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Governor laments negativity during last week's State of the State address in Lansing

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

"The last decade was a bad decade," said Michigan Governor Rick Snyder in his 'State of the State' address on Thursday, January 16.

"We've become the comeback state," Snyder said.

Snyder, a Republican,

made remarks early in the speech that seemed to echo recent events in Lowell.

"In recent days, in recent months in the state of Michigan, we've had people make comments that were derogatory, that were negative towards other people," Snyder said.

"Publicly tonight I'd like to make a call to all citizens of Michigan to ask us to have a greater degree of civility and respect towards others of different backgrounds and different views."

Snyder, who took office in January 2011, bragged about past accomplishments and spoke of his vision for the state's future.

"In the last three years, we've added 221,000 private sector jobs," Snyder said. "Not only that, we have led the nation; we're number one in adding manufacturing jobs."

Snyder said the automotive industry improved while he has been governor.

"Since 2009 automotive

production in Michigan has doubled," Snyder said. "We're at the highest production level since 2005."

Snyder said Michigan's agriculture industry is improving.

"In 2010, it was a \$91 billion industry. In 2013, it's grown to a \$96 billion industry. It's on a path to being a hundred billion dollar industry in Michigan."

Snyder boasted about positive economic development that two of his programs, Pure Michigan Business Connect and Community Ventures, were responsible for.

"Ford announced \$10 million in new contracts

to Michigan companies because of this program," Snyder said.

Snyder dedicated part of his speech to Michigan's active soldiers.

"We owe a special thank you to every member of the service for what they are doing, what they've done in the past and what they're doing in the future," Snyder said. "Tonight I'm proud to report in terms of the number of service people we have in the field.

In 2013, at the end of the year we had 657 Michigan National Guard personnel in harm's way. It's quite by an amazing circumstance, I'm very proud to report, as

State of the State address, continue, page 2



Gov. Rick Snyder (stock photo)

Credit union gifts Gilda's Club Lowell

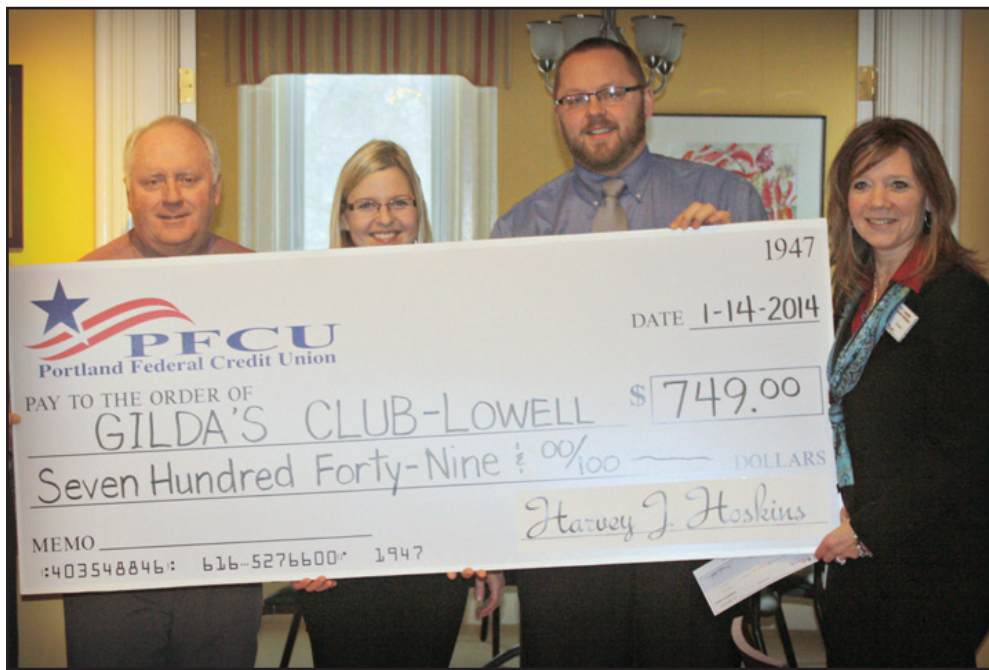
by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Gilda's Club of Lowell was the recipient of a generous monetary gift from the employees of Portland Federal Credit Union (PFCU) on the afternoon of Jan 14.

PFCU employees throughout the company's six branches participate in a jeans day fundraiser, according to business administrator Fawn Morris, where they each pay a single dollar to be able to wear jeans to work on Fridays. "Each quarter the employees then have the opportunity to vote for a charity they would like to donate the funds to. Gilda's Club won that vote overwhelmingly."

PFCU has branches in Lake Odessa, Westphalia, Ionia, Lansing and its namesake city of Portland. Their newest location opened recently here in Lowell at 11635 Fulton St. in Suite 400 and features a 24-hour ATM. Lowell branch manager Benjamin Weller, as well as Harvey Hoskins, owner of PFCU, were also on hand for presentation of the check to Lindsay Jousma who is the program manager at the Gilda's of Lowell Clubhouse.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the employees at PFCU! We rely 100 percent on charitable donations for our free



Harvey Hoskins, Lindsay Jousma, Benjamin Weller and Fawn Morris hold the over-sized donation check from PFCU.

cancer and grief support program, so it is through the generosity of the community that we are able to continue to provide our emotional

and social support program for people living with cancer and/or grief here at the Lowell clubhouse," said Jousma adding, "It's

truly amazing what can be accomplished by a community of employees coming together."

Cable TV fund accepting applications for this year

The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund board is now accepting grant applications for 2014. Application forms and instructions are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell Charter Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Englehardt Public Library, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building

and online on the city and township websites.

The LCTV Endowment Fund is a nonprofit fund established in late 2007 from the sale of the assets of Lowell Cable Television and is invested and administered by the Grand Rapids Community Fund. The LCTV Endowment Fund supports and promotes

projects that benefit a broad segment of the Lowell area community, enhances the quality of life in the area, encourages cooperation among the communities and qualifies as a one-time capital improvement.

Some of the projects supported by the fund during 2013 included

funding for the Riverwalk/Library stage planning, the Sibley Street reconstruction, the Urban Forest Initiative, a new storage garage for the Lowell Area Fire Department, and a drinking water source for the Lowell Dog Park.

Grant applications should be submitted to the

Lowell city clerk's office, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The deadline for submitting 2014 applications is 5:00 pm on Friday, Feb. 14. Questions should be directed to Mark Howe, Lowell city manager, at 616-897-8457.

Budget surplus could help Michigan's crumbling roads

Higher than expected state revenue creates an opportunity for the Michigan Legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder to take another step in addressing Michigan's chronic underfunding of road maintenance. Recent projections estimate an additional \$971 million in state revenue, the majority of which is one-time money. As state leaders consider possibilities for how these dollars should be used, the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) encourages them to impact all Michigan citizens by spending the surplus on the road system.

"The governor and Legislature could do nothing better for Michigan citizens than make a down payment on repairing Michigan's local roads," MTA executive director Larry Merrill said. "An investment of this magnitude will not solve the problem of our crumbling infrastructure, but it will go a long way toward meeting the immediate needs of road maintenance.

Michigan's poor roads are far more than an inconvenience to drivers. One-third of all fatal and serious traffic accidents are at least partly due to poor road conditions and

roadway design. Improving the condition of roads and bridges could potentially save 1,000 lives in 10 years. Additionally, the average Michigan driver spends \$357 each year on vehicle repairs that could be avoided by repairing the state's roads.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that solving this problem becomes more expensive every year. Currently, 32 percent of Michigan roads are ranked in poor condition. Estimates show that by 2018, that number will skyrocket to 65 percent. Every dollar of the surplus

that policy makers put into road maintenance will save Michigan's taxpayers at least \$6 of reconstruction costs.

While taxpayers are understandably leery of tax increases, Michigan's failure to adequately fund road maintenance has created a number of adverse consequences that, in the end, require taxpayers to foot a bill that is ever-growing. Responding to their citizens' demands for safe roads, Michigan townships spend more than \$153 million annually on road maintenance and improvements, even though

they are not required by statute to do so. The failure of the state transportation fund to provide adequate resources for road maintenance means that property taxes must be raised or funding for other essential township services curtailed.

Since the surplus was first projected, legislators have called for tax cuts, while Gov. Snyder has suggested rebating the

Crumbling roads, continued, page 3

State of the State address, continued

of the moment I'm standing here right now, we have zero service people in harm's way."

Snyder said that situation was short-lived.

"We'll continue to have people and soon will have 186 National Guard members in the field and they will have our thoughts and prayers," Snyder said.

Snyder said Michigan's greatest successes were in education, healthcare and public safety, which Snyder said was, "a critical issue."

Snyder said Michigan had more work to do on crime, truancy, the environment and transportation.

Hunters should be thankful to Snyder for simplifying the licensing process.

"We made a major reform in hunting and fishing," Snyder said. "We had a great reform. We got the number down to 42."

Snyder told hunters to, "get out there and catch something or shoot something and have a good time."

The speech went on to cover stuff of interest to lawyers about regulatory reform, tax liability and licensing, as well as brief remarks about the anticipated "comeback" of Detroit.

"I'm not going to dwell

on that here tonight," Snyder said.

Democrats in Michigan's House and Senate released statements in response to the governor, calling the speech "self-aggrandizing."

A statement released by state senators Glenn Anderson, Steve Bieda and Hoon-Yung Hoppgood said the governor "failed to offer any resolution to the many schools that are struggling with overcrowded classrooms and dwindling classroom resources and are even being forced to close their doors for good."

The statement went on to call the governor "disappointing" and said Snyder's "lack of a strong economic agenda was again painfully apparent."

Lowell High School graduate and Republican state senator Dave Hildenbrand released an audio statement on his website in support of the governor.

"We've got a long ways to go to build a better Michigan for all of our residents," Hildenbrand said.

"We have an opportunity to build a great Michigan today and for the future," Snyder said. "We're on the path to do that. Let's not stop. Let's reinforce that effort."



along main street

WINTER FEST

An afternoon of winter-filled fun including bird watching and snowshoeing will be held at Wittenbach/Wege Center on Sat., Feb. 8 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. The first 100 snowshoe rentals will be available for half-price (\$2) thanks to the generosity of Lowell Community Wellness. At 2:00 pm, Anna Laidlaw from Wild Birds Unlimited will share information on how to make your backyard more bird friendly. Laidlaw will also have birdseed samples and coupons available for the Wild Birds Unlimited store on Northland Drive. A must-see program for anyone interested in creating or improving their backyard bird feeding station.

HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION

The Lowell High School class of 2018 orientation will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014 from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Lowell Performing Arts Center. This orientation is for parents and their students who will be entering high school in the fall of 2014. In addition to an informational session, teachers and club sponsors will also be available for questions. Please call the Student Services Center at 987-2908 with questions.

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.

FREE THROW

CHAMPIONSHIP RESCHEDULED

The date for the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship has been changed to Thurs., Jan. 23 at 7 pm in the Lowell Middle School Gym. This event is free and you may sign up at the event. All boys and girls ages 9-14 are invited to compete. Trophies are presented to winners at each age level. If you have any questions, please contact Brent Noskey, 307-0020.

BACKYARD MAPLE SYRUP MAKING

Sun., Jan 26 at the Wittenbach/Wege Center from 2:00 - 3:30 pm. Late winter/early spring is maple syrup time here in Michigan. This program teaches participants how to collect and process sugar maple sap into maple syrup. For more information, or to register, call 616-987-2565. Registration deadline has been extended to Friday, Jan. 24.

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Englehardt Library branch hosts brewery tours

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Englehardt Library was one of the Kent District Library (KDL) branches involved in putting on a free tour of Rockford Brewing Company as part of KDL's "KD aLe" series.

The tour was led by Jeff Sheehan, one of Rockford Brewing Company's owners and its head brewer. Sheehan has been a professional brewer for 11 years. He was formerly employed by the New Holland Brewing Company. The brewery tour, which normally costs \$10, started in "the brew



Jeff Sheehan leads a tour of his brewery, Rockford Brewing Company.

house," a room with huge, metal tanks.

"There's a lot of stainless steel around us," Sheehan said, "a lot of shiny tanks."

Sheehan described the various ways to make beer out of the four basic ingredients of water, grain, yeast and hops plus whatever other flavors a brewer chooses to add.

"We've played around with new, innovative techniques, played around with ingredients that we haven't used before and it's a lot of fun," Sheehan said.

The tour finished in

a room full of kegs in the basement.

"Because our demand out on the market is so big we're making enough beer that when the truck shows up we're filling the truck up with about 20 kegs every week," Sheehan said.

The next "KD aLe" event will take place at the Kentwood library on January 30. Future events will cover topics such as home brewing as well as tours of other breweries.

"It's a great culture to be part of and a great time to be in the beer industry," Sheehan said.

Elderly man jumps in the river, dies

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

A Lowell man jumped into the Flat River and died early Wednesday afternoon, January 15.

"An 85-year-old Lowell man that was diagnosed with dementia jumped off into the dam yesterday

about 2:30," Lowell police chief Steve Bukala said.

The man was observed but by the time he jumped, it was too late to interfere.

"A witness saw that he had parked his vehicle," Bukala said. "He walked across the street, set his

cane down, climbed over up the rail and jumped into the dam [by] the bridge in front of King Milling."

Bukala said the man's name would not be released, but he is a local resident.

"He lives in Lowell with his wife," Bukala said.

Bukala said it was very rare that somebody would jump into the river in Lowell.

"[This was] the first one that I'm aware of since I've been here," Bukala said.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Don Reedy received Sales Associate of the Year for the Lowell office.

This award recognizes Reedy for his outstanding success and achievements.



Don Reedy

Crumbling roads, continued

revenue to taxpayers. The amount most taxpayers would receive from these plans, however, is small at best. Economists told Michigan Information and Research Service that a family of four with a \$50,000 annual income could receive anywhere from \$15 to \$45 if the state offers a one to three percent rebate. Gongwer News Service estimated that a \$300 million rebate to the state's 3.5 million taxpayers could result in a check for \$85.71. Spread throughout the course of a year, that amounts to just 23 cents per day.

Michigan lawmakers have a choice to make as they debate how to use the projected surplus revenue. They have the option to give taxpayers less than 25 cents a day or they can provide residents with the peace of mind that they can drive with their families on safe roads.

The projected surplus funds are not a long-term solution to the problem of Michigan's crumbling roads. However, they allow state leaders to begin the process of funding Michigan's roads and maintaining our infrastructure.

"Gov. Snyder and the Legislature must work to find an ongoing, reliable source of funding to preserve our state's important infrastructure system," Merrill said. "MTA will continue to advocate for the permanent funding of road maintenance and improvement as we help lead Michigan to a solution for its underfunding of roads."

Michigan residents who feel that roads are a priority should share their concerns with their state representative and senator today.

...
Many people consider the things which government does for them as social progress, but they consider the things government does for others as socialism.
~ Earl Warren (1891 - 1974)

2014 Scholarships

This is PFCU's 11th year of awarding 5 Scholarships for \$1,000 each to area graduates!

PFCU rewards academic achievement through our McCrumb Scholarships. Get the application at www.pfcu4me.com or any of our offices. Complete and return by March 31, 2014.

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following request:

APPLICANT: Baruch Senior Ministries

REQUEST: A Special Use Permit and Site Plan to construct an office addition onto the Fountain View Assisted Living facility on the following described property which is zoned R-3, High Density Multiple Family.

LOCATION & ADDRESS: The property is located at 11537 East Fulton Street which is the location of the Fountain View Assisted Living facility. The property consists of 5.35 acres. PP# 41-20-04-378-011.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI. 49331

Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Use "tax diversification" to help manage retirement income

You need to save and invest as much as possible to pay for the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. But your retirement income also depends, to a certain degree, on how your retirement funds are taxed. And that's why you may be interested in tax diversification.

To understand the concept of tax diversification, you'll need to be familiar with how two of the most important retirement-savings vehicles — an IRA and a 401(k) — are taxed. Essentially, these accounts can be classified as either "traditional" or "Roth."

When you invest in a traditional IRA or 401(k), your contributions may be tax-deductible and your earnings can grow tax deferred. With a Roth IRA or 401(k), your contributions are not deductible, but your distributions can potentially be tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions. (Keep in mind, though, that to contribute to a Roth IRA, you can't exceed designated income limits. Also, not all employers offer the Roth option for 401(k) plans.)

Of course, "tax free" sounds better than "tax deferred," so you might think that a Roth option is always going to be preferable. But that's not necessarily the case. If you think your tax bracket will be lower in retirement than when you were working, a traditional IRA or 401(k) might be a better choice, due to the cumulative tax deductions you took at a higher tax rate. But if your tax bracket will be the same, or higher, during retirement, then the value of tax-free distributions from a Roth IRA or 401(k) may outweigh the benefits of the tax deductions you'd get from a traditional IRA or 401(k).

So making the choice between "traditional" and "Roth" could be tricky. But here's the good news: You don't necessarily have to choose, at least not with your IRA. That's because you may be able to contribute to both a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA, assuming you meet the Roth's income guidelines. This allows you

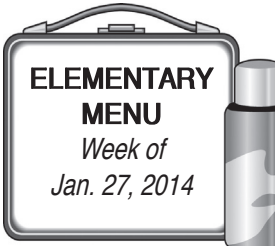
to benefit from both the tax deductions of the traditional IRA and the potential tax-free distributions of the Roth IRA.

And once you retire, this "tax diversification" can be especially valuable. Why? Because when you have money in different types of accounts, you gain flexibility in how you structure your withdrawals — and this flexibility can help you potentially increase the amount of your after-tax disposable income. If you have a variety of accounts, with different tax treatments, you could decide to first make your required withdrawals (from a traditional IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan), followed, in order, by withdrawals from your taxable investment accounts, your tax-deferred accounts and, finally, your tax-free accounts. Keep in mind, though, that you may need to vary your actual sequence of withdrawals from year to year, depending on your tax situation. For example, it might make sense to change the order of withdrawals, or take withdrawals from multiple accounts, to help reduce taxes and avoid moving into a different tax bracket.

Clearly, tax diversification can be beneficial. So after consulting with your tax and financial advisors, consider ways of allocating your retirement plan contributions to provide the flexibility you need to maximize your income during your retirement years.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

LUNCH MENU
ELEMENTARY
MENU
Week of
Jan. 27, 2014



MON: Popcorn chicken w/ dinner roll (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mini soft pretzel w/ string cheese (served at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, mixed fruit, fresh grapes, milk.

TUES: Roasted turkey & gravy over noodles (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake) Hot dog on WG bun (served at Bushnell), seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, green pepper strips, applesauce, grapefruit, milk.

WED: Scrambled eggs w/ sausage & biscuit, hashbrown, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh cherry tomatoes, peaches, orange wedges, milk.

THURS: Homemade macaroni & cheese w/WG dinner roll, seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, fruit goop, pears, milk.

FRI: Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, baby carrots (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), green pepper strips (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, green pepper strips, mandarin oranges, juice, milk.



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sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

“School Boards Lead Strong” Lowell Area Schools Celebrates Our School Board Leaders This January

Last week the Sharing the Vision article honored School Board Recognition Month and recognized Lowell Area Schools Board of Education members. In the listing of current Board of Education members,

Mrs. Maureen Fleet, Board Treasurer, was inadvertently omitted. Please take note of this correction and thank Mrs. Fleet for her valuable service on the Lowell Board of Education.



The World Outside: A Review of The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Some years ago it was fairly common to see national television ads supporting local libraries.

The punch line was always a variation on the same theme: “You can see the world without ever leaving the comfort of your home.”

In 2014, this phrase would probably be used to sell a touch screen device or smart television, but back then the idea was that if you were bored with your life, a book could assist you in imagining a better life.

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty explores this and other kinds of escapism. The film follows Walter Mitty, a negative asset manager for LIFE magazine played by Ben Stiller, who falls in love with co-worker Cheryl Melhoff (Kristen Wiig). If his fanciful daydreams don't convince you of his isolation, the fact that his eHarmony customer service representative Todd Maher (Patton Oswalt) fills the role of Mitty's best buddy might.

Conflict arises when LIFE magazine announces the end of its print publication and this changeover is to be overseen by playground bully Ted Hendricks (Adam Scott). With the threat of mass layoffs looming, Mitty is relying on a photo from ace LIFE correspondent Sean O'Connell (Sean Penn) to justify his further existence at LIFE. When the negative of O'Connell's magnum opus - the final cover of LIFE magazine - goes missing, Mitty takes a leap of faith and follows clues across the world in order to find O'Connell and the highly acclaimed negative.

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty begins as a typical romantic comedy, equipped with a lonely guy and a gimmick. As the story progresses, however, the intermingling of a fantastic soundtrack and breathtaking images of Greenland, Iceland, Afghanistan, Nepal and Yemen (shot principally in Iceland and British Columbia) is

engaging enough that the shortfalls of the first half-hour feel intentional. It is as if the viewer is meant to feel somewhat bored viewing Mitty's mundane pre-adventure existence and captivated during the extraordinary flight of fancy he embarks upon.

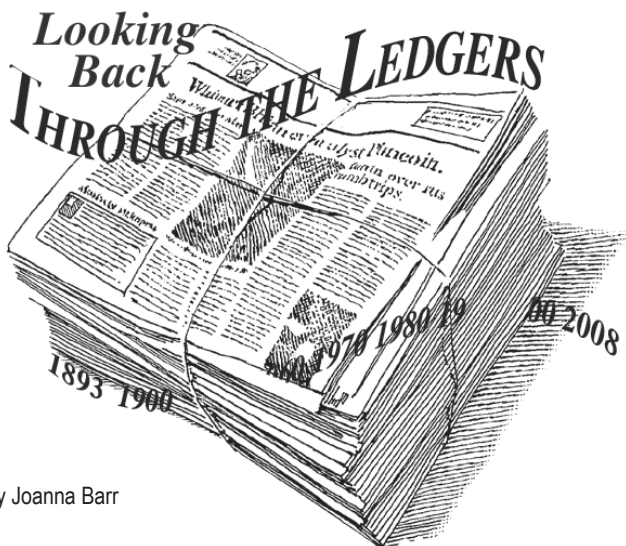
Many filmgoers will recognize The Secret Life of Walter Mitty as a re-imagination of the 1939 short story by James Thurber or even of the 1947 film of the same name. (Interesting fact: the 1947 film and 2013 remake were produced by father and son Samuel Goldwyn and Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.) While the modern adaptation connects with viewers by transforming Mitty from a married man to a lonely workaholic, some of the jokes, like a scene imitating the 2008 film The Curious Case of Benjamin Button fall flat.

Like most films released on Christmas, The Secret Life of Walter Mitty aims both to make its audience believe in the magical side of life and to grab as many awards as possible. Team Walter Mitty might find itself overshadowed by films like 12 Years a Slave and American Hustle come award season, but that won't get in the way of its many fans digging up their old hiking gear and finding something that neither a book nor an active imagination can bring them: the fantastic world outside of the human mind.

Directed by Ben Stiller, 20th Century Fox's The Secret Life of Walter Mitty stars Ben Stiller, Kristen Wiig, Shirley MacLaine, Adam Scott, Kathryn Hahn, Sean Penn and Patton Oswalt.

the lowell ledger

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By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal January 23, 1889

Two inches of snow Sunday and a little addition Monday, lured a few cutters and sleighs upon the streets.

Mr. Charles Goodell, of Saranac, who recently opened out in the livery stable business in that city, became suddenly insane a few days ago and had to be forcibly overpowered and removed to his home on the farm, a few miles from town.

Last winter a Portland man's wife lost a fur collar and search being made for the article without success, she came to the conclusion that it had been stolen. Last week her husband dreamed three nights in succession that the collar was secreted under a stump near his barn and he went to investigate. He thrust his hand into a cavity beneath the stump and sure enough felt a furry substance which he pulled out. The man then went home and changed his clothes, while the skunk escaped.

Our Lieut. Governor killed - a railroad accident in which Lieut. Gov. McDonald and several other passengers were killed. Marquette, Jan. 19,—As the eastbound passenger train on the Northwest railroad neared Elmwood, a station 16 miles east of Watersmeet, at 1 o'clock this afternoon, one of the trucks under the rear coach broke and threw the coach off the track. The coach was derailed about five car lengths, when it struck a stump and was smashed to pieces, killing or injuring all the occupants, 12 in number...

Andersonville begins Thursday evening at Train's

Opera House. N. T. Wilson and his two wonderful canines are here to take part in Andersonville.

Mrs. S. A. Fox has received \$75 insurance on her hen house which burned some time since.

Important notice! The Mill and Elevator commonly known as the Dougall Mill will be sold cheap to anyone wishing a Steam Flouring Mill; also Store House at Depot. For further information and terms enquire at the office of M. M. Perry, Lowell, Mich.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 22, 1914

Headline: Rural delivery village mail - Lowell residents on route lines served. Postmaster Perry receives order extending rural route mail delivery service. Postmaster Perry has received an order from the Department in Washington giving residents of Lowell living on the exit lines of the rural route mail carriers the benefits of that delivery system to those who will put up regulation boxes and request such delivery. Said village lines beginning at post-office are designated by streets as follows: Route 46—West on Main to Hudson, to Cong. church, west one block, north to Blaisdell corners; Route 17—West on Main to Hudson, south on west side of street to Ada road; Route 48—East on south side Main street to Baptist church, south to limits; Route 49—East on north side Main to Baptist church. North east thro gravel pit to limits; Route 50—A. M.: west to River, north to limits. P. M.: limits to Blaisdell corners; Route 51—West on Main to Hudson, south on east side of street to limits; [and] Route 52—West on Main to end of street, south to Ada road.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 26, 1939

Ice skating rink started this week. The Lowell Board of Education and the village council are cooperating in building an ice skating rink south of the grade school on Monroe Ave. Each group is paying half the expenses. The rink was used on Monday of this week, but snow prevented its use since. It is hoped the clear, cold weather will prevail for a time so that skating enthusiasts may enjoy the rink. The erection of a rink in the 4-H Club fair building which was talked of earlier

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. Opinions expressed in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line), dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

www.thelowellledger.com

Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lowell retires

submitted by
Kathy Casler

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose unto Heaven." This rings true as the new year has ushered in changes at First Baptist Church of Lowell following the official retirement of the Pastor of Ministries, Reverend W. Lee Taylor.

Lee Taylor grew up in the Grand Rapids/Wyoming area and graduated from Godwin High School in 1964. Following his graduation from the Grand Rapids Baptist Bible College (now

Cornerstone University) with a Bachelor's of Religious Education, he honorably served in the United States Marine Corps, Headquarters MC, Marine Security Guard Battalion School in connection with the state department preparing embassy security guards.

Taylor married his college sweetheart, Beverly Moon, after which they toured around the world in 1972. When they returned to the Grand Rapids area, Taylor

attended what is now the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary where he earned his Master's of Religious Education. While attending graduate school, Taylor worked part-time for the Kent Intermediate School District. He was instrumental in bringing "Close Up"—a government studies program for high school students—to Grand Rapids, which became one of the first cities in the nation to have both local and state programs.

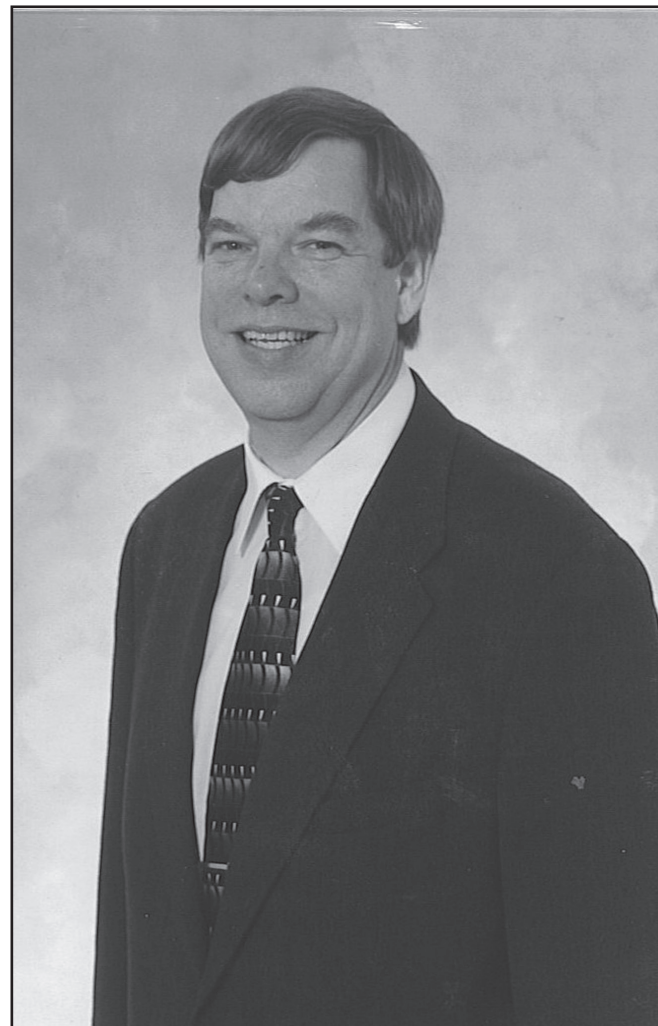
Pastor W. Lee Taylor was a youth pastor for twenty-seven years serving in the Kent County area at Maplelawn Church in Wyoming, First Baptist Church in Cedar Springs and First Baptist Church of Middleville. He concurrently helped facilitate the Michigan State Teen Bible Conference for fourteen years.

In 1996, Taylor became the Administrator of the Emmanuel Baptist Christian

School in Toledo, Ohio and then in 1997, he accepted the position of Administrative Pastor at First Baptist Church of Lowell where he served faithfully for over sixteen years. Overseeing a multitude of ministries, Taylor touched many lives with his compassion for people and achieved significant improvements and changes in the church facility as well as operations/policies. His attention to details and level of organization have been consistent blessings in all areas of service.

The epitome of humility and grace, Taylor and his wife Bev plan to stay in the Lowell area for their retirement and will continue to serve where the Lord leads them, as well as visiting their children and ten grandchildren around the country.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



Reverend W. Lee Taylor

If you see Nancy (Ellis) Roth
On January 27 -
Wish her a Happy 60th Birthday!

May your 60th be as fabulous as you are!

Katherine Geiger is celebrating her 80th BIRTHDAY
January 27, 2014
There will be a special family dinner to celebrate this occasion.
Please send birthday wishes to her home.

happy birthday!

- JANUARY 22**
Cheryl DeYoung, Bob Pfaller, Dale Latva, Jenni Magner, Frances Walling, Glenn Vanbuskirk, Shane Gildner, Reece VanderWarf, Frances DeVries, Elijah Barr.
- JANUARY 23**
Amanda Wingeier, Zach Stauffer.
- JANUARY 24**
David Szymczak, Haleigh Timmers, Mackenzie Stiles.
- JANUARY 25**
Molly Doyle, Dean Olin.
- JANUARY 26**
Victor Weeks, Steven Uzarski, Andy Nowak, Alex Dommer.
- JANUARY 27**
Jacqueline (Bay) Saylor, Brittani Anderson, Dianna Rhodes, Lori Smith, Nancy Roth, Andrea Dewey.
- JANUARY 28**
Ryan White, Cher Mastenbrook, Amy Newhouse, Renee Peters, Kyle Washburn.

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
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SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday After-School Kids' Club until 5:30 p.m.

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Looking Back, continued

in the season, was abandoned due to inadequate water facilities.

Grand Rapids is collecting upwards of \$1,000 weekly from motorists for parking privileges. Shop and save in Lowell—no parking meters here.

More free gold fish because of popular request. Christiansen's Rexall Drug Store will repeat the offer made last week, double the quantity of fish to take care of both days. Two gold fish will be given free with a glass bowl with every tube of Briten tooth paste. Offer limited to available stock, Friday and Saturday.

Local politicians continue to keep the name of Lowell in the state's limelight. One reporter says that Mel makes the snowballs and Runci throws 'em, which causes Fitz to wonder who's governor anyway. Well, the Scotch are known to be resourceful and everything will probably work out O. K.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 23, 1964

Lowell was basking in 57 degree temperatures on Wednesday, with bright sunshine and blue skies adding to the glamour of the wonderful weather. But Lowell residents shouldn't bring out their spring-ware; it's too good to be true. Be prepared for what's ahead.

Lowell firemen were busy over the week end with two calls to come and check smoke coming from the Showboat stands on Lafayette Street. One call was noon on Thursday and the other at 1 pm on Sunday. No damage was reported. Early Monday morning, A. D. T. alarms went off at the light and power plant indicating that Attwood Brass, Superior Furniture, Lowell Engineering and Root-Lowell Manufacturing Company were on fire. After a mad search by firemen, it was discovered that the telephone lines used by the alarm system had been shorted.

Telephone service was disrupted in many Lowell business places Monday morning; fire and police phones were dead. It was reported that part of the trouble came from electric wiring burning out a cable.

Service was restored to most of the places by noon.

A Vergennes Township octogenarian, who claims to have smoked five packs of cigarettes a day since he was 14, was offered a chance to appear on a national cigarette company's TV program. The company official asked for an appointment the next morning at 10 to tape his testimonial. The aged smoker replied he could not make it. When asked why, he replied that he did not stop coughing until noon.

Arrest men for Gilmore robbery Tuesday morning - Sheriff Arnold Pigorsh reported that two brothers who have admitted to robbing Gilmore's Sport Shop last Monday are now in jail and will be arraigned in court Wednesday morning. A third man, who is a relative of the pair, has been arrested and is being brought back to Kent County. According to a confession of the brothers: Burt Burns, jr., 29; and Alfred Ronald Burns, 26; they drove to Gilmores, smashed in the door and carried out the guns, ammunition and merchandise in about 10 minutes. They continued on to Lowell, where they got gas and went up M-91 to Greenville. In Greenville they broke into the State Liquor Store and stole 17 cases of whiskey valued at \$1,097. A tip to the sheriff's department and Grand Rapids police on Monday night resulted in a raid that discovered about one-third of the stolen loot in the basement of the robbers' residence. Two other brothers: Kenneth and Donald Burns, have been arrested by Grand Rapids Police for receiving stolen property.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 25, 1989

Headline: High school auditorium renovation put on hold. A year ago a group of people, including Linda Zaczek, Dick Graham, Gordon Gould and Dick Korb, got together to think through a program process that would lay the groundwork for a five-year project to renovate the Lowell High School auditorium. The benefits from such a project might give a rebirth to the extra-curricular drama program, provide a setting

for the community education theatre classes and a place the Lowell Students' Arts Council could perform skits. Since the extra-curricular drama programs were stopped at the high school there has been no attention given to the auditorium, according to Gould. The first step in this project was the installation of a new \$2,500 sound system. Then, toward the end of the year, the student council, spearheaded by president David Kniola, organized a weekend under the guidance of Gould (council advisor) to re-paint the auditorium. "The job is complete and the students did a super job," Gould said. "The kids had fun and the paint has given the auditorium some atmosphere. It is no longer dingy." Gould added that the project was to renovate the auditorium through the use of community education funds. The thought process went beyond a sound system and painting. It was a five-year project that would include replacing the theatre curtain, installing new lights, laying new carpet, increasing the use of the video equipment and expanding the sound booth which would include a compartment for video equipment. However there has been a snag according to Linda Zaczek, Lowell's director of community education. "The renovation project has been put on hold because of the difference (cuts) in state funding for community education and other priorities for district funds," she said. As to when the project may be taken off hold, school officials would not speculate. "The kids did an absolutely beautiful job painting the auditorium," Lowell superintendent Fritz Esch said. "It has added class to the room." He continued, "However, in the state's attempt to clean up abuses that have occurred in the community education area it has also hurt the good programs." Esch says, "The funding for community education won't improve until the state betters itself. The school had planned to use some district funds other than that of community education, but will be unable to until locally we're back on track financially."

Village Inn correction - in the January 18 edition of the Lowell Ledger it was incorrectly stated in a headline that the Village Inn was the country's top wreath seller for Cerebral Palsy. While Jane Feutz, owner of the Village Inn sold many wreaths, her 400 total was tops in the county, not in the country.

Headline: Showboat board vacancies filled. Four new Showboat board members were announced at the Jan. 23 meeting Monday night. The Showboat vacancies became available following the resignations of Jim Hodges, Bonnie Grooters, Ray Quada and Roger Brown. Filling those seats will be Ron Wood, Chuck Myers, Denny Thomet and Dale Triplett.

•••
**The future
will be
better
tomorrow.**

~ Dan Quayle

health

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Jim Lang,
Wayne A. Christenson III,
John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie



constipation

Constipation is very common and for some people, especially older adults, can be an ongoing concern. People often think that constipation means not having a bowel movement every day. But it is normal to have bowel movements at intervals ranging from three times a day to once every three days. It is important to remember that constipation is a symptom, not a disease.

There are several signs and symptoms of constipation. It is important to seek care from your doctor if for more than three months in a row you have any of the following symptoms: fewer than three bowel movements a week; straining; lumpy or hard stools, feeling that you need to have a bowel movement but can't, or feeling you cannot fully empty your bowels.

The main causes of constipation are diet and lack of exercise. Other

causes include travel, pregnancy, resisting the urge to use the toilet, and overusing laxatives. Many medications, especially narcotic pain meds, antidepressants, iron and calcium supplements, and blood pressure meds can cause constipation. Several medical conditions, including stroke, diabetes, intestinal blockage, and

thyroid disorders can contribute to constipation.

Constipation often responds to lifestyle changes. One way to improve constipation is to increase fluids and fiber in your diet. This includes eating more food with fiber, such as whole grains, beans and fruits and vegetables. It is important to keep as active as possible and increase exercise if possible. If diet and exercise do not help, there are a number of medications to try. Most are available without a prescription. These medications all act in different ways on the bowel. Discuss which medications might be right for you with your physician.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance:

1. An amendment to Section 18.03 to add a definition of Wire Frame Sign and amend the definition of Flag Sign.
2. An amendment to Section 18.04 to add regulations for wire frame signs and to require all portable signs to be properly maintained.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

Information on the proposed amendments is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

Murray Lake Elementary Staff Member of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) music teacher Jacqui Dimmick was named Staff Member of the Month for December. Jacqui and husband Tim, a Lowell High School teacher; daughter Heather, who attends Grand Rapids Community College; and son, Eric, an eighth grader at Lowell Middle School; all reside in Lowell.

“Jacqui makes learning music fun for the kids. They love being able to use instruments and move while they sing. The music program she directed in December was excellent. The kids were so proud to

sing for family members and the feedback from parents was very positive, as it is for all of her music programs. How she manages to have 150 pairs of first grade and kindergarten eyes on her, listening and participating is nothing short of amazing. Keep up the great work Jacqui! You deserve this award!” said MLE first-grade teacher Nancy Breuker.

Dimmick’s career began in Cedar Springs where she taught sixth-grade language arts and social studies and then early childhood music and phys. ed. Always wanting

to teach in Lowell where she and her husband Tim were raising their family, she began teaching K-5 summer school, after school and tutoring programs in math, Spanish and language arts/reading until a music position opened up in Lowell. Dimmick has now been teaching music in Lowell for 15 years.

“One of the greatest things about my job is being able to work with and develop relationships with 460 students! I have the rare opportunity of watching and participating in their educational growth for six years,

from kindergarten to fifth grade. It’s a responsibility I don’t take lightly. In addition to teaching them musical instruments, skills and knowledge, I also incorporate the other core subjects to reinforce what students are being taught in their classroom. I love to see their faces light up when they begin to read and play the music they’ve learned to sing and dance to and when they discover the history of music or that music involves math and science,” commented Dimmick.

When Dimmick is not teaching, she enjoys singing for her church

and at weddings, hiking mountains, playing Scrabble, biking, hunting and shooting skeet, reading, playing softball, swimming, and playing outside with her family (including the family’s yellow lab named Diamond).

“Working at Murray Lake is like being part of a huge family, warm and supportive. I’m blessed to have a job that I enjoy in an awesome place, where I can share my love of music, learning and children,” added Dimmick.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, February 6, 2014, 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.




Jacqui Dimmick with some of her kindergarten students.



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 **FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES** **TREASURES THRIFT SHOP**

Treasures Thrift Shop will be closing for renovation on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1.**

The Shop will reopen on **Wednesday, February 19.** The donation center will remain open throughout the renovation project.



Thanks to all those who supported the River of Hope Capital Campaign that will fund this renovation

Gilda's Club and the Lowell YMCA team up to "Livestrong"

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Gilda's Club Lowell and the Lowell YMCA hit the ground running on Jan. 7 when they teamed up for the first of four sessions of the LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program which focuses on the physical and emotional health of adult cancer survivors.

The program, which was funded for one year by the Lowell Area Community Fund, is provided to survivors at absolutely no cost and is led by trained cancer exercise specialists.

These specialists assess each participant's individual strength levels and then custom builds an exercise routine that reflects that information. Activities include weight training, cardiovascular exercise and other low impact workouts that focus on rebuilding strength, balance, flexibility and overall physical wellness.

Lead health and wellness specialist at the YMCA, Lynn Draigh, heads the physical portion of the program along with fellow trainers Justin Sherman and Sarah Pryor, who is an intern from Calvin College. "Things are going really good! The survivors are getting comfortable with the environment, with each other and with us," said Draigh of the first few weeks of the small class. The program accepts a maximum of eight people per session; "So we can provide one on one individualized attention," according to Draigh.



Lynn Draigh, lead health and wellness specialist, heads up the Lowell LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program.

The LIVESTRONG program targets the emotional health of survivors with help from local partner Gilda's Club who presents an educational series which is incorporated into one of the classes, two sessions per week. Lindsay Jousma, the program manager at Gilda's Club, had this to say about their participation, "We are grateful to the Lowell YMCA for inviting Gilda's Club Lowell to collaborate in this new, innovative program. We have created a curriculum of topics, research and articles geared toward the participants in this program. We will focus our discussions on living with cancer, managing survivorship, practicing self care and finding a new normal after a cancer diagnosis."

These informative

discussions are led by the same master level professionals that lead Gilda's own free cancer and grief support programming, which includes groups for both youth and adults. "It is our philosophy at Gilda's Club that the psychosocial support on a cancer journey is just as important as medical treatment," said Jousma. "We know from our members at Gilda's Club, the importance of coming together as a community. And as our motto states, being 'In This Together,' helps to decrease isolation, anxiety and fear amongst people living with cancer. It is our hope the participants will gain knowledge on ways to take care of themselves as they live beyond cancer, find healthy strategies for managing their own cancer survivorship and not feel

so alone in this cancer journey."

Though Gilda's community services are not technically counseling or therapy, they feel that people draw strength from meeting with others who share similar cancer journeys. Draigh at the YMCA agrees that fellowship is an important key in recovery noting the relationships already building among her class of six in just a few short weeks. "We can already see them bonding with one another. The fringe benefits of this will be their relationships with each other and gains in their confidence."

If you or someone you know could benefit from this cancer wellness program, contact Draigh at the Lowell YMCA for information about upcoming sessions.



Girl's Pitching Clinic

Saturday, January 25th

Cherry Creek gym

8:00am-12:00pm

\$25

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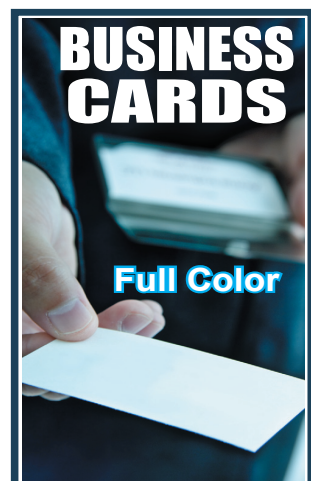


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I think that somehow, we learn who we really are and then live with that decision.

~ Eleanor Roosevelt
(1884 - 1962)



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Red Arrow SPORTS

- BASKETBALL

Girls split for the week

by Karen Jack

On Wednesday, the Lady Arrows fought back after a tough third quarter against Forest Hills Central but couldn't quite get it done, losing 39-32, but they bounced back on Friday to beat East Grand Rapids 53-45.

In the game against Central, the Arrows were only trailing by one after

the first half, but couldn't make their shots in the third quarter and were outscored by nine points. They adjusted in the fourth and outscored Central 10-7, but it just wasn't enough to win.

"We just had one bad quarter where our defense lost some of its intensity," said coach Jake Strotheide. "We were able to cut the lead, but just couldn't

get over the hump. We are still learning how to finish games, but I really like what we are trying to accomplish."

Katie Holzhueter led the team in scoring with 12 points, all of them three-point shots. Kate Montgomery had 10 points. Aubreigh Steed had six points and thirteen rebounds.

It was a different story against East Grand Rapids. This time, the girls came out of the locker room at halftime and had a mission to outscore and outplay East. They gained five points on them in the third quarter alone, after having led by four points at halftime. East managed to outscore the Arrows in the fourth, but only by one point so it

didn't make a difference in the final outcome. Montgomery led the scoring with 12 points. Holzhueter, Steed and Tara McQueen each had nine. Sarah Oesch had eight rebounds, while Aubreigh Steed had six blocked shots. "Everyone but one player on our team was able to score for us and it was nice to have some balanced

scoring," said Strotheide. "We still need to rebound more consistently, but I liked that we were able to grit out a win against East Grand Rapids at their place when we know we didn't play our best defensively."

Lowell hosts Caledonia on Friday. Game time is 6:00 pm.

Lowell boys bounce back from tough week

by Karen Jack

It was a tough week for the boys' basketball program, dropping games to Forest Hills Central (60-44) and East Grand Rapids (68-60), but coming back in true Arrow fashion with a big win over Belding (73-55).

In the Forest Hills Central game, Central came out in the first half on a mission and scored 40 points in the first half alone versus Lowell's 21 points. Although Lowell made adjustments at halftime

and powered back in the second half, the deficit was just too much to get over. Their defense got stronger and held Central to only 20 points in the entire second half.

Ryan Stevens led the scoring with 16, followed by Spencer Lyon with six points.

It was just the opposite in the East Grand Rapids game. Lowell came out like gangbusters in the first half, outscoring East 38-

32. East came back in the third quarter and outscored Lowell by three, but Lowell still held a five-point lead going into the final quarter. East ended up scoring 22 points in the fourth quarter alone to come back and win the game.

Lowell had nine scorers in the game, going to their bench quite often. Matt Beachler came up big with 16 points, followed by Josh Branagan with 10, Stevens with nine and Isaac Brenner with eight.

The Belding game started out close with Lowell scoring 17 points to Belding's 16 in the first quarter, but it was all Lowell after that with Lowell scoring double-digits in the next three quarters, holding Belding to only nine and eight points in the second and third quarters. In the fourth quarter, Belding outscored Lowell by two, but Lowell held them off for the big win.

The Arrows had four scorers in double-digits, including a big game for Stevens with 20 points. Brenner had 16, Beachler had 14 and Austin Branagan had 12.

The Arrows host Caledonia on Friday, with game time scheduled for 7:45 pm.



Matt Beachler gets out of the trap.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

- GYMNASTICS

Red Arrow gymnasts enjoy successful week of competition

by Karen Jack

Lowell gymnasts had another good week, beating the Kenowa Hills/Grandville/West Catholic team in a dual meet on Wednesday, then hosting their own invitational on Saturday, hosting four different teams: Rockford, Kenowa Hills/Grandville/West Catholic, Coldwater, Ionia and East Kentwood. Some of the schools entered two different teams, including Lowell. Rockford ended up winning, with the Kenowa Hills/Grandville/West Catholic team taking second. Lowell's teams placed third and fourth. "Being home for a big meet is always fun for the girls," said coach Michele DeHaan. "So many girls placing also made it a great day." Large meets like this always place ten places for each apparatus and Lowell placed 21 of the 40 places in total.

Lauren DeHaan placed first on vault (8.825), Lauren Browning placed fifth (8.6), Corah Kaufman placed seventh (8.55) and Lisa Price placed ninth (8.4).

"This is the first time Lauren has placed first on anything," said coach DeHaan. "She was solid on all four events and it was great to see things come together for her."

Placing second on floor was Jordan Lytle (9.1), who is the only girl on the team to compete in division 1 because of her extensive experience. In division 2, Lisa Price tied for second with 9.0. DeHaan took fifth with 8.7, Meghan Plutschow placed seventh with 8.6, Browning took ninth with 8.45 and Leana Weiler took tenth with 8.4.

On beam, DeHaan placed second (8.7), Bethany Kaczanowski placed fifth (8.475), Plutschow placed sixth (8.2), Browning placed seventh (8.15), Kaufman placed eighth (8.05) and Weiler placed tenth (8.025).

DeHaan took second on bars (8.05), Browning placed fifth (7.8), Plutschow placed eighth (7.6), Danielle Krajewski placed ninth (7.6) and Kaufman took tenth (7.575).

For all-around, which includes all the scores on all four events combined, DeHaan placed second, which is the highest she's ever finished in a large meet like this. Browning placed fifth, Plutschow placed

sixth, Kaufman placed eighth and Kaczanowski placed ninth.

"To have Lowell gymnasts take five of the top ten places all-around

was a great showing for the girls," added DeHaan. "I'm so proud of their hard work.

Three of our freshman - Karmen Anderson, Sela Bauman and Alise Forward

- really impressed us today. Their poise and growing confidence is so nice to see."

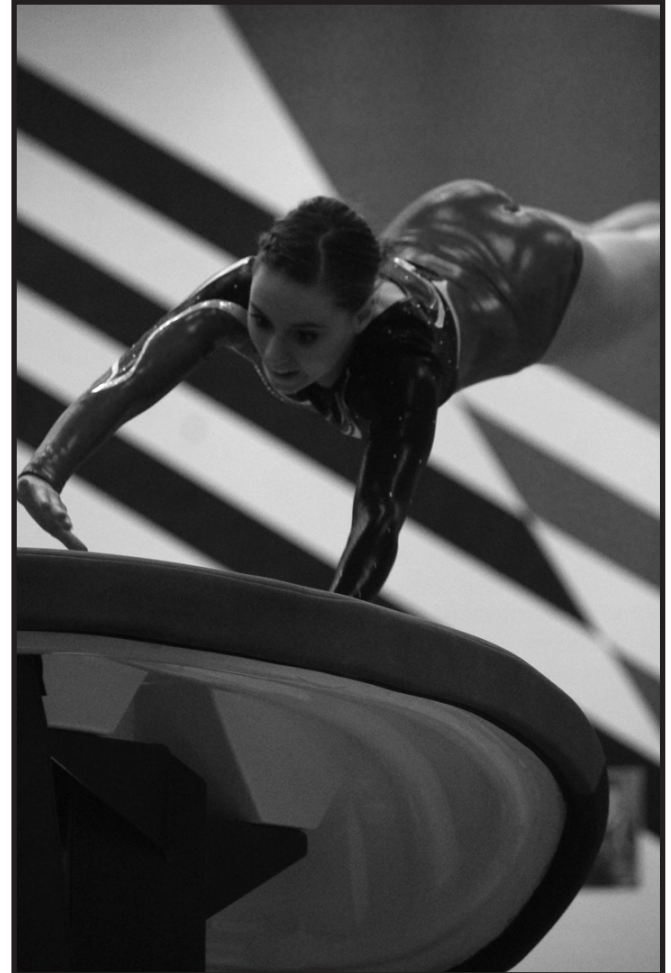
At the Kenowa Hills/Grandville/West Catholic meet, Lowell scored a total of 131.95 points to their 130.6 points. Top scorers on vault were Browning (8.85), Kaczanowski (8.65), Plutschow (8.65) and Kaufman (8.5). For bars, top scorers were Lytle (8.15), Kaufman (8.05), Plutschow (7.35) and Browning (7.25). Beam included top scorers of DeHaan (8.85), Lytle (8.35), Plutschow (7.8) and Kaczanowski (7.75). Floor top scorers were Price (8.75), Kaczanowski (8.1), Krajewski (8.0) and Kaufman (8.0).



Jordan Lytle powers through the vault.



Corah Kaufman leaps through the air on her floor exercise.



Lauren Browning mounts the vault.

The girls host Forest Hills Northern on Wednesday at 7:00 pm and travel to Kenowa Hills on Saturday.

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obituaries

AUSTIN

Debra Lynne Austin age 52 of Saranac passed away unexpectedly, January 17, 2014 in Grand Rapids. She was born January 9, 1962 in Grand Rapids the daughter of Donald and Margaret (Bakstrom) Videan Sr. Debra married Robert L. Austin September 10, 1988 in Saranac. She attended South Boston Church. Debra was a breast cancer survivor and celebrated five years cancer free. She is survived by her loving husband of 25 years Robert Austin of Saranac; parents, Donald and Margaret Videan of Saranac; brother, Donald (Christine) Videan of Greenville; sisters, Valarie (Rick) Bruse of Saranac, Judy (Roger) Ramirez of Saranac and Jennifer (Joel) Manion of Lowell; grandmother, Florence Videan of Ada; brother in law, Charles (Doris) Austin of Saranac; sister in law, Katherine (Paul) Monda of Kentwood and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Russell Videan Sr. and Oscar and Lucille Backstrom and mother and father in law, Bert and Alma Austin. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, January 22, 11:00 am at South Boston Bible Church with Pastor Ron Tuinstra officiating. Visitation on Wednesday one hour prior to services at the church. Anyone wishing to make memorial contributions in Debra's name to Gideons, South Boston Bible Church or Breast Cancer. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

BAIRD

Allan C. Baird, age 74 of Lowell, passed away peacefully Thursday, January 16, 2014 at his lifelong home. Allan was born January 24, 1939 to Richard J. and Essie M. (Condon) Baird. A devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, Allan will be lovingly missed by his high school sweetheart and wife of 55 years Judy (Potter) Baird; children David (Kim Crissman) Baird, Carol (Robert) Leyman, Christine Baird and Bonnie Baird; grandchildren Eric (Keerstin Bazan) Baird, Daniel Baird, Shelby (Mike Thuston) Baird, Jay Clark, Timothy (Susan) Hill, Fritz Ball and Brad (Megan DeFouw) Ball; great grandchildren Hayleigh, Alexis and Karly Baird, Zackary Ward, Brenden and Amaris Hill; his devoted brother Bruce (Marcia) Baird and many nieces and nephews. Allan was a veteran of the US Marine Corps, Golden Gloves Boxing Champion, Manager of Zzanos Pizza men's baseball team, 4-H leader and served for 34 years as a Vergennes Township Trustee. He was a lifelong dairy farmer, owner and operator of Baird Brothers Farms with his brother Bruce, member of Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, Canadian and Michigan Holstein Associations. Our Good Shepherd enjoyed baseball, hunting, fishing, camping with grandkids, and time on the porch with family and friends. Visitations were held Sunday, January 19 and Monday January 20 at historical Alton Bible Church. Military services followed Monday's visitation. Interment Alton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Alton Church Society, c/o Tim Wittenbach, 13005 Three Mile Road, Lowell, MI 49331.



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SEESE

Philip Carl Seese, age 87 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, January 19, 2014. He was preceded in death by his brother, Orton Seese and sister Vada Kline. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lois; son, Larry Seese Ph.D. of North Carolina; sister Ellen Host of Mobile, Alabama; sister-in-law Phyllis Conway of Danville, Kentucky; many nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends. For sixty years, first as an employee and later as the owner of the Clarksville Garage, Phil excellently repaired cars, trucks and tractors. He was a collector of antique tractors and enjoyed hunting. The funeral service will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Pastor John Williams of Clarksville Bible Church officiating. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. Visitation Friday 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Chapel. Memorial contributions in Phil's name may be made to a local library of one's choice.



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SINCLAIR

Ann Marie Sinclair passed away at Spectrum Hospital on January 9, 2014, after a battle with cancer. Ann, age 57, was the daughter of Alice and Steven Bauer of Lowell who preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband Jeffrey Sinclair of Hastings; sisters, Susan (Leonard) Hanline and Sharon (Tony) Ellison (nephews, Tony and Steven) of Lowell; aunt, Judy Clippard of Swartz Creek and many loving family members in the Hastings area. Ann worked as a chemist at King Milling Company for 31 years before retiring. She loved traveling and visited 49 states and the British Isles with her husband and mother-in-law Jane Sinclair, who preceded her in death. Ann had a flair for decorating and created a lovely home. Ann was a kind and loving person and will be missed by her friends and family. Ann's choice for charity contribution is, Lowell Pink Arrow Pride, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



STOUT

James L. Stout, age 57 of Ada, passed away Monday, January 13, 2014. He is survived by his son, Nicholas (Carina) Stout of Upland, CA; mother Yvonne DePriest; father Vern (Sandy) Stout; brother Sonny Stout. Private services will be held. Interment Snow Cemetery in Cascade Township.

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WILLIAMS

Janet Ann (Ward) Williams, born April 5, 1937 to William and Ila Ward, passed away quietly at home January 18, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband Philip Williams, daughter Benji Bergeron, grandson Dustin Harmon and sister Betty Jacqmain. Janet is survived by son Budd Harmon (Becki Wabegjijk); daughter Beth (Rod) Vaught; 8 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; 8 sisters and 2 brothers by whom she was loved dearly and will be sorely missed; many nieces, nephews and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan. Burial at 3:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, 2894 Patterson SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Visitation 1-2:00 p.m., at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider making a donation to the family to help with funeral expenses.



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SINGLES DANCE - Jan. 17 & 31 at Candlestone Inn, 8100 Storey Rd., M-91 off Belding. 7 p.m. - midnight. 21 & over. \$7 per person. Free snacks with cash bar. Call Mae at 616-255-4641.

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Coming Events

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

FRIDAY FUN - Every Friday, 11-11:45 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, games & a simple craft. For 3-5 year olds. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

KID CRAFT SATURDAY - Third Saturday of each month. Drop in anytime between 9 a.m. - noon. Make a craft & take it home. All ages are welcome. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

NEW STORY TIME AT FROM - first Wed. of every month, 6-7 p.m. at FROM, 11535 E. Fulton, Lowell.

LEGOS AT THE LIBRARY - For youth ages 5-11. Second Sat. of each month, 10 a.m. - noon. Bring your imagination & be ready to build. Legos provided. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450.

LEGO DAYS - first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. - noon. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

STORYTIME - Wednesdays, 11 a.m., children 0-18 mos.; Fridays, 10 a.m., children 18-36 mos.; Fridays, 11 a.m., children 3-5 years. Books, rhymes, songs & crafts at Alvah N Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450. www.belding.michlibrary.org

BEYBLADES - Wed., Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m. Test your skills & have fun competing in KDL'S Beyblade Battles! Bring your own Beyblades & arenas, or train & compete using the library's equipment. For ages 6 & older. Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

FRIENDS REBUILDING WHITES BRIDGE - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Keene Township Hall, 8505 Potters Road, Saranac at 6 p.m. Public is invited to join our group as we plan to raise funds to restore Whites Covered Bridge. For additional information, email: friends.rebuildingwhitesbridge@gmail.com

STORYTIME - Jan. 28, 10 a.m. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

FREE SENIOR COFFEE - Every fourth Friday, 8-9 a.m., sponsored by Laurels of Kent, Lowell McDonalds, 1300 W. Main St.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

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

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

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Key Heights, 11335 Fulton, Lowell.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

TODDLER THURSDAY - Every Thursday 11-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes & learning. Ages 18 mo. - 36 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. & Fri. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Food Pantry, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-3 p.m.; Tues. 12-8 p.m.; Wed. 10-3 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available. www.awclowell.org

AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF ADA - 7144 Headley, is open every Friday & Saturday 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 784-2007.

LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS - Mon. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

KNITTING GROUP - Jan. 29, 10 a.m. - noon. Beginning to advanced knitters welcome. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

TECH SESSIONS - Jan. 29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Appointments required by calling 642-9146. Help with computer, internet, email, ereaders, etc. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

WEE WEDNESDAYS - Every Wednesday, 11-11:20. Rhymes, stories, songs & fun for adult & baby. Babies birth to 17 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

KNITTING GROUP - Jan. 28, 10 a.m. - noon, instructed by Diane Denny. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

STORYTIME - Jan. 23 & 30, 10:30 a.m. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. The first step is always the hardest. If your life has become unmanageable due to alcohol, please join us at 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES - offered at Lowell Family Medical Center. Call 616-446-7058 to register. The class runs for 8 weeks. Evening & weekend sessions are available. Time & dates will be determined by those registered.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell easily wins meet over Richmond

by Karen Jack

Some experts thought the dual between no. 1 Lowell (division two) and no.1 Richmond (division three) would be a close one, but the Lowell grapplers showed just how strong the team really is by trouncing Richmond, 46-20, on Friday. In fact, Lowell won nine of the fourteen weight classes and added several bonus points due to the way they finished. Pins are six team points, techs are five, major decisions are four and decisions are three team points. A tech is when one wrestler is beating another wrestler by 15 or more points and the match is stopped. A major decision is when one wrestler beats another by 8-14 points and a decision is when one beats another by seven or less points.

The arrows traveled to Olivet College, along with the Lowell Middle School and the junior varsity (JV)

teams to face head-to-head with Richmond's middle school and JV teams and wrestled just prior to the Olivet v. Alma wrestling dual on Friday.

Starting at the 119 lb. weight class, Zeth Dean gave Richmond a taste for what they were in for when he teched Cody Keller 23-6, giving Lowell five team points right from the start. Following him was Derek Krajewski at 125 lbs. with a decision win for three more team points and Bailey Jack got another tech at 130 lbs. beating Xavier Nuckles to go into the fourth match ahead 13-0.

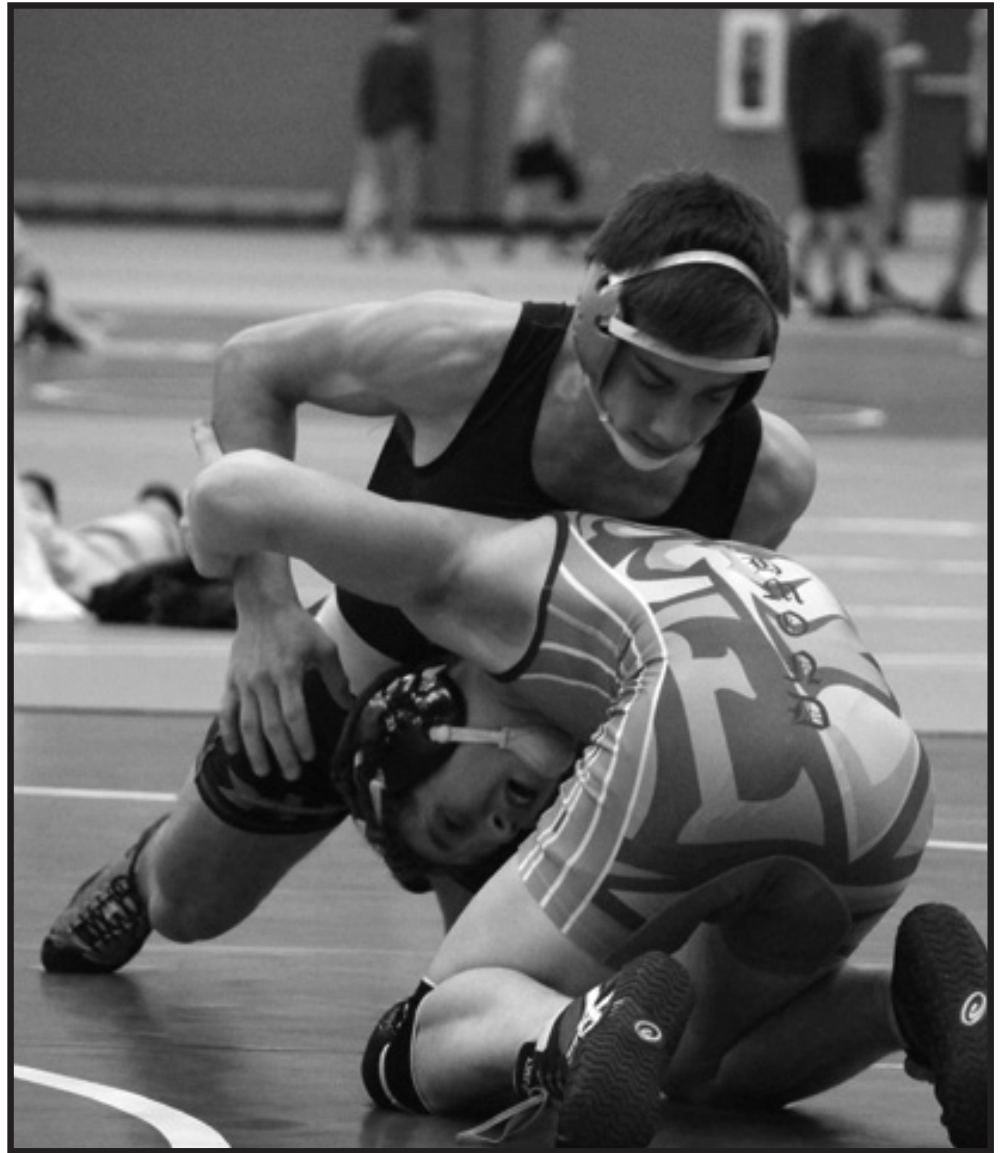
The next two Lowell wrestlers lost at 135 and 140 lbs., allowing Richmond to score eight points, but Jordan Hall came right back at 145 lbs. to pin Jake VanScoter to widen the gap to 19-8. Lowell lost two more decisions at 152 lbs. and 160 lbs. to make the

score 19-17 and that was the closest Richmond got to Lowell all night.

After that, Max Dean pinned Austin Peltier at 171 lbs., Garrett Stehley pinned Jake McKiernan at 189 lbs. and Josh Colegrove pinned Anthony Jinojosa at 215 lbs. Lowell's normal heavyweight (Logan Wilcox) was out sick, so Josiah Buys stepped in and having never wrestled prior to this year held his own, losing 3-0 in the heavyweight match-up. In actuality, they were tied up with seven seconds to go and at the last minute, the Richmond wrestler got a takedown to make it a 3-1 final.

The match finished with Kyle Washburn pinning Connor Behem at 103 lbs. and Lucas Hall beating Aaron Kilburn by decision.

"This was our best performance of the year by far," said coach RJ Boudro.



Nate Stephens is on top to try for the takedown.

"The score didn't show it but that was a hard fought dual and I think we prepared well to face one of the best programs in the state. We continue to get better each week and that is all we can

ask for as a coaching staff, especially when you have the schedule our kids face week in and week out."

The team hosts no. 19 in the nation Detroit Catholic Central at an assembly dual,

where the entire student body will be in attendance on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 1:30 pm, then immediately following will wrestle Grand Rapids Christian.

On Friday, they will host Marmion (OH), Forest Hills Central and Hesperia at Cherry Creek. Start time is 5:00 pm. They then travel to Michigan State on Sunday and will wrestle New Lothrop just prior to the Michigan State wrestling match at 11:00 am.



Josiah Buys fights for hand control.

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THEME:
WINTER OLYMPICS

- ACROSS**
- Abstains from food
 - Female sib
 - Like Homer Simpson's head
 - Freeze
 - Notable time
 - Andrea Bocelli, e.g.
 - Third rock from the sun
 - "I thee ___"
 - Loosen laces, e.g.
 - *Number of participating Olympic sports
 - *Kerrigan's nemesis
 - Nest egg
 - Poacher's trophy
 - A small amount of liquid
 - Shining armor
 - Ultra bookworm
 - Viewer's appreciation
 - Riyadh native
 - Yokel's holler
 - Kournikova or Karenina
 - Nostrils
 - German mister
 - From center to perimeter of circle, pl.
 - Ricci of fashion
 - Nonclerical
 - *First Winter Olympics host
 - Solid part of wall
 - Code word
 - Mosque V.I.P.
 - Party bowlful
 - *Olympic athlete of yesteryear

CROSSWORD

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- *It happened on ice, 1980
- Computer woe
- Cowboy's heel prod
- Trial and _____
- Unable to move
- Funerary vase
- More than one in pre-revolutionary Russia
- *Gold winning ice dancers, Torvill and _____
- Pilot's announcement, acr.
- Exemplary
- Medieval domain
- Popular smoothie berry
- #1 Down laborer
- Little Richard's "_____ Frutti"
- Orb shape
- Fastened stitches
- Rage
- Ascetic holy Hindu
- Form a curve
- Opposed to
- Tender cut
- Small amount of residue
- *Eurasian winner of 88 medals but no winter ones
- *Only Olympian to win Gold in summer and winter
- Nile viper
- Government system
- in pre-revolutionary Russia
- *Keeps neck warm in Sochi?
- Of an arm bone
- Chinese bear
- Persia
- "Matilda" author
- Beforehand
- Waterwheel
- *Relayed flame
- Sacrifice for gain
- Out of shape
- Saudi Arabia native
- Most frozen
- Down Under runner
- Do like Tarantino
- Lock horns
- Avoid an attack
- Zealous
- Collier's office
- A particular region
- *Speed skaters often touch the ice making one
- Madonna's 2012 release
- Field yield
- Centers of activity
- *American speed skating great
- You know it when you see it?

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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.

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12



JANUARY 15 - JANUARY 21

- A shooting was reported Tuesday in the electrical engineering building at Purdue University in Indiana. Students and faculty were told to seek shelter while police searched the scene. One suspect was taken into custody and it is unknown whether or not there were any injuries.
- Another blast of cold air has hit the Midwest and will spread to the Northeast. From Virginia to New England are preparing for snow up to a foot deep.
- Two Mexican citizens were arrested at the border in connection to the Target security breach. A spokesman from the Secret Service said that the investigation is ongoing.
- With less than three weeks to go there are still a lot of seats to be filled at the Olympic games in Sochi, Russia. Thousands of tickets remain unsold for Russia's first Winter Olympics. It is thought that foreign fans are staying away because of concern over terrorist threats, expensive flights and hotels, long travel distances and a shortage of tourist attractions in the area.

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The Dog Sled Man visits the Alto Library

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Alto branch of the Kent District Library hosted a fun interactive family event featuring Dan "The Dog Sled Man" Anderson and five of his Siberian Husky sled dogs on Saturday, Jan 18, appropriately titled MUSH!

Approximately 100 people of all ages gathered inside the quaint library for the indoor portion of the demonstration. "We lost count at 85," said branch manager Sandy Graham happily adding that this was a typical turnout for any event they host featuring live animals.

Anderson, who owns Tun-Dra Kennels and has been involved with the sport of dog sledding for more than thirty years, led the

MUSH! program beginning with demonstrations of equipment, including three different varieties of sleds and all the personal gear needed to survive in the frigidly cold conditions typical to the sport.

Anderson also spoke about the most famous of all sled dog races, the Iditarod which runs each March from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. The more than 1,000 mile race typically takes between nine and 15 days to complete. The team consists of a musher, the adult sled rider and 16 dogs. There is also a Jr. Iditarod for teens aged 14-17. Anderson said that although he never participated in this foremost race he hopes to watch his son compete one day.

A brief history of Alaska was also discussed during the informative session, starting with its induction into the US and its main natural resources which include both oil and gold. He also talked about the states natural wildlife and showed guests how to create a simple and realistic at home moose call out of an empty milk jug and a cloth shoelace.

The much anticipated outdoor portion of the program included five of the 11 dogs owned by Anderson and his family team. Eager attendees were allowed to meet and pet the friendly dogs who were equally eager for the attention. Anderson, who addressed the large crowd by megaphone, then led an actual sledding demonstration for the enthusiastic crowd. Graham said that though they have hosted the MUSH! event several times in the past, this was the first time they have had sufficient snow for the full outdoor portion of the activities.

"I do it because I love seeing the excitement that the kids get out of it," said Anderson of his speaking engagements which also include school and church visits. He says that his Siberian Huskies are always the star of the show commenting lightheartedly the sentiment of the young, "Forget that old musher, we want to meet the dogs!"

At right, one lucky Middleville resident got the chance to take a brief ride aboard the sled during the demonstration.



Dan Anderson speaks to the crowd behind the library alongside five of his prized sled dogs.



Alto Elementary kindergarten student Lorelei Fonner pets one of the sled dogs during the event.



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