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Completion of Riverwalk Extension project celebrated

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell enjoyed another evening of holiday festivities last Friday during *A Nite of Christmas Cheer* presented by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. The events

were highlighted by the ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication of the brand new Riverwalk Extension project.

The Riverwalk expansion, which replaced an unused concrete

amphitheatre, includes a canoe/kayak launch, a fishing pier, new lighting and seating in the form of benches throughout. The area has been beautifully landscaped and is accented by distinctly colored red

railings and circular shaped dock that is reminiscent of the historic Lowell Showboat which originally docked at that location.

City manager Mark Howe said, "The design really incorporates themes from our long-standing heritage as the Showboat City. It truly honors our history while promoting progress. We are excited about the project being substantially complete and are really looking forward to next spring when the public can really enjoy the riverfront."

Lowell mayor Jim Hodges led the ceremony thanking the many who were involved in taking the project from conception to reality in front of a small crowd of residents and city leaders. The list included the Lowell Area Community Fund, the LCTV Endowment Fund, the Lowell Downtown Development Authority and the Lowell Arbor board who together provided a local funding match to the Department of Natural Resources grant that paid for about two-thirds of the project's \$450,000 cost.

"This is a wonderful effort that [will] pull our community together and that we will all enjoy well into the future. The community support and the giving of the people who have set these funds forward for the community to use is certainly something to be recognized," said Hodges, who lamented that the space that historically held audiences for live entertainment during the heyday of the Lowell Showboat will now offer residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy nature's show.

After the ceremony *A Nite of Christmas Cheer* continued along the Riverwalk lit with luminaries and Christmas lights. There were horse drawn sleighrides, visits with Santa on the Showboat, roasted chestnuts provided by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and hot dogs courtesy of Arctic Heating and Cooling. Live entertainment including on site ice sculpting and holiday music rounded out the night's line up of celebratory activities.



James Reagan, Greg Pratt, Bill Thompson and mayor Jim Hodges cut the ribbon on the Riverwalk Extension project.

Council intros new library manager

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The city council meeting on Monday, Dec. 16 was an uneventful affair that only lasted 19 minutes.



Josh Bernstein

About 12 citizens were in attendance.

The main items on the agenda involved the collection of taxes for Grand Rapids Community College and Kent Intermediate School District, as well as park use agreements with three community organizations.

Participants in Lowell Little League, Lowell YMCA and Backyard Dreams will now pay a \$10 fee instead of \$7.50.

City manager Mark

Howe announced the completion of the Riverwalk Extension project. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Friday, Dec. 13.

Howe then introduced Josh Bernstein, the new manager of the Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library.

"I'm very excited to be here," Bernstein said. "It's a great, vibrant library."

The meeting went into a closed session at 7:20 pm to discuss the union negotiations.

LHS play opens tomorrow night

The cast of "A Seussified Christmas Carol," which opens at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at the Lowell High School on Thursday at 7:00 pm and returns on Friday at 7:00 pm and Saturday at 9:00 am and 11:30 am.

Pictured, from left to right, back row: Jacquelyn Pytlik, Jessica Graves, Nick Smith, Jillian Riney, Anna Reynolds, Amanda Webster; in front, Brianna Massey and Derek Massey.



Less crime in Lowell in 2013

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Crime was slightly down in Lowell this year.

"Our number of complaints are sitting at 2,437 through November," said Lowell police chief Steve Bukula. "Last year to date, we had 2,709. It's a little bit less."

Fewer people were arrested in Lowell in 2013 than in previous years.

"Our arrests are down too," Bukula said. "We had a total of 353 arrests. Last year we had 383. So we're down about 30 arrests this time last year."

Bukula credits a drop in population and the fact that some of Lowell's repeat offenders were already in prison.

"We did have a slight drop in population," Bukula said. "Some offenders we would arrest multiple times on petty crimes and perhaps this year they have done significantly more crimes or have been locked up for a longer time period. It's all of the above."

"Another possible reason for the decrease in arrests was the capture and prosecution of a group of teenagers who committed around 60 thefts and were incarcerated in 2013."

Lowell isn't generally known as a "high crime" area, but the police definitely keep busy.

"We have [had] minor in possession of alcohol, we have [had] drunk driving, [a] suspended license, warrants, assault and battery [and] domestic assaults; we had 12

Less crime, continued, page 7



along main street

“A SEUSSIFIED CHRISTMAS CAROL”

The Lowell High School theatre department will be presenting “A Seussified Christmas Carol” on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 19 and 20 at 7 pm and on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 9 am and 11:30 am. All ages are welcome for this 45-minute production. Making an appearance will be a slew of Little Loo Whos and jolly old St. Nick! Seuss never had the opportunity to collaborate with Charles Dickens, so Mr. Bioedel (author) was forced to write this whimsical reinvention of the beloved Christmas classic himself. General admission is \$5. Tickets sold online at www.seatyourself.biz/lowellhs and at the door.

WHITE’S BRIDGE FUNDRAISER

On Sat., Dec. 21 at 4 pm a euchre tournament card party fundraising event for Rebuild White’s Covered Bridge will take place at Steele Street Hall, 115 S. Steele St., Ionia. No experience necessary, we are teaching how to play the game to those interested as well. \$8 to get in. Come and help with the efforts to rebuild White’s Covered Bridge.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 114th annual Christmas Bird Count with the Grand Rapids Audubon Club will be held at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center Sat., Dec. 28 at 7:30 am. The count entices families, students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists to leave the comfort of a warm house during the holiday season to venture out in search of birds. Bird

enthusiasts will depart from the Wittenbach/Wege Center at 8 am returning around noon for a brown bag lunch. Participants can leave after lunch or continue the census. At 5 pm section findings will be tallied back at the center. For more information, call either Tom Leggett at 616-249-3382 or e-mail: tomleggett@hotmail.com or Ranger Steve (Mueller) at 616-696-1753 or e-mail: odybrook@chartermi.net

LIVESTRONG AT THE YMCA

Cancer Wellness Program, Livestrong will be held at the Lowell YMCA starting Jan. 7, 2014 on Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 am to 12:45 pm. It is free of charge, for more information call 855-9570.

SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Free smoking cessation classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 8. Tobacco Free For Good class meets for six weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6-8:00 pm at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 East Main Street. Each participant receives an individual quit plan designed by a Mayo Clinic trained and certified facilitator. Registration encouraged. Call 616-446-7058.

...

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveller, thousands of miles away, back to his own fire-side and his quiet home!

~Charles Dickens,
The Pickwick Papers, 1836

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CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

For an environmentally friendly way to dispose of your Christmas tree bring it out to the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center before Jan. 12 to be shredded and used for mulch around the center. Please do not bring out any items that contain wire, such as wreaths or garland as we do not have the ability to remove the wire. No trees will be accepted after January 12. For more information, call 616-987-2565.

GILDA’S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Neuropathy Informative Workshop – Tues., Jan. 14, 3-4 pm. If you are living with neuropathy, come and join others who are also. We will learn, share and laugh together. **Woodcarving** - Tues., Jan. 21, 3:15-4:15 pm. Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. **Book Club** - Tues., Jan. 21, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. Pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk. 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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2013 Holiday hours for Lowell Charter Township:

Monday, December 23 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 24..... Closed
Thursday, December 26 Closed

Monday, December 30 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 31..... Closed
Thursday, January 2, 2014..9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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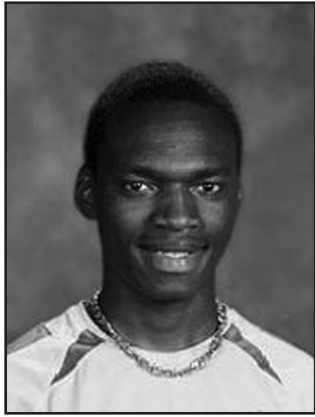
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LHS December Students of the Month

Lowell High School (LHS) has announced that Moses Kabandana, 12th grade; and Morgan Schlanderer, 11th grade; as the Lowell High School December Students 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 Kabandana and Schlanderer. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Tammi Dent nominated Kabandana and she writes,

“I would like to nominate Mo Kabandana because of the outstanding work he is doing in AP Spanish this year. Mo knows five (maybe six) different languages and he is just shining with his

AP Spanish work. He has a brilliant mind, a great sense of humor and he is very humble and generous. He is a quiet leader in my class who all of the students respect because he is very knowledgeable of current world events, his vocabulary is unbelievable and he has a natural talent for making people laugh - especially in Spanish.”

Schlanderer was nominated by Nicole Deckrow and she writes, “Morgan is an incredible hard worker. She is enrolled in AP European History and other college prep classes and is demonstrating a

tremendous work ethic and dedication to success. She has grown as a student since arriving at LHS two years ago and her commitment to her achievement in school is outstanding!”

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.



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

It's Magic with Tom Plunkard!

It's magic and fun and reading with the great magician Tom Plunkard. Be amazed and entertained during the holiday break. For all ages. Fri., Dec. 27 at 11 am.

Family Building Bricks Party

Design, build and bond. Bring the whole family together and create a towering monument using the library's building bricks. The best part? No big mess at home to clean up! For all ages. Tues., Dec. 31 at 1 pm.

Life-Sized Candied Land

Everyone's invited to play a giant version of a favorite childhood board game. Follow the colored squares as you walk across the gumdrop bridge and voyage through the candy cane forest - but don't get stuck on a licorice spot! For all ages. Fri., Jan. 3 at 1 pm.

LMS students awarded certificates



Teachers at Lowell Middle School (LMS) select students who have been outstanding in the categories of academics, citizenship and attitude each trimester.

The following students have been selected as “Students of the First Trimester” at LMS: Grace Barber, Laurel Blakie, Sarah Buckner, Riley Conlan, Lexy Cook, Logan

Cunningham, Jennah Cupp, Delaney Duimstra, Anna Gaskin, Charity Gerig, Kohl Goldsmith, Kevin Hadley, Jacob Hanson, Alyvia Holdridge, Logan Hudson, Annabelle Johnson, Evan Johnson, Madison Jordan, Collier Kaufman, Akasha Khalsa, Annelise Kolp, Dakota Krzysik, Laura Lachowski, Phoebe Looman, Matthew Meyer, Avry Mutschler, Nikki

Paulus, Isiah Perysian, Breyden Race, Madeline Revere, Megan Roe, Kyla Sanders, Holt Sawyer, Lark

Sawyer, Sam Simmons, Donald Staley, Emily Stump and Jade Williams.



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LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted Online No Later Than December 20, 2013 to be considered. Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

HOLIDAY HOURS weeks of Dec. 23 & Dec. 30

Mon., Dec. 23 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Tues., Dec. 24 & Wed., Dec. 25
 Closed
 Thurs., Dec. 26 - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Fri., Dec. 27 - 8 a.m. - noon
 Mon., Dec. 30 - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Tues., Dec. 31 & Wed., Jan. 1
 Closed
 Thurs., Jan. 2 - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Fri., Jan. 3 - 8 a.m. - noon

DEADLINES

Dec. 25 Lowell Ledger - noon Thurs., Dec. 19
 Dec. 29 Buyers Guide - 3 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 26
 Jan. 1 Lowell Ledger - noon Thurs., Dec. 26
 Jan. 5 Buyers Guide - 3 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 2

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Assumptions can be dangerous to investors

Every day of our lives, we make assumptions. We assume that the people we encounter regularly will behave in the manner to which we are accustomed. We assume that if we take care of our cars, they will get us to where we want to go. In fact, we need to make assumptions to bring order to our world. But in some parts of our life — such as investing — assumptions can prove dangerous.

Of course, not all investment-related assumptions are bad. But here are a few that, at the least, may prove to be counter-productive:

- *“Real estate will always increase in value.”* Up until the 2008 financial crisis, which was caused, at least partially, by the “housing bubble,” most people would probably have said that real estate is *always* a good investment. But since then, we’re all more painfully aware that housing prices can rise and fall. That isn’t to say that real estate is always a bad investment — as a relatively small part of a diversified portfolio, it can be appropriate, depending on your goals and risk

tolerance. But don’t expect endless gains, with no setbacks.

- *“Gold will always glitter.”* During periods of market volatility, investors often flee to gold, thereby driving its price up. But gold prices will fluctuate, sometimes greatly, and there are risks in all types of gold ownership, whether you’re investing in actual bars of gold or gold “futures” or the stocks of gold-mining companies.

- *“I can avoid all risks by sticking with CDs.”* It’s true that Certificates of Deposit (CDs) offer a degree of preservation of principal. But they’re not risk-free; their rates of return may be so low that they don’t even keep up with inflation, which means you could incur purchasing-power risk. Again, having CDs in your portfolio is not a bad thing, but you’ll only want to own those amounts that are suitable for your objectives.

“The price of my investment has gone up — I must have made the right decision.”

This assumption could also be made in reverse — that is, you might think

that, since the price of your investment has dropped, you must have made the wrong choice. This type of thinking causes investors to hold on to some investments too long, in the hopes of recapturing early gains, or selling promising investments too soon, just to “cut their losses.” Don’t judge investments based on short-term performance; instead, look at fundamentals and long-term potential.

- *“If I need long-term care, Medicare will cover it.”* You may never need any type of long-term care, but if you do, be prepared for some big expenses. The national average per year for a private room in a nursing home is nearly \$84,000, according to a recent survey by Genworth, a financial security company. This cost, repeated over a period of years, could prove catastrophic to your financial security during your retirement. And, contrary to many people’s assumptions, Medicare may only pay a small percentage of long-term care costs. You can help yourself by consulting with a financial professional, who can provide you with strategies designed to help cope with long-term care costs.

You can’t avoid all assumptions when you’re investing. But by staying away from questionable ones, you may avoid being tripped up on the road toward your financial goals.

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LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

“A Focus on Connection”

As we approach the holiday season, special focus is placed upon time and connection with the people we love. To prepare for celebration of the season, we send just the right holiday cards, juggle many social gatherings, and create magical memories for children. The wonder of the season moves us to put forth special effort to nurture relationships and connect with one another on a meaningful level.

Connectedness is at the heart of human existence. We all need people and relationships in our lives to thrive. The importance of connecting as individuals exists not only within our family units or our school community, but also in the community at large. In Lowell we have always worked to establish strong

connections, no matter the goal. Whether it is building local business industry, developing recreational opportunities, or providing outreach to local families, the common thread that binds our community together is that we work together to leverage all of our resources for a common cause. That is why the Greater Lowell Community Visioning team was assembled to form collaborative ties between the governmental organizations of Vergennes and Lowell Townships, the City of Lowell, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Lowell Area Schools. This group will not function as yet another bureaucratic layer, rather our work will unify existing mutual goals of our local businesses and/or governments, encourage collaboration

among individual entities/ organizations, and embrace open feedback about the future of Lowell.

A few years back, more than 1,000 members of our community responded to a survey that allowed us to collect feedback and begin to develop a comprehensive vision that is reflective of our collective interests as a community. Consensus workshops with governmental and non-governmental leaders, open forums, and community cafes were held to engage in rich conversation about the future of Lowell. The community response generated the following four key areas: 1) economic development, 2) quality of life, 3) education and talent, and 4) infrastructure and planning. Topics like parks and trails, volunteer coordination, and leadership development emerged as issues in need of conversation. Therefore, in recent months the Greater Lowell Community Visioning team began to meet on a regular basis to look through the same lens as the community.

The team works together, listens, and links cohesive ideas to resources in order to facilitate growth based on the four key areas identified by Lowell residents.

For me, this work is one of the many examples of why living in Lowell is so special. One member of the visioning team, Liz Baker, Executive Director, Lowell Chamber of Commerce, plays a vital role in our community. Liz is a real force behind the diverse events brought to our community and businesses to keep Lowell vibrant. I am grateful for Liz's ability to bring a wide variety of events that add value to the future of Lowell. It is an extraordinary experience to live in a family-driven community that works together to foster a shared vision for the future. The Greater Lowell Community Visioning Team is dedicated to supporting the work of individuals and organizations, in harmony, for the common good of Lowell. May your holidays be filled with peace, joy, and the miracles of the season!

outdoors



just do it

Dave Stegehuis

There are a number of reasons why we may not spend more time outdoors. These reasons, can be overcome in order to participate in outdoor activities which can improve one's physical condition and emotional well-being.

Michigan is a great place to live especially if one has interest in doing things in the outdoors. Each of the four seasons provides opportunities for a variety of activities. The weather, however, will have an effect on the chosen activity. Due to modern technology weather forecasts are more reliable and easy to access. When the weather poses a danger, wait for another day. If the only weather related issues are comfort and convenience, there are plenty of clothing and equipment options which can solve the problem.

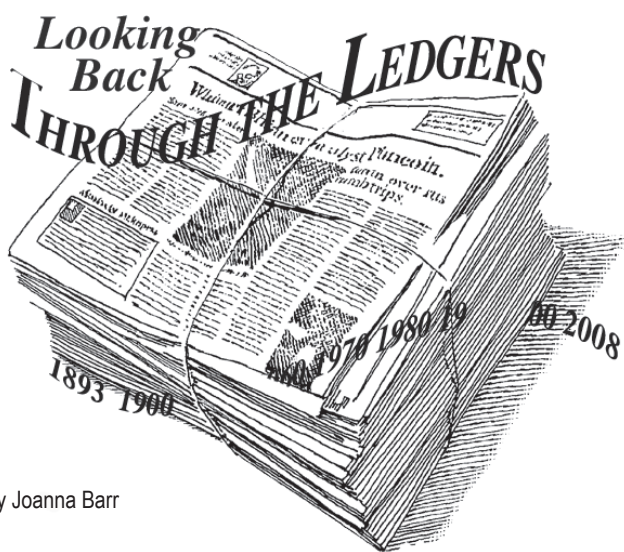
If cost is a concern, many activities require little or no investment. Fishing fun is possible using only a pole and fishing from the bank of a lake or river. Public fishing piers are located in some great locations. Manufacturers and retailers have made the latest and greatest equipment available, but all of that stuff is not necessary

to have an enjoyable outdoor experience.

Busy life styles are normal today, so finding time to do non-scheduled activities is sometimes difficult. We all have time, so it is a matter of setting priorities. It pays to think long term when making these choices. Ten years from now will your daughter or son remember every detail and emotion related to taking their first deer or rather what they bought at the mall that day?

Most outdoor endeavors require a certain level of knowledge and skill. Cross country skiing demands a set of basic skills which, when after reasonable practice, becomes automatic. Fishing is like putting pieces of a puzzle together. One never stops learning with activities like bird watching and photography.

The idea is to make time and take the effort to give yourself the chance to have a rewarding experience outdoors. Matter of fact, Gwen just said she is hunting tonight. The wind chill is in the low teens, so sitting by the woodstove reading a magazine sounds like a better idea to me. But, I will go with her because once out there, I know I will be glad I went. Just do it.



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Journal December 17, 1873

Last Thursday, W. R. Mason, O. I. Watkins and two others of Grattan, took John W. Turk, a raving maniac, to Grand Rapids and remained over night and the next day Mr. Mason and County Supt. of the Poor Steketee took Turk to Kalamazoo to the Asylum for the Insane. Mr. Turk is about 20 years of age and has been subject to epileptic fits for a long time. There is but little hope that his reason will ever be restored.

It being very dark Monday night, Mr. S. hunted up the lantern, previous to going down town and found it very dirty and smoky. He cleaned it up himself and while thus engaged remarked to Mrs. S. that it would be well if she would try and keep it in decent shape in [the] future. Mrs. S. might have said she would try but she didn't and Mr. S. started out presently, wiping his greasy fingers on his pants, which he knew would make Mrs. S. mad. When he got down town he entered the store where he usually spends his evenings and placed his

lantern on the counter. The proprietor walked leisurely along behind the counter and picking up the lantern said to the company present, which was composed of several industrious whittlers, "Gentlemen, you can always tell what kind of a wife a man's got by the looks of his lantern; look o'here once." "That's so," responded Doolittle and the rest concurred. S. stowed away his wife's compliment where she never will get hold of it, but when he went home he told that life partner of his that he never would clean that lantern again if he lived six hundred years.

Mr. J. C. Train, assisted by two lawyers, one landlord, a clergyman and five boys who chew rubber for gum, drove his big porker on Mr. Fairbank's platform the other day. The hog weighed 685 lbs.

Three Grand Rapids boys stole a cabbage, told a co-partnership lie and were fined three dollars each. It pays to keep a hatchet.

125 years ago Lowell Journal December 21, 1888

The electric light project has not yet reached a head. Mr. A. C. Sekell, of the Water Company, was in town last Friday night and had a conference with the councilmen and as many of the businessmen as could be brought together on a few minutes notice. He would like the privilege of setting poles and running wires to light such business houses as wish the light; and if at any future time the village wishes public lighting he will agree to do that at a reasonable price.

The saw mill portion of the Taft Mills was sold again by Deputy Sheriff Hill, Monday, to Mr. L. L. Howe, who's now running it.

Some of our citizens are complaining about certain boys who are "cutting up" altogether too much nights about private residences.

Looking Back, continued, page 12

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weddings

Hanson/Ziebart



Rebecca and Benjamin Hanson

The marriage of Ryan Converse, Kevin Rebecca Nicole Ziebart Gillman, Drew Happie and Benjamin Bert Hanson Ryan Lane. Ushers were Nic Tolsma and Matt Kunnen.

The bride is a teacher for Byron Center Public Schools. She graduated from St. Joseph High School and Grand Valley State University.

The groom is a contract administrator for Enwork. He is a graduate of Lowell High School and Cornerstone University.

The couple reside in Grand Rapids.

Ring in the New Year with a COLA

Many people ring in the New Year with champagne. People who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) get to ring it in with a COLA. This year, more than 60 million Americans are receiving a 1.5 percent cost of living

adjustment (COLA) in their monthly benefit payment.

The 1.5 percent COLA begins with increased benefits for more than 57 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2014, and payments to more than eight million SSI

recipients in late December 2013.

The estimated average monthly Social Security payment to a retired worker is \$1,294 (in 2014), up from \$1,275 (in 2013). The average monthly Social Security disability payment for an individual is \$1,148 (in 2014), up from \$1,131 (in 2013).

The basic monthly federal payment for SSI is \$721 (in 2014), up from \$710 (in 2013).

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security payroll tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$117,000, up from \$113,700. Of the estimated 165 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2014, about 10 million will pay

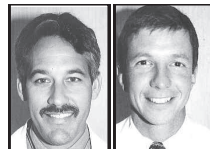
higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

The amount of earnings needed for one credit of Social Security coverage has gone up as well, but all workers can still earn up to four credits in a year. In 2014, a worker earns a credit after earning \$1,200. In 2013, one credit of coverage was \$1,160. It takes forty credits to be fully insured for retirement benefits.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice to learn more about the COLA and other Social Security changes in 2014.

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

health



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



Trigeminal neuralgia

The trigeminal nerve (fifth cranial nerve) is responsible for sensation on either side of the face. Trigeminal neuralgia is the medical term used to describe a condition that causes intense, severe pain located on one side of the face near the jaw or eye.

Facial pain can have many causes and trigeminal neuralgia is quite common, especially in people older than 50. Women seem to be affected more than men. The pain of trigeminal neuralgia may be due to pressure on the nerve by a blood vessel.

The pain of trigeminal neuralgia is sharp, lasting a few seconds to several minutes. Some people describe the pain as stabbing or like an electric shock, or deep burning. The pain can

come and go, often with long periods of remission between episodes. The pain can be triggered by chewing, touching the face, exposure to wind or cold, and even brushing your teeth.

The diagnosis is usually made by reviewing the history of symptoms and performing an examination. Sometimes a nerve test or MRI will be ordered to rule out other causes of facial pain.

Although trigeminal neuralgia is usually not curable, symptoms can be treated with medications that alleviate neuropathic pain. Your doctor may refer you to a neurologist or neurosurgeon for further treatment if the condition is not relieved effectively with medication.

happy birthday!

- DECEMBER 18**
Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Julie Alberts, Heather Walenzik.
- DECEMBER 19**
Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.
- DECEMBER 20**
Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo.
- DECEMBER 21**
Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki, Debbie Walenzik, Eric Koeppel.
- DECEMBER 22**
Jason Seeley, Cody Soyka.
- DECEMBER 23**
Marie Doyle.
- DECEMBER 24**
Jeffrey Pfaller.

area churches

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Compositech to add 50 jobs in Vergennes Township

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Compositech, a manufacturing company in Vergennes Township, will

be adding 50 new jobs to the local workforce.

According to a press release the new jobs will

be full-time and range from managerial and technical positions to skilled and

entry-level opportunities.

“Having somebody

like this company in the area just adds to our diverse economic base,” said city manager Mark Howe.

Compositech is a subsidiary of Industrial Services Group, a company based in South Carolina. The company makes “turnkey engineered composite solutions for

highly corrosive processes in power generation, pulp and paper, and chemical processing industries,” according to the press release.

“Bringing 50 new jobs to the community is a wonderful thing,” Howe said.

Less crime, continued

burglaries or breaking-and-entering this year, disorderly conduct, theft, arson [and] malicious destruction of property,” Bukula said.

Another possible reason for the drop in arrests was a change in how Lowell is patrolled.

“We were working less

traffic this year and a lot of our arrests are traffic-oriented,” Bukula said. “We did more zoning and code enforcement, city ordinances such as junk or rubbish [and] things like that. That’s been appointed to us by the city manager’s office.”

Yet another possibility is the tendency of Lowell police to let minor offenders off with a warning.

“We’re continuing the community policing philosophy that Jim Valentine brought to Lowell back in the early 90s, where

we’re doing more education versus tickets,” Bukula said. “We wrote 383 tickets for this year, but we gave 1182 warnings. So officers are buying into that. We’d rather educate than write a ticket if we can.”

Cyrocki named Staff Member of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) second grade teacher, Lori Cyrocki, was named Staff Member of the Month. This is Cyrocki’s tenth year of teaching second grade at MLE. She taught several years at Lowell Middle School prior to coming to MLE.

Cyrocki and her husband Dave reside in Lowell and have two grown daughters who attended Lowell Schools

“Lori Cyrocki is an awesome teacher,” commented staff member Nancy Calvi. “She does such a great job with special needs students and with all her students.”

Cyrocki says, “I love second grade and all of the changes that take place from September to June. They come out of first grade and leave ready for third grade. There is a great deal of growth during this school year. I truly enjoy Murray Lake because of all the



support and positive energy from the students, parents and staff.”

In her spare time,

Cyrocki enjoys travelling, and spending time with her two-and-half year old grandson.

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CITY OF LOWELL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25, 2013 for the Christmas holidays and Wednesday, January 1, 2014 for New Year’s Day.

Those who participate in the City of Lowell refuse program with blue bags will have their refuse picked up on Friday, December 27, 2013 due to the Christmas holiday and their refuse and recycle will be picked up Friday, January 3, 2014 due to the New Year’s holiday.

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Father/daughter dance is a big hit with elementary girls

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Sparkling dresses, shiny tiaras and tiny high heels adorned the dance floor at the 12th annual Father Daughter Dance sponsored by the Lady Arrows Varsity Club (LAVC) this past Wednesday, December 11, at the Grand Volute Ballroom.

Nearly 200 second and third-grade female students from throughout the school district attended the fancy affair along with their fathers or other significant male person.

The entry fee supports the leadership efforts of the LAVC and included complimentary use of a pair of photo booths and an ice cream buffet along with a night of D.J. led dancing

and fun in the opulently decorated ballroom. This is the event's second year at the beautiful Grand Volute since outgrowing the cafeteria at Cherry Creek Elementary.

LAVC advisor Dee Crowley, planned this year's fundraising event with a team of fellow advisors: Robin Briggs, Sarah Ellis and Cari Slot, along the working members of the club. She says that the event provides a great opportunity for the LAVC members to act as role models and also provides a memorable night for the young ladies in attendance.

"It is a special night where many of the young girls get dressed up, have dinner with dad and then

have a fun night at the dance," Crowley explained.

Katelynn Carney, a 7-year-old second grader from Alto Elementary, was one of the dolled up beauties at the event.

"I even got my hair done up at Brenda's Salon and got to wear dangly diamond earrings and my first pair of high heels!" she exclaimed.

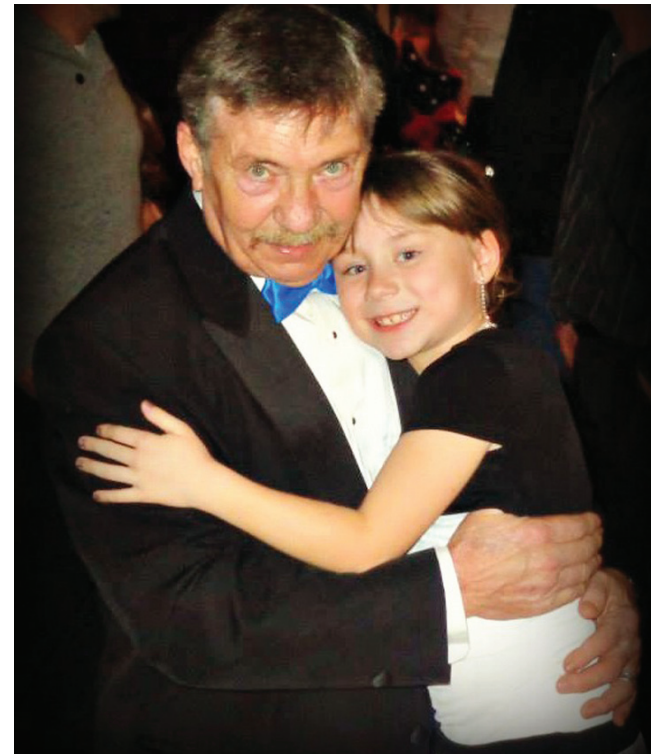
Carney attended the event with her tuxedo-clad grandfather Ron. "I have the best grandpa in the world.... but he wouldn't shake his booty on the dance floor," she said playfully when asked about her special "date" for the night.

Carney's mother Kelli said that her daughter does

not have an active father in her life and that she is extremely grateful for her own father stepping in to fill the role for this special occasion.

"I am so blessed to have such a wonderful dad. I don't know what we would do without him. When he offered to take her it really made me realize what an amazing man he is! He has gone above and beyond to make sure she has a granddad. And he truly is!"

Whether being swirled around the dance floor by their fathers, grandfathers, uncles or another significant person, this unique night of bonding was enjoyed by the elementary girls and their escorts alike.



Katelynn Carney sharing a dance with her grandfather Ron at the annual dance.

LaughFest coming to Lowell, seeks volunteers

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

LaughFest is looking for volunteers to help put on comedy events in Lowell next spring.

Volunteers could end up working in any number of tasks, such as event promotion,

logistics, ushering, selling merchandise, retail, office support and other random jobs.

LaughFest is a benefit for Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids, an organization that supports those dealing

with cancer. Gilda's Club is named after "Saturday Night Live" actress Gilda Radner who died from ovarian cancer in 1989.

This year's LaughFest will feature comics ranging from big mainstream names that nearly everybody knows like Jay Leno and Lily Tomlin to up-and-coming "alternative" stand-

ups like Maria Bamford and Judah Friedlander. The event takes place in Lowell, Holland and Grand Rapids from March 6 through March 14, 2014.

An orientation for volunteers will take place at Steelcase Town Hall in Grand Rapids on Jan. 30.

For more details and to sign up go to laughfestgr.org

Murray Lake Volunteer of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) Volunteer of the Month is Misty VanTimmeren. VanTimmeren was nominated by several staff members for her ongoing weekly, sometimes daily volunteerism at MLE.

"Misty is so awesome. She helps me every week... faithfully. She is a big help and I appreciate her greatly," commented third-grade teacher Sue Wilterink.

She has been married to husband Mike for nine years. They have two daughters, Grace and Isabelle, who attend MLE. They also have a pit bull named Barkley.

VanTimmeren says, "I am a stay at home mom so I can be a part of my daughter's education. A

good education is very important to us and I want to be a part of this education for our daughters."

When she is not volunteering, she enjoys shopping, gardening, boating, honey bee keeping,

baking and spending time with friends and family.



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Middle school mentor program helps boost self esteem

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell Middle School is home to the STARS (Sisters Together Addressing Real Situations). STARS is a mentorship program that pairs incoming sixth-grade students with carefully selected eighth-grade mentors for honest and real discussion about topics affecting young girls such as peer relations, conflict resolution and self esteem.

The group, now in its ninth year at the school, is supervised by Lowell Middle School (LMS) counselor Katie Erickson. It was developed by her current counseling counterpart Sheila Dubbink. The original concept paired sixth-grade girls with high school senior mentors.

"Eventually they decided to make a change and have eighth-grade girls be the mentors instead. The connection was much stronger with the girls being closer in age," explains Erickson.

Though the program has evolved the message has remained the same throughout the history of its existence. "The main goal is to build strong relationships and empower young girls to make positive choices in their lives," said Erickson adding, "We feel that this is an important program for young women because it gives them

specific strategies and tools to use when faced with the challenges of being a middle school girl."

On average about 50-60 sixth-grade girls enroll in the program which meets during the school day for six consecutive weeks. These girls are then broken up into smaller groups and assigned two, carefully trained, eighth-grade mentors to lead their discussions. Mentors utilize both prepared notes and their own life experiences to discuss the varying topics of interest to young women.

"In the counseling office we are constantly helping girls work through issues of friendship, body image and self esteem. We feel that hearing a positive message about these topics from eighth-grade leaders can really have a big impact," said Erickson.

While sixth-grade enrollment is open to all, the young females chosen as mentors must submit an application for the position which includes recommendations and an essay. Mentors are expected to be good and discreet listeners, fair and dependable people and also have the ability to speak up and lead their group.

"We want to make sure that they are clear on how important their role is and



STARS' advisor Katie Erickson, on the right, talks with eighth-grade mentor Makyla Branagan prior to their STARS' meeting.

that they are ready to step up and be good role models both during STARS and outside of STARS," says Erickson of the application process. "We try to get a good mix of girls to be mentors, it's not all of the super outgoing, big personality types. Many times we will have girls apply to be a leader who are on the quieter side, but they feel like they can open up with the sixth-grade girls and share their experiences.

Sometimes girls apply who have struggled in the past, but are wanting to make changes and feel that having this experience will help send them in the right direction."

The open forum for discussion granted to the sixth-grade students by their small and consistent groups offers them the opportunity to speak honestly, ask questions and learn, through the groups activities and topical conversations, to be strong and self-assured young women. "We see so much growth in the area

of self-esteem. Some of the sixth-grade girls start STARS and will not say a word in their group. By the end of the six weeks together they are willing to open up and share things about themselves because their leaders have built a solid trusting relationship with them," said Erickson who happily reported that they often times hear stories of the relationships built during the program lasting throughout high school.

Erickson says that every sixth-grade girl entering LMS is encouraged

to participate in the group, citing it as an excellent opportunity to make friends, connect with a positive role model and learn about themselves. "Any girl who participates is going to come away from STARS with some benefits. Girls who are having a hard time making friends or who have low-self esteem will leave with the most gains. The skills we teach and topics we cover are excellent reminders, even for girls who may already be sure of themselves."



Eighth-grade mentor Isabelle Dial leads a group discussion during a STARS' meeting. Also pictured is sixth grader Elliana James.

Lowell Community

CHRISTMAS

Hymn Sing

This year the community of Lowell will be celebrating Christmas. Join us on December 22nd 7:30 p.m. at Calvary Church in Lowell to enjoy Holiday treats, hearty snacks, community fun and great community singing.

Dec. 22 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Red Arrow SPORTS

- BASKETBALL

Boys win season opener against Forest Hills Eastern

by Karen Jack

The Red Arrow boys' basketball team opened their season on a high note, beating Forest Hills Eastern 65-52. Later in the week they took on Hastings and lost a close one 47-43.

In the Forest Hills Eastern game, the boys took off running and never stopped. With a young team, one might think they'd have growing pains, but players like Ryan Stevens, Matt Beachler, Gabe Steed and

Josh Branagan all led the team to the victory making it look effortless. Stevens and Beachler each had 14 points, Steed had 13 and Branagan had eight.

In the Hastings' game, Lowell outscored Hastings in the first and second quarters by five points, but couldn't hold on for the third quarter when Hastings outscored Lowell by eight points which led to the difference in the game.

The Arrows scored only one point less in the fourth quarter than they allowed Hastings to score.

Stevens, once again, led the scorers with 15, followed by Beachler with 14. Steed scored eight points.

The boys travel to Greenville on Friday night. Game time is 7:45 pm.



Matt Beachler takes a shot.

- HOCKEY

Lowell/Caledonia hockey plays Jenison/West Ottawa

The combined varsity hockey team of Lowell, Caledonia and South Christian faced-off against the Jenison Wildcats Friday

the thirteenth. Jenison scored the first goal of the game, so to even up the score Josh Riemersma (Caledonia) singlehandedly

took the puck straight down the center of the ice and scored an unassisted goal to tie up the first period 1-1.

Within the first five

minutes of the second period, Jenison lobbed two pucks into the net. Just a couple minutes later, the Wildcats tripped Eli Barr (Lowell) as he was about to put one away in the net for L/C, only to end up taking a seat in the penalty box and rewarding Lowell with a penalty shot. As luck would have it, the Wildcat's goalie took care of business and L/C was left without a goal. The Jenison Wildcats immediately took the puck back to the other side of the arena where Jenison luckily scored three times in a row. L/C had numerous shots on goal and was right on track with their setup at the net, but needed a little more finesse to get by the Wildcats' goalie. The second period left L/C trailing Jenison 6-1.

While Friday the thirteenth was looking like an unlucky game for L/C at halftime, "Chuck-a-Puck" proved lucky for hockey dad Greg Schab of Holland, who won \$22.00 for throwing a hockey puck the closest to center ice. Schab smiled as he casually mentioned that he won a "Chuck-a-Puck" last weekend also, so it appears this was not just a lucky throw for him.

Six minutes into the third period saw L/C & Jenison serving penalties one after another respectively and the spectators thought once Lowell returned back to full strength they might catch up a few points... but it was not to be.

With only five minutes left to play in the third period, Jenison had another player in the penalty box for a five minute penalty before he was removed from the game for misconduct, but the extended power play didn't give L/C the opportunity to score, however they were able to stop the Wildcats from scoring another goal. The final score left Jenison winning 6-1.

Penalties were a-plenty at Saturday's varsity hockey game against the West Ottawa Panthers. The first goal of the game was scored by Josh Riemersma (Caledonia) with 6:48 left in the first period. L/C #35 goalie Nate Winterburn (Caledonia) blocked a hard and fast goal with only one minute left in the first period. Within that last minute and with a pileup in front of the net, the Panthers managed to sneak one in on the L/C goalie tying the

game 1-1 as the players left for the locker rooms at the end of the first period.

In the second period the Panthers kept up the pressure, keeping the puck in L/C's zone and proved that persistence pays off as they put another puck in L/C's net. Another score later and the Panthers ended up with two in the penalty box. The power play didn't give L/C the extra edge they could have used and instead turned penalty box into a revolving door for both teams, ending the second period with the Panthers up 3-1.

Winner of the halftime "Chuck-a-Puck" was L/C junior varsity hockey teammate #12 Nolan Winterburn and younger brother to L/C's varsity goalie, Nate. Nolan's winnings totaled \$18. Profits from the 50/50 "Chuck-a-Puck" contest are to help cover the cost of the L/C practice hockey jerseys.

Immediately upon the start of the third period, West Ottawa took another turn warming the penalty bench, yet they still managed to keep L/C from taking advantage of the power play and only gave L/C time to return the favor by giving the Panthers a power play of their own. By the end of the third period the scoreboard hadn't changed so the Panthers beat L/C 3-1.

The next chance to catch a home game or take a chance at "Chuck-a-Puck" will be Fri., Jan 17 at 8:15 pm. L/C's home ice is at Kentwood Ice Arena. "Chuck-a-Puck" is \$1 a puck. All students get in free with ID. Adults are \$5 at the door.

LAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS' VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

* Denotes a game at East Kentwood Ice Arena
12/21 at 6 p.m. GR Christian
1/3 at 8 p.m. Northview at Griffis
1/4 at 5:30 p.m. at Waterford Mott High (Lakeland)

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a game at Lowell High School main gym
12/20 at 6 p.m. at Greenville
1/3 at 7 p.m. Lakewood*

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a game at Lowell High School main gym
12/20 at 7:45 p.m. at Greenville
1/3 at 7 p.m. at Lakewood

BOYS' VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a game at Lowell HS
12/20 at 7 p.m. Mishawaka Cavemen
12/22 at 12 p.m. Davison at Flint Ice Arena
1/4 at 9 a.m. Detroit Catholic Central Invitational

GIRLS' VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a game at Lowell Lanes
1/9 at 3:30 p.m. Mona Shores*
1/13 at 3:30 p.m. Forest Hills Central*

BOYS' VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a game at Lowell Lanes
1/4 time TBA Fruitport Bowling Invitational at Northway Lanes
1/9 at 3:30 p.m. Mona Shores*

GIRLS' VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER

* Denotes a game at Lowell High School
12/21 at 11 a.m. Reeths Puffer Invitational
1/11 time TBA Gull Lake Invitational

GIRLS' VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a game at Lowell High School Auxiliary Gym
12/30 at 6 p.m. Kenowa Hills*
1/4 at 9:30 a.m. Rockford Flip-Flop Invitational

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Red Arrow SPORTS

- WRESTLING

Grapplers nearly defeat #17 in Chicago meet

by Karen Jack

In their first full meet as a team, the Red Arrow wrestling team traveled to Chicago to face off with #17th ranked Marist High School on Friday. Going in, they knew it was going to be a tough match, but thought they could pull the win out and almost did.

Lowell got off to a slow start, losing their first four matches and going down 16-0, then voiding the match at 171. Marist voided their spot at 182 to make the score 22-6. Garrett Stehley was next up and he pinned his opponent to up Lowell's score to 12. Josh Colegrove then went on to beat his opponent by major (eight or more point difference), earning the team another four points. Sam Russell won by injury default at 106 lbs., to make the score all tied up at 22 each. Lucas

Hall earned three points for the team with a decision and Lowell went ahead 25-22 for the first time in the match. Lowell dropped the next two and gave up eight points to allow Marist to lead by five with only two matches to go. Bailey Jack beat his opponent 14-7 to give the team another three points, making the score 30-28 going into the final match where Marist won by decision for the final score of 33-28.

On Saturday the team went to Mt. Carmel in Chicago to wrestle a couple of duals. First up was Stagg High School and the Arrows took care of them easily, winning 55-15. Winners in that dual were Stehley, Colegrove, Max Dean and Derek Krajewski all with pins. Lucas Hall, Jack and Jordan Hall all had technical



Garrett Stehley going for the pin.



Bailey Jack gets the pin.

falls (scoring 15 or more points than their opponent). Kanon Dean majored his opponent (scoring eight or more points than their opponent) and Kyle Washburn and Danny Kruse each had decisions (having seven or less difference in score on their opponent). Zeth Dean had a void against him, which garnered the team another six points.

The Arrows moved on to face Mt. Carmel and had another great showing

beating them 39-25. Winners in that dual included pins by Colegrove, Lucas Hall, Zeth Dean, Derek Krajewski and Jordan Hall. Max Dean and Kanon Dean each had decisions.

"It was nice having our team together for the first time this year," said assistant coach RJ Boudro. "The difference between the first day and second day is we got better and I hope we can get better every time we wrestle."

The Arrows will host Mishawaka on Friday night at Lowell High School at 7:00 pm and then will travel to Flint's Perani Arena to face off with Division one's #1 Davison, Division three's #1 Richmond, Division four's #1 Hudson at the Mat Mayhem. Wrestling for the high school starts at 12:00 pm.

Girls' basketball splits for the week

- BASKETBALL

by Karen Jack

The Lady Arrow basketball team lost a close game to Forest Hills Eastern on Wednesday 46-50. But they turned it around on Saturday soundly defeating Traverse City West, 43-27.

In the Eastern game, the Arrows led going into the locker room at halftime by two, but Eastern managed to make some changes to catch up and pass Lowell. They outscored Lowell by three

points in both the third and fourth quarters to make the difference in the game.

"The entire game was back and forth," said coach Jake Strotheide. "We got in some early foul trouble and didn't respond well. I think our girls were nervous to get up and pressure and that really hurt us on the boards. We did some really good things and had a shot at the end, but just couldn't put the consistent plays together to put us over the top."

Katie Montgomery led the Arrows in scoring with

14 points. Katie Holzhuetter scored nine, while Aubreigh Steed scored seven. Ally Fredrickson had nine rebounds and three blocks in the game.

Traverse City West was a whole different ball game. Lowell came out on a 7-2 run early, but Traverse City tried to slow them down and keep the ball on their side of the court all the way to the fourth quarter. In the fourth quarter, the team attacked more and kept the tempo up. Kate Montgomery led the team, attacking the

hoop and getting to the free throw line, making a perfect 6-6 at the line helping the team tie it up and take the lead. Lowell only allowed Traverse City to score two points in the entire fourth quarter.

"I'm really happy that our program was able to make a three hour trip in a blizzard and come up with a sweep between the freshmen and JV team. I think they set the tone early and I think we used the energy from them to get off to a fast start," said Strotheide.

Montgomery led the scoring in this game with 12 points and was a perfect seven for seven from the line. Steed had nine points and went three for seven from the line. She also had nine rebounds. Holzhuetter had six points scoring two three-pointers. Steed led the team on rebounds with nine; Fredrickson had six and three blocks. Tara McQueen had three steals.

The team travels to Greenville on Friday for a 6 pm game.

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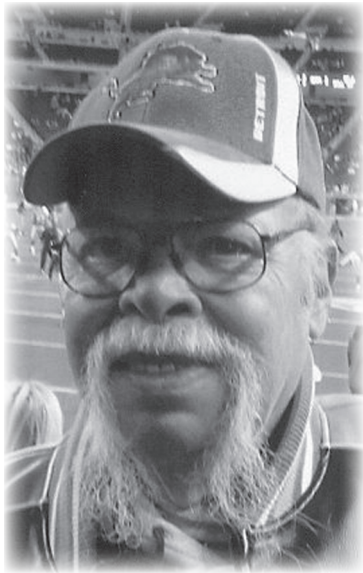
obituaries

FULLER

On December 11, 2013, Donald Warren Fuller, age 72, was called to his maker. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War era and worked at Michigan Wheel in Grand Rapids for 32 years. Don was a 39 year member of the Alto Post 528 and a lifetime member of Amvets Post



23. He enjoyed and was also a member of the 40-8. He was preceded in death by his mother Lucy Pollett. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Dolores Fuller; 3 children, Warren (Amy) Fuller, Michelle Klassen and Jeffery (Kelly) Fuller, 8 grandchildren, Kyle Klassen, Scott Klassen, Ashley Klassen, Beth Batchelder, Ethan Fuller, Morgan, Darby and Riley Fuller; brother John Fuller, sisters Jo Ann Anes and Cindy (Richard) Gless. Don loved spending time at his cabin hunting and fishing. He was a devoted Lions Football fan. There will be a Memorial Gathering at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Paws with a Cause, 4646 South Division, Wayland, MI 49348.



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5	7	8	2	4	3	9	1	6
4	3	6	8	9	1	2	7	5
9	1	2	7	6	5	3	8	4
8	6	9	4	5	7	1	3	2
7	2	1	9	3	6	5	4	8
3	5	4	1	8	2	6	9	7
1	8	5	3	2	4	7	6	9
2	9	7	6	1	8	4	5	3
6	4	3	5	7	9	8	2	1

A	S	C	O	T	W	I	G	C	O	E	D	
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U	S	E	R	L	O	I	N	D	R	O	P	S
D	A	R	E	L	E	P	E	R	T	R	E	Y
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L	O	D	G	E	E	K	E	E	E	R	I	E
S	P	E	E	D	C	O	W	O	V	I	N	E
D	E	N	S	K	I	N	R	E	P	E	L	

Looking Back, continued

The humble muskrat has built a house that shows he counts on an open and agreeable winter in Michigan. But, alas! Time has shown that our muskrat friend has made as many mistakes concerning the weather as Bob Ingersoll has about Moses and the Bible.

A burning chimney in the Bank Block was what caused the fire alarm yesterday morning.

Tramps are plentiful and the village authorities are puzzled to know what to do with them nights.

Wabasis, a half breed and chief of a band of Ottawas, in 1836 was a delegate to Washington and signed a treaty by which the government obtained title to the northwestern portion of the lower peninsula. The Indians were angry with him and accused him of keeping a large portion of the money paid for the land and as a punishment, was, according to Indian law, restricted to certain limits at Wabasis lake, six miles west of Greenville. To go beyond was death. He lived there several years and according to tradition, buried his pile of gold at some point around the small lake, but after a time was induced to attend a dance down in this county, where he was killed by Neogamah with a club. Some parties who have been studying up the Wabasis history are making arrangements to look for the hidden wealth.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 18, 1913

From our point of view- The county YMCA work for which a Lowell branch is projected, is one that should have the endorsement and support of all good citizens. The need for just such an organization in Lowell is too apparent for argument. The saloons are open six days in the week and the streets tempt the boys and young men every night in the week. To offset these evil attractions are the Sunday church services and a public library open only three evenings, while it should be available seven afternoons and evenings every week in the year. It is good to counsel boys and young men to stay away from evil resorts; but it would be far better to furnish them a substitute—all the difference between preaching and practicing. A YMCA for Lowell? By all means!

The Ledger has no sympathy for any effort to arraign one church or sect against another, nor with that to bar adherents of any Christian sect or church from equal political and social rights with all others. We stand by that good Jeffersonian doctrine: "Equal rights to all, special privileges to none."

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 22, 1938

Shoppers from many miles around have been in Lowell in unusually large numbers during the present holiday season. Last Saturday saw the business district crowded from early morning until a late hour at night and each day this week has found local stores crowded most of the time. Many shoppers report that Lowell stores this year are offering wider varieties of attractive merchandise than ever before. Record-breaking crowds will no doubt be here on Friday and Saturday.

This is the season of the year when everybody enjoys beautiful Christmas carols. However, in all seasons of the year the favorite "Carroll" of our local high school athletes is coach Chris Burch.

One of the finest pike which has been taken from Grand River in some time was caught without tackle by Russell Messer, a nine-year-old Lyon's boy. He was walking near the river when he saw the pike caught back of several stones. The lad waded in and grabbed the 4 1/2 pound pike by the gills.

Headline: Future farmers here leading state in parasite campaign. John Kleinheksel, high school agricultural teacher and F. F. A. club advisor, announces this week that 291 horses and 44 colts, making a total of 335, have been listed for bot fly treatment, as the result of efforts of the Future Farmers of America students. Treating will be started Saturday, Dec. 24 and will be continued on Dec. 27, 28 and 29. One hundred and three farmers in

the community are cooperating. This horse parasite control campaign is of great help to the farmers as well as being very instructive for the agricultural students. Outstanding students in contacting farmers were George Wittenbach, sophomore and a Green Hand or 1st year club member, who signed up 74 horses; Ben Theule, senior, also a Green Hand, who signed up 63 horses; and George Regan, senior and a third year F. F. A. member, who signed up 60 horses. At an F. F. A. Christmas party on Tuesday evening these boys were each presented with a special gift for their good work. This campaign is perhaps the largest horse parasite control campaign ever put on by any F. F. A. club in the state of Michigan.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 19, 1963

Santa arrived in Lowell on Saturday in The Light & Power Co.'s "Pole Cat," a novel and exciting way to travel. And arriving just in time for the holiday season was the long-awaited snow. Lowell received its first white blanket last Wednesday evening and it has been piling up ever since; there is now about six inches of snow on the ground. Appearing in the Santa Claus parade sponsored by the chamber of commerce was the American Legion baton twirlers and a group of new cars from local dealers and the fire truck. Along with Santa's coming was a reported surge of Christmas shoppers who started on that last minute drive to be climaxed next Tuesday. All Lowell stores were receiving an increasing number of shoppers over last year, it was revealed.

Traditional Christmas wreaths were hung along Main Street last Wednesday by members of the light and power crew. On Monday, the crew was out re-hanging the decorations as heavy winds over the week end blew down most of the wreaths.

Gordon Hill was a little surprised himself to get a letter from the Ball Band rubber footwear people this week revealing that Hill's Shoe Store had been their outlet in Lowell since 1909, a total of 55 years, something of a record for long-time purchases.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 21, 1988

Headline: 1988 – A Year in Review. Another year has passed here in the Showboat City. But never does a year go by without some memorable stories. The Lowell Ledger in 1988's "A Year in Review" hopes it has capsulized some of these moments for you... Showboat returns, H.O.O. P. S comes to Lowell and [the] summer's drought.

"Action Auto has a desire to service small communities and the residents of Lowell," said Action Auto president and chief operating officer Richard A. Sabo. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony he said, "Our doors are now officially opened." In 12 years, Action Auto has constructed and serviced some 66 communities in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. The store's base is in Flint, Michigan, where it was founded by James Sabo, chairman and chief executive officer; Richard Sabo; and Robert Sabo, senior executive vice president. Lowell's planning commission first heard of Action Auto's intention to move into Lowell in March of this year. It then gave its approval of the plan in April. "Construction started in the summer," said Lowell city manager David Pasquale. Currently, along with the 100 existing stores, there are five locations under construction and 41 other proposed sites. "We dream big enough to want to make this a national organization in due time to service millions more than we do now, but to always serve everyone as well and as adequately as we serve our Michigan customers today," Sabo said. He added that the public company is a contemporary parts, gas, tires and service store. Managing the Lowell store at 2001 West Main are Dale Sinclaire, manager; Jim McNeeley, assistant manager; Jim Marvin, assistant manager; and Spencer Gysen, service manager. "We staff our stores with employees who have the 'Action Auto Service First' spirit," Sabo said. "It is service levels and profitability that drive us, not size alone."

Lowell High School first trimester Honor Roll

Lowell High School honor roll for the first trimester – 2013-14 school year
First trimester term GPA must be a 3.000 or higher to qualify and is based on final grades

9TH GRADE

Hannah Allan
Adam Anderson
Karmen Anderson
Sterling Anderson
Jordan Andrus
Angela Baerwalde
Brennan Battle
Sela Bauman
Viktoria Baumgartner
Matthew Beachler
Johanna Bem
Jeremy Bergin
Delaney Bierlein
Dakota Bileth
Jacob Bishop
Maxwell Bishop
Faith Blakely
Katherine Bodemann
Elijah Boulton
Collin Bowers
Casey Bramble
Maria Briggs
Mitchell Brown
Madeline Burt
Kyle Cater
Samantha Celori
Brodrick Chapman
Autumn Chrisman
Colton Churches
Ryne Clarke
Katie Clemenshaw
Paige Clouse
Rachel Cole
Riley Coxon
Troy Coyne
Amber Curtis
Maria DeCator
Paige DeHaan
Casey Depew
Samuel DeVito
Andrew deVost
Kyla Dixon
Sydney Dodde
Alexander Dommer
Michael Doyle
Robert Dubisky
Shane Endres
Jonah Epema
Brayden Ergang
Edward Fisher
Isabelle Fleszar
Callie Ford-Weber
Alise Forward
Paige Fosburg
Brady Fox
Laurel Frederickson
Darby Fuller
Taylor Furtaw
Kamryn Gaines
Bridget Garter
Bethany Geldersma
Haley Godbold
Parker Grant
Sonja Grasmann
Abigail Green
Elizabeth Grile
Emily Grochowalski
Madeleine Haines
Megan Hall
Rebecca Hall
Brianna Haywood
Joseph Heffron
Edward Heikkila
Kollin Hieftje
Taylor Higgins
Emily Hock
Olivia Hock
Shannon Hoekstra
Kamryn Holdridge
Jacob Holmes
Brianna Homrich
Molly Hoseth
Thomas Hubert
Anderson Hudson
Noah Huizinga
Jerrod Humphreys
Henry Huston
Joshua Idema
Bailey Ina
Logan Jamison
Kara Jeffries
Danton Jernberg
Savanna Johnson
Eric Judd
Kelsie Jurmo

Jeremy Kargl
Caleb Kaufman
Corah Kaufman
Kaitlin Kelley
Bailey Koewers-Tefft
Bretton Kooistra
Adam Korzen
Logan Landman
Aidan Lane
Geniaya Lewis
Jared Lezan
Kyle Liddle
Isabel Lillie
Kayeleigh Lubbers
Christina Lyon
Mallori MacPherson
Sara Majestic
Samuel Mason
Madison McCormack
Carsen McDonald
Alyssa McIntire
Kenzie McLarty
Alyssa Mears
Jarrod Melle
Tessa Micho
Chase Miller
Kathryn Miller
Nicole Mooney
Daniel Moore
Ryan Morris
Brittney Mulder
Benjamin Mullins
Braden Myers
Riley Nethercott
Nova Nietling
Benjamin Noffke
Olivia Nurmikko
Molly Olin
Hunter Owens
Grace Paiz
Lawrence Patrick
Tiana-Marie Peavey
Nicolas Perry
Jayce Perysian
Jasmine Peters
Chad Peterson
Katie Peterson
Mary Peterson
Tiana Petricevic
Zachary Petroelje
Caleb Pickens
Abigail Pickett
Josealyn Pontius
Andrew Poulton
Alexander Powell
Jacob Pratt
Griffen Preston
Lisa Price
Jacquelyn Pytlak
Lillian Quiggle
Jacob Reagan
Mansel Reed
Matthew Reedy
Aiden Remar
Gina Ricards
Jillian Riney
Megan Ritchie
Samantha Robinson
Alyssa Roest
John Rogalke
Alexander Rozell
Samuel Russell
Seth Salinas
Alec Senior
Trevor Sherman
Brenden Simpson
Courtney Simpson
Brevon Slagell
Brandon Smit
Benjamin Smith
Logan Smith
Connor Smith
Caleb Sobie
Sage Solomonson
Hana Steinebach
Nathan Stephens
Benjamin Stewart
Jonathan Stewart
Bradley Stoffers
Mason Sturgeon
Garret Taylor
Patrick Travis
Donald Trierweiler
Steven Tripp
Nickolas Truba
Sydney VandenHout
Trevor VanDyke
Kenneth VanOosten
Nicholas VanTil
John Wade
Lucy Wade
Sara Walters

Corrina Wenger
Zachary Weston
Lauren White
Nathan Whittum
Kodie Wilcox
Maya Williams
Danielle Wingeier
Sophia Winn
Jacob Wosinski
Kendra Wroten

10TH GRADE
Maya Aalsburg
Keara Anderson
Tanathat Athithong
Anastasia Barnes
Jessica Barrett
Sophia Bartz
Ethan Bates
Kyle Bell
Baylee Bennett
Jenna Bessey
David Bjorelind
Amanda Brenner
Katerina Brim
Paige Brooks
Lauren Browning
Jared Brzezniak
Timothy Buechler
Ethan Campbell
Elle Coble
Matthew Cooper
Logan Copeyon
Maxwell Dean
Zeth Dean
Sarah Dec
Billy Dickson
Elizabeth Dickson
Wenxuan Ding
Tyler Doane
Ines Dominguez
Gonzalez
Guglielmo Donofrio
Colin DuCharme
Hannah Duvernay
McKare Elliott
Madison Emeland
Kelsey Emmanuel
Haley Jo Engels
Sina Faass
Jennifer Ferreira
Rachael Fotis
Rachel Fox
Alexis Frederickson
Madison Gaskin
Joseph Geisen
Abigail Gerig
Enrique Gomez-Lopez
Austin Grim
Addison Grohman
Kyrsten Grover
Kellen Guinn
Katie Haefner
Brandon Haehnel
Cameron Harper
Jessica Havlik
Seth Hemingsen
Mary Hess
Ryan Hessler
Victoria Hewitt
Lena Hinkel
Maranda Holloway
Lance Huber
Talitha Hull
Samuel Huston
McKenzie Huver
Haris Islamcevic
Mathea Ismond
Aaron Jakubiak
Graham Johnson
Madison Kaminski
Reece Karns
Megan Khodl
Kyle Klaver
Joseph Kline
Nicholas Kloosterman
Sara Kloosterman
Kayla Kole
Kalie Kopecek
Hunter Kramer
Daniel Kruse
Allyson Laird
Bridget Lally
Anna Litchfield
Maxwell Majinska
Claire Maksymetz
Marcus Malling
Kyle Mankel
Adam Marks
Marilla Marks
Juan Mas-Lopez
Brianna Massey
Derek Massey
Jarett Maughan

Brett Maxim
Sarah Mayhew
Collin McGee
Bryndal McGillicuddy
Hensley McMillian
Evan Mierendorf
Jordan Mixon
Aleecea Moomau
Ellinor Morris
Karson Murley
Garrett Nauta
Abigail Nies
Carter Noskey
Sawyer Olesko
Jacob Paffhausen
Ashton Pallottini
Brendan Paulus
Alyssa Peckham
Liam Peterson
Samantha Petrovich
Cameron Philo
Archer Pina
Jocelyn Polinsky
Anthony Pollock
Bailey Reitsma
Tess Richardson
Tyler Ritchie
Hannah Ritsema
Maria Rodrigues
Trevor Roest
KaRaeFreeman Roscoe
Noah Roth
Trevor Shurlock
Madison Smith
Jacob Sprague
Gabriel Steed
Ryan Stevens
Austin Stickney
Andrew Struckmeyer
Hayden Sutton
Joshua Talalay
Michael Trupke
Valerie Tyler
Jamie-Lynn Urban
Micaela VandenBerg
Courtney VanderMark
Morgan VanEnk
Breanna VanLaan
Kenneth Vickers
Elisabeth Vogt
Elizabeth Waller
Calvin Warning
Kyle Washburn
Courtney Watson
Amanda Webster
Douglas Weed
Donelle Weeks
Leana Weiler
Brian Whitsett
Faith Wilson
Sarena Wilterdink
Nolan Yahrmarkt
North Yates
Alysia Ysasi
Mallory Ziomkowski

11TH GRADE

Allison Annable
Maxwell Barber
Rachel Bazen
Taylor Bierling
John Bigham
Abrielle Bladey
Nathan Blattner
Maria Blough
Blake Bochert
Alexander Bohr
Michael Bonney
Santana Boulton
Mikayla Bozman
Josh Branagan
Hannah Briggs
Laurel Bronkella
Paige Brown
Joshua Buechler
Katelyn Bush
Mackenzie Bush
Amy Carpenter
Austin Casarez
Nicholas Castagno
Colleen Cater
Alexandra Chapdelaine
Brendan Chumney
Mitchell Clay
Braylin Conner
Ciara Cornish
Kennedy Coxon
Paul Crosby
Bailey Cummings
Coty Curtis
Emily DeGarmo
Lauren DeHaan
Abigail Downing

Caitlin Doyle
Hannah Draigh
Steven Endres
Ann Fife
Bradley Fisher
Danielle Fron
Alexia Garcia
Devin Garcia
Caitlyn Gauck
Nathan Gibas
Zachary Gordon
Shannon Gorman
Brayton Grant
William Halling
Jacob Hays
Isaac Henderson
Nickolas Higgins
Rachel Hindley
Megan Hofman
Katie Holzhueter
Jacob Hoofman
Jessica Johnson
Emily Judd
Bethany Kaczanowski
Samantha Kane
Amanda Kooy
Danielle Krajewski
Nathen Kyburz
Derek Lachowski
Montana Launer
Jared Laux
Mary Leaseure
Cole LeBarre
Nicole Lehman
Alyssa Lilly
Nicholas Longway
Nicholas MacDonald
Thomas Mahalic
Kaitlin Makuski
Dylan Mankel
Alexis Martinez
Brennan Mason
Selena Mata
Emma McLane
Tara McQueen
Jillian Meade
Haley Milks
Matthew Milstead
Esme Misiak
HeavenLeigh Mokma
Kathryn Montgomery
Sage Moore
Landon Nethercott
Nicholas Newman
Kristen Nolan
Anna Norder
Breanna Oesch
Daniel Onan
Anna Organek
Anna Peterson
Victoria Pickens
Jacob Polsgrove
Jason Price
Grace Quiggle
Holly Race
Parker Reed
Anna Reynolds
Breana Rich
Adrienne Rife
Austin Rife
Zachary Ritchie
Francesca Robinson
Victoria Russell
Jesse Schmidt
Rebecca Schreur
Alix Schuhardt
Robert Schultz
Krystal Sheldon
Hannah Skibbe
Logan Smith
Brendan Spencer
Sean Stark
Ashlin Stedman
Jessica Steiner
Bethany Stewart
Mackenzie Stiles
Catherine Stump
Samantha Swartz
Ryan Tarchala
Lydia Tawney
Morgan Taylor
Alainie Thomas
Jace Thomas
Claire VanBuren
Ashley VanderLaan
Clayton Velting
Lillianie Vogt
Morgan Vulpetti
Alon Watson
Rebecca Weaver
Danielle Whaley
Paige Wilson
Chase Wilterdink

Catherine Wissman
Mallery Yaw
Rachael Yomtoob

12TH GRADE

Isobel Alberts
Kelvin Anderson
Sidney Anderson
Shelby Antel
Kiersten Ashenbrenmer
Kayla Bailey
Paula Barlas
Elijah Barr
Zachary Bauman
Kortney Beachler
Joshua Bearup
Connor Bergin
Patrick Bertone-Haywood
Austin Bieri
Benjamin Bigham
Ashley Bitely
Kaeziah Bladey
Michael Blake
Lauren Blanchard
Brie Blattner
Emmalee Blough
Kyle Blough
Kristine Bobko
Alexia Bocskey
Christopher Bodus
Hayleigh Borton
Brittany Branagan
Tristen Bray
Isaac Brenner
Randal Brinks
Dylan Brower
Travis Brubaker
Monica Bussell
Richard Cadwallader
Casey Cahoon
Katherine Canfield
Taylor Carey
Blythe Carvajal
Briahna Casarez
Makela Chapman
Alex Chavez
Levi Churches
Klay Corson
Abigail Cummings
Abigail Cummings
Jason Cupp
Raul Damian
Alyssa Darby
Kayleigh Davies
Justin Davis
Bethany Dean
Kanon Dean
Luke DeBoer
Kaelobb Decker
Devin DeGlopper
Jarek DeGlopper
Samantha Deiss
Ryan DenBraven
Nichola DeVito
Delaney Droog
Allysen Dubisky
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Isaac Duma
Hunter Engels
Haley Epema
Max Everhart
Madeline Falkenstern
Hannah Fitzpatrick
Caleb Flentje
Cassandra Flier
Zachary Fotis
Sydney Fox
Makenzie Frederickson
Morgan Fuller
Jacob Garcia
Tyler Garter
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Michelle Griffioen
Morgan Groendyke
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Parker Groom
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Paige Hale
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Halle Hayes
Paul Heemstra
Brittney Heikkila
Nicholas Hess
Mackenzie Hewett
Madison Holmes
Jeffrey Houston

Grace Ina
Bailey Jack
Zachary Jahnke
Moses Kabandana
Alex Kaminski
Brianna Kane-Langlois
Joseph Kargl
Zachary Kaywood
Jordan Kazen
Liam Kelley
Luke Kloosterman
Alexander Kornoelje
Derek Krajewski
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Spencer Lyon
Jordan Lytle
Catherine Majinska
Alyssa McCormick
Kennedy McCready
Paige McKenna
Heaven McQueen
Joshua Menzel
Andrew Metternick
Dakota Miller
Adrian Mitchell
Carl Mitchell
Athena Mohr
Kaelyn Moseler
Kelsey Mullin
Sarah Murray
Alexis Noonon
Jacob North
Sarah Oesch
Emily Paffhausen
Mallory Paiz
Morgan Perkins
Caleb Perosky
Paige Perry
Jacob Petersen
Benjamin Peterson
Chase Peterson
Grant Peterson
Abby Petroelje
Tonya Phillips
Christopher Platz
Jacob Plunkett
Meghan Plutschou
Jacob Poll
Samantha Poll
Keaton Pomper
Nicholas Proefke
Matthew Reitsma
Sean Ritssema
Paige Rozell
Samantha Sage
Jenna Saunders
Cody Selli
Brett Senneker
Brandi Shelley
Tyler Shurlov
Jackson Simmons
Austin Sirowatka
Mark Slaktoski
McKenzie Slupe
Julia Smelt
Brook Smith
Karah Smith
Michelle Smith
Nicholas Smith
Tyler Smoes
Kourtney Spaulding
Cassandra Speck
Madison Stadt
Danielle Starkey
Hailey Stasiak
Aubreigh Steed
Garrett Stehley
Jacob Stephens
Ashlee Stormzand
Brandon Strzyzewski
Quinn Summerfield
Amanda Susnak
Jacob Sweet
Joshua Theisen
Alexandra Tremblay
Marc VandenBerg
Kimberly VanOverloop
Rachael Walters
Ryan Walters
Benjamin Weaver
Jeremiah Wenger
Garret White
Madelynn Willemstein
Rachel Wittenbach
Alexander Woodman
Jonathan Wyckoff
Katelyn Yuhas

**THEME:
2013 IN REVIEW**

ACROSS

- 1. Fancy tie
- 6. *Amanda Bynes wore a blue one in court
- 9. A woman at Harvard after 1977
- 13. Star Wars attacker
- 14. Big time
- 15. Artillery burst
- 16. Rhino relative
- 17. Brit. fliers
- 18. E.T., e.g.
- 19. *New prince of Cambridge
- 21. *Leno's successor
- 23. And not
- 24. Dispatched
- 25. What hernias do
- 28. Yamaguchi's court
- 30. *Football HOFer, _____ Jones, died
- 35. Web _____
- 37. Butcher's cut
- 39. Eye _____
- 40. Truth alternative
- 41. One affected by Hansen's disease
- 43. Deuce topper
- 44. Be in harmony
- 46. Urban legends, e.g.
- 47. Kitten's plaything
- 48. *Kind of care
- 50. Rich soil
- 52. French "lake"
- 53. Place to moor a boat
- 55. Gourmet mushroom
- 57. Female peafowl
- 60. Jewish village, historical
- 63. Elks' hangout
- 64. Augment
- 66. Fear-inspiring
- 68. MPH
- 69. Bull's mate
- 70. Sheep-like
- 71. Hibernation stations
- 72. *Kourtney and Kim
- 73. Cause aversion

DOWN

- 1. *Jennifer Lawrence won for doing it
- 2. Smelting waste
- 3. Endure
- 4. *Satire newspaper that stopped printing
- 5. Reign of _____
- 6. "The Way We ____"
- 7. Gershwin or Levin
- 8. Bloop
- 9. "____ Me Maybe"
- 10. Assortment
- 11. Fifty-fifty
- 12. *____ Draper of "Mad Men" went to L.A.
- 15. Some chips are this, some are not
- 20. Done on a barbie
- 22. Plus
- 24. _____ Biathlete's equipment
- 25. Jerusalem's ancient land
- 26. Cell phone bill item
- 27. It's firma
- 29. Season to be jolly
- 31. Bohemian
- 32. Reef constructor
- 33. Met's offering
- 34. *Boy group, reunited
- 36. Movie _____
- 38. Agrippina's slayer
- 42. Boxer's stat
- 45. Engraved
- 49. Clod chopper
- 51. *Cause of Chelyabinsk's disaster
- 54. Sweater style
- 56. Pet annoyance
- 57. *The new one is from Argentina
- 58. "I Dream of Jeannie" star
- 59. Long, long time
- 60. Tailored
- 61. *Artist Banksy took one to New York
- 62. Country dance formation
- 63. a.k.a. acid
- 65. Ornamental carp
- 67. Unagi

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12

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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.

CROSSWORD

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DECEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 17

- UPS delivery woes - A mother in Barnhart, Missouri was distressed to find a note from the delivery person stating that the package was "In Black Trash Can." The package contained an Android tablet, a Christmas gift for her daughter that she had scrimped and saved for months to purchase. The trash can was empty having been picked up by the garbage man. UPS replaced the tablet.
- The Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, has placed another five priests on administrative leave, including one accused of sexual abuse.
- Brian - the dog on popular Fox Network adult cartoon "Family Guy" is once again alive after being killed in last week's episode. The series creator Seth MacFarlane Tweeted, "And thus endeth our warm, fuzzy holiday lesson: Never take those you love for granted, for they can be gone in a flash."
- Actor Peter O'Toole, died at the age of 81 in London after a long illness.
- Country singer Ray Price dies at 87.
- On Jan. 1, 2014, it will be illegal to manufacture or import the standard incandescent 60- and 40-watt light bulbs in order to comply with efficiency standards outlined in the Energy Independence and Security Act signed into law by President George Bush.



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**THIS WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL**

Have yourself a Merry little... Christmas, holiday, cheer day or Bah Humbug?

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THIS WEEK'S
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thelowellledger.com**

Meet in the middle for some eclectic shopping

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

The Little Shop in the Middle sits directly between Rookies Sport-cards Plus and a building once home to a local ministry, but this is not the sole origin of the shop's name. The book and antique store also sits in the middle of the river and is owned by two friends, Connie Flynn and Penny Porcelli-Nerli, who have known one another since middle school.

Porcelli-Nerli said the shop's name also had something to do with the fact that the owners are in the middle of their lives. "I

would say we're in the later middle," she said.

Flynn and Porcelli-Nerli came up with the idea to open a store together in 2005. This shop would combine Flynn's love of books with Porcelli-Nerli's experience in selling antiques. The dream finally came together on July 17, 2013 after Flynn concluded teaching gifted and talented classes and Porcelli-Nerli's Kentwood antique store closed.

Flynn and Porcelli-Nerli often found that their stories played out similarly. While the middle school

pals never had an English course together, both became English teachers: Flynn at Kentwood High and Porcelli-Nerli at a college preparatory academy on the Hawaiian island of Maui.

"Our lives have paralleled in many different ways," Porcelli-Nerli said, the most recent of which being that life got calm enough in the last year to finally open the shop they've dreamed of starting for eight years.

"I'm very interested in the books," Flynn said. Flynn keeps her shelves stocked with new and used



Connie Flynn and Penny Porcelli-Nerli.



The Little Shop in the Middle on Main Street.

children's and adult books of all flavors. She admitted that her key to having the best books for children is simply listening to what her three grandchildren like.

Porcelli-Nerli describes the shop as eclectic. She specializes in antiques and collectibles, bringing with her nine years of experience with her former antique business called the Ruby Pig.

"I love the hunt," Porcelli-Nerli said. Some

of her items are family heirlooms, but many she's collected over time from estate sales and other events. Her favorite items are mid-century designer jewelry.

"There's something for everyone," Porcelli-Nerli said.

Porcelli-Nerli is a strong advocate of supporting the many great local shops in Lowell.

"Come shop in your own town," she said.

Because of a busy summer and a successful Girls' Night Out, Little Shop in the Middle has yet to celebrate their grand opening, but Flynn notes that they will probably formally celebrate the opening of their shop this coming spring.

"I think Little Shop in the Middle is a very charming shop," Flynn said. "I hope more people get to know it's here."

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