

**tea party continues**



page 2

**fall fest '13**



page 7

**fall teams**



& sports



pages 8 - 12

## Both sides try to clarify their positions during sometimes heated discussions at LL&P meeting

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

On Thursday, September 12, the Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) board held their monthly meeting upstairs at the light & power office.

Doug Vredeveld of Vredeveld Haefner LLC presented the 2013 Light & Power audit. Much to the satisfaction of the board,



**LL&P general manager Greg Pierce.**

Vredeveld explained that the utility is making money, increasing net assets each

year and paying off debts at good rates. His power point presentation showed that the large majority of light & power's operating expenses are "purchased power," meaning power that is not generated in Lowell but purchased from outside.

General manager Greg Pierce summarized recent performance data. During the month of July, power spiked up to 15.67 megawatts, which Pierce described as the highest peak in light & power history. The average load on the grid is six to eight megawatts. Light & power also experienced a spike in delinquent account payments, which Pierce tied to the higher energy bills resulting from more power usage.

Chief accountant Steve Donkersloot gave

a presentation on power cost adjustment (PCA) in response to a question posed by a local citizen advisory group (VOICE) of Lowell spokesperson Barbara Barber. PCA is a line item visible on light & power bills that not many people in Lowell know about. Donkersloot explained that there are occasionally extra costs to the utility month to month that must be passed on to the customer and this passed on cost is the PCA.

*"I resent the implications that we've done things under the board."*

~ Perry Beachum

Barber posited that the high PCA rates she sees on her bill are deceptive, especially when the utility claims that the rates have not been raised. Pierce interjected that the PCA will be figured into the rate once

it begins to plateau and that light & power's efficiency measures have absorbed 25 percent of these extra costs so they don't have to be passed on to the public.

Councilmembers noted that this was one of the most highly attended board meetings they had ever seen. Many of the seats set out for the public were filled with concerned citizens from VOICE of Lowell, just as much of the beginning of the meeting was taken

up with questions raised by members of the group.

Barber questioned the utility's reasoning for the expensive purchases of two gas generators and a biodigester with public money. Pierce explained



**VOICE of Lowell spokesperson Barbara Barber.**

that offers had been made on two generators at different times and when both offers were accepted light & power chose to purchase both. He also said that the biodigester was not purchased by the utility, but that they will have the option to buy it later. These generators will be used as back-up if the main line coming into town ever goes down. Their

LL&P meeting, continued, page 2

## Lowell area artists get involved in ArtPrize

Rick Devos called it a "social experiment" when he introduced his concept for ArtPrize back in April of 2009.

Now five years later, ArtPrize is the largest and one of the most popular art competitions in the world. The event will be taking over Grand Rapids and livening up the streets and businesses with art this year from Sept. 18 until Oct. 6 when over \$500,000

worth of prizes will be awarded mostly based on public vote. A handful of ArtPrize participants are from the Lowell area and were willing to talk about their upcoming ArtPrize experience and the road that led them there.

**Jean Allemeier Boot Suite: The Trees' Reply Vote Code #54551**

Alto resident and fine artist Jean Allemeier Boot is participating in the ArtPrize



**Jean Allemeier Boot**

her connection with nature is the source of inspiration for much of her work.

"My prints reflect a personal connection that I hold with the landscape. Intensely engaged with the beauty of organic shapes, light, shadow and lines which are evident in nature. My compositions often begin with an interesting tree or a unique landscape arrangement," said the artist.

Meeting and talking with other artists is a highlight for Boot, who says she also enjoys talking to the public viewing her work. "I appreciate the opportunity to inform and broaden their experience by speaking about my work and my process," she said.

Boot, who has worked as an art instructor and in education for the Grand Rapids Art Museum, will also be participating in ArtPrize Education Days where she will share the story of the creation of her work with school-aged children.

**The Impact Band Unto Us Vote Code #55207**

Unto Us began as a single sentence combined ArtPrize, continued, page 16

## Alto Harvest set for this weekend

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

For the 33rd time the streets of downtown Alto will become an autumn celebration for the enjoyment of its residents and the public alike, as they host the Alto Harvest Festival & Car Show on Saturday, Sept. 21.

This day of fun and entertainment will kick off with a pancake breakfast held inside the fire station from 7 to 10 am. The rest of the day is jam-packed with family-friendly events and activities along with food booths provided by local vendors, including the Alto Lions' Club and American Legion Post.

Official opening

ceremonies for the event will take place at 10 am at the shelter/stage area, newly donated this year by the Alto Downtown Development Authority (Alto DDA).

The stage will also be the home to four different musical performances throughout the day, including Lowell High School's Fusion Rock Orchestra who will take the stage at 11 am.

Harvest Festival committee chairperson Eva Carey has been heading up the event for three years and says she is excited about the upcoming event which includes a large variety of kids' activities that are provided free of charge

thanks to the generosity of their sponsors.

"We provide all local entertainment and try to make everything as affordable as possible for families," commented Carey.

Other activities include a baking contest, book sale, bingo, arts and crafts' booths and a kids' tractor pull competition open to kids age three through 10.

Additional children's highlights include a mobile zoo, inflatables and a fun scavenger hunt. For more details and a full schedule of events you can go to the Alto DDA website at [www.altodda.org](http://www.altodda.org)

competition for the third time with her entry Suite: The Trees' Reply, a set of two prints. This is Boot's third year in this competition and second year her art will be displayed at Cathedral Square located at 360 S. Division.

Boot, who studied art at Aquinas College, still has her work on display at her first year venue, Lafontsee Galleries, which has become a permanent home for her work.

"I am very fortunate that the gallery has retained me as one of their regular artists since that time," said Boot.

She has spent much of her time as an artist working in the medium of printmaking in its various executions. She says that

50 CENTS



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# Annual tea party well attended

Neva, the ever-present mannequin, greeted the golden girls again for Dot's 14th anniversary tea party. Everyone had fun at Dot Lacic's 14th annual tea party on Aug. 29. Lots of great food, desserts, fun and entertainment after lunch. All wore big hats, many of which were homemade.



# along main street

### 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.

### LOWELL VS. MUSKEGON FOOTBALL

Tickets for the Lowell v. Muskegon football game will be on sale in the Lowell High School main office on Fri., Sept. 20 from 7:30 am – 3 pm. Tickets will then be available at the stadium ticket office at 5:30 pm. Gates will open at 5:30 pm for the 7 pm game.

### 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.

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.

### 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.

### VOICE TOWN HALL MEETING

Discussion of current events in government and community owned utilities. Everyone is welcome. Sept. 26 at 6:30 pm at the Englehardt library meeting room.

### 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.

## BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 20-21

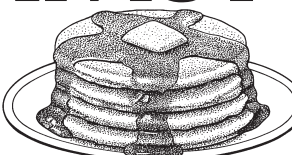
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## LL&P meeting, continued

combined production of just over eight megawatts would be able to handle the city's normal load and they could be used in the future in order to lessen the cost of purchased power.

Randy Halstead and Ralph Brecken pressed the council on the issue of

all these people showing up to the board meeting that have never showed up before, Beachum said, "I get upset."

Later, Beachum apologized for his outburst.

"I truly want the public to come," he said. He suggested that if people saw the whole story, as opposed to the jumping in near the end, they would have a more favorable opinion of light & power's decisions.

After the long debate, the Lowell Light & Power board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss the results of a fact finder review of the Lowell Light & Power union contract.



Auditor Doug Vredeveld of Vredeveld Haefner LLC.

limited gas availability to the generators, Halstead suggesting that they "bought a truck they can't pull their trailer with." Board chairman Greg Canfield and Pierce said they are working those issues out.

After VOICE of Lowell pressed the board for more details for quite some time, board member Perry Beachum became visibly angry.

"I resent the implications that we've done things under the board," Beachum said. With

The next Lowell Light & Power board meeting is on Thursday, October 10 at 5:30 pm on the second floor of the light & power office at 127 N. Broadway. The public is welcome to this meeting as well as any other. Concerned citizens may add agenda items by contacting the light & power office at 616-897-8402.

VOICE of Lowell is holding their next meeting on Thursday, September 19 at 3:00 pm at the Schneider Manor community room.

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# Union asks that public be included in contract negotiations

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

City of Lowell and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) have been meeting since February of 2012 in order to iron out unresolved issues pertaining to the union contract of the city of Lowell and Lowell Light & Power employees.

In a letter to the editor published in the Lowell Ledger, mayor Jim Hodges claimed that the negotiations are not open to the public. In a public presentation on August 20, Ralph Brecken gave a presentation detailing that, with few exceptions, the entire process is open to the public.

Following this, the IBEW sent a copy of the city of Lowell union contract to the Lowell Ledger.

When asked to comment, mayor Hodges said, "It is inappropriate for me to make any direct comments on this subject."

The city of Lowell contract appeared largely authoritarian in nature, with wording like "at the sole discretion of the employer" commonly arising. Article 2 of the contract reserves the right for the employer (city of Lowell) to promote, assign and transfer employees, but also to layoff employees and subcontract labor to take their place.

That the IBEW wants to add the word "reasonable" to this clause in order to limit the uncapped power is still in contention. There are a couple of main points the IBEW has problems with in the city contract.

First, Article 2, Section 2 posits that this new contract supersedes all prior agreements, meaning that employees will be denied rights that, as John Francis said, they left their previous careers for. Second, Article 4, Section 2 gives all union employees an at-will employment status, meaning that they can be fired without just cause. Third, as the contract

stands, utility employees are vulnerable to being replaced by temporary, part time or subcontracted labor. Finally, the contract limits union employees to a one percent raise while non-union employees have consistently received much higher rewards.

The contract between the IBEW and Lowell Light & Power is largely identical to the city of Lowell contract. The main difference is that the city of Lowell contract is supervised by city manager Mark Howe whereas the light & power contract is supervised by general manager Greg Pierce.

The contract for Lowell Light & Power employees has just returned from fact finding. Fact finders are a neutral third party appointed by the state in order to determine what contract wording would be fair for all parties involved. The findings are intended to be viewed by the public.

Much of the wording of fact finder Lane Hotchkiss' report is difficult to

understand. He notes that fact finders normally deal with "a half a dozen issues or so" and that the 25 articles and two attachments under dispute in this contract are "not the norm." While it may momentarily appear that Hotchkiss blames the bargaining unit (union) because this is the first contract they've negotiated, this insinuation is turned on its head near the end of the document when Hotchkiss explains that he is "recommending essentially the union proposed structure."

In other words, after reviewing comparable union contracts, consulting applicable acts and laws and hearing arguments from each side, Hotchkiss found the employer's contract unreasonable in the face of the union's contract, which he describes as "fairly typical in labor contracts."

Many of the issues under dispute in the city of Lowell contract were addressed by Hotchkiss in the light & power contract.

It would be rare to find a fair contract that didn't include the "reasonable" wording in reference to the exercise of power by the employer and it is almost unheard of to have an at-will union contract.

While the union's understanding of part-time employees as having lesser seniority was rejected, the intention of protecting union employees from being replaced by subcontractors was upheld. As for the wage increase, the IBEW was only arguing for a three and a half percent wage increase and Hotchkiss upped this amount to six percent. He felt this was reasonable because light & power made no claim for inability to pay due to financial hardship and the average raise given to non-union employees was nearly eight percent. Hotchkiss added that general manager Greg Pierce received a 12.5 percent raise on July 1, 2012, while arguing that his

Contract negotiations,  
continued, page 4

## Last minute agenda addition could prove expensive for city

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

On Monday, September 16, the city council called to order their meeting despite the absence of councilmember Rev. Chris Schwab.

The two items of new business, namely the appointment of a wastewater engineering firm and the need for a pipe locator replacement, were joined at the last minute, by a proposal for a replacement fire engine.

City manager Mark Howe reported that the city interviewed four wastewater engineering firms in order to find someone to assist in issues relating to the wastewater system. Of these four candidates, Prein & Newhof of Grand Rapids emerged as the preferred candidate, even over Williams & Works Engineering, a firm that has worked with the city of Lowell for some time now.

Brian Vilmont of Prein & Newhof was present to answer questions and thank the council for approval.

"Our goal is to be a trusted advisor," Vilmont said.

In addition of approving the relationship with Prein & Newhof, the council approved the purchase of a new pipe locator for \$2,900. The device made by Vivax-Metrotech will replace a device made by the same manufacturer that has been used to locate water pipes in order to avoid disruption during digging operations. This purchase was not part of the city's budget.

The final item of new business was a surprise to most of the council. Because of a deadline this Friday, the city council, along with authorities in Vergennes Township and Lowell Township, were required to decide on short notice whether they were

willing to spend \$185,000 of unbudgeted money on a replacement rescue pumper for the fire department.

The vehicle in question would replace a rescue pumper made in 1988, the oldest of three in the department. It would also take the place of an outdated rescue vehicle used to carry needed equipment.

The cost of the new vehicle is \$565,000, split three ways between the city of Lowell, Vergennes Township and Lowell Township.

The reason for the rush is because commitment by September 20 will save the city \$2,900 on the total cost through the purchase of a chassis made in Charlotte, Michigan, that will not be available after that date. An additional \$6,800 in savings is available should the three municipalities choose to

City council,  
continued, page 6

# lowell Arts

## THANK YOU

to the many Volunteers, Fallasburg Park Staff, Lowell High School Interact Club and Wrestling Club, Cub Scouts, Fairground Staff and other Behind-the-Scene Volunteers who helped make our Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts such a success!

## THANK YOU

Artisans, Demonstrators, Musicians and Food Booth Groups for your tireless commitment to making this year's LowellArts! event memorable.

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## Contract negotiations, continued

lead lineman should only receive one percent.

Lowell Light & Power is not required to accept the contract proposed by fact finder Hotchkiss, but the implication in rejecting this document would be that the utility is being unfair to their employees and that the public could hold them

accountable for these errors in judgment.

Though the city of Lowell contract will not receive a fact finder statement until October, the fact that these contracts are nearly identical bodes poorly for both the city of Lowell and Lowell Light & Power. City manager

Mark Howe said that the two boards have scheduled a joint meeting in order to look at the Lowell Light & Power fact finding report and determine how to move negotiations forward.

Neither the city of Lowell nor Lowell Light & Power have announced plans to make these contracts and fact finder conclusions public. However, city manager Mark Howe has volunteered that he and general manager Greg Pierce will answer any questions about the negotiations that the public might have.

City manager Mark Howe can be contacted at 616-897-8457 or by e-mail at mhowe@ci.lowell.mi.us. General manager Greg Pierce can be contacted at 616-897-8402 or by e-mail at gpierce@lowell-light.org.

According to state law, if there is still an impasse 60 days after fact finding, Lowell Light & Power will have the right to make their last, best offer for the contract. Despite the impartial third party ruling that the IBEW contract is superior in terms of fairness, when time runs out the union workers may be stuck with the light & power contract.

### LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194326-DE

Estate of BRADLEY ZEEUW, deceased. Date of birth: 03/09/1954.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Bradley Zeeuw, deceased, who lived at 8774 66th St. SE, Alto, MI 49302 died 08/11/2013.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be

forever barred unless presented to Nathan Zeeuw, 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 10, 2013

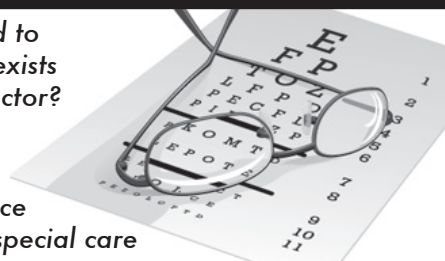
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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### be informed

Dear Editor,

We attended the open forum – town hall meeting at the Lowell library on Tuesday, August 20, hosted by VOICE.

There is a lot of information that has not been shared with the public or the city council that needs to be. A factually informed public and council will make wiser voting choices than having only one opinion to rely on.

We were disappointed that the city attorney was also present at the open meeting, sitting with the mayor, busily taking notes of all that was being said by our citizens and city employees. Where our

tax dollars being spent to pay our lawyer to gather information to use against us and intimidate citizens attending an open meeting?

Why were councilmembers told that they could not read or even see copies of the proposed union contract with disputed sections highlighted, which are public knowledge, until they were supplied to them by VOICE? Several councilmembers said they had been told that the city could be sued if they read them and they are the ones who have to vote on it? And they can't see it?

Why was \$30,000 plus of our taxpayer money

spent to hire a union-busting attorney as the city's contract negotiator against loyal, long-term employees, when it could have been better spent on some of our decaying streets?

The letters in the Ledger claiming slander and name calling were directed at VOICE and the employees who are directly affected. Only facts from the contracts themselves have been questioned by the employees and published by VOICE.

These employees now have only 60 days in which to accept or reject this contract, with no more bargaining for fair treatment. The city is holding out on the 60 days when the contract will automatically become law and these employees can then be fired with no recourse.

Other Lowell citizens

that we have spoken with don't seem to even be concerned about what is going on or don't want to get involved for fear of reprisal.

Lowell has the second highest tax rate in Kent County, right below East Grand Rapids with nowhere near the median income of those residents. If you think your taxes and utilities are high now, just wait until these employees are gone and all our services are outsourced!

If you have questions about why these negotiations are dragging on after two years, go to the VOICE website at [voiceoflowell.org](http://voiceoflowell.org) and read the actual proposed contract offered by the city for yourselves and draw your own conclusions.

Very sincerely,  
Bill and Nancy Wood  
Lowell

## ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouder Ph.D.

Self-esteem and depression are linked together. When we develop goals to work on our self-esteem, we keep our depression more manageable. There are six attributes of self-esteem (based on Nathaniel Branden's book "Six Pillars of Self-Esteem"). The first characteristic of good self-esteem is "living consciously." Much of the time we "sleepwalk" through our day. Becoming a "thinking" rather than a "non-thinking" person requires a desire to grow and change. This motivation to change helps us create a wider vision, a greater awareness and ultimately, greater wisdom.

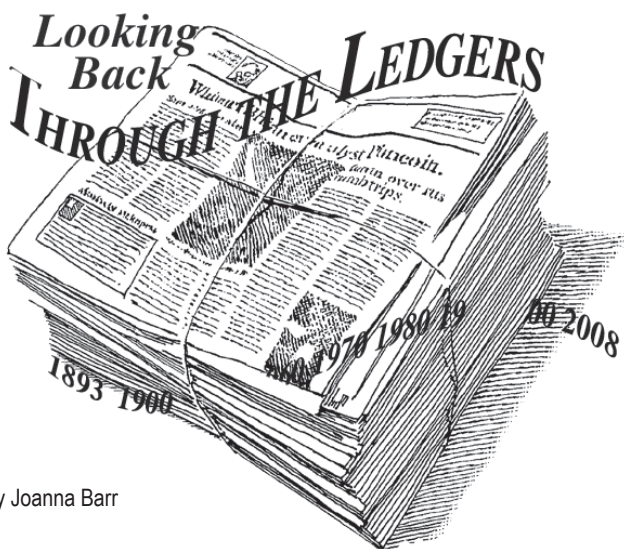
Consciousness is a basic tool of survival. Survival means the ability to be aware of one's environment and to guide one's actions accordingly. To quote Nathaniel Branden, "Our mind is our basic tool for survival. Betray it and our self-esteem suffers." Mindfulness is the basic underpinning of high self-esteem.

Sometimes we live in a mental "fog" which governs how we live. Our mental "fog" is manifested when

we say statements like: "I know I'm not giving my job the best, but I don't want to think about it" or "What do you mean I drink too much? I can stop any time I want to" or "I know the way I eat is wrecking my health, but I can't help myself." These are just a few statements that we make that undermine our self-esteem. Essentially, our self-esteem is "the reputation we acquire with ourselves."

Individuals with high self-esteem can be characterized by a mind that is active rather than passive, an individual that is seeking ways to expand awareness and one that has made a commitment to grow. When this decision has become their way of life, their self-esteem increases. Fundamentally, "it is the act of self-assertion. The choice to think and the seeking of awareness, understanding, knowledge, clarity" that raises self-esteem.

The second characteristic of self-esteem is self-acceptance and that will be discussed in the next article. If you have general questions about this article, e-mail me at [kathryndenhouder@gmail.com](mailto:kathryndenhouder@gmail.com)



By Joanna Barr

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 11, 1913

Headline: H. N. Lee's bad fire. Keene farmer met heavy loss Sunday night. About seven o'clock Sunday night the barn and complete hay and grain farm of H. N. Lee, one mile east and half mile south of Keene Grange hall, was burned to the ground, together with a silo, several smaller buildings and some lumber.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 15, 1938

Mrs. Clyde Condon received a dozen glass top, wide mouth jars as one of the awards given at the Ionia Free Fair by the Ball Bros. Co., for outstanding exhibits of fruits and vegetables put up in their jars.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Condon are on a motor trip this week. Mrs. Fred O. Wingeier is attending the housework.

Sam Yeiter returned Saturday from Wequetonsing where he had worked during the summer as a night clerk at the Wequetonsing hotel, one of the finest in Northern Michigan.

### 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 12, 1963

Cow-lision' halts unlicensed driver. George S Converse, 15, went out for an unlicensed drive last Thursday evening, but came to an abrupt halt—and to the attention of Kent County Sheriff's Deputies—when he collided with a cow on M-91 south of Lowell.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 14, 1988

Headline: 1988 "Person of the Year" named. Lowell chamber honors Ivan Blough. "It's a real nice honor and I appreciate the fact I've been in Lowell 40 years and have raised my children here," Blough said. He added that his community and civic involvement has come about through his family. "Raising a family, you naturally become involved in many activities."

### 140 years ago Lowell Journal September 17, 1873

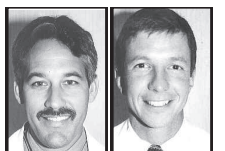
Ionia has had a sensation and lost a fellow citizen. A man named Taylor knocked his boarding house proprietor down and the proprietor arose and caressed Taylor over the head with some crockery. The boarder was fined five dollars and costs – shook the dust of Ionia from his sandals and is now traveling for his health and paper rags.

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal September 14, 1888

Just before Saturday midnight, flames were seen issuing from the roof of A. K. Beadle's harness store. In a very few minutes the hose from Perrin's Livery barn was connected with the fire hydrants and were doing good work. Soon the hose wagon from the east side was on hand and four streams were plying across the building, which was literally drenched with water and the fire put out before reaching down through the ceiling of the lower story, although the entire upper story was in flames and the roof burned off.

The discovery of a skeleton in Wayland Township, Allegan County, buried head down, leads to the belief that another old and forgotten murder has been unearthed.

## health



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

### vitamin D for infants

Supplemental vitamin D is recommended for breast-fed or partially breast-fed infants. When breast-feeding was more common than formula, a mother would receive a prescription for vitamin D on discharge from the newborn nursery. With the widespread use of formula, that practice stopped.

Vitamin D is important because it helps with the absorption of calcium and phosphorous into developing bones. Vitamin D deficiency causes softening of the bones, a clinical condition called Rickets.

Vitamin D containing foods, such as oily fish, eggs and fortified foods are not consistently eaten by young children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends giving 400IU of liquid vitamin D daily. This should be continued until the baby has weaned or is drinking at least 32 ounces of vitamin D fortified formula.

Some guidelines also recommend increasing vitamin D to 500IU daily for children older than one year of age.

# area births

## Roberts



Logan Michael Roberts

Mike and Laura Roberts of Cleveland, Ohio, are proud to announce the birth of their son Logan Michael, born August 7, 2013, weighing 8 lbs. 12 oz. Grandparents are Paul Roberts of Kokomo, Indiana, Cathy Minnie of Lowell and Mike and Karol Burnham, also of Lowell.

# City council, continued

pay \$191,000 of the total cost as a pre-payment by December.

Council member Andrew Schrauben asked a series of questions, expressing a concern that the issue be thoroughly discussed before approval.

"We had to put a \$3,000 unbudgeted item in the schedule," Schrauben said. "If we're going to discuss a \$185,000 spur of the moment commitment I want to be cautious and ask questions."

At the conclusion of Schrauben's questions, the council took Howe's counsel and moved to purchase the fire engine.

Before adjourning to closed session in order to discuss contract negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), the councilmembers and city manager discussed updates from various meetings they have attended.

At the planning

commission meeting, Jim Hall noted that Impact church was working on a parking lot expansion. He noted that the church, located in Vergennes Township, is the source of two noise complaints from citizens in the city of Lowell.

Schrauben said that the Lowell airport board is looking for a new tractor to mow the lawn.

Mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison presented the results of the arbor board meeting.

"Get your tape measures out for the biggest tree contest," Ellison said.

Mayor Hodges reported that nine citizens attended the Lowell Light & Power board meeting. He thanked the citizens for showing up for what he called a "nice dialogue."

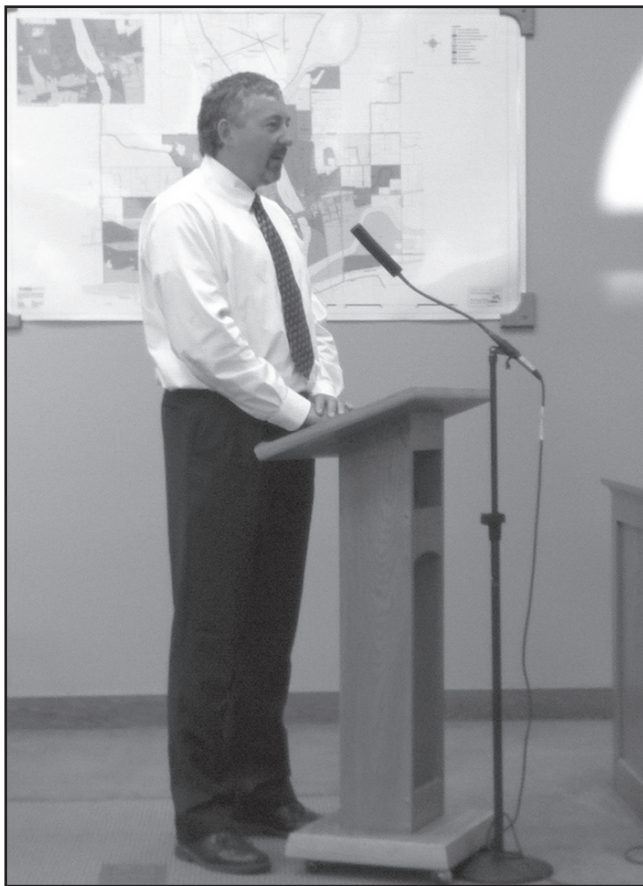
"We'll skip the gory

details," Hodges said. "Not that there were any."

The final item before closed session was the appointment of Melissa Spino to fill the vacancy on the arbor board left when Dana Chase moved. Spino's experience as a gardener at Frederick Meijer Gardens and recommendation from Dr. Jim Reagan made the decision easy for the council.

There are still two board vacancies that the city needs to fill, a planning commission vacancy left when Al Mathews moved and a downtown historic district commission vacancy left when Dr. Bob Reagan passed away.

Any citizen interested in appointment should contact city clerk Betty Morlock or mayor Jim Hodges at 616-897-8457.



Brian Vilmont of Prein & Newhof.

## School bus fender bender

Lowell police responded to a minor bus accident in the parking lot of Bushnell Elementary on Sept. 11 around 8:30 am as students were being dropped off. In a letter sent home to parents the same day, the principal of Bushnell Elementary School Roger

Bearup said, "Two of our buses made contact when one bus rolled into the back of another stationary bus." One child sustained minor injuries and the driver of the offending bus was taken to the hospital with a suspected medical condition.

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Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
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Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn  
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Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
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**SEPTEMBER 19**  
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**SEPTEMBER 20**  
Donald Rittersdorf Jr., Patrick Parish, Mitchell Walling, Phillip Wilson, Marilyn Wilson.

**SEPTEMBER 21**  
Deanna Anchors, Renee Fox, Rich Briseno, Joseph Scott, Megan Racine, Ethan VanDerWarf.

**SEPTEMBER 22**  
Rosie Fonger, Jennifer Haan, Tara Thornton, Linda Barnes, Grandma Modlin.

**SEPTEMBER 23**  
Steve VanLaan, Mike Racine.

**SEPTEMBER 24**  
Kenneth Gregersen II, David Powell, Clara King, Stephanie Vickers, Jake Baker, Samantha Clouser.

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# Crisp fall air greets attendees at 45<sup>th</sup> annual festival

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The 45th Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts was a fun, well-attended event. Saturday was bright and sunny, but a cold, wet afternoon didn't keep Fallasburg Park from filling up with people on Sunday as well.

Ron Wood, a LowellArts! trustee and the emcee for the event, was pleased with both days' turnout.

"Actually, with the weather, it went really well," Wood said on Sunday. "We're happy that as many people came out today as they did. But it's an outdoor

"We've got veggie wraps, seafood wraps, a walking taco and we do a squash bisque," Briggs said. "It's a soup and it's like eating warm pumpkin pie without the crust. Our big seller has been the soup; we always sell out."

Adults and children alike were fascinated by the people showing off their skills and trades in the demonstration pavilion. Among those on hand were a glass blower, a blacksmith, a bee keeper, wood carvers, an origami expert and other artisans.

Marta Williams, representing the Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild, was demonstrating weaving on a large, complicated-looking loom.

"We're weaving mug rugs, which are like coasters," Williams said. "We're doing it in plain weave, which is where the yarn goes over and under, over and under, over and under. There's all sorts of types of weaves and you can get very intricate patterns with different types of weaves."

While Williams and the other weavers have a good time demonstrating their skills for people, they also have an ulterior motive.

"Part of our goal as a guild is to promote the fiber arts and get other people involved in it," Williams said.

Dan Mayhew, a member of the Lowell Area Arts Council, has been demonstrating furniture building at the festival for 20 years.

"I'm building rustic

furniture," Mayhew said. "I use all local materials that I get around here."

Mayhew was not concerned about the weather on Sunday.

"Great crowds yesterday, good crowds today," Mayhew said. "I don't think I've ever been here a year that we haven't had a good crowd. The weather doesn't seem to

There was a sweet, flowery odor surrounding Geer and his piles of plants; you could smell it a few yards away.

"This is sweet annie, a fragrant herb and amaranthus, which I'm using for the colors," Geer said. "We grow this on our farm, Frozen Creek Farm, out on Cannonsburg Road. We grow close to an acre of this just for Fallasburg Festival."

Geer thought the rain on Sunday brought less people out that day.

"The weather affected us pretty bad

today, by about two thirds," Geer said. "They put on a great program here and they can't control the weather. The people who came out

Artists from all over Michigan and from as far away as Florida, Illinois and Ohio, were stationed in tents all over the park selling their wares.

Elyse Welcher, a Rockford native, had hand-made leather goods

on display. This was her first year at Fallasburg Festival.

"I do all leatherworking," Welcher said. "I have a business called Littlewings Designs and that's what all these goods are."

Welcher has her own store and also travels to local fairs.

"I've got a storefront and retail space in downtown Grand Rapids," Welcher said. "I do all the West Michigan shows that I can get into and have time for. I've been doing festivals now for three summers."

Folk, bluegrass, Celtic and country bands played hour-long

sets on both days. The Willeys, Kinfyre, the Proulx Brothers Band were crowd favorites.



A blacksmith demonstrates his trade.

The Adams Family closed the festival on Sunday. Their singer and guitar player Brian Adams enjoyed performing.

"It was great," Adams said. "I love playing out here. It always seems to be a nice crowd and they're very responsive."

Adams did not think the weather had much effect on Sunday's attendance.

"I think there would've been a few more people here today," Adams said, "but Lowell people, they come out anyway. It doesn't stop them."

After the Adams Family finished, Ron Wood from LowellArts! and two young helpers drew raffle tickets and announced the winners for about 100 prizes, all handmade art. First prize was a beautiful quilt, won by Dianna Lyons, who was not present to claim her prize.

Next year's Fallasburg Festival will take place September 13 and 14, 2014.



Picking the winning raffle ticket.

deter a whole lot of people. Judging from the people I see here, talking to the artists, they're doing a good job, they're selling a lot of stuff, they're doing great."

Paul Geer sat exposed to the elements, surrounded by what appeared to be a mountain of dead plants. Geer took long stalks of vibrantly colored foliage, tied them together and sold them as either decorations or air fresheners. He's been doing this at Fallasburg Festival for nearly 27 years.

"I'm making an herbal swag," Geer said. "It goes down in the basement. You can put it in a musty area and humidity will activate the fragrance or you can put it in a shoe closet or something like that. A lot of people hang it on their doors. If you shake it on the carpet and sweep it up, the fragrance is picked up in the bag of the vacuum. It'll activate and you'll smell the fragrance."



today were buyers. They weren't just walking around and grabbing something to eat, they were buying things from the vendors."



The B-Side Growlers on stage.

event and you can't control the weather. It went pretty good."

There were 10 food booths serving everything from fish and chips to vegetarian chili. The food booths benefited local churches and other volunteer organizations, such as the Fallasburg Historical Society, the Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus and the Lowell Area Fire Department.

Carol Briggs was in charge of the First United Methodist Church food booth.

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# Red Arrow Fall Sports Teams

## varsity football



First row, left to right: Andrew Metternick, Grant Peterson, Austin Bieri, Kyle Blough, Kanon Dean, Jeff Houston, Kyler Shurlow, Jake Stephens, and Tanner Barnes; second row, left to right: Anthony Alderink, Garret White, Ben Bigham, Derek Massey, Alec LeClair, Dylan Brower, Koda Barry, Ryan Walters, John Bigham, and Josh Colegrove; third row, left to right: Austin Hoekstra, Duncan Elliott, Danny Bieri, Lonnie Smith II, Max Dean, Max Barber, Alex Kaminski, Zach Kaywood, Karson Murley, Nick Higgins, and Josiah Buys; fourth row, left to right: Matt Reitsma, Nick DeVito, Andrew McCormick, Kenny Duke, Brendan Spencer, Bailey VanAmburgh, Ryan Tarchala, Logan Wilcox, Josh Branagan, and Josh Bearup.

## varsity volleyball & golf



First row, left to right: Catherine Stump and Grace Quiggle; second row, left to right: Rachel Fox, Tara McQueen, Kortney Beachler, and Abbi Bladey; third row, left to right: coach Cassie McFarland, Bethany Kaczanowski, Aubreigh Steed, Paige Wilson, Katie Bush, Abby Petroelje, and Lydia Tawney.



Girls on carts, left to right: Alainie Thomas, Nikki Hewitt, Anna Organeck, Morgan Fuller, Paige McKenna, Dani Krajewski, Caitlyn Gauch and Jessica Steiner; seated, left to right: Nova Nietling, Talitha Hull, Mary Hess, Maddie Kaminski, Paige Fosburg and Taylor Furtaw.

## varsity cheer

First row, left to right: Madalynne Iteen, Zoey Kramer, Kaylee Tucker, Taylor Ergang, Kiersten Ashenbremer, Khayli Scott, and Hannah Churches; second row, left to right: Lauren DeHaan, Shannon Gorman, Katelyn Yunas, Alexandra Chapdelaine, Anna VanOverbeek, Katie Haan, Fallon Fox, Braylin Conner, Baileigh Ford, and Alexis Martinez.



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# Red Arrow Fall Sports Teams

## varsity soccer

First row, left to right: Robert Dubisky, Collin Bowers, Curtis Bramble, Liam Kelley, Anthony Pollock, Isaac Henderson, and Nick Proefko; second row, left to right: Austin Sirowatka, Brandon Cole, Jacob Sweet, Spencer Lyon, Josh Theisen, Collin Pawlowski, Chrisan Sirowatka, Raul Damian, Jon Bell.



**L**  
Go Red Arrows!

## cross country



First row, left to right: Abi Cummings, Desiree Striplin, Kelsey Emmanuel, Haley Engers, Emily Judd, Megan Khodl, Kayleigh Striplin, Elle Coble, Mary Leasure, and Francesca Robinson; second row, left to right: Colleen Lally, Bethany Dean, Morgan Groendyke, Alyssa McCormick, Mallory Paiz, Paige Braun, Esme Misiak, Kyla Dixon, Tori Hewitt, McKare Elliott, and Kathryn Miller; third row, left to right: coach Sarah Ellis, Jessica Graves, Rachael Walters, Lauren Blanchard, Kristine Bobko, Makenzie Frederickson, Colleen Cater, Taylor Bierling, Breanna VanLaan, and Sara Majestic.

First row, left to right: Eric Judd, Kyle Cater, Nick Truba, Parker Grant, Dan Onan, Louie Hart, Adam Marks, Alex Bohr, and Zach Diamond; second row, left to right: Reece Karns, Riley Nethercott, Marc VandenBerg, Travis Brubaker, Alex Dlouhy, Garrett Nauta, Nicholas MacDonald, Brayton Grant, Jon Wyckoff, and coach Clay VanderWarf



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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Equestrian team wins districts, gallops on to regionals

by Karen Jack

This year the Lowell equestrian team has nearly the smallest team in close to 15 years, but they packed a punch in the Michigan Interscholastic Horseman's Association (MIHA) Division B districts by riding away with the championship on September 7th, 8th and 14th.

The MIHA separates the division by team size, where Division A is 11 or more riders, Division B is 6-10 riders, Division C is 3-5 riders and Division D is one to two riders.

The districts are comprised of 17 competitive events, but each rider will compete in anywhere from three to eight events. The event is strictly a team event, but the individual results count towards the team total. Lowell finished first in all three district meets, giving them the championship. Tri-County came in second, Grant finished third and Rockford finished fourth.

Although individual results are not rewarded individually, sophomores Sara Kloosterman and Henneh McMillian, junior Hannah Draigh, and seniors Jess Graves, Justin Rinks, and Katie Canfield all took first in their events as individual wins. Freshmen Olivia Hock and Andi Reynolds, as well as senior Rachel Phelps all had top five placings.

Fourth year coach, Jessica Bouman was elated with the team's finish. "I could not be more proud of this year's team. We have had to strategize more than ever this year and five out of our nine riders are on very new horses. They have taken all the challenges thrown at them and more than stepped up to the plate with it all. They have hit it right out of the park," Bouman said.

**The team will compete in the Region C championships in Midland September 27-29 with three other districts.**



**Team Photo with banner. Team members: Andi Reynolds, Sara Kloosterman, Olivia Hock, Henneh McMillian, Rachel Phelps, Katie Canfield, Jess Graves, Justin Rinks, Hannah Draigh, coaches Holli Melton, and Jessica Bouman.** Photo submitted by Harriet Graves

## Volleyball wins two out of three

by Karen Jack

Coming out strong and powerful, varsity volleyball took it to Forest Hills Central, looking like they were going to run away with a win on Thursday, but fell to the Rangers, losing the next three games in the best of five series.

The first game looked like the meet was going to be a barnburner between the two teams. Both teams went back and forth with scoring. Lowell was losing by two then tied it up at 11 all. From then on, both teams went back and forth all the way

up to 25. Having to win by two, Lowell held strong and pulled it off tied at 30. The Rangers had a bad serve, putting Lowell up 31-30. Abby Petroelje served for the win and Central couldn't get it back over the net.

Lowell ran away with the second game pulling ahead 8-4, thanks to great serving by Katie Bush for six points in a row. Petroelje spiked to put them up 9-6. Petroelje and Aubreigh Steed spiked the ball one

Volleyball, continued, page 12



**Katie Bush and Aubreigh Steed block the ball.**

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

## season previews

### - VOLLEYBALL



The volleyball team has already done better this year than last year and the new coach, Cassie McFarland, is confident they will perform better in conference this year than last as well. In fact, last year, they only won one game and so far this year, the team has made it to the finals in two invitationals (Hamilton and Cadillac) where there were several teams they beat.

“Being new, I haven’t had a chance to scope out other teams, but just watching our team work together, encourage each other and continue

to improve, I think we can really do well,” said McFarland. “We have to stay healthy and stay mentally tough.”

As far as conference goes, McFarland believes they will finish in at least the top three this year in conference. “I have some really great leaders who lead by example, and keep the team up when mistakes happen. They believe they can do it and that’s half the battle,” added McFarland. The three captains and the only three seniors on the team are Abby Petroelje, Kortney Beachler and

Aubreigh Steed. “They’re key in making sure we finish strong.” With a relatively young team, having only three seniors, one sophomore and the rest juniors, McFarland says it’s a pretty solid team.

“My biggest challenge is keeping them mentally tough. I believe as long as they stay mentally tough, they will perform to the best of their ability and pull out the close ones,” added McFarland.

As far as a state run goes, McFarland, as a new

coach, said it was difficult to predict because she hasn’t had the opportunity to see a lot of the different teams they will face. She does know that Grand Haven and East Kentwood are in their regional and both are tough teams, so they’ll have their work cut out for them.

With a winning record of 12-7 thus far, McFarland thinks they can improve on that. “We just have to work hard at practice and make sure we finish our plays and stay mentally tough,” added McFarland.

### - GIRLS’ CROSS COUNTRY



This year’s girls’ cross country team is going to have to struggle to move up in conference standings, according to head coach Sarah Ellis. As of right now, they stand sixth in the conference with their performance in the first jamboree. The runners don’t have many dual meets and have none within the conference. Jamborees are held instead, where all conference teams compete each time with about 200 runners – all at different venues throughout the conference.

Prior to the conference realignment, Lowell steadily moved up year by year, from sixth to fifth, to fourth, then third. Once the conference realignment happened, they dropped back to sixth. The reason is because “our conference is pretty insane,” said Ellis. “Grand Rapids Christian and East typically always place in the top four in the state. I don’t think in the past ten years they’ve placed lower than fourth.” In their region last year, Forest Hills Central, Jenison, Rockford, Grandville, and Grand Haven were all participants. Rockford, Grandville and Grand Haven advanced to states and they all placed in the top four, which means that the Lowell team has to compete against the three top teams in the state just in their regional. “Jenison is fifth in the conference and we’re pretty close in points to them, so I think we can

make a run for it to beat them,” added Ellis.

The team has had one hundred percent improvement in each meet thus far, with each and every girl improving on their time each time out. “I’d love to get back to dual meets, where we face teams one-on-one.” But she also said she’d settle for some invitationals. In their first invitational at Comstock Park this year, the team took first, which was a nice boost to the morale of the team.

The team leaders are Jessica Graves, senior Lauren Blanchard and Rachel Walters. Last year, Graves had the seventh best time in school history at 19:38. Blanchard is in her first year for cross-country but is running hard and is the second runner next to Graves. Walters is typically the third best on the team.

“This year our region is switched and we’ll be running in Traverse City. There’s an outside chance we’ll do well as a team. Of course, Rockford, Jenison, and Forest Hills Central, as well as Traverse City West and Traverse City Central will be there, which are all strong teams. We’ll have to beat out a couple of those teams to advance to state,” said Ellis. She thinks a couple of the girls can qualify for state individually though. “We have the strongest conference in the state and a pretty strong regional, but anything can happen on any given day.”

### - GIRLS’ GOLF



Kim Stephens, head coach for the girls’ golf team, thinks his team can do better this year than last year and hopes to finish in the middle of the pack for conference. Golf has jamborees within the conference, where all six teams in the conference compete against each other at different venues. With three jamborees under their belt, they’re currently in fifth place, but are only one point behind East Grand Rapids. “We’ve been going back and forth with them. We tied them twice and lost once by one stroke,” said Stephens.

The leaders are Dani Krajewski and Elaine Thomas, both juniors. “They [have] been our main scorers and have been one and two the entire season thus far and they definitely are our lead-off people,” added Stephens. Freshman Paige Fosburg has played in a couple of jamborees as a varsity player, due to illnesses because coach Stephens wanted to make

sure they had the numbers they needed. Seniors Morgan Fuller and Paige McKenna also make up part of the team.

“My main concern is finding the best five girls. I’m pretty sure of the top four, but that fifth one hasn’t emerged yet. I still have some time [to] figure that out,” said Stephens.

Last year, the team finished ninth out of fourteen teams. Stephens says they have the potential to do well if everybody has it together at the same time. They have three jamborees left and he believes they can get over East Grand Rapids in standings. Caledonia is currently in first with 16 points and Lowell has seven. “We’re only one point out of fourth and seven points out of third.” He also believes a couple of girls will make the all-conference team.

“Our girls can play tough and when they do, it’s not impossible to place well and perform well as a team,” said Stephens.

### - BOYS’ CROSS COUNTRY



In his 14th year as head coach for the boys’ cross country team, Clay VanderWarf thinks the team will improve this year in the OK White conference, although, like the girls’ team, East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Christian are powerhouse teams the Arrows must contend with.

The powerhouse teams have many more runners than Lowell. Most of the elite teams have about 50 runners and this year’s team has 19 runners, so that automatically puts Lowell at a disadvantage. Still VanderWarf has confidence in his team that they will continue to improve throughout the season.

With the team having four seniors returning, VanderWarf has high hopes that they will be able to finish better than sixth in the conference as they did last year with a few individual placers as well. Right now, in their first jamboree this year, they placed fifth, which is a step in the right direction. Jamborees consist of all

six teams in the conference all competing at once. VanderWarf said Caledonia is also a contender in the OK White.

The team is led by junior Zach Diamond who is the number one runner as of yet. He ran a 17.29 last Saturday at the Sparta Invitational, placing fifth out of 63 runners and only :00.19 seconds behind fourth place. Junior Nick MacDonald is the number two runner and VanderWarf says he is improving consistently. Sophomore Adam Marks is brand new to the sport and is already the number three man on the team, so VanderWarf has high hopes for him.

Standout seniors include Mark VandenBerg, fourth runner; and Jon Wycoff, sixth runner; on varsity. “I expect Grand Rapids Christian will win the conference, but I know we can improve on our sixth place finish from last year with the team we have this year,” said VanderWarf.

### - BOYS’ SOCCER



The OK White conference for soccer is pretty evenly matched, according to coach Rich O’Keefe. “It’s one of those where each team can beat another team within the conference and no one team will go undefeated,” O’Keefe said. He also believes there’s nobody in the conference they can’t beat. In soccer, there’s no conference tournament and the winner is crowned from conference standings.

“We have a solid team with a lot of good players,” said O’Keefe. “Soccer’s one of those sports that if you have a solid team, you can beat any team on any given

day.” Of the three games the Arrows lost so far, they were all close and the coach thought they would come out ahead. He has a lot of confidence in the team and says they can capitalize on opportunities when they present themselves.

The leaders of the team are the captains, including Spencer Lyons, senior Jake Sweet and goal keeper Liam Kelly. Lyons plays center back and will move to forward when needed. He’s a four-year varsity player and O’Keefe says he’s an all-state level player. Sweet is a three-year varsity player and not only the voice of the team, but the field leader,

according to O’Keefe. Kelly is also a three-year varsity starter. He was the all-league honorable mention last year and O’Keefe believes he will get all-league honors again this year. “He needs to come up big to keep us in the game and so far, he’s done well.”

The team has nine seniors, four juniors, two sophomores, and two freshmen. The underclassmen are either starting or playing a significant amount of time. “I’m confident that in every game we play this year, we have an opportunity for a positive result. This team

is a combination of many seniors, but also a good core of underclassmen. It’s the best skilled team I’ve had in my four years at Lowell,” said O’Keefe. He attributes a lot of that to the LASSO youth program, as well as his assistant coaches: his son and goal-keeper coach Ryan O’Keefe and JV coaches Jon Bell and Ken Bieri.

“With the bigger teams, we have to get quicker. We have the skill capable of doing so, but we’re still working on that part of our game. I’m confident we’ll get there exactly when we need to be there.”

 **Go Red Arrows!**

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*Good luck to all the  
varsity sports participants!*

# Red Arrow SPORTS



Parker Groom

## Tennis team drops to Mona Shores

by Karen Jack

The boys' tennis team lost to Mona Shores on Monday, 8-0. With Mona Shores being a tennis powerhouse, it was pretty difficult for the team to get past them. Parker Groom, the number three flight singles and Zach Ritchie and Caleb Kaufman, the number four doubles team, got the closest to winning a game.

In tennis, there are singles and doubles. Each of those have flights of one to four, with one being the best. The results of the match were flight no. 1 Quinn Summerfield lost 6-0, 6-0; no. 2 Zach Fotis lost 6-2, 6-0; no. 3 Groom lost 6-1, 6-3; and no. 4 Jeremy Bergin lost 6-0, 6-0. For doubles, the no. 1

team of Keaton Pomper and Luke Kloosterman lost 6-4, 6-0; the no. 2 team of Kyle Bell and Blake Posthumus lost 6-1, 6-0; the no. 3 team of Matt Lazar and Carter Noskey lost 6-0, 6-0; and the no. 4 team of Ritchie and Kaufman lost 6-2, 6-3.

The team also went to Holland for a quad at Holland High, with Spring

Lake and Zeeland East in attendance. Lowell placed fourth with number one singles Summerfield, number two singles Fotis and number three Groom all took second place in the quad.

**The team faces Caledonia in league play on Wednesday. Match time is 4:15 at home.**



Kyle Bell

## Lowell Red Arrows crush Grand Haven Buccaneers

by Karen Jack

Defense was the name of the game on Friday night when the Arrows faced Grand Haven in their backyard, holding them to only seven points. The defense held the Buccaneers to a total of only 221 yards combined for rushing and passing, as opposed to 534 offensive yards for Lowell in their 41-7 win, relentlessly pounding their quarterback to the ground on every Grand Haven possession.

Lowell received the ball first and moved the ball all the way down to the Grand Haven seven-yard line, but fumbled the ball in which Grand Haven recovered. Grand Haven went three and out on their first possession. The Arrows turned it around on their next possession and scored on a Kyler Shurlow eight-yard run. In fact, Shurlow rushed for a total of 25 yards in that drive, with two rushes from Kanon Dean for a total of 12 yards

and a Shurlow pass to Kyle Blough for 15 yards. Lowell led 7-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The Arrows forced the Buccaneers to punt at the beginning of the second quarter and Lowell scored on two plays – a four-yard rush from Jeff Houston and a Shurlow pass to Ben Bigham for 59 yards for the touchdown. Lowell let Grand Haven on the board with a touchdown on their next possession, but shut

them out for the rest of the game. Just before the half, the Arrows scored another touchdown moving the ball 71 yards in 1:56. Shurlow passed to Bigham three times for a total of 53 yards and passed to Houston two times for a total of 29 yards. Shurlow rushed the ball in one yard for the touchdown, taking the Arrows into the locker room up 21-7.

The Arrows' next two possessions in the third quarter resulted in two more touchdowns. The first one was all Shurlow with two rushes for 44 yards. Houston set the team up with an interception at the Lowell 37-yard line and Lowell scored on a Dean run for seven, a Shurlow run for three, a Dylan Brower run for five, and then Shurlow took it across the line on a one-yard rush.

Up at the beginning of the fourth quarter, 34-7, the Arrows didn't let up and scored again on their next possession. Lowell kept it on the ground for the first seven plays with rushes from Shurlow, Brower and Dean, then passed to Houston for

11 yards to get to the Grand Haven 30-yard line. He then passed to Houston for a 30-yard touchdown reception, for the last score of the game.

Offensive leaders for the game were Shurlow in rushing with 155 yards, followed by Brower for 56. Bigham had 122 receiving yards and Houston followed with 83 yards.

Josh Colegrove led the defense with six tackles and a sack. Houston and Alex Kaminski both had five tackles. Andrew Metternick, Dean, Jake Stephens, Derek Massey, and Josiah Buys all had four tackles and Brower had a sack.

**The Arrows face number one-ranked Muskegon at home on Friday, with game time at 7:00 pm.**



Ben Bigham Catching one of his many receptions.



Alex Kaminski goes after the ball carrier.

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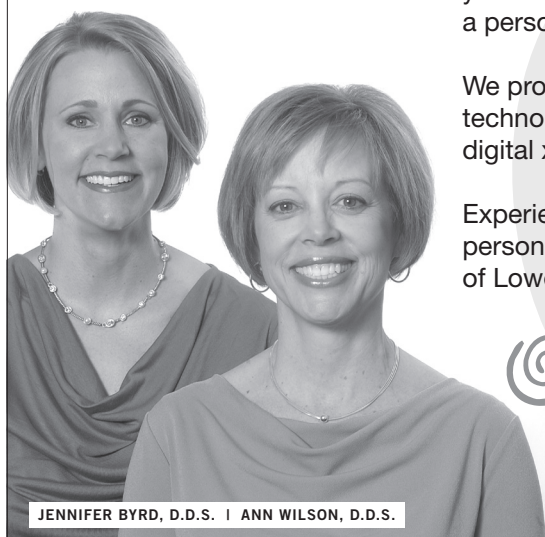
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## Volleyball, continued

after the other to put them up 15-6. With the Arrows up 22-17, Steed placed the ball just over the net where no Ranger was around to make the score 23-17. Up 24-18, Bethany Kaczanowski served the ball and Bush spiked the ball on the return to win the game, 25-18.

The third game looked good, starting with a Steed spike to make it 1-0 and it looked like the Arrows were just too much for the Rangers. The Arrows were up 10-5 and then let the Rangers back in to tie it up at 14 all. The Rangers pulled

ahead and Lowell never caught up, losing the third game 25-19.

Still up in the match, it looked good for the Arrows, especially the way the fourth game started with another Steed spike. Both teams went back and forth and were tied at 17, but the Rangers were just too tough for the Arrows, and won that game 25-19.

Going into the tiebreaker, Lowell allowed Forest Hills to score the first five points without an answer. With the tiebreaker only going to 15 points,

Lowell had a short amount of time to come back, but never led throughout that game. The closest they got was 10-8 and Central scored the next four points, making it 14-8. Lowell came back and scored two more points, but couldn't hold on and lost the game 15-10.

**The team travels to East Grand Rapids on Thursday at 7:15 pm, then to the Caledonia Invitational Saturday with start time yet to be determined.**



# obituaries

## FORD

Morna June (Rickert) Ford of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly, September 6, 2013 at the age of 84. She was preceded in death by her parents Paul and Eva Rickert, sister Vivian, her son Greg Ford and grandson Josh Ford. She is survived by her husband Bob, of 63 years, her children Doug (Karen) Ford, Jody (Kraig) Haybarker, Beth Ball, Dave (Joy) Ford and daughter-in-law Nancy Solomon; grandchildren Brooke Ford (Josh), Bob (Julie) Ford, Doug (Morgan) Ford, Jason (Corrine) Haybarker, Brian Haybarker, Brandy (Andy) Pullen, Michele (Andy) Ostrander, Gerrid & Justin Ball, Mike & Mark Ford and eight great-grandchildren; brother Darle (Joan) Rickert, sister-in-law Virginia (Don) Anderson and brother-in-law Jim (Peggy) Ford. Morna was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Her joy in life was her family, especially her great-grandchildren. Funeral services were already held. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St E Lowell, MI 49331 or the Pink Arrow Project, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell MI 49331.



## HENDRICKSON

Caroll Ann Hendrickson, age 71 of Saranac, passed away September 10, 2013. She was preceded in death by her husband Billy Joe Hendrickson. She is survived by her daughter Linda Miller; brother Jim Wuis; grandchildren Erika, Jeffrey and Jessica Miller; great-grandsons Zander and Wyatt; sister-in-law Cindy (Steve) Koning; niece Nicole Udovitsch and great-niece Kaitlyn Udovitsch. A funeral service was held. Memorial contributions may be made to Safe Haven Humane Society, P.O. Box 55, Ionia, MI 48846.



## SIMMONS

Ferne Ethel Simmons, age 82, of Ionia, passed away September 14, 2013, in Ionia. She was born July 7, 1931, in Ionia, the daughter of Alzie and Ruth (Clark) Priest. Ferne was born and raised in Ionia and graduated from Ionia High School in 1949. Following high school she worked for Michigan Bell Telephone as an operator until she married Ronald Simmons in 1956 (they divorced in 1979). In 1960 the family moved to Sayles Road in Saranac where she raised her three sons. In 1973 Ferne began working for the State of Michigan. Her first position was at the Ionia State Hospital. She went on to work for the Riverside Correctional Facility when the hospital became a prison. While at Riverside she enjoyed working several different positions until she retired in 1994. She worked at many other jobs during her life and especially liked being a part-time bus driver for the Saranac Community Schools. She enjoyed traveling, particularly to visit where her sons were living, around the country and the world. At various times in her life Ferne attended the First Baptist Church in Ionia, the Saranac Community Church, where she was a member and also the Easton United Methodist Church. She was a life-long Christian and lived her faith until the end. Ferne was active in the Saranac and Ionia communities. Prior to retirement she volunteered at the women's shelter in Ionia. Following retirement, she volunteered at the Saranac Elementary School library and also at the Saranac Community Church. She was a supporting member of the Boston-Saranac Historical Society. In 2002 she moved back to Ionia to be closer to family. She lived there until her death. Ferne is survived by her sons, Renald (Lynne) Simmons of Indiana, Robin (Ruth) Simmons of Virginia, and Ryan Simmons and Shel Kelley of Maryland; grandchildren, James Simmons of Indiana, Rebecca Simmons and Megan Poppe of Virginia, Reid Simmons and fiance Nicole Merz of Maryland, Rachel Simmons of Virginia, Eric Lund of Texas and Bryan Lund of Texas; sisters, Opal Travis of Ionia, Wilma Wright of Ionia, Faye Leiter of Lyons, and Norma (Robert) Triggs of Washington; and great-granddaughters, Cecilie Simmons and Molly Adelsbach. She was preceded in death by her daughter-in-law, Carolyn Piccotti; sisters, Gladys Womboldt and Edna Myers; and brothers, Melvin Priest and Walter Priest. A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 21, 2013, 11:00 am at Saranac Community Church with Nancy Patera officiating. Visitation will be Friday, 2-5 pm at Lake Funeral Home of Saranac. Donations in memory of Ferne may be made to the Boston-Saranac Historical Society, P.O. Box 565, Saranac, MI 48881 or to either the Saranac Community Church or the Easton United Methodist Church. Online condolences may be made at [www.lakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.lakefuneralhomes.com)

## STEWART

Robert (Bob) Louis Stewart, age 89 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at Metron of Belding after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Bob was born on June 18, 1924 to Arthur and Cora Stewart. He served in World War II from 1943-1946 as a Sergeant in the US Army's 904th Ordinance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Co. Upon his return home, he worked for the Lowell Light and Power Co. and the City of Lowell Water Department for 44 1/2 years. Bob loved the Chicago White Sox, Lowell Red Arrow Football, and spent over 50 seasons traveling to Lansing, MI faithfully cheering on his MSU Spartans. He loved to garden, landscape, and kept a well-manicured lawn. Bob is survived by his wife Marie (Eickhoff) of 64 years; daughters Amy (Geoff) Schram of Montrose, CO and Sue (Mike) Murley of Lowell; grandchildren Ashley (Trevor) Cook, Madisen and Gabrielle Schram, Karson and Jada Murley. A very special 'son' Lloyd Wepman. Bob was preceded in death by his parents Arthur and Cora; mother and father-in-law Martin and Lena Eickhoff; baby daughter; five sisters-in-law and their spouses; three brothers-in-law and their spouses; and several nieces, nephews and special friends. A 1:00 p.m. graveside service will be held Friday, September 20th at Oakwood Cemetery, 325 Fremont St., Lowell, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell Pink Arrow Project, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331 or The Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675.



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The City of Lowell reserves the right to reject any or all bids and also the right to waive any formal defects in bids when deemed in the best interest of the City. Further, the City reserves the right to accept a bid higher than the lowest bid, if the City's interest will be better served.

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk



# Ask the principal

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Roger Bearup knows a lot about Lowell Area Schools. For the past eight years this former teacher and varsity basketball coach has been the assistant superintendent of the district. Along with this role, he has also taken on the additional responsibility of serving as the principal at Bushnell Elementary which houses Lowell's youngest learners spanning from preschool to first grade. Week three in our principal series focuses on Bearup and the students under his charge.

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

(Bearup) When Mrs. Burd retired, we filled her position with another person. That person left the district shortly before school began. I had previously



Assistant superintendent and Bushnell Elementary principal Roger Bearup in his office.

## — LEGAL NOTICE —

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-193754-DE

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12/10/1926.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

September 12, 2013

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aka Thelma O'Flaherty,  
deceased, who lived at  
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Grand Rapids, Michigan  
died 04/20/2011.

Craig A. Bruggink P.L.C.  
(P29358)  
429 Turner NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-456-5048

Kelley Howe  
2309 Madison Ave., N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
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**ONLINE POLL RESULTS**

*With no resolution yet between the city of Lowell and the union - after 20 months - who do you think is most responsible for prolonging the process?*

Lowell City Manager .....	60%
Union Leadership .....	30%
Citizens of Lowell .....	1%
These things take time-no one.....	9%

been an elementary principal for several years in another district. Therefore, we decided to have me "step in" and handle the duties for a year. Now I am going on my third year in this role and I simply love the kids, parents and teachers at Bushnell! It is an exceptional place to learn and grow!

(Ledger) *What is it like to play a dual role in the Lowell school system?*

(Bearup) My dual role as assistant superintendent and Bushnell principal works because of my previous experience in both roles and because of the exceptional educators we have here in Lowell. The Bushnell staff is simply top-notch with people that know what to do without someone having to guide their every move. At the same time, our principals have been able to take on some projects that I typically do in my assistant superintendent role and have done a nice job with them. Many of my colleagues in other districts think I am a little crazy for taking on this dual role because it is unusual. I attribute the success of this role to the wonderful staff we have at Bushnell and in the Lowell district!

(Ledger) *What is the best thing about your job as Bushnell principal?*

(Bearup) Interacting with our kids and parents. If you cannot smile doing that, you never will. We have the greatest community!

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

(Bearup) Just one? Boy. I do enjoy when a first year student will say, "Mr. Bearup, you are the best principal I've ever had." When in fact, I am the only principal they've experienced. The funniest is probably when I had a first grader say "Look. It's been a long weekend. You need to work with me here!"

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

(Bearup) Many goals as an assistant superintendent and as Bushnell principal. To summarize, they are all focused on continuing to increase academic achievement, social growth and improve safety.

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

(Bearup) I believe that our government officials want to do what is best for our kids. However, I do wish they would spend more time in conversation with us here in Lowell regarding what the needs and challenges really are and how we can strengthen what is already a really good place for learning. We don't need to completely reform what we are doing. We need to take what is already really good and continue to make it even better.

(Ledger) *Has early education been affected by state budget issues?*

(Bearup) It has. To summarize, it is about doing more with less, doing your best to keep reductions away from the classroom and being creative in how things can be done differently yet efficiently.

(Ledger) *How do you prepare young learners for success in the next stages of education?*

(Bearup) It is all about modeling, connecting what is being learned to real world experiences and helping

students develop a skill set both academically and socially that promotes high level learning in the way that they learn best.

(Ledger) *How important are early reading skills to the overall success of students?*

(Bearup) Paramount! Without the necessary reading skills, students will struggle as they get older. That is why it is so important to monitor progress and provide focused interventions if a student is having difficulty.

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

(Bearup) Our mission is and will always be to provide high quality learning for every student, in every classroom, every day. We want to provide the best educational experience possible while having a lot of fun!

(Ledger) *What are the different preschool options available at Bushnell?*

(Bearup) We have three-year-old and four-year-old tuition preschool. We also have a grant-funded readiness program housed in our building which is operated through the Kent Intermediate School District.

(Ledger) *What is the TOTS program?*

(Bearup) The Tots on Track for School program (TOTS) is for all families living in the Lowell area with children from birth to beginning school. The program was developed to help families raise healthy children ready to learn when they begin school. TOTS is funded through the Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell Area Community Fund. Programs are offered during the school year September - June. All TOTS programs are provided at low cost or free for families.

(Ledger) *Why are early education programs important for students?*

(Bearup) Research shows that 85 percent of a student's brain develops in years 0-5. The experiences we give our students during these early years help shape them for the rest of their lives.

(Ledger) *What are some of your professional goals for the school year?*

(Bearup) To be the best resource I can be for our staff and the community as a whole. Also, to continue learning all that I can about how to help students reach their optimum achievement.

(Ledger) *How can parents better help young students achieve educational success?*

(Bearup) Read daily. When they ask you "Why?" questions, flip it on them and say "Why do you think it is that way?" Provide consistency in their lives. Be a partner in their education!"

(Ledger) *What is the best thing about your students?*

(Bearup) Bushnell students are priceless! They are hard-working, curious and make me smile daily. We can be proud of our kids because they do their best and think of others often!



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# ArtPrize, continued



The Impact band performing *Unto Us* for the congregation at Impact Church.

with a melody in 2011. Under the leadership of Ryder Jones, Impact Church musical arts director and 2006 Lowell graduate, the Impact band turned it into a full on musical production performed before their congregation in celebration of Christmas.

The response to the performance was more than enthusiastic and inspired Jones, along with seventeen other members of the church, to enter their work into the ArtPrize competition.

"I have always wanted to be involved with ArtPrize in some capacity," said Jones. "Grand Rapids really comes alive during the event!"

Composed on instruments ranging from the electric guitar to the piano and featuring a duo of drummers, the

contemporary rock band tells the story of Matthew I and II through a collection of music, video and art.

"It is basically the classic good versus evil epic story," commented Jones.

The performance also includes the vocal talents of Kari Lynch whose self-titled band is a local favorite. "She is actually one of the writers and sings throughout the production," added Jones.

Besides their ArtPrize endeavor the group has also been busy recording an album version of the performance, which is scheduled for release in early November. They will be performing their entry two times during the event on Sept. 28 at 6 pm (outdoors) and on Oct. 4 at 7 pm (in the sanctuary) at the First United Methodist Church located on Fulton.

## Kathryn Atwood County Line Vote Code #55594

Owner of Rose Bud Photography and mother of two, Kathryn Atwood, is exhibiting for her first time this year as an ArtPrize participant.

Atwood, who works primarily as a portrait photographer, entered a collection of four photographs she named County Line captured at the Kent County Youth Fair in Lowell. Atwood says that although the images were originally captured in color, she thought that they stood out in the black and white finish she submitted to the contest.

"The images are both striking and simple. They represent the feeling of rural, small-town life to me," said Atwood, adding "I am so proud to be a part of both the ArtPrize and Lowell community and honored to

have this great opportunity to showcase my work."

Atwood says that she is "more than excited" for her first experience as an ArtPrize contestant and is already looking forward to future exhibitions. "Being a part [of] ArtPrize is absolutely the culmination of a dream for me." Her entry will be showing at Republic located at 45 S. Division.

## John Becker The Stiff Arm Vote Code #55086

Peppino's Pizzeria & Sports Grille will be the home of The Stiff Arm, the fourth consecutive entry into the ArtPrize competition by local painter John Becker. Becker's work is done in the medium of acrylic on canvas and focuses entirely on collegiate football. "My works are so much fun because they often capture

famous moments in college football and I enjoy talking to people about that specific moment and game."

Becker's 2013 offering is an action painting of the University of Michigan's Denard Robinson escaping a tackle from Notre Dame's Manti Te'o during a nail biting Wolverine victory that took place under night skies for the first time in franchise history. "I have also done many Michigan State paintings, including Lowell native son Keith Nichole," said Becker.

Becker, who is married to wife Julie and the father of two grown sons, sells his work through his business, Pigskin Paintings by John Becker, online. He is originally from Iowa but has resided in Alto since 2006 saying, "We love the rural setting. It reminds us of our Iowa roots."

During the competition his painting will be resting above the fireplace in Peppino's and on game day Becker will probably be near by.

"It is a perfect venue for me. I often invite friends in on a Saturday evening during ArtPrize and I talk about my painting, have a few beverages and watch some college football games."

## Bruce Wilk Beauty of Architecture Vote Code #55296

Twenty-year resident of Lowell and second-time ArtPrize contestant Bruce Wilk has spent the past forty

years behind the lens of a camera as a recreational photographer. He just recently opened his own studio, BVW Photography, specializing in both scenic photos and portrait photography. His resume includes a broad base of experience, including an attention grabbing first entry into the competition in 2012 called St. Patrick's Dream.

"For five years, I have been a volunteer photographer for the American Cancer Society. I recently served as photographer for the Western Michigan Project Management Institute (WMPMI) Project 2013 Collegiate Competition. My photos have appeared on WOODTV and in the Grand Rapids Business Journal," he said.

Wilk also specializes in nature and architectural subjects. His 2013 ArtPrize entry, *Beauty of Architecture*, displays that and his collection of five photographs, displayed as canvases, highlight the architectural beauty of points mostly throughout Michigan. He says his entry is "in camera" which means they are printed with no software augmentation.

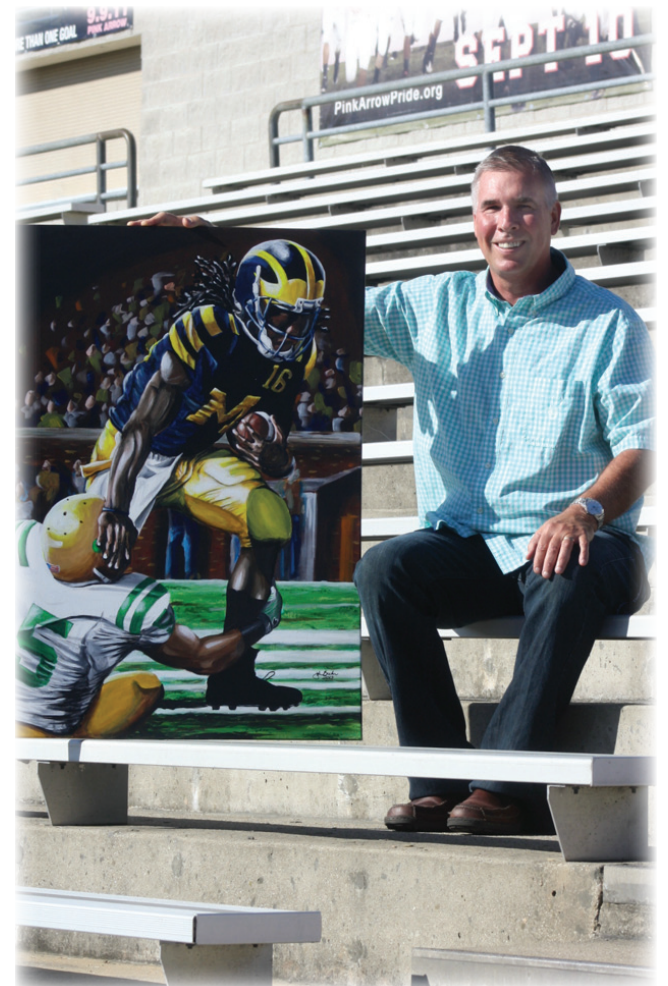
His exhibit can be found at Boardwalk GR Condominiums located at 940 Monroe Ave. NW. Wilk says he will often be on hand at the venue, "I will be there weekends and most evenings to talk about my work and photography in general."



One of four in Kathryn Atwood's exhibition, *County Line*.



Photographer Bruce Wilk.



John Becker with his work *The Stiff Arm* at Red Arrow Stadium.