

ask the principal



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Low-cost early education program prepares youngsters for school in a fun supportive environment

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell's early education programming is fully under way for the 2013-2014 school year as Tots on Track for School (TOTS) hits full stride with a flurry of activities scheduled in the month of October. The program, aimed at creating school readiness for young learners, is headed by program director Lori Buys.

One of the programs most popular events, the TOTS Almost New Sale, will be taking place this Saturday from 9-1 in the gymnasium at Cherry Creek Elementary. The sale is composed of gently used clothing and accessories specific to the needs of families with children. "As always it is free to sell and to shop," said Buys.

On the 7th of October Love and Logic parenting classes will be offered. The class, which will run on four consecutive Mondays, is twenty dollars and includes free childcare. Thursday, the 8th, in the gym at Bushnell

Elementary TOTS will be hosting the first of their family parties of the year celebrating the season with a Halloween Family Night. Fun, games and a snack will be provided and the cost is again just \$1 per child. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes to the event which will take place between 6:30 and 7:30 pm.

Morning playgroups are ongoing and another of the main highlights of the TOTS program.

"We are averaging 20-25 kids every day," reports Buys. Groups are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at either 8:30 or 10 am. Each hour-and-a-half session has free play, craft projects, snack time, and a group session of music and movement. The cost for participation is only \$1 per child and is open to all ages, birth to beginning school.

Buys says "TOTS playgroup is a really great way for kids to begin to socialize and also for parents

to connect with each other and build a support system."

Beyond playgroups the TOTS program also offers a variety of family classes for young learners. Exploratory classes in art, music and cooking are held several times throughout the school as well as educational gymnastics lessons which

take place at the Runciman building on High St. These hands on learning experiences are available at low cost to families and often fill quickly though waiting lists are available.

If you have questions about any of the TOTS programming or would like

to register for a class or to be a seller at the TOTS sale you can contact Buys at 616-987-2532 or via e-mail at lbuys@lowellschools.com. A full schedule of this year's events is also available on the Lowell Area Schools website under early education.



Art teacher Christy Spaulding helping a young student with her cutting project.

VOICE members communicate their point of view at public meeting

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

All is not well in Lowell's government, according to a meeting of local citizens' group VOICE Thursday night at Englehardt library.

During a public meeting, VOICE members discussed what they feel to be mistreatment of city workers, threats against residents and "sneaking in" a change to the city charter,

all by the current Lowell city council and city manager Mark Howe.

"On the back of the ballot there's a change in our city charter," said VOICE's Barbara Barber, "and it's rather cryptic, but basically what they're doing is taking away the right of the people of the city to vote on any sale, lease or purchase of property by the city. It

would be left up to the city council."

VOICE members feel those are decisions that should be left up to the voters.

"I feel very strongly that we should leave the city charter alone," said Barber. "People should vote on this stuff. The majority of the people in this community are going to

vote correctly. And we can't always depend on the five city councilmembers to vote correctly when all they do is listen to one person who's feeding them information."

The city council unanimously approved adding the ballot proposal at their meeting on Aug. 5. The proposal was introduced by city manager Mark Howe, moved by councilor Sharon Hall and seconded by councilor Jim Hall.

The ballot proposal states, "Currently Section 13.3(a) of the City Charter requires that City contracts for the purchase, sale or lease of real estate with a term exceeding ten years must first receive voter approval at a regular or special election. The amendment would delete the requirement for voter approval of these real estate contracts with terms up to and including ninety-nine years."

"You really have to read it carefully, because it's written in legalese," Barber said. "This means we're no longer going to be allowed

to vote on any sale, lease or purchase of property by the city."

"And the Boy Scout camp," said local resident Peggy Covert. "They could sell that land right out from under the Boy Scouts."

"They don't have the right to vote on property sales right now," city manager Mark Howe said, "so I don't know how we could take away something they don't have. They do have the right to vote on property sales for park land, if there's land that's designated as a city park or part of a park plan and that will not change."

Another hot topic at the VOICE meeting was the continuing union negotiations at Lowell Light & Power. The state of Michigan released a fact finding report on Sept. 11.

"It simply states that what the union and what the workers are asking for is fair, just and industry standard," said city of Lowell maintenance supervisor

VOICE meeting, continued, page 3

Lowell Community Fund accepting requests for 2014

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is noon, Friday, Dec. 2, 2013.

To receive consideration and approval, all requests must be for funds that will aid local organizations in providing help to persons in the Lowell area.

The Heart of West Michigan United Way has set the December date aside for those qualified to receive funding for 2014.

Request forms may be picked up at Dr. James Reagan's office at 207 W. Main St., or at the main branch of Huntington Bank at 414 E. Main St.

The formal request forms include a demographic data sheet on clients served, how funds from the previous year were spent and the annual budget for the organization requesting funds.

Since 1955 up through 2013 the Lowell Community Fund has dispersed over \$281,000 into the community.

"It is important to note that this funding program is entirely separate from the Harold Englehardt funding program which is handled through the Grand Rapids Foundation," said Dr. James Reagan, secretary/treasurer of the fund.

50 CENTS



Ask the principal

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell Middle School (LMS), home of sixth to eighth-grade students in the Lowell district, is the focus of this week's interview. Homegrown principal Dan VanderMeulen has been holding the reigns at LMS for the past five years. After graduating from both Lowell High School and Aquinas College he spent time as a social studies teacher and as an administrator for Godwin Heights in Grand Rapids before making his way back to the schools he is a product of.

(Ledger) How did you come to be principal at LMS?
(VanderMeulen) Linda Warren had been the principal here before me and she had retired so there was an opening. It was at that point five years ago that I decided to apply for Lowell. Of course I am from Lowell and I had always had it in my head that maybe someday there might be an opportunity for me to come back to where I went to school. I was fortunate enough to be hired and I am very happy to be here at the middle school.

(Ledger) What is the best part of your job?
(VanderMeulen) I think any educator gets into education to work with kids and to help positively

influence young people. So simply put, I think the best part of my day-to-day job is getting to work with the fantastic kids that we have here at the LMS.

(Ledger) During your time as principal what is one of the most endearing moments? The funniest?

(VanderMeulen) When you work at a middle school every day is full of funny and endearing moments. Middle school kids say and do funny goofy things!

(Ledger) What projects or changes are in store for LMS this year?

(VanderMeulen) I will point to our math department in particular. How math instruction occurs is really changing from the traditional model that most of us are used to. In math instruction now, it is very exciting. We are asking students to do a lot more writing, a lot more critical thinking and problem solving and kids are working collaboratively to brainstorm possible solutions to problems. For a lot of kids it is much more challenging because we are asking the kids to think more creatively



Principal Dan VanderMeulen with eighth-grade students during lunch.

and that has not always gone along with math.

(Ledger) How important do you feel extracurricular participation is for students?

(VanderMeulen) It is no secret that students that participate outside of the regular school day are generally more successful and identify themselves as being happier about school. I think they feel more connected.

Ask the principal,
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along main street

STORY TIME WITH KDL

The Flat River Outreach Ministries will be having a story time with Kent District Library at the food pantry on the first Wednesday of every month, from 5 to 6 pm starting Oct. 2.

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., Oct 2 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Come meet and have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

GILDA'S CLUB ACTIVITIES

"Look Good, Feel Better" - This program, presented by the American Cancer Society, will help women in treatment for cancer with appearance-related side-effects.

Each woman learns to perform her own makeover using complimentary cosmetics and skin care products. Please sign up as class size is limited. Tues., Oct. 8, 1-3 pm. Woodcarving - Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. Tues., Oct. 15, 3-4 pm. Book Club - Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. This month's read is "Nineteen Minutes" by Jodi Picoult. Pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk. Tues., Oct. 15, 4:30-5:30 pm. Lymphedema Precautions & Prevention - Grab supper and join Ellen Olefski from the Center of Physical Rehabilitation for a discussion about lymphedema precautions, exercises and more. Feel free to bring your questions for this informative time. Tues., Oct. 22, 5-6 pm. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

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.

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VOICE meeting, continued

Ralph Brecken, "contrary to what has been put out by the city and by [Lowell] Light & Power throughout this whole negotiation."

The main sticking point between the two sides is 'at will' employment versus 'just cause.'

"It was told by our councilmembers to many people that 'at will' is standard and typical and they feel that it's fair," Brecken said. "Our argument is for 'just cause.' Have a reason if you're going to discipline or terminate an employee. The fact finder agrees that you will not find 'at will' hardly anywhere, it's very uncommon, either private or public. Having a justifiable reason to discipline or terminate somebody, I would say, is a reasonable rule to have."

"All other city employees, with the exception of five police officers, are 'at will' employees," Howe said, "including full- and part-time employees of the city. We think that a majority of the city residents are also 'at will' employees. 'At will' is a standard in Michigan and we have not been given any

rationale from the union as to why we should change to a 'just cause' standard. They've not been able to point to any employee who's been harmed, any employee who's been fired. And it's already in place for all but five city employees. If they can give us a reason why it should change, we're certainly willing to listen to that, but we haven't heard that reason."

According to Brecken, the city's reasoning for their position is... no reason at all.

"The law says that we can, so we will." They had no other justification," Brecken said. "The attorney, John McGlinchey, who represents both the city of Lowell and Lowell Light & Power said that to me; and that was with Greg Pierce, the general manager for Light & Power; and Mark Howe present, standing right next to him."

"I'm not aware of when that quote was," Howe said.

"If the city holds out 60 days after fact finding, the unions have to accept the city's proposed contracts," Barber said.

"If we do get to a point where employees are

forced to sign this contract," Covert said, "my opinion is what they will do is get rid of the employees. We'll end up with either part-timers or subcontractors. I can't believe they would be able to get part-timers or subcontractors that would not also be available for Consumers Energy. So if we have a wholesale storm and Consumers Energy has to pull in all their people, we will be at the end of the line. And you hear, at times, Consumers Energy customers are out for weeks at a time. I guarantee that we will never get our power back on, even in days."

"It won't be long and there'll be subcontractors or 'scab' labor, or whatever you want to call it," said Al Mathews, owner of Tip Top Gravel and a former city councilmember.

"The city submitted a proposal to the union on March 31," Howe said, "and that proposal was rejected without a counter-offer. They didn't counter that proposal. We've asked them to give us a counter-offer. Give us a proposal. And they've refused to do that.

So we can't be expected to bargain against ourselves."

A lot of VOICE's ire was centered on city manager Mark Howe.

"The city council right now, I don't understand what they're doing," said Jeff Altoft, a candidate for city council. "I don't think even they understand what they're doing. They just agree to whatever Mr. Howe wants to do and they do it. And if someone wants to discuss it they cut them off and go ahead and do it anyway. All I'm asking is, when you're out there in the public, ask people what they think of what's going on and encourage them to vote, because very few people vote."

Another recent development was an altercation between Barber and a current city councilmember.

"I got threatened by a councilmember," Barber said. "Isn't that exciting? That councilmember isn't talking to me anymore. Jim Hall, at Coffee With the Council (Sept. 7), after I fired a bunch of questions at them, he said, 'Now that

we've answered all your questions, I want the name and address of everybody in your group.' And I did not take that kindly. As an elected official, he can't try to intimidate a civic group. He doesn't have the right to do that."

"For two years it's been like this," Mathews said.

"Employees have asked to make changes to the current terms and conditions of their employment," Howe said, "and so far we've said 'no.' And that's okay. It's okay to say 'no.' We have not heard any rationale that would be in the best interests of citizens and taxpayers to make those changes and we've said 'no.'"

VOICE claims that all of its charges are based in fact.

"I'm proud to say that everything we've said here is backed up by documentation," Brecken said. "Everything we've said is factual."

Greg Pierce, Lowell Light & Power general manager, was on vacation all week and unable to be reached for comment.

VOICE endorsed Jeff Altoft, Chris Schwab and write-in candidate Matt Mayer as the candidates they support in the election on Nov. 5.

"All we need are three councilmembers who care about what's going on in the community to make a difference," Barber said. "The first thing we have to do is change the council."

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

How should your risk tolerance influence investment decisions?

As an investor, how much risk can you tolerate? It's an important question — because the answer can help you make the right investment choices.

Before you know your risk tolerance, you'll want to make sure you first understand the nature of investment risk — the risk of losing principal. This risk is especially prevalent when you invest in stocks, because stock prices will always fluctuate — and there are never any guarantees about performance. Of course, a decline in value does not mean you need to sell; you can always hold on to the stock with the hope that its value will bounce back. And this can certainly happen, but again — no guarantees.

How you respond to this type of investment risk will tell you a great deal about your own risk tolerance. Of course, no one, whether he or she has a high tolerance for risk or a low one, particularly likes to see declines. But people do react differently. If you're the sort of person who can retain your confidence in your investment mix and can focus on the long term and

the potential for a recovery, you may well have a higher tolerance for risk. But if you find yourself losing sleep over your losses (even if, at this point, they're just "paper" losses), becoming despondent about reaching your goals, and questioning whether you should be investing at all, then you may have a low tolerance for risk.

This self-knowledge of your own risk tolerance should help inform your investment decisions — to a point.

Even if you determine you have a high tolerance for risk, you almost certainly should not load up your portfolio exclusively with stocks. If the stock market enters a prolonged slump, you could face heavy losses that may take many years to overcome, causing you to lose significant ground in the pursuit of your financial goals. Conversely, even if you discover you don't have much tolerance for risk, you won't want to invest only in supposedly "safe" vehicles, such as certificates of deposit (CDs). During those periods when rates on

CDs and similar instruments are low, as has been the case in recent years, your interest payments from these investments may not even keep up with inflation — meaning that, over time, you could end up losing purchasing power, which, over the long term, can be just as big a risk as market declines.

Ultimately, then, you'll probably want to let your risk tolerance guide your investment choices — but not dictate them with an "iron hand." So, if you believe you are highly tolerant of risk, you might have a somewhat higher percentage of stocks in your portfolio than if you felt yourself to be highly risk-averse — but in any case, you'll likely benefit from building a diversified portfolio containing stocks, bonds, government securities, CDs and other investments. While this type of diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against loss, it can help reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio.

By knowing your own risk tolerance, and the role it can play in your choices, you can help yourself create an effective, suitable investment strategy — one that you can live with for a long time and that can help you avoid the biggest risk of all: not reaching your long-term goals.

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~ Sara June Parker

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viewpoint

to the editor

An open letter to the parents of the Stephentown 300

This piece originally appeared on Chuck and Kelly's blog on the WGY radio station website 810 & 103.1 in Albany, NY.

What planet do you live on?

Last week, word got out that your children had broken into a home in Stephentown, NY and threw a party. More than 300 of them partied and drunkenly smashed windows, urinated on the floors, stood on tables, punched holes in the ceiling and stole a statue that was part of a memorial for the owner's stillborn grandson. Oh, it gets better. Before, during and after the party, they tweeted about it and posted pictures of themselves engaged in this behavior.

Way to go.

The house is owned by former NFL player Brian Holloway. It is his second residence, paid for in part by his Super Bowl bonus. He lives in Florida and the Stephentown house is on the market. He watched this unfold online while at his home in Florida.

Instead of demanding the arrest of your kids, he instead created a website, www.helpmesave300.com, where he reposted their photos, identified the people involved, and called for ways to reach out to young people and show them that there are better ways to spend their time than drinking, drugs and vandalism.

He is a better person than I would have been in that position. It takes class and compassion to see beyond the urine stained carpets, broken windows, damaged walls and blatant disrespect to reach out to your kids. He even offered to welcome these derelicts back to his house for a picnic, where they would work together to make repairs and clean up the mess they left behind. I

To The Editor, continued, page 14

city update



Mark Howe, Lowell City Manager

Voters in the city of Lowell will be asked on November 5 to approve three amendments to the City Charter. Two amendments would change when terms of office for councilmembers begin and the third would allow the city council to contract for periods beyond 10 years under limited conditions.

The City Charter currently requires newly elected councilmembers to begin their terms of office at 8 p.m. on Monday following their election in November. At the same time, the City Charter sets the first meeting in January as the organizational meeting of the council in which a mayor and mayor pro tem are selected. Two of the proposed amendments would change the beginning of the term for newly elected councilmembers to January, consistent with the charter requirement for the council's organizational meeting.

The City Charter also limits the council's authority to contract to ten years. This becomes problematic when considering contracts with other units of government where state law allows longer terms or for the sale or lease of property when infrastructure improvements are needed on the property. Infrastructure improvements, such as parking lots, can have a useful life of more than ten years. If approved, this charter amendment would allow the council to approve contracts for longer periods under these limited circumstances.

Voters can check the city website at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or contact city clerk Betty Morlock to see copies of the ballot language and the resolutions approved by the city council putting these issues on the ballot.

sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

Just the facts! Lowell Area Schools building and site proposal

Lowell Board of Education and district administration is committed to maintaining our facilities in good condition for thousands of students and community members that use our schools on a daily basis. That is why Lowell Area Schools is asking the community to consider a 1 mill building and site fund proposal on the November 5, 2013 ballot to address critical needs for our facilities. Approval of this building and site fund proposal will allow the Lowell Area Schools to address the following three areas of need: safety and security, energy savings – roof and infrastructure repair/maintenance, and returning dollars to classrooms.

If you've ever owned a home, you have at one time or another been faced with maintenance of your roof, driveway, or furnace. Like any proud homeowner, our desire is to take care of our community resources before they deteriorate. Lowell Area Schools must maintain roofs, asphalt, etc. or our facilities become unsafe for students.

I encourage you to examine these needs closely, and please contact me if you have any questions

about these proposed items. Whether voting by absentee ballot, or going to the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, our responsibility, as stewards of the community's assets and trust, is to ensure that our citizens are aware of this proposal and, if approved by the voters, are clearly informed of the needs that would be addressed over the coming years. Here are the facts about the millage election on NOVEMBER 5, 2013. THERE IS ONE PROPOSAL THAT OUR RESIDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE:

One NEW MILL for a period of 7 years to create a Building & Site fund from 2013-2019

It is important to note that: District resources (money, email, etc.) cannot be used to expressly advocate for or against a ballot proposal. Therefore, the following are FACTUAL responses to the most commonly asked questions from staff and residents:

WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?

The 1 mill Building & Site Fund Proposal would increase taxes for district residents. This chart shows the impact of the proposal based on the average home values in our district.

HOME VALUE	TAXABLE VALUE
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\$150,000	\$75,000
\$200,000	\$100,000

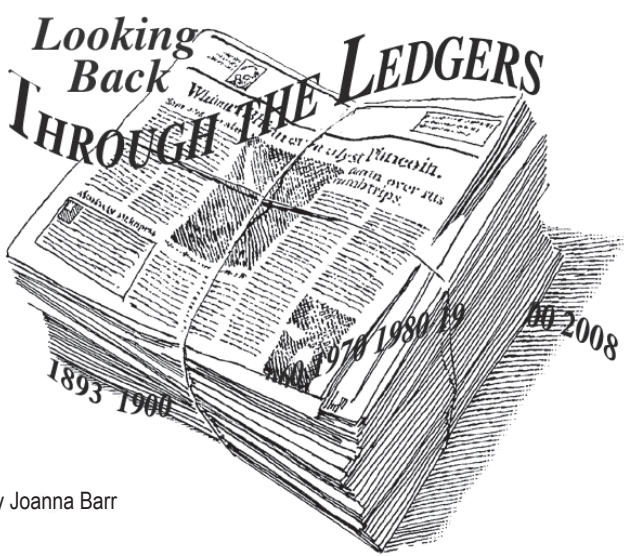
TAXES PER YEAR	TAXES PER MONTH
\$37.50	\$3.12
\$50.00	\$4.17
\$75.00	\$6.25
\$100.00	\$8.34

WHAT WILL THE MONEY BE USED FOR?

Building & Site Fund dollars are highly restricted. Generally, Building & Site Fund expenditures are for building/facility renovations, additions, or property purchase/improvements. Examples of how Building & Site Fund

dollars can be used include building renovations; wiring for WIFI; security systems such as cameras, video, and intercom entry systems; resurfacing or repairing roofs, asbestos abatement, and internal/external signage. At this time, the

Sharing The Vision, continued, page 7



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Journal October 1, 1873

Jeff Hoffman is a hardened sinner. Last Saturday he pitched into Henry Olin with the intention of preparing him for soup right away. Henry wanted time to consider the matter and wouldn't sacrifice himself right there on the spot, unless it was strictly necessary. So, he cuffed Jeff around a little and would have soiled his face badly had not Officer Hogan stepped in and announced that there would be an intermission of a few minutes. Jeff was put in the lock-up, but it took Hogan and the marshal, both, to put him there and to make it appear to him that it was his duty to go there. On Monday morning Hoffman was brought before Justice Hunter and fined twelve dollars. Not having the currency, he left his watch with the Marshal and

has thirty days to work and get the money and recover the watch. To close the scene, Olin sued Hoffman for private damages and now wears Hoffman's coat and says it's settled.

125 years ago Lowell Journal October 5, 1888

George Needham killed a white chipmunk Monday. They are very rare.

The Lowell Milling Co.'s Mill is idle at present, owing to the bank difficulties. It is hoped, however, that it will be taken by some one and set going again soon.

The safe of Bergy Bros., at Caledonia, was opened Thursday night, but the men who did the job got nothing because they were frightened away just as they got the safe open.

Grand Rapids has two women who tried a few days ago to sell their dead mother's false teeth to a dentist of that city. They believe in living up to the proverb - economy is wealth.

Farmer Reynolds wants some one to take a half share with him in the Cyclone and move it to Chicago, Detroit or some other big place. No one about here would miss the lunatic production if it should leave.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 2, 1913

Headline: Painful injuries suffered by J. R Buchanan from barbed wire. Our old friend J. R. Buchanan was thrown from his road cart into a barbed wire

Looking Back, continued, page 7

anniversaries

Roush



David and Diana Roush

David and Diana Roush, of Lowell, will celebrate 50 years of marriage October 4, 2013. The Roush's have three daughters, Brenda and Dwayne Johnson, Debby and Jason Radmacher, and Sandi and Michael Kerrigan; ten grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. The family will celebrate the occasion with a trip to Mackinac Island.

health



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

cervical cancer screening

Cervical cancer is a disease that affects the reproductive tract of adult women. It rarely causes symptoms in the affected female. Fortunately, the incidence of cervical cancer has greatly decreased since the introduction of pap smear testing.

A pap smear is a test that is done to check for signs of cancer on the cervix. During a pap smear, the doctor takes a sample of cells from the cervix. These cells are checked for signs that they're changing from normal. A pap smear can show if these cells are going through changes long before they turn into cancer. Cervical cancer is not life-threatening if it's caught early. Often these early or pre-cancerous changes can be treated and cured. This is why it is important to have regular pap smears.

Currently, all women should start having pap smears once they have been sexually active for three years. Women should continue having yearly pap smears until they've had at least three normal ones. After this, they should have one at least every two or three years throughout the rest of their life. There may be instances when the doctor may recommend

more frequent testing for women considered to be at higher risk.

The main risk factors for cervical cancer are related to sexual practices. Starting sex at an early age, multiple partners, sexually transmitted diseases and smoking all increase the risk of a women developing cervical cancer.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted disease that can increase a woman's risk for cervical cancer. HPV is highly contagious and highly prevalent in sexually active individuals. It has been estimated that up to 70 percent of sexually active individuals who have had unprotected sex with more than three partners in their lifetime may carry HPV. HPV rarely causes symptoms and most people do not know they have it. Some strains of HPV can cause visible genital warts, while others may cause precancerous changes to the cervix. Condom use can greatly reduce the risk of contracting HPV. There are now two immunizations that can protect women from most strains of HPV. They are recommended for all young women between the ages of 12 and 26.

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897-7060
Pastor Rod Galindo
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

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

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Internet: http://www.fbcilowell.org
Rev. Jon Pickens

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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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897-5936
www.lowellumc.com

Barrier-free entrance

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SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.
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Rev. Rick Blunt

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the lowell ledger

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happy birthday!

OCTOBER 2
Doris Titcombe, Timothy Hoag.

OCTOBER 3
Mike Moore, Jim Stoutjesdyk, Sr., Lori Smith.

OCTOBER 4
Marj Harding, Raymond Kastanek, Cody Chambers, Rich Wade, Dennis Denton, Jr., Morgan Olin, Theresa Baerwalde, Joe Kovacs.

OCTOBER 5
Bradley Kiczenski, Allen Reynolds, Zachary Willard.

OCTOBER 6
Steven J. Ayres, Randy Tulecki, Emma Jo Clouser, Bridget Lally, Ethan Foster.

OCTOBER 7
Fred Ray, Jennifer Idema.

OCTOBER 8
Maxwell Stormzand, Jeremy Darby, Abigail Kastanek, Kelsay Myers, Chris Borton, Don Smith, Andrew Abel.

Looking Back, continued

fence Monday evening and his face was terribly torn in several places with deep and ragged gashes. He had spent the day in Grand Rapids and returning on the evening train was driving to his boarding place at Kelsey Denton's in Keene. When near Bailey Kerekes' place his horse was frightened by something running across the road and threw Mr. Buchanan as related. He was taken to the Kerekes' house and Dr. Lee was called, but owing to the severity of the injuries he was taken to the doctor's office where the cuts were sewed up and dressed and afterward removed to the Denton home. Mr. Buchanan is 78 years old and the injuries and shock are severe for a man of his age. He has been planning for a home in Lowell and we wish him a speedy recovery. The horse after throwing the driver broke loose from the cart and made its way to the Denton stable in good time.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 6, 1938

This is National Letter Writing week. "Someone, somewhere, is awaiting a letter from you."
C. H. Runciman installed an inter office and building communication system last week that will permit carrying on two-way conversations from any part of any building and also outside to the scales and the coal yard from the main office.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 3, 1963

Is it or isn't it safe to go down the main street of Lowell? This question was brought forth recently when reports were made of school kids throwing things at cars, hitting people with their bicycles on the side walks, running into you while trying to catch a friend, or just forging their way through traffic. Tuesday evening following the snake dance at Recreation Park, some students threw an egg at some girls across the street, but the egg accidentally hit a passing car. The motorist emerged from his car, caught the vandals, took them to the nearest gasoline station and made them wash, wax and polish his car. What better punishment!
The Lawhon sisters spent their early years in Lowell. Their mother, born and raised in Lowell, was a 1944 graduate of Lowell High School. Jan and Jill are the stars of a combination show band called "Jan, the 4 Jacks and Jill," known throughout the southwest. Jan was a "Miss Teenage America" finalist in 1962. She was also Miss Monroney and a cover girl. Her first record, "Coming Out Party," was released last year and reached no. 22 on KOMA radio. She has appeared on several TV shows, including "Oklahoma Jubilee," the "Gazlon Show" and the "Tom Paxton Show." She made a weekly appearance through the summer months in 1962 on a TV program sponsored by Frigidaire, out of New York. Jill Lawhon, Jan's younger sister, joined the act early this year singing and playing the guitar and piano. The sister act is backed up by a 4- piece combo called the 4 Jacks. The group goes from rock 'n roll to sweet music and have toured the middle west all summer making a name for themselves wherever they went. The girls' mother acts as their manager and

is also their booking agent. Their aunt, Mrs. Marian Claeson, also lives in Lowell.

A new sewer line running from the alley on Riverside Drive to the now Lowell Light and Power municipal garage is under construction this week. Crews from the city water department are making the new installations.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 5, 1988

Headline: M-21 railroad construction project nears its end. The need for the construction was initially cited by Mid Michigan Railroad, followed by inspectors being sent out. "They have the right to come in when they think tracks need to be repaired," said director of Public Works Tony Siciliano. "Since M-21 is a state highway crossing, the state is there for inspection and to make sure it meets the requirements." He added, "Because of this, the city has no choice in the matter as to when the work is done." Siciliano said the planning of the traffic flow (re-routing) is done by Mid Michigan railroad and the Michigan Department of transportation with the approval of the city. "We've had complaints about the re-routing which the state recommended,"

Siciliano said. "But with the geographical location of Lowell and the river it was impossible to designate any other route." The installation of four-way stop signs at Bowes Road has helped with the complaints. "It has given everyone equal time," Siciliano said. "As of Sept. 30 there have been no reports of an accident because someone failed to stop." He added that the first four to five hours the four-way stop signs were up is when most of the problems occurred, "only because people were not accustomed to them." The project which was started Sept. 19 will not cost the city a cent. The cost will be handled by the railroad company and possibly the state.

Mr. Wizard's assistant amazes Runciman/Riverside students. The students and staff at Runciman/Riverside were absolutely "up in the air" with excitement over the experiments presented by Mr. Wizard's assistant Doug Hughes. This special program from Mr. Wizard's World was on "Air and Gases" and included demonstrations involving air pressure, the effects of oxygen and carbon dioxide on a fire and the principles of hot air balloon flight. Several students were called upon to help Hughes with his demonstrations, the most dramatic of which showed the explosive nature of natural gas.

Sharing The Vision, continued

district is interested in maintaining our aging facilities and has no interest in purchasing property.

WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE MONEY?

Building & Site Fund dollars CANNOT be used for: salaries or benefits; buses or other vehicles; technology such as computers, iPads, etc.; equipment such as routine maintenance items; or furnishings such as tables, desks, and chairs.

IN THE ABSENCE OF A BUILDING & SITE FUND, THESE EXPENDITURES WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE DISTRICT GENERAL FUND.

The General Fund is used for programs, salaries, etc. Without a voter-approved one mill Building & Site fund, precious programs and extra-curricular opportunities provided to students will be compromised, because general fund dollars would

be shifted to repair aging roofs, asphalt, and other maintenance-related issues in need of attention. It is anticipated that in the next five years, the district will need to spend \$3,983,677.00 for roof repair/replacement and asphalt alone. Other areas in need of attention include security and general maintenance.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING FOR AN INCREASE?

Lowell Area Schools is a conservative school district with a "Pay-As-You-Go" master plan strategy. This approach eliminates borrowing and interest costs to maximize taxpayer

dollars. Lowell Area Schools is also close to maxing out any possible bond levy, making this Building & Site fund proposal a long-term solution.

BASED ON COMMUNITY INPUT, THIS PLAN WILL ADDRESS THE MOST PRESSING FACILITY NEEDS IN OUR DISTRICT. THOSE NEEDS ARE:

SAFETY & SECURITY: Reconfiguring entry vestibules and creating more secure visitor access control. Security camera system upgrades will also be implemented.

ENERGY SAVINGS: Our roofs are 5 years beyond the 15 and 20 year warranties. They are at the end of their useful life and need to be replaced or repaired in order for us to conserve energy and preserve building infrastructure.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT RESIDENTS IN THE LOWELL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT HAVE ALL THE FACTS SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE AN EDUCATED DECISION. QUESTIONS? Call Lowell Area Schools at 987-2501.

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BIGGEST TREE CONTEST

In the city of Lowell is on for 2013. The contest is being sponsored by the Lowell Arbor Board. This is the fourth annual Big Tree Contest.

To be eligible the tree must be in the Lowell city limits and the deadline is Oct. 31, 2013. The top three entries receive plaques that can be placed on or adjacent to the tree.

Some previous winners of the Biggest Tree Contest:

- 2008 - 725 Bowes Rd., Oak; 2009 - Oakwood Cemetery, Oak;
- 2010 - 412 N. Division St., Elm;
- 2011 - 701 Amity, Oak; 2012 - 904 Monroe St., Oak @ 166"

CONTEST DETAILS

- Tree size will be confirmed by an arborist & a professional landscaper.
- Entry form available at City Hall or City of Lowell website: www.ci.lowell.mi.us

ENTRY FORM 2013

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Address _____
 Location of tree within the city limits (nearest cross streets): _____
 Species of tree (if known): _____
 Girth of tree in inches (as measured 4.5 feet above the ground): _____
 Landowner of property where tree is located: _____
 Landowner phone(s): _____

Entries postmarked by Oct. 31, 2013 to:

BIG TREE CONTEST c/o Lowell Arbor Committee
301 E. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331

Red Arrow SPORTS

- FOOTBALL

Lowell wins season opener by a landslide

by Karen Jack

If Friday night was any indication on how well the Arrows will do in the OK White conference, the Lowell varsity football team should bring home the conference title with no problem. Traveling to Forest Hills Central for the conference season opener, the game was almost over before it began, with the Arrows beating the Rangers 48-7.

Lowell scored on their first possession and scored

five more times just in the first half, shutting down the Rangers for any scoring opportunity. Going into the locker room at halftime up 42-0, the running clock came into play in the second half and the Arrows only allowed Central to score late in the fourth quarter. Lowell's defense, once again, pounded the offense and shut down Central's rushing game, holding them to only 17 total yards in the game.

Kyler Shurlow, Ben Bigham, Jeff Houston, and Grant Peterson were all part of the scoring drive on Lowell's first possession.

Shurlow rushed for a total of 22 yards before his three-yard touchdown run. He also passed to Bigham three times for a total of 51 yards and passed to Peterson for a four-yard gain. Houston rushed for three yards in the drive.

Lowell's second score was from a Forest Hills' fumble recovered by Jake Stephens, who ran it 65 yards for the score.

The Arrows scored again on a Shurlow pass to Kyle Blough for 64 yards to set them up on the 26-yard line, when Kanon Dean rushed for seven yards and Shurlow threw the 21-



Ben Bigham breaks a tackle after catching the ball.

yard touchdown pass to Josh Branagan. Their next possession resulted in a two-play touchdown, with a pass to Bigham for 27 yards and a rush by Branagan for nine yards over the goal line.

Shurlow, Bigham, Branagan and Dylan Brower were all part of the Arrows' next scoring drive, with passes to Bigham for a total of 16 yards, Brower for 11, and Branagan for 20, as well as rushes by Shurlow for 20 yards before he took it in on a three-yard run.

The last score in the first half was from a fumble by Forest Hills, which was recovered by Josh

Colegrove. The very next play resulted in a touchdown on a Shurlow 19-yard pass to Bigham.

The Arrows' last score was during the first play of the fourth quarter when Bigham was at quarterback and was only a three-play score. Bigham rushed for one yard, Garret White rushed for three and Bigham took the ball down the field on a 73-yard run for the touchdown. The point-after kick by Austin Bieri was blocked.

Bigham led the offense on both rushing and receiving with a total of 74 yards rushing and 113

in the air. Brower had 15 yards rushing and Blough had 64 yards receiving. Bieri had six good point-after kicks. Leading the defense in tackles was Brower with six. Stephens, Blough, Colegrove, Andrew Metternick, and Derek Massey all had four tackles. Austin Bieri had three tackles. Brower had a sack with an assist from Max Dean. Metternick had two broken up passes and Massey had two.

The Arrows travel to East Grand Rapids on Friday. Game time is 7:00 pm.

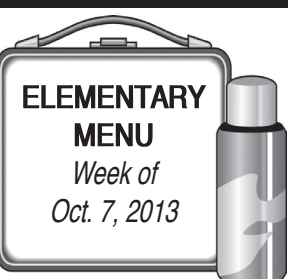


Above, Kyler Shurlow breaks away for a run.



At right, Garret White makes the tackle.

LUNCH MENU



ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of
Oct. 7, 2013

MON: Cheeseburger on WG bun, tator tots, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, mandarin oranges, fresh apple, milk.

TUES: Rotini w/ meatsauce & garlic breadstick, seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, mixed fruit, fresh pear, milk.

WED: WG French toast sticks served with sausage, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, chilled pears, orange juice, milk.

THURS: Chicken taco on WG soft tortilla shell, served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake; WG breaded chicken nuggets served at Bushnell; refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, red pepper strips, fresh pear, fresh apple, milk.

FRI: Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, fresh baby carrots, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, applesauce, orange slices, milk.



Jeff Houston tackles the Central runner.



THANK YOU!

Jon Misak and family would like to thank all who prayed and visited Jon while he was in the hospital with his brain injury.

We have always known the Lowell community and the football family is awesome but never more than when they are needed. A special thank you to coach Brad Sprauge, coach Tim and all of JonJon's teammates. Also those who were by Jon's side on the field.

We have been blessed. Thank you.

THE MISAK FAMILY
Scott, Renee, Matthew, Sarah,
Richard, Samuel, Jonathan

Red Arrow SPORTS

- VOLLEYBALL

Arrows victorious over Caledonia not so with GRC

by Karen Jack

The Lady Arrows split their games this week, beating Caledonia 3-0 and falling to Grand Rapids Christian 0-3.

In their first game against Caledonia, the Arrows went up 2-0, but the teams went back and forth throughout the game, even going down by as many as four points, before Lowell kicked it in and took over the game. Down 13-17, Katie Bush spiked the ball, followed by an Abby Petroelje spike to put the Arrows closer 15-17. Grace Quiggle then served two more points to go ahead 18-17. The Arrows gave up another point, then Petroelje spiked again to put the Arrows ahead for good. The final score for that game was 25-23. Petroelje had four spikes in the game and Aubreigh Steed had two.

In the second game, the Arrows never let Caledonia have the lead, coming out strong and staying strong for the entire game, leading by as many as seven points. The first four points scored were by the Arrows, one of which was a block by Bush and Rachel Fox and then another block by Bush

alone. Petroelje had seven spikes in that game and Bush had two aces in the 25-16 win.

The final game against Caledonia was a little closer than the second, but by not much. Once again, the Arrows never let Caledonia have the lead, but the game was a back-and-forth game in scoring. The Arrows took the lead 2-1 on a Steed spike, then went up 5-1 on a Petroelje spike. Caledonia came back and tied it at 6-6, but Petroelje had another spike to put the Arrows ahead, followed by a block from Paige Wilson to put them up 8-6. Caledonia scored the next two points to tie it up again and Petroelje had another spike, followed by an ace when she served the next point. Wilson had another block for another point and Petroelje had another ace on her serve to make the score 12-8. At 12-9, Steed had a very well placed ball for another point and an ace by Bethany Kaczanowski put them ahead 15-10. The Arrows never let up from there, with the final score of 25-21.

At right, Rachel Fox spikes the ball.

“I was really proud of my teammates tonight and how we all never gave up, even though we were winning,” said Petroelje. When asked about her 17 spikes for the night, she was quite humble and gave credit to her teammates for all their support in their training. “I have to give a lot of the credit to my teammates who have worked with me all



Kortney Beachler gets the dig.



these years. I'm so proud to be part of a team that knows each others' strengths and how to get the best out of each one of us.”

The Grand Rapids Christian game was another story. The Arrows lost all three games, 18-25, 15-25 and 22-25. In the first game, Petroelje had four spikes, Steed had two and Bush had an ace. Steed, Bush and Wilson all had blocks in the game as well. In game two, Steed led with four spikes and Petroelje had three. Steed and Bush both had a block.

The final game was a little closer than the first two and the Arrows really

made a comeback, as the final score showed, 21-25. Kortney Beachler led the comeback with a well-placed return when the score was at 15-24. The Arrows scored the next four points and Steed blocked in the next play to put the score at 20-25. The Arrows got one more point on an error from Christian and couldn't hold on in the next play for Christian to get the final point.

The varsity volleyball team faces Jenison at home on Thursday. Scheduled game time is 7:15 pm.



Bethany Kaczanowski sets the ball.

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Player Spotlight

Our Spotlight Athletes This Week:

Ben Bigham
Team: Football
Grade: Senior



Kortney Beachler
Team: Volleyball
Grade: Senior

Ben Bigham



**How long have you been playing football?
What position do you play?**

I have been playing for seven years now and most recently have been playing wide receiver for offense and line backer for defense, but have played just about every position on the field.

What other sports do you play?

How long have you been playing those?

I have also been involved in baseball (8 years), lacrosse (1 year), and wrestling (6 years).

What is your favorite sport?

Football because of how close I have grown to my teammates. I practically consider them all family.

Have you received any awards for any of them?

No, I have not as of yet.

Have you broken any records?

I think I held the long jump record in fifth grade at Murray Lake for 30 seconds, then Jacob Stephens jumped and broke my record.

Do you have siblings?

I have two brothers – Luke and John. Luke is a sophomore at Louisiana State University and John is a junior at LHS.

What do you like to do for fun?

I love battling it out on the pitch, FIFA 2011 for the Xbox 360, to be exact; watching movies and eating good food.

What got you into football in the first place?

I was the new kid at Lowell and it was the thing to do. I guess I was just trying to fit in.

What do you like best about participating in sports?

I like being able to be a part of something special and I feel like we have something special in our athletic programs here at Lowell High School

What was your personal best during any of your sports?

My game against Grand Haven this year was my best statistically, but I have never felt better about a performance of mine than in the playoff game against Muskegon last year.

What kind of grades do you get?

I have a 4.1 GPA.

Do you plan on playing any sport in college? If so, which one?

I don't plan on playing sports in college. I am either attending Texas A&M or the University of Kansas.

Kortney Beachler



**How long have you been playing volleyball?
What position do you play?**

I have been playing volleyball since 6th grade. I am the libero.

Note: A libero is the defensive specialist position, who remains in the game at all times and is the only player not limited by rules of rotation. She usually replaces the middle blocker position when they rotate to the back row and never rotates to the front row herself.

What other sports do you play?

How long have you been playing those?

I also play softball and have been playing since t-ball.

What is your favorite sport?

My favorite sports are volleyball and softball.

Have you received any awards for any of them?

For softball last year, I was all-conference, all-district and received the scholar athlete award.

Do you have siblings?

My brother, Matthew, is a freshman at LHS.

What do you like to do for fun?

I love hanging out with my friends, attending football games, photography and graphic design.

What got you into volleyball in the first place?

I wanted to do L.A. Crush volleyball, which was the travel team through Lowell when we were sixth graders, with all of my friends.

What do you like best about participating in sports?

I love meeting new friends and playing as a team.

What kind of grades do you get?

My grade point is 4.067.

Do you plan on playing any sport in college? If so, which one?

I would like to play club volleyball and rec softball in college. I have applied to Michigan State, Grand Valley and Central Michigan.

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LHS Student of the Month

Lowell High School (LHS) has announced that Maddie Stadt, 12th grade; is the Lowell High School September Student of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Stadt. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.



year. She did an outstanding job in my class and I was really impressed with her willingness to seek assistance when needed as well as her willingness to help others. As I got to know Maddie, it was very apparent that she is an outstanding young lady and is involved with many things here at Lowell High School.

She has been on the varsity soccer team and also very involved with the

annual class producing the yearbook. However, over the summer I happened to see Maddie, around Lowell, do some very amazing things and I was really impressed. I saw her volunteering with her youth group, logging many hours of community service and also playing piano in her church band. It seemed that every time I turned around this summer, there she was. Having seen Maddie devote numerous hours towards helping others in our community and also her work in the classroom, I believe that she is an outstanding member of Lowell High School and a great candidate for student of the month!"

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



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, October 10, 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.

DNR website for hunting sites

Looking for a great place to hunt on public land? Start by using the MI-HUNT interactive mapping tool online to find over 9.9 million acres of public land open to hunting. The service is available on the DNR's website, www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Be sure to watch the tutorial sessions to get the most out of this mapping

application. Maps can be printed in color and viewed at the level where users can search for sought-after tree species.

Looking for areas to hunt on private land? The Hunting Access Program opens an additional 143 properties where landowners allow public access.

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194438-DE

Estate of ROBERT L. FRITZ, deceased.
Date of birth: 12/27/1965.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert L. Fritz, died July 8, 2011.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kathleen M. Fritz, 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 24, 2013

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

Kathleen M. Fritz
12222 Stebbins Ave. NW
Sparta, MI 49345
616-430-0176

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obituaries

BARRETT

Michael E. Barrett, of Lowell, was born in Granville, Ohio. He graduated from Granville High School, attended Ohio State University and served in the U.S. Navy for six years. He worked for Owens Corning Glass Co. in the research lab. He moved to Michigan and worked in the heating and



cooling business until his retirement. After retirement, he worked for the Lowell Schools for five and a half years. Mike is survived by his wife of 40 years Sharon; sons Michael (Kate) and Scott (Molly) Barrett; grandchildren Brittany, Jennifer, Morgan, Tom, Jack and Ross Barrett; brothers James and Richard (Betty) Barrett; and many nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian burial Thursday 11:00 a.m. St. Patrick Church, 4351 Parnell Ave. NE, Ada MI. Rev. Mark Peacock presiding. Visitation Wednesday 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI. Interment St. Patrick Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Mike's memory to the charity of one's choice.



United States Postal Service

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title THE LOWELL LEDGER	2. Publication Number 4 5 3 - 8 3 0	3. Filing Date 9/26/13
4. Issue Frequency ONCE A WEEK	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 52	6. Annual Subscription Price \$22.00 & \$32.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) 105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 49331		Contact Person Tammy Janowiak Telephone 616-897-9261
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 49331		

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
 Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)
 JONATHON JACOBS, 105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 49331
 Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
 JONATHON JACOBS, 105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 49331
 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
 JONATHON JACOBS, 105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 49331

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
JOHN P. JACOBS	45 Airport Road, Hastings, MI 49058
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11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
 The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title THE LOWELL LEDGER	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 9/25/13
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	3000
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	1315
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation [Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4)]	1916
d. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d. and 15e.)	0
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c. and 15f.)	1916
h. Copies not Distributed	1084
i. Total (Sum of 15g. and h.)	3000
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c. divided by 15g. times 100)	100%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 Publication required. Will be printed in the 10/2/13 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
 _____ PUBLISHER Date 9/26/13

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

If you can't work due to a disability, Social Security can help

Disability is something most people do not like to think about; however, the unfortunate reality is this: the chances that you will become disabled are probably far greater than you realize. Studies show that a 20-year-old worker has a more than one in four chance of becoming disabled before reaching retirement age.

Social Security pays benefits to people with disabilities through the Social Security disability insurance program, which is financed by Social Security taxes. If you qualify, you can receive a monthly disability benefit from Social Security for as long as your disability keeps you from working. The amount of your benefit is based on your average lifetime earnings. Potential Medicare coverage is dependent on several factors and usually starts after you receive disability cash benefits for 24 months.

When you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn credits. The number of credits you need to qualify for disability benefits depends on your age, and some of the work must be recent. For example, if you become disabled after age 31, you need to have worked at least a total of 10 years, including five of those

having been worked within the past 10 years. But if you become disabled before age 24, you need only one and a half years of work in the past three years.

If you have a disability that keeps you from working, the time to get started with your application is now. That is because it takes time to determine whether you qualify for benefits. It usually takes about three to five months for a medical decision from the state agency that evaluates your condition. If your application is approved, your first Social Security disability payment will be made for the sixth full month after the date we determine that your disability began.

Look at the disability starter kit now at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability. Once you complete the online disability starter kit and you're ready to apply, the most convenient way to do that is also online. Just go to the same disability website at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or via email at vondav@ssa.gov

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TENA BIERLING TRUST

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, Tena Bierling, who lived at 2105 Raybrook, S.E., Apt. 5028, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, died on September 12, 2013. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Tena Bierling Trust dated 3/26/97, as amended 4/17/03, 11/14/05, 12/20/07 and 8/3/10, will be forever barred unless presented to Robert Bierling, Cotrustee, at 1322 Diamond, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Gijsbert Bierling, 5662 Hickory Ridge, S.W., Grandville, MI 49418, or Craig A. Bruggink, attorney for Cotrustees, 429 Turner Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Craig A. Bruggink P.L.C. (P29358) Attorney for Trustee 429 Turner NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-456-4038

Robert Bierling and Gijsbert Bierling Successor Cotrustees of the Tena Bierling Trust, uad 3/26/97, as amended 4/17/03, 11/14/05, 12/20/07, and 8/3/10.

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Ending tax-haven loopholes is smart way to bring down deficits



Sen. Carl Levin

Back in March when Congress failed to reach a deficit reduction agreement, we triggered budget sequestration – the unprioritized, across-the-board cuts that have hurt families, national security, life-saving research, students and seniors, and, according to the Congressional Budget Office, cut as much as a full percentage point from economic growth.

Our economy can't afford that kind of damage. And yet, sequestration continues, and it will continue unless we act.

A balanced, bipartisan deficit reduction package is the only alternative. Balance requires three elements: First, cuts in discretionary spending – not mindless, meat ax sequestration, but targeted, prioritized cuts.

Second, we need to reform entitlement programs. And third, we must add federal revenue.

Which brings me to my least-favorite four letter words: “loop” and “hole.”

The United States hemorrhages hundreds of billions of dollars in tax revenue each year to a relatively small group of multinational companies. These large, profitable companies are headquartered here, they do business here, and they benefit from the safety and stability of living and working in the United States. Yet they use an array of complex arrangements involving offshore tax loopholes to avoid paying their taxes. The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, has spent more than

a decade examining these loopholes and the damage they do.

Michigan's working families and small business owners don't have an army of lawyers and lobbyists to concoct ever-more-creative tax gimmicks. So they're left to pick up the burden left when our biggest, most profitable companies use tactics like these:

- Microsoft's U.S. parent company sold intellectual property rights to a foreign subsidiary, then licensed them back, shifting profits from products that were developed, made and sold in the United States to an offshore tax haven and paying almost no U.S. taxes on those profits.

- Hewlett Packard, which socked billions of dollars in revenue away in offshore subsidiaries, managed to bring huge sums back to the United States, which should have triggered a big tax bill, using a series of short-term loans from two offshore subsidiaries to

get around rules that require tax payments when money comes back to the United States.

- Apple managed what we consider the Holy Grail of offshore tax avoidance, setting up subsidiaries, which hold a large part of the \$100 billion in cash Apple holds offshore, that are literally invisible for tax purposes. These subsidiaries are incorporated in Ireland but controlled from the United States. Because U.S. tax law bases tax residency on the place of incorporation, and Irish tax law bases tax residency on where a corporation is controlled, Apple says these subsidiaries are tax resident nowhere and therefore paid almost no corporate income tax to any country. For tax purposes, they're ghost companies.

We should close these loopholes on principle, regardless of deficits or sequestration. They're simply unfair. But surely

now, with sequestration doing so much harm, we should close these loopholes and use the revenue we recover as part of the foundation of a balanced deficit reduction plan.

That's why on Sept. 19 I introduced the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act, a comprehensive effort to end these loopholes and gimmicks and bring more fairness to the tax code. This bill, cosponsored by Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, Mark Begich of Alaska and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, would tackle an array of offshore corporate tax abuses.

It would end tax breaks that encourage businesses to move jobs and operations offshore. It would end the legal fiction that allows corporations to avoid U.S. tax on income they route through offshore subsidiaries that are nothing more than a post office box, or that allow multinationals to avoid taxes by literally

“checking a box” on their tax forms to shield offshore subsidiaries from taxes.

The provisions of our bill would, according to official estimates, reduce the deficit by about \$220 billion. If we used that revenue as one part of a balanced deficit reduction plan, we could avoid six years or more of sequestration. And the public supports that plan: Last year, a poll showed that 75 percent of Americans support closing offshore tax loopholes to reduce the deficit.

We have plenty of legitimate disagreements here in Washington. But all of us should be able to agree that these offshore tax loopholes are unfair. All of us should see the opportunity before us: to end these gimmicks, relieve our economy of the burden of sequestration, and relieve our families and small businesses from the tax burden a handful of large, profitable companies have dumped on them.

To The Editor, continued

don't know that the rest of us would have been able to react the same way.

And one kid showed up. One, out of the 300 teens who were there.

Instead of dragging your kids back to apologize and clean up the mess, you lashed out at Brian Holloway, threatened to firebomb his house, and are now planning to sue him. For what? For identifying your kids online. Well guess

what? Your little Johnny did that himself the minute he tweeted that iPhone photo standing on the dining room table, holding a red solo cup filled with beer.

Look, I don't blame you for what your kids did. Heck, I don't even really blame them. Teens will be teens, and they do stupid things sometimes. We've all been there. It's not fair to judge parents on the

mistakes their kids make. It is how you handle that behavior afterwards that reflects on you as a parent.

Instead of sitting little Johnny down and reminding him that what he did is not acceptable and then dragging him by the collar to apologize to Mr. Holloway, you chose instead to harass and threaten the victim. Let's not forget here, your child victimized this man

by destroying his home. How dare you respond with anything other than regret, embarrassment, and a sincere apology instead of righteous indignation, threats of violence and lawsuits.

Parents like you are responsible for an entire generation that expects the world handed to them, because you have given it to them all along. Instead of

teaching your kids to work hard and earn things, you give a trophy to every kid in youth sports and then hand them an iPhone in middle school. You are the parents screaming through the fence at the Little League umpire instead of teaching good sportsmanship. You are the ones criticizing the teacher instead of realizing they just want to help your child learn.

Can you please just step back and look at what you are doing to your kids? This is the generation that will grow up to lead our country and make decisions regarding our lives. I hope none of them are YOUR children.

Printed with permission.

Kelly Lynch, morning co-host at 810 & 103.1 WGY in Albany, NY.

First-time hunters bag their bucks during youth hunt



Sela Bauman of Lowell, is pictured with the first deer she shot during her first time hunting. The six-point buck was shot Saturday evening while hunting with her dad on her grandfather's farm in Laingsburg, just north of Lansing.



Faith Stepek took her first buck on the last evening of the youth/mentor hunt. She was hunting in the Lowell area on private land, with her father Tim, using her youth muzzleloader. Her eight-point deer weighed in at 165 lbs. She shot the deer at a distance of 70 yards.

THEME:
SCIENCE 101

ACROSS

- 1. Venice bank
- 6. A late time of life
- 9. *Electronic brain
- 13. Mountaineer's tool
- 14. Hula dancer's necklace
- 15. Shade of violet
- 16. Wimpy Kid's journal
- 17. No ____
- 18. *Often donated
- 19. Boring
- 21. *Diamond, e.g.
- 23. Telephone
- 24. ____ office
- 25. The ____, NYC museum
- 28. Biblical captain
- 30. Continually annoy
- 35. Gulf V.I.P.
- 37. *Sun, e.g.
- 39. Millionaire maker
- 40. Apple variety
- 41. Boot brand
- 43. Boyfriend
- 44. Middle
- 46. Lion's do
- 47. Leo or Virgo, e.g.
- 48. First letter of Hebrew alphabet, pl.
- 50. *Chemistry Nobelist ____ Hahn
- 52. Homer Simpson's neighbor
- 53. Apiece
- 55. Federal procurement org.
- 57. *Stone that floats
- 60. *Reddish-brown
- 63. Hardship
- 64. Pirate's "yes"
- 66. R in R.E.M.
- 68. Hollers
- 69. Seasonal blues
- 70. *Threat to food
- 71. *Like desert
- 72. One of Bo Peep's flock
- 73. Affirmatives

CROSSWORD

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- DOWN**
- 1. Auction action
 - 2. *Opposite of base
 - 3. Approximate
 - 4. One of 4 Cs
 - 5. *All around us
 - 6. Full of elms
 - 7. Grazing spot
 - 8. Bee Gees' most successful genre

- 9. *Low-____ diet
- 10. "Les MisÈrables" author
- 11. Popular Russian name
- 12. Used for signing
- 15. "Mere _____"
- 20. Paint choice
- 22. Often used to make baseball bats
- 24. Khufu or Khafra, e.g.
- 25. *Molten rock
- 26. Often received with a sound
- 27. Spanish accent
- 29. *Elementary particle
- 31. Schneider and Lowe, e.g.
- 32. Dined at home
- 33. *Microscope's platform
- 34. *It travels about 768 mph
- 36. Coarse file
- 38. Monthly due
- 42. Fire
- 45. Belonging to him and her
- 49. *Anatomical pouch
- 51. Fish hawk
- 54. Halt
- 56. With rapid movements
- 57. Embarkation location
- 58. Tangelo
- 59. *Type of fungus
- 60. Formally surrender
- 61. Heroic poem
- 62. Agitate
- 63. Shag rug
- 65. Swerve
- 67. Insult

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



SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 1

- As of midnight October 1, 2013 the U.S. government has been shut down, the first government shutdown since 1996.
- Last Sunday night marked the end of what is being called the greatest television drama ever - *Breaking Bad*.
- Karen Gilbert, 32, of Pontypool, U.K. has given birth to rare identical triplets. The baby girls, after spending six weeks in intensive care, are all home and doing fine.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

If more citizens had guns what do you feel would be the outcome?

More violence	38%
Less violence	31%
No change	31%

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

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Ask the principal, continued

(Ledger) How do you prepare your students for the transition to high school?

(VanderMeulen) It is definitely a team effort. We work very closely with the elementary schools when it comes time in the spring to begin that transition. All of the 5th grade kids visit the middle school for an orientation organized by our counselors. We have a lot of communication with their previous teachers regarding social and academic standing as well as placement to try to get them off to a good start. We have a parent night as well to talk to them about how LMS works.

(Ledger) What changes from government would most benefit your school?

(VanderMeulen) I think our government officials have good intentions and want our schools to be strong and for students to have a good education. With that being said, they are not practitioners in the schools so sometimes we are left with decisions and policies that are not always congruent with what is best for kids or our schools. It would be nice if there was a recognition of what schools and districts really are working and are successful and which ones are not and need help. It seems we are often lumped together. We always have room to improve here in Lowell but for the most part we a lot of very successful kids and satisfied parents and community.

(Ledger) What makes LMS unique?

(VanderMeulen) I like to think of LMS as a learning laboratory. I really encourage our teachers to experiment and to work for continuous improvement. It is very important here that we work as collaborative teams and that we set learning target goals and that we as teams plan interventions for kids that may struggle to learn and also for those who may be advanced and already know the material. In high school things are more high stakes but in middle school we still have the luxury of being a little more flexible and really putting kids in situations where they can be the most successful.

(Ledger) What is the STARS program?

(VanderMeulen) It is a mentor ship program between 6th and 8th grade girls. We pair up older girls who are positive influences with the younger girls. They have meetings throughout the year that focus on things like academic success and questions about the middle school but then also talk about things that are important to girls of that age like a body image, self-esteem and healthy living so it is a very cool program.

(Ledger) What role does technology play in your building?

(VanderMeulen) Technology plays a large role. In this day and age we are working with students who are already digital natives and that is the world that they know. Technology is really an engagement tool. It does not replace a teacher or good instruction but it is a way to engage them in the lessons.

We have added well over one hundred Chrome Books and iPads and we still have dedicated computer labs so when you walk around our building on a day-to-day basis you see technology really happening as part of our curriculum.

(Ledger) What classes do you offer outside of general education?

(VanderMeulen) We have exploratory classes here at LMS such as drama, art, choir, band and physical education. We also offer both Spanish and French.

(Ledger) How does the LMS Homework Page benefit your school?

(VanderMeulen) About a year ago we decided that every teacher would have the expectation to have current information available on the LMS Homework Page for parents as a better way of communicating. It is going well and I have heard a lot of positive feedback from parents.

(Ledger) What goals have you set for the 2013-2014 school year?

(VanderMeulen) We have a school improvement plan and part of that are specific reading, science and math goals for students to show proficiency as measured by state assessments. Beyond that though it is my goal that the middle school continues to develop as a professional learning community and that we foster this experimental culture of 21st century skills, or college and career readiness.

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