and encouraged me to keep the goal. It worked!

(Ledger) What new roles is technology taking in your building?

(Otten) Thanks to grants from the Lowell Education Foundation, our PTO and the district we're fortunate to have smart boards in every classroom; teachers are learning to integrate these into learning. We also have a good selection of pads and other individual student computers which are in high demand. Students are using them to gather information, for technology projects and skills' practice. Our challenge is to continue to provide equipment to keep up with the demand!

(Ledger) Do you have a motto or a mission for the 2013-2014 school year?

(Otten) Go 4 It! We are safe, responsible, respectful and kind. When this happens, students achieve academically too.

(Ledger) What is the best thing about your job?

(Otten) Being with students every day is fun for me. I love to celebrate achievements with them. It's a great feeling when a child tells me about meeting their reading goals or shares a piece of writing with me. As a school, we celebrate great things that are happening every Monday during our school-wide meetings. And I need to be honest and say that I enjoy celebrating birthdays and sharing birthday treats with kids too!



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**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF
LOWELL**



Brad Yonker

Behind The Scenes



Position: Owner of Alto Marathon.
Education: Bachelor's from Davenport University in Management with a focus on Human Resources.
Experience: A total of 13 years in the industry.
Family: Wife Megan; parents Tim and Carolyn.
Interests: Boating, golfing, and working.



by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Brad Yonker tells the story of how his journey at the Alto Marathon began with a laugh.

"My Mom got me working here," he says with

a smile, "because I was 15 and driving her crazy!"

Neither Yonker, nor his mother Carolyn, had any idea that almost a decade and a half later he would still be working at his very first

job, but with a far different job title.

Yonker was initially hired in as a food service worker at the restaurant located inside of the busy and centrally located gas station and convenience store that currently greets close to 1,000 customers per day.

"It was easy to get comfortable here," he said. "To be honest I always liked it."

After quickly perfecting this position he became a cooler boy. This maintenance-like position consisted of tasks like stocking, cleaning and handling bottle returns along with basic troubleshooting for the store. After about a year-and-a-half learning the day-to-day operations of the business as a cooler boy, the recent South Christian grad, now 18-year-old Yonker, was ready to make the move to cashier.

Yonker worked closely with the previous owner of the Alto Marathon, Don

Ziemke, during his years working there taking every opportunity to learn and ask questions. "I always felt like he was a mentor," commented Yonker when asked about their relationship, "I looked up to him."

While continuing to work and learn at the Marathon, Yonker was also busy pursuing a degree at Davenport University. He majored in management with a minor in human resources earning a four-year degree in 2007.

"I always knew I wanted to own my own business," says Yonker. So not long after graduation Yonker sat down with Ziemke to let him know it was time to move on. "Don said that he wanted to work together someday and that is when things started to turn."

Upon leaving the Alto store Yonker accepted a store manager's position with Walters Dimmick Petroleum which he also enjoyed. "I learned a lot about store image working there." It was not long though before Yonker's friend and mentor Ziemke, the current owner of Campau Corners at 68th and Whitneyville, was inviting Yonker to return to the Marathon, not as an employee nor as the manager, but rather to become the proprietor. Yonker seized the opportunity and at the young age of just 23 became the owner of the Alto Marathon.

Yonker says that he knew that he wanted to make a lot of changes to the store right away. "We sell the same items as anyone else so you have to create an atmosphere," he explained. After taking the reigns of the store Yonker and his business partner and longtime friend Nick Fischer, got right to work doing just that. Fully remodeled bathrooms, fresh paint, new shelving and a brand new and expanded beverage center that features twelve varieties of fountain drinks, four frozen drinks and custom mixed milkshakes, were among the first projects.

"We also tripled the

space for both wine and craft beer," said Yonker. The store, which is open 24 hours, boasts a Beer Cave, a large walk-in cooler, stocked with everything from singles to kegs. It is filled with American standards as well as unique and seasonal beers and highlights local breweries. The expansive wine selection is displayed on custom built shelving and wears the appropriate title of Alto Vineyards. The store also carries a wide variety of liquor.

Another highlight of the well-cared for store is an unrivaled gourmet coffee bar. Fresh ground coffee beans, eight varieties of brewed coffee and as many cappuccino options are available to customers along with the only local cold pour well featuring chilled creamers in a variety of flavors: milk, half & half, whipped cream, and a handful of other items to ensure that your coffee is exactly the way you like it.

Outside of the store walls is the Alto Car Wash also fully owned and operated by Yonker and Fischer. It contains a fully automatic wash as well as several self spray bays. "We constantly work to improve wash quality and offer fuel discounts to customers choosing to buy our Ultimate Wash with their fill up."

The plans for change and the desire to keep upgrading have not ended yet. "After five years of ownership we have made huge progress but I would say we are not even half way there," Yonker commented, while mentioning an eventual desire to further expand the cooler and reface the front of the store.

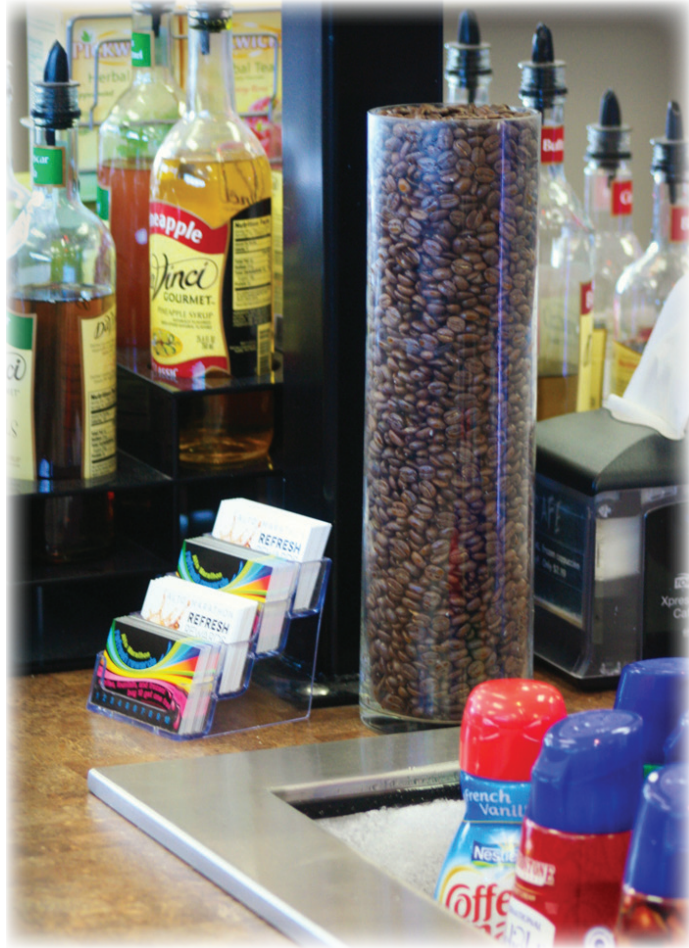
In the more immediate

future Yonker states, "We are planning to introduce a new food concept inside the store by the end of the year." The new restaurant, which is yet to be named, will include a revised edition of the successful pizza and breadstick operation they currently enjoy and will also feature made-to-order Mexican food featuring "better, fresher ingredients and the ability to customize your meal. There is nothing else around like it," said Yonker excitedly.

Yonker, now 28 and married to wife Megan, says that he feels the overall success of the store and the loyalty of its customers stems from his staff. "I think a lot of it is our cashiers. We have customers that drive by other stores to get to us. A lot of locals and their children work here and our cashiers stay a long time. I really do love my employees."

Teresa Myers, a ten-year veteran of the Alto Marathon, is one of those cashiers. She says she thinks that the "small town feel and banter," that she gets to enjoy with her customers and coworkers is a highlight not only of her job, but of the store as a whole. She also attributes much of the success of the station to her boss Yonker saying, "I think he is the best thing that happened to this store. I really admire his vision."

From car washes to craft beer, gas to groceries, coffee to candy bars, and most things in between, there is a pretty good chance you will find what you are looking for at the Alto Marathon. Even more importantly you will find friendly service, a great atmosphere and tremendous pride in ownership from Brad Yonker, that guy that used to be the cooler boy.



YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

A guide to Michigan's public information laws

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

The Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267; MCLA 15.261 et. seq. requires all meetings of a public body to be open.

Q What information can I obtain about government operations?

A As citizens, you have the right to know what your government is doing. Michigan has two laws—the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)—especially designed to protect this right, giving you the opportunity to learn how your government works. The OMA declares that the meetings of a public body must be open to the public and held in a place accessible to the general public. The FOIA entitles citizens to review, inspect or receive copies of most public records.

Q How does the OMA define a public body?

A The OMA defines a public body as any body created by statute, constitution, charter, ordinance, resolution or rule to perform a governmental function. For something to be considered a public body, it must have been both created by law and perform a governmental function. Thus, your local grocery store and church are not considered public bodies, while entities like city councils, township boards of trustees and zoning commissions are. Generally, the OMA excludes the courts from its provisions, though both the Michigan Constitution and court rules grant the public access to most court proceedings.

Q Can a public body ever meet in private?

A Yes. The OMA provides for closed meetings in some limited, specific circumstances. Described generally, public bodies may meet privately to discuss sensitive issues like: the evaluation, dismissal or discipline of a public officer or employee, or dismissal or discipline of a student when the person involved requests a closed meeting; collective bargaining; the purchase or lease of real estate; legal strategy regarding pending litigation; review of applications for employment or appointment when the applicant so requests (however, interviews for employment or appointment must be held at an open meeting); and discussion of material exempt from disclosure by law.

Q Could members of a public body meet informally, before or after a meeting?

A Yes, a public body may meet at another venue before or after a meeting as long as they do not discuss business. The OMA specifically states that it does not apply to these types of social gatherings when they are not designed to avoid the act. However, the OMA also states that any gathering of a quorum of a public body at which they deliberate toward a decision is a meeting that must be open to the public.

Q Can a public body vote on matters by secret ballot?

A No, they may not. Though the law does include a few very specific exceptions, in general the OMA mandates that all decisions of a public body be made at an open meeting, including voting.

Q Can a public body meet outside its geographic area?

A While the act does not state that a meeting must be held in the public body's geographic boundaries, it does say that meetings must be held in a place that is easily accessible to residents served by that public body.

Q If a public body posts a special meeting on the outside of a building over the weekend, is the meeting legal?

A Yes, as long as the notice was posted 18 hours prior to the meeting. The OMA does not require that notice be given during regular business hours. However, it does require that the posting be accessible. For example, it must be posted on the outside, not on the inside, of the building.

Lowell Ledger now archived and online

If it happened in or near Lowell, it probably was noted in the Lowell Ledger or its predecessor newspapers. Now more than 100 years of news archives are online.

Kent District Library's Friends of the Englehardt Library received a \$6,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund to digitize the Ledger's 88-reel microfilm collection,



which spans from 1870 to December 2012. The collection is available through KDL's website - www.kdl.org - and through the Lowell Area Historical

Museum website - www.lowellmuseum.org.

Issues of the Ledger published after 2012 will be added to the online digital collection between six months and one year after publication. The direct link to the digitized Ledger is http://www.kdl.org/reference_resources/go/LowellLedger

"It's going to be such a great tool," said Pat Allchin, executive director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. "For even me, to go to the (microfilm) files is very cumbersome. And a lot of people don't like to come to the museum to do research because of our steep staircase (to the second-floor archives). This makes it so much easier for everyone."

Microfilm technology is becoming outdated and people were previously only able to access the collection during open library hours. Digitization has made the resource accessible to anyone at any time, from anywhere in the world.

The microfilm format also made it difficult for people to locate particular names or events unless

they knew the approximate date the information was originally published. With the new technology, the issues are in a searchable format, making it easier than ever for local genealogists and history enthusiasts to locate information quickly and efficiently.

To help researchers better use and search the new technology, a series of free classes will be offered at the Englehardt branch. The first is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Monday, October 21, and pre-registration is required. The museum also offers time for residents to get assistance with genealogy research from 5 to 8 pm the second Thursday of each month and during open hours, when staff time permits.

Kent District Library is a public library system comprised of 18 branch libraries in 27 governmental units throughout Kent County, Michigan. It is supported by millage dollars and private donations. KDL serves 395,660 people in all areas of Kent County except the cities of Grand Rapids and Cedar Springs, the village of Sparta, and Solon and Sparta townships.

Local photographer travels to Ethiopia



Brandon and Emily Mulnix sent this picture while traveling to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in August. They were there to finalize the adoption of their son, Silas.

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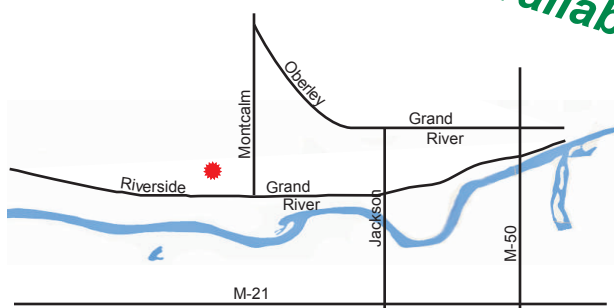
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