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## Howe delivers “State of the City” address at city council meeting

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

City manager Mark Howe gave a “State of the City” address to the city council meeting Monday, Feb. 3.

Howe’s speech to an audience of about 20 residents highlighted Lowell’s achievements in the recent past, offered advice for the present and revealed some plans for the near future.

“We balanced a budget that was a half million dollars in deficit,” Howe said. “We saved more

than a million dollars by refinancing our debt.”

Howe said Lowell’s government is more “transparent” since the city has updated its website, added a Facebook page and digitized public records. Howe had positive things to say about the biodigester, the city’s reaction to the flood last April, the charitable organization FROM, Lowell’s police and fire departments and infrastructure improvements.

“We invested more than three quarters of a million dollars in infrastructure and facilities with more than 80 percent coming from state and local grants,” Howe said.

Howe went on to discuss the nature trails that go through Lowell and the “Tree City USA” title Lowell once again earned from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

“We also received the ‘Growth Award’ for the fifth straight year because of the arbor board’s continued investment in the urban canopy,” Howe said.

Lowell’s economy has been doing so well there is now extra money laying around.

“We ended the prior fiscal year with a surplus of more than \$136,000,” Howe said. “We also reduced the millage rate for the first time in 30 years.”

Howe’s future plans included more reductions in tax rates.

“We have identified as a long-term goal to encourage



Diane Jones, new Kent County Commissioner.



Mark Howe updates Lowell on the state of the city.

City council meeting,  
continued, page 2

## New boutique opens its doors on Main Street

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell welcomed a new business to town last Saturday when the doors opened at Nikki Jane’s Boutique located at 210 W. Main St.

Owned by best friends and experienced retail workers, Sarah Brown and Jaime Klingler, the boutique hosted its grand opening event from 3-8 pm and experienced a warm welcome from the community. “Considering the weather, it went really well! Everyone seemed to really like the store and space. It was exciting to see all of our hard work coming together,” said Brown of the occasion adding, “Everyone seems to love the idea of having a boutique here. The

community has been very warm and friendly. The chamber of commerce has gone above and beyond in helping us get the word out.”

Brown, who is from Alto and the mother of two daughters and Klingler, who resides in Lowell with her daughter, said that when

they met several years ago they became fast friends. “We actually met at our last job, which was at a boutique. We did a large majority of the merchandising and have worked great together since day one,” said Brown of their bond.

Both women had always hoped to one day own their own businesses. Klingler reports that she had been saving and planning for this achievement since she was a teenager. It did not take long before they started to discuss going into the endeavor as a team. “We love working in retail, so we knew we wanted to open up some type of shop. We sat down and discussed all of our ideas and felt that a

boutique would be the best fit for us. We like to shop at local stores, rather than chain stores, so why not open one? It is perfect for us because it allows us to have a more personal relationship with our customers. We want people to choose Nikki Jane’s because they feel like they know us and think of us as friends.”

The concept for the boutique started to take shape quickly. They decided on the name Nikki Jane’s, a combination of their middle names and after a period of strategizing and consideration they decided to go forward with their



Owners Jaime Klingler and Sarah Brown inside the newly opened Nikki Jane’s Boutique.

New boutique opens,  
continued, page 8





# along main street

## City council meeting, continued

property value growth in order to enable future millage rate reductions," Howe said.

Howe continued by, "demanding civility in public discourse."

"What unites us is greater than what divides us," Howe said. "We cannot let the discussion overshadow what unites us."

The "State of the City" presentation concluded with a preview of potential city projects.

"We need to decide the future of the showboat," Howe said. "We need to improve the quality of our streets. Currently more than 70 percent of our streets are rated in poor condition. We need to identify a downtown connector for the 125-mile Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trail. We need to develop a plan for strategic development in downtown. We need to continue our financial stability, encouraging investment in property values in order to reduce the millage rate."

Diane Jones, the new Kent County Commissioner from District 4, was introduced. Jones, a resident of Cannon Township, replaced Gary Rolls who resigned in December after being charged with sexual abuse of a child.

"I have been taking quite a bit of time to stop, to

make phone calls, to come to board meetings, to introduce myself, to help make sure we have solid communication back and forth," Jones said. "I welcome phone calls, e-mails. I think it's nice to have a liaison that you can touch base with, with county issues that could possibly arise."

Councilperson Sharon Ellison read a "George Washington Amendment" into the record. John Stempien's eighth grade history class at Lowell Middle School composed the resolution.

"[They] sent away and received a portrait of George Washington from Mount Vernon that they're going to be placing in the Lowell Middle School library," Ellison said.

The school will unveil the portrait at a ceremony on Presidents' Day, Feb. 17, at 1 pm.

Other business resolved at the council meeting included the approval of Lowell Township's addition to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, the selection of a new digital records-keeping system for the Lowell Police Department and the approval of Peerless Midwest as the low bidder (\$16,115) to replace the filters at the water treatment plant.

At 7:42 pm the meeting adjourned for a closed session to discuss union negotiations. Councilpersons Jeff Altoft and Chris Schwab voted not to enter a closed session.

The next city council meeting will be at Lowell City Hall on Feb. 18.

### CALL FOR ACTORS

Seeking five male actors and three female adult actors for the play MOLL, written by John B. Keane and directed by Laurie Kuna. MOLL will be presented as a weekend dinner theater production from April 25 - May 10 in downtown Lowell. Auditions will be held at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson on Thursday, Feb. 6 from 6-8 pm and on Sat., Feb. 8 from 10 am-12 pm. To pick up a script, visit LowellArts! Tuesday-Friday 10 am-6 pm or Saturday 1-4 pm. For more information, call 897-8545 or email: info@lowellartsmi.org

### 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.

### TOTS FAMILY VALENTINE FAMILY NIGHT

Valentine crafts, cookie decorating and bring your own riding toys for open gym to get the winter wiggles out. For children up to age 5. Older siblings welcome. Bushnell Elementary gym, 700 Elizabeth, Tues., Feb. 11 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. For more information contact Lori Buys, 987-2532.

### 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.

### LADIES TEA

Fountain View of Lowell will be hosting a Ladies Valentine Tea on Fri., Feb. 14 at 1:30 pm. Get dressed up and have some tea. Oh what fun it will be! RSVP: fv1.active@baruchsls.org or 897-8413.

*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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## At Your Local Library

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

### Craft Away the Winter Blues

Shake off the winter blahs with Jennifer Ackerman-Haywood, crafter extraordinaire, for do-it-yourself party planning on a budget. Pre-registration is required and participant spots are limited. For adults. Sat., Feb. 8 at 11 a.m.

### Heart to Heart Craft Party

Roses are red, violets are blue, join our Valentine event, just for you! Celebrate Valentine's Day with snacks and crafts. For all ages. Thurs., Feb. 13 at 10:30 am.

### Fancy Nancy Soirée

Come dressed in your fanciest regalia and baubles (clothes and jewelry) as we celebrate the magnificent Fancy Nancy! Join your friends at the bibliothéque (library) for a Fancy Nancy Storytime, complete with glamorous crafts and tasty surprises. For all ages. Sponsored by Karl Orthodontics. Tues., Feb. 25 at 6:30 pm.

### Beyblades

Test your skills and have fun competing in KDL's Beyblade Battles! Bring your own Beyblades and arenas or train and compete using the library's equipment. For ages six and older. Wed., Feb. 26 at 6:30 pm.

## business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Todd Pearson received Sales Associate of the Month in January.

This award recognizes Pearson for his outstanding success and achievements.



Todd Pearson

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# Third annual free writers conference

Many accomplished wordsmiths will tell you that a big contributor to their motivation and success is surrounding themselves with a community of other writers. Kent District Library (KDL) is in its third year of encouraging area talent and providing a venue for those communities.

"Libraries wouldn't exist without readers and that requires writers," said Morgan Jarema, KDL communications assistant and conference organizer. "Last year's conference drew a full house of 200 people and had a waiting list,

so writers in West Michigan clearly are looking to hear from experts in their field to help them navigate the path to publication. We really want to support them."

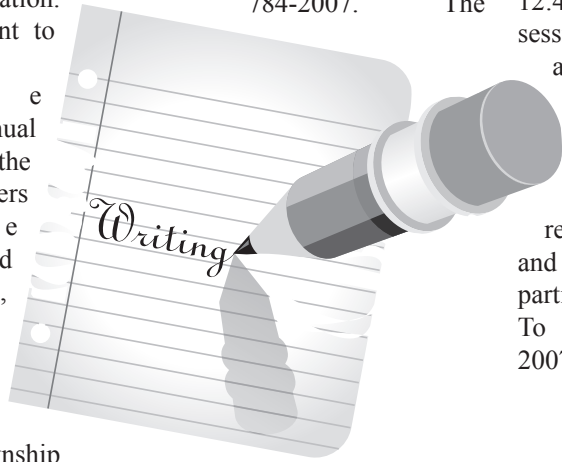
The third annual Celebrate the Mitten Writers Conference will be held Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the KDL Cascade Township

Branch, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. There is no cost.

To register, call 616-784-2007. The

morning session (geared to not-yet published writers, but all are welcome) will be held from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm and the afternoon session (geared to published authors, but all are welcome) will run from 1:45 to 5:00 pm.

Separate pre-registration is required for morning and afternoon sessions and participant spots are limited. To register, call 616-784-2007.



## LMS spelling bee champs

Lowell Middle School Spelling Bee was one of the most exciting and one of the longest ever held. Everyone did an excellent job and the contest was very thrilling. Karsten Kirkendoll won the spelling bee and the runner-up was Grace Ostrander.



Pictured, left to right: runner-up, Grace Ostrander; assistant principal, Nate Fowler; and the winner, Karsten Kirkendoll.

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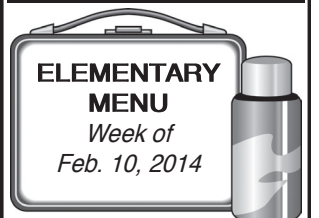


Come and enjoy the clean, adult, comedy of PJ Walsh!

Walsh is one energetic comedian behind a microphone. Comedy has carried him around the globe from the Olympic Games to overseas tours for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. He toured with the *Blue Collar Comedy Tour*, has a *Sirius Satellite Radio* show and a role in the film *Delta Farce*.

## LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY  
MENU  
Week of  
Feb. 10, 2014



**MON:** WG Cheese quesadilla w/salsa, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, pears, milk.

**TUES:** Sweet & sour WG popcorn chicken over brown rice (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG Bosco sticks w/ dipping sauce, (served at Bushnell), seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, strawberries, grapes, milk.

**WED:** Scrambled eggs w/ sausage & WG biscuit, hashbrowns, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cauliflower bites, pear, orange slices, milk.

**THURS:** Hot dog on WG bun (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG breaded chicken nuggets (served at Bushnell), mashed potatoes & gravy, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, pineapple, apple, milk.

**FRI:** Tony's pepperoni pizza on WG crust, side salad, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, juice, milk.



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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### How will your investments affect your child's financial aid prospects?

Even though it's only February, college financial aid officers are already crunching numbers and otherwise working to determine grants for the school year that starts this coming fall. If you have children you plan on sending to college, how will your own savings and investments affect their chances of getting financial aid?

The answer depends not only on how much money you have, but also where you keep it. Most colleges base their aid calculations on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which currently counts up to 5.64 percent of certain parent-owned assets in determining federal or state aid. By contrast, FAFSA counts up to 20 percent of a child's assets, such as an UGMA or UTMA account.

So, what parent-owned assets are counted when determining a student's

need for financial aid? They include savings and retirement investment accounts and other types of assets. You do not have to report retirement accounts — such as traditional or Roth IRAs, 401(k)s and pensions — on the FAFSA. However, if you start taking withdrawals from these accounts, the withdrawals must be reported on the FAFSA as student income for the year in which the transactions occurred — which means these withdrawals could affect your child's financial aid package the following year.

A 529 plan is one popular college-savings vehicle. If you own a 529 plan, you will need to report it on FAFSA as a parent-owned asset. But when you take withdrawals from the 529 plan, they won't be counted as parent or student income on FAFSA, and they won't incur federal income taxes, provided the money

is used for qualified higher education expenses. (If you don't use the money for these expenses, you'll be taxed and potentially penalized by 10 percent on the earnings.) Because a 529 plan is counted as a parental asset on FAFSA, some people ask grandparents to own a 529 plan. But while the value of an intact grandparent-controlled 529 plan will be excluded from FAFSA, the withdrawals themselves will be counted as untaxed income to the student on the following year's FAFSA, and this money could certainly affect aid decisions.

At least a year before your first child heads off to college, you may want to contact the financial aid office at a local school to ask questions about FAFSA, scholarships, loans and other aspects of assistance. Since most colleges and universities follow similar rules regarding financial aid, you should be able to get some helpful answers, no matter where your child goes to school.

Of course, even with careful planning, your student may not qualify for financial aid. If this is the case, you will need to consider other strategies for paying for college. But keep this in mind: It's best to develop a savings strategy for both college savings and one's own retirement goals. So, study the financial aid rules, consider investing in college-funding vehicles such as 529 plans and do whatever else you can to help get your kids through school, but don't forget about your own needs — because they are important, too.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

Dear Editor,  
 Congratulations to Greg Canfield for being "Person Of The Year."  
 Unfortunately, half the Canfield team was not recognized with this honor.  
 When we think of the Canfields and what they do

for our community it is not just Greg, it is a team of Deb and Greg. While you see Greg all over town, Deb is the one behind the scenes making it happen. She is Greg's "wind beneath his wings."

Marcia & Brian Roth

### At public hearings, real passion for protecting our Great Lakes



Sen. Carl Levin

In January, I was one of many Michigianians who spoke at public meetings on a recently released federal study that examined ways to protect our Great Lakes from Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species. The Michigan public meetings, held in Ann Arbor and in Traverse City, were an important step in advancing a solution that provides the strongest possible protection for our lakes.

These hearings followed the Army Corps of Engineers' release of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study. Congress authorized this study in 2007 to examine ways to stop Asian carp and other destructive species from moving from the Mississippi River and its tributaries into the Great Lakes. In 2012, we passed additional legislation requiring that it be released

a year earlier than planned because of the urgency of stopping this threat.

And it is indeed an urgent problem. Asian carp and other species could make their way from the Mississippi to the Great Lakes through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which links the two waterway systems, or through flooding in areas where the two basins meet. That would be disastrous for the lakes; these large, fast-growing fish have quickly squeezed out native species in areas of the Mississippi Valley. If they make it into the Great Lakes, they could do enormous economic and environmental harm.

We have established three barriers – basically, underwater electric fences – in the Chicago canal. But those barriers are intended as an interim measure while we plan for more permanent

protections. And permanent solutions were the focus of the study the Corps of Engineers just released.

As I told Corps officials at the Traverse City public hearing, the good news about the study is that it found the strongest possible protection we could achieve is to physically separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins, and that such a step was feasible. That's the step that I and other Great Lakes lawmakers believe is ultimately the best option for protecting the lakes.

But I also asked the Corps of Engineers to consider criticisms from experts that its study over-estimated some of the costs associated with separating the two basins. For example, the separation option the report suggests includes some costly and time-consuming measures that are not generally required. And the new report fails to

estimate the financial and other benefits of separation. By over-estimating costs and failing to fully consider benefits, the report may provide a distorted picture. I encouraged the Corps to better incorporate accurate cost measures and more fully account for all of the project's benefits as it continues its work.

Over the next few weeks, I will be working with other members of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, which I co-chair with Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois, on a number of steps. First, we need to take some interim steps identified in the Corps of Engineers report that we can accomplish quickly and at lower cost. Those steps include chemical controls and inspection of watercraft moving between the two basins to reduce the risk of invasive species transfer.

Levin, continued, page 7

## 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 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.

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## power lines

Greg Pierce

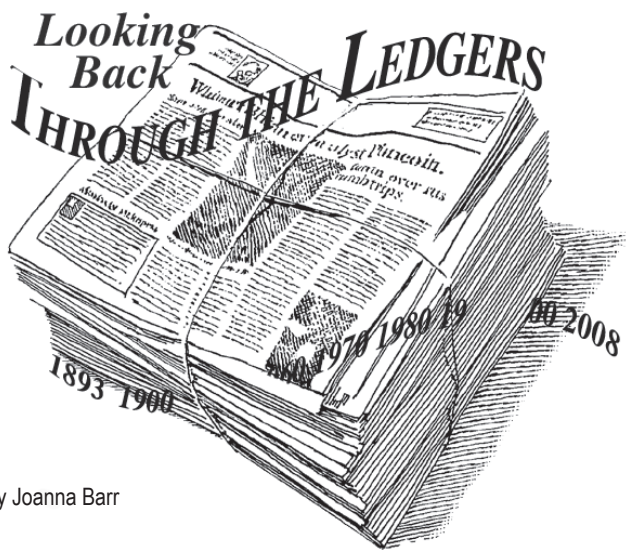
January 2014 has been a brutally cold month and the prospects for February do not show much of a reprieve. These past several months seem to be bringing a renewed meaning to the word winter. With this comes the need for more heat, furnaces running more, space heaters in those hard to warm areas and hotter water running through those cold pipes. Lowell Light and Power has been promoting energy efficiency for over five years now and you, our customers, have done a great job working with us to help meet our energy savings goals. In 2013, collectively, we exceeded the goals set for us and as a community we saved more than 655,000 kWhs (Kilowatt hours). Our goal for 2014 is even higher and we hope you take advantage of the incentives we offer to help you save on the use of electricity. If your winter electric bills are starting to be a concern, we have several options to help you look for ways to be more efficient. One way is to borrow a watt meter from the Lowell Library. Lowell Light and Power has placed several of these meters in the library for you to check out and take home to measure the electric use of various appliances and toys in your home. Secondly, we offer home energy audits. If you

call the office (897-8402) and set up an appointment, we would be more than happy to come out to your home or business, conduct an energy audit, explain our energy saving incentives and start you on the road to becoming more energy efficient.

I am also happy to report that all of the details have been worked out for Sustainable Partners LLC (SPART), the developer we have been working with for two and a half years, to begin construction of a biodigester/generating facility in Lowell. The name of the project is Lowell Energy Anaerobic Digester (LEAD) and the groundbreaking ceremony will take place Thursday, February 20 at 9:00 am at our Chatham facility. Anyone is welcome to attend and we look forward to the start up of this project.

The biodigester/generator will be located in a portion of Lowell Light and Power's Chatham warehouse and will utilize approximately one acre of our six+ acre site. It is our intent, at this point, to buy the biodigester in five years from the developer and operate it ourselves. This would provide a significant

Power Lines, continued, page 7



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal February 6, 1889

The ice crop is growing rapidly this weather and those who are cutting now are getting a very good quality.

Until the first of September next, it will be unlawful to kill woodcock, partridge, ruffed grouse, wild duck, wild geese or any other wild water fowl or snipe.

Tramps wanted in Ionia. It is desired to macadamize Steele St. and a few gangs of able-bodied stonebreakers are wanted who are willing to earn their bread.

John Murry, of Middleville, a Scotchman supposed to be more than a hundred years old, was reported dead last Friday, but appeared on the street Saturday and said he was not dead yet and that he was "wort maer nor twa dead men was."

Saunders and Wolgamwood, of Centerville, St. Joseph County, got into a quarrel over a balance of \$25 said to be due on a horse trade. Justice and

county court expenses, lawyers' fees, etc. in five trials have amounted to \$1,000 and Saunders had to pay for the horse.

Mrs. Harrison is the worthy wife of a Protective Republican President. She is buying her wardrobe of New York dealers instead of sending away to Paris. She is setting an example which all Americans should follow.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 5, 1914

Some tomatoes in this case - tomatoes green and tomatoes ripe, tomatoes and then some more tomatoes, is what all the fuss is about in court. Edwin Fallas of Lowell is suing Eli Cross for \$2,500 for failure to keep a contract placed with him. Fallas claims he gave an order to Cross for 200,000 tomato plants and that Cross delivered but 150,000 of them. Cross counters with the statement that Fallas was to provide the seed, that the seed came late and, as a result of it, many plants did not get a good start. The drought came on and many of them died, with the result that the 150,000 was the most he was able to provide. Fallas wanted the rest and so brings suit to recover his damages for inability to supply the plants to his customers. —Herald.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 9, 1939

An English composition textbook written by Dr. Robert D. Horn, professor of English, at the University of Oregon, in collaboration with two other professors won a place among the 50 best books published in the United States last year. It has been announced. Dr.

Looking Back, continued, page 7



# Your spouse may be covered by Social Security

If you have a spouse who does not earn an income or who earns less than you do, your spouse (including a same-sex spouse) may be entitled to Social Security spouses' benefits based on your record.

Social Security will look at all possibilities to make sure both spouses receive the maximum Social Security benefits possible, whether based on each spouse's earnings record or the higher wage-earner's record.

Your spouse can apply for benefits the same way that you apply for benefits

on your own record. He or she can apply for reduced benefits as early as age 62, or for 100 percent of the full retirement benefits at "full retirement age."

The benefit amount your spouse can receive at full retirement age can be as much as one half of your full benefit. If your spouse opts for early retirement, the benefit may be as little as a third of your full benefit amount. Note that benefits paid to your spouse do not decrease your benefit amount.

If you have already reached full retirement age

but continue to work, you can apply for retirement benefits and request to have the payments suspended until as late as age 70. This would let you earn delayed retirement credits that will mean higher payments later, but still would allow your spouse to receive a spouse's benefit.

If you are ready to apply for benefits, the fastest, easiest, and most convenient way is to apply online! You can do so at [www.socialsecurity.gov/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/) apply online and complete your application in as little as 15 minutes.

Due to a Supreme Court decision, we now are able to pay benefits to some same-sex couples. We encourage people who think they may be eligible to apply now. Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sex-couples](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sex-couples).

*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 [vontil@ssa.gov](mailto:vontil@ssa.gov)*

# health



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

## nail fungus

Nails can become infected by fungus, yeast or mold. It occurs most often in toenails. It may begin as a white or yellow spot on the nail. It will then become thickened, brittle, and disfigured. This can cause pain or lead to more serious skin infections. Fungal nail infections can persist forever if left untreated.

Risk factors include older age, heavy sweating, working in humid or moist environments, and blood circulation problems.

Diagnosing the infection is done by visual inspection and sometimes microscopic evaluation of nail scrapings or nail cultures.

This type of infection is difficult to treat. Topical and over-the-counter treatments are rarely effective.

The most effective treatments are oral antifungal medications like Lamisil or Sporanox. These are taken for three months. Recurrent infections are common.



# Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of.

~ Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790), 'Poor Richard's Almanack,' June 1746

Please join us in celebration of **Betty Yeiter's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

**Sunday, February 9  
2:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Lowell United  
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located at**

**621 E. Main St. Lowell, MI  
Please no gifts**



# happy birthday!

- FEBRUARY 5**  
Ann Mulder, Kenneth Gregersen Sr., Colleen Myers, Mandy Schneider, Mike Conklin.
- FEBRUARY 6**  
Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.
- FEBRUARY 7**  
Margaret Peckham, Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.
- FEBRUARY 8**  
Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes, Karis Dilly.
- FEBRUARY 9**  
Tom Covell, Alan Ryder, Noah Newhouse, Madison Lombardo, Brady Foster, Dave Vankeulen, Charlotte Drake.
- FEBRUARY 10**  
Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.
- FEBRUARY 11**  
Julie Kenney, Judy Goodwin.

# area churches

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Worship Service.....Sunday -10:30 A.M.  
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Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.

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897-7060  
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Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.  
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
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Pastor Phil Severn

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Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
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11:00 A.M. ....Worship

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**WEDNESDAYS:**  
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"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
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[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com)

Barrier-free entrance

WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
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

Horn is the son of Mrs. C. H. Horn and was graduated from Lowell High School in 1917. His home is now at Eugene, Oregon.

According to local vital statistics, the village of Lowell made a net gain in births over deaths during 1938. There were 38 births and 25 deaths. The records do not include Lowell babies born in Grand Rapids' hospitals. September was the leading month for births, with six, while February and March came next with five births each.

A county wide dog quarantine is now in effect in Kent county to control an outbreak of rabies. Dog owners are warned to keep their dogs confined for the duration of the quarantine.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 6, 1964

Ralph and Barbara Fluger, who recently purchased the former bank building on East Main Street, have had many people stop in to ask them what happened to the bank, was it closed, etc. They decided to solve the problem by removing the metal sign that read "State Savings Bank." But to their dismay, when the sign was taken down this week, carved in the marble face of the building was another sign that read, "Lowell State Bank."

Reviews of Glendon Swarthout's new book "Cadillac Cowboys" are pouring into the Ledger from Lowell residents who are visiting out-of-state and clip them out of newspapers and magazines to send home. Next week reviews from New York and Tucson, Arizona, will be published concerning the book written by a former Lowell man.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 8, 1989

Former Lowell store owner shares some thoughts on trip to Europe - an update on Pat Tringali (former owner of Village Inn Party Store, now Iceman's Outlet) and family's move to Italy. The Italian speaking lessons

are more difficult than Tringali anticipated. She says that life in Milan is challenging, to say the least and the weather, while mild, is foggy. The family spent the holiday season touring Rome, Florence, Pisa, Zermatt, Switzerland and skiing Klein Matterhorn. Tringali added that the family misses Lowell and its people.

Faulty clothes dryer destroys historic home. The home of Walter (now deceased) and Lovedia Schroder (now living at the Lowell Medical Care Center) at 1018 Riverside Drive was destroyed by a fire on Thursday, Feb. 2. The house, which originally was a stage coach stop in the early 1900s, was being lived in by their grandson Charles Schroder. According to Lowell fire chief Frank Martin, the fire started when the clothes dryer overheated. He added, "Schroder was not home at the time." The Lowell firefighters got a call at 9:50 pm. According to Martin, the fire was already well underway. "The backend area and kitchen were well involved," Martin said. Lowell and Alto firefighters fought the fire until 2 am. Martin said there was \$29,000 worth of damage.

Headline: City and YMCA agree pool is needed. If the preliminary indications are a sign of what is to come - the city and the YMCA agree that the city government and the recreational program must work together to help better recreation for kids in the city of Lowell. Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale told the council members that the initial estimate to repair the pool was between \$50-\$60,000. However, he suggested that a large portion of that cost could be erased if the city would do the hard labor work which adds up to a significant amount of money. New council member and former YMCA director Jim Hodges said that perhaps the YMCA could approach the community and by providing leadership, it could find out how high the community is on the pool which was built by the city in 1959-60. "I don't think raising \$11,000 in this community would be all that difficult," Hodges said. "I think there are enough individuals who have children swimming in the pool, who would be willing to contribute dollars to make sure that the pool operates for many years to come."

# Power Lines, continued

savings to you, our customers and is projected to be one of the least expensive forms of generation in our portfolio of electricity generating facilities over the next 20 years. In January of 2013, the board of light and power authorized me to pursue the option of selling the required one acre of property to SPART, but in the long run it did not seem to be worth the effort to sell a portion of the property, to merely buy it back again in five years. Therefore, we are leasing the space required for the biodigester to LEAD and retaining ownership of the entire Chatham property.

There has been some discussion around the community that one of the reasons for Proposal 3 being on the ballot last November, was that it was an attempt to find a way to allow the sale of a portion of our Chatham property to SPART without approval of the citizens of Lowell. That certainly was

not the case. Ever since Lowell Light and Power purchased the Chatham site, it recognized the property was way more property (and building) than was required for the effective operation of the utility. For several years we have been looking for ways to maximize the property's potential by leasing or selling unneeded areas and approval by the citizens of Lowell for that type of activity is not required under our charter. We are extremely fortunate to have found a use for a portion of the property that is compatible with our needs and can ultimately be incorporated into our operation. We expect the biodigester to be up and running by the end of 2014 and if you have any questions I haven't answered, please give me a call at 897-8402.

Looking forward to spring and wishing you a Happy Valentines.

# Levin, continued

As I testified at the public hearing, I believe we should move to implement these kinds of immediate steps while we advance a long-term solution.

These hearings were important events in raising significant technical questions concerning the Corps of Engineers' analysis of this problem. But they were important for another reason: They made clear to these officials just how vital

the Great Lakes are to the people of Michigan.

We are passionate about our role as stewards of these lakes, and at these public hearings that passion was real and palpable. The urgent need to protect the Great Lakes is something we feel keenly, and I believe that passion should energize the federal agencies that must act to protect the lakes from harm.

## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

Please take notice that there will be a budget hearing on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 followed by a regular meeting of the Lowell Township Board. The hearing will be held at 7:00 PM at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI. At such time, in accordance with the law, a budget covering proposed expenditures and estimated revenues of the Township shall be submitted for consideration. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Township Hall during regular office hours or on the Township's website - [www.twp.lowell.mi.us](http://www.twp.lowell.mi.us)

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

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# New boutique opens, continued

plan. "We're both single Mom's, so moving forward was a huge step for us. We started looking at locations around Grand Rapids and

weren't excited about any of them. Then we found 210 West Main Street and fell in love the moment we walked through the door. We didn't

have much of a game plan, but couldn't let this place slip through our fingers. We signed the lease and three weeks later we opened!

It's been a whirlwind three weeks, that's for sure, but it has been such an amazing experience and we look

forward to many years here in Lowell," said Brown.

Besides the location itself, the pair reports that the

family-oriented atmosphere and the immense support of local business by the community were other reasons they decided on opening in Lowell. "New businesses face a lot of challenges in the first year and we knew we needed a supportive community behind us," said Brown.

Nikki Jane's carries new, trendy clothing and accessories, including jewelry, purses and scarves as well as some repurposed and vintage items. Klingler said that over the next few weeks their inventory will continue to grow and begin to include unique home decor pieces. "We have quite a mix of sizes and variety here so if someone needs a last minute housewarming gift or wants to spoil themselves, they will find it here." The wide open and inviting shopping space is blessed with warm brick walls and wooden floors that are accented by the smart shabby chic display pieces chosen by the owners.

Besides their combined years of customer service and retail experience, the friends say one of their biggest qualifications is their shared love for fashion. "We are just two gals who really love clothes!" exclaimed Klingler.

Shoppers are invited to enjoy a 20 percent discount on their favorite item during the entire month of February. The boutique is open weekdays from 10-6, Saturday 10-5 and Sunday from 11-4.

# LAS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

## BOYS' VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

\* Denotes a game at East Kentwood Ice Arena

2/12 at 5:45 p.m. Mattawan at Kalamazoo Wings Annex

2/15 at 4 p.m. Bay City Thunder at Bay City Civic Center

2/23 at noon Allen Park Cabrini\*

2/25 at 8 p.m. Kalamazoo United\*

## GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

\* Denotes a game at Lowell High School main gym

2/7 at 6 p.m. EGR\*

2/14 at 6 p.m. Caledonia

## BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

\* Denotes a game at Lowell High School main gym

2/7 at 7:45 p.m. EGR\*

2/11 at 7 p.m. Cedar Springs\*

2/14 at 7:45 p.m. Caledonia

2/18 at 7:30 p.m. GR Christian

2/21 at 7:45 p.m. Jenison

2/27 at 7 p.m. Ionia\*

## GIRLS' VARSITY BOWLING

\* Denotes a game at Lowell Lanes

2/5 at 3:30 p.m. Caledonia\*

2/10 at 3:30 p.m. GR Christian\*

2/12 at 3:30 p.m. Jenison\*

## BOYS' VARSITY BOWLING

\* Denotes a game at Lowell Lanes

2/5 at 3:30 p.m. Caledonia\*

2/6 at 3:30 p.m. Northview

## GIRLS' VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER

\* Denotes a game at Lowell High School

2/5 at 7 p.m. Jenison

2/15 time & place TBA MHSAA District

## GIRLS' VARSITY GYMNASTICS

\* Denotes a game at Lowell High School Auxiliary Gym

2/5 at 7 p.m. Kenowa Hills

2/15 at time & place TBA Conference



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# Lowell Chamber of Commerce requests public opinions

Below is a survey that the Lowell Chamber of Commerce has published on their website requesting input concerning the Riverwalk Masterplan. Please feel free to fill out the survey below or fill it out on the chambers website (lowellchamber.org). The Ledger will make sure that any response we receive will be delivered to the Lowell Chamber office. Use an additional sheet of paper if necessary and make sure to let the chamber know your feelings on this important topic. The form below may be filled out anonymously and either dropped off or mailed to The Ledger at 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

## Lowell Riverwalk Stage & Showboat Masterplan Public Input

The City of Lowell and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce are working on creating a Masterplan to identify future potential upgrades the the Riverwalk area including the development of a new performance stage and improvements to the Showboat. Please use this form to share your thoughts and ideas with us on this exciting effort to enhance the Lowell Riverwalk area !!! At this point, feel free to DREAM BIG !

NOTE - ALL YOUR INPUT IS ANONYMOUS. Thank You !



### The Riverwalk - Please share your thoughts regarding the general Riverwalk area from the existing boat launch to Main Street.

What do you like? What don't you like? What is your vision for this area?

### The Riverwalk stage - We would like to replace the temporary stage with a new permanent facility. Please share your ideas on style, location, features.

Think about a stage that would be used for music, theater the library and general all-around uses.

What are your thoughts as an audience member and/or a user if applicable to you?



### The Showboat - How should the next generation of the Lowell Showboat be represented on the Riverwalk?

Please give us your thoughts on what's next for the Showboat. Rebuild it? Move it? Incorporate a Showboat theme within the Riverwalk?

### Questions? Comments?

Please let us know if you have any general questions or comments about the Riverwalk Masterplan. We will include them in the input process and address them in the public meetings.





# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - GYMNASTICS

### Lowell trounces East Kentwood

by Karen Jack  
In a gymnastics' conference meet on Wednesday, Lowell took it to East Kentwood beating them 132.25 to 112.45 and the night was filled with season bests and personal bests by the girls.

Lauren DeHaan had a great night scoring her personal best all-around score and her best beam routine of the year, just 0.05 shy of her personal best. Page DeHaan scored her personal best on the beam and Colleen Cater

performed the best floor routine she's done all year.

"I'm really proud of these girls and all the hard work they've put in," said coach Michele DeHaan. "It's definitely paying off for them."

Lauren DeHaan led the team on vault (8.85), beam (9.05), floor (8.675) and won the all-around with 34.575. Bethany Kaczanowski had the second best score on the vault with 8.7, followed by Lauren Browning (8.6) and Meghan Plutschouw (8.4).

On beam, Dani Krajewski was second with 8.15, followed by Cater (7.6) and Paige DeHaan (7.55). On floor, Krajewski again was second with 8.6, followed by Browning (8.4) and Cater (8.025). Jordan Lytle led the team on bars with 8.75, followed by

DeHaan (8.0), Browning (7.6) and Krajewski (7.25).

Browning was second in the all-around with 31.35.

"All the girls seem to be hitting their stride as we head into conference and regionals," said DeHaan. "I'm really excited for all of them."

The girls travel to Kenowa Hills on Wednesday, starting at 7:00 pm, then travel to Rockford on Monday.



Lauren DeHaan



Dani Krajewski

## - WRESTLING

### Wrestlers win OK White conference championship

by Karen Jack

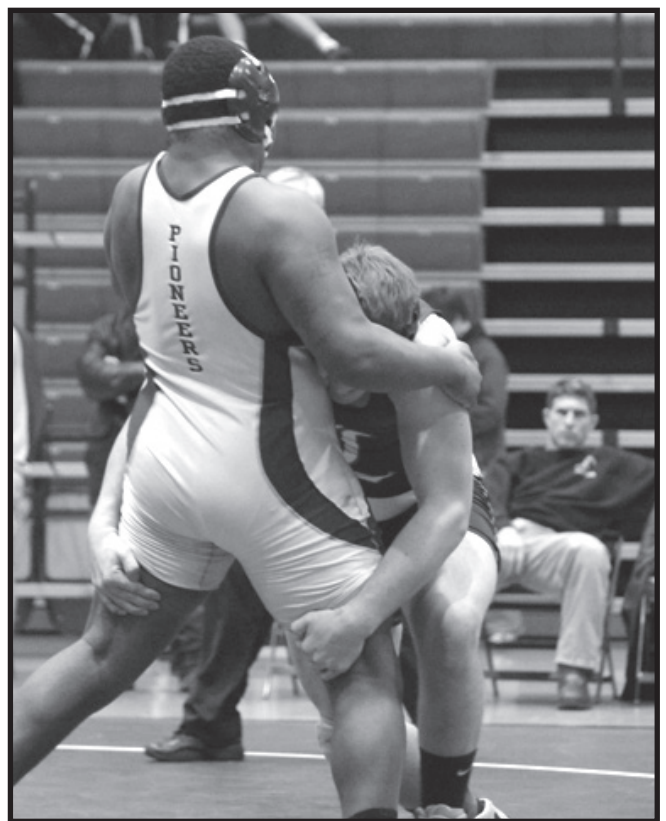
The Red Arrow wrestling team went undefeated this week, blanking Jenison 73-0 then winning the OK White conference title outright at the annual conference meet.

Winning by pin were Lucas Hall at 112 lbs. (1:13), Derek Krajewski at 125 lbs. (1:11), Bailey Jack at 130 lbs. (:35), Jordan Hall at 135 lbs. (:39) and Josh Colegrove at 215 lbs. (2:53). Winning by major decision were Zeth Dean at 119 lbs. (11-1), Jake Garcia at 152 lbs. (16-6) and Kanon Dean at 160 lbs. (15-5). Winning by decision were Dan Kruse at 140 lbs. (10-4) and Eli Boulton at 145 lbs. (4-2). Winning by forfeit were Sam Russell at 103 lbs., Max Dean at 171 lbs., Garrett Stehley at 189 lbs. and Logan Wilcox at 285 lbs.

"This was a great way to send out our senior class in their last league dual of their career," said coach RJ Boudro. "It was a weird week of wrestling because

of all the snow days, but our guys fought through the obstacles and wrestled well."

Wrestling, continued, page 14



Josh Colegrove is on the attack.

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

**- BASKETBALL**

## Lowell triumphs over G.R. Christian for the first time

by Karen Jack

As a young team, many thought they could never beat Grand Rapids Christian, but the Red Arrows boys' basketball team proved all the naysayers wrong

on Wednesday night. The team was unbelievably determined to play their best basketball and beat OK White foe Grand Rapids Christian 53-52.

They came out in the first half with both teams tentative in the shot-making department, then slowly got their rhythm going. The team made the extra pass to get the score and stunned Christian with their game playing. The Arrows kept the lead, but allowed the Eagles to get close a couple of times. Their tenacity and smart playing is what gave them the victory.

Up by seven in the fourth quarter, Lowell squandered their lead and opened the door for Christian to win the game. With 15 seconds left on the clock, Christian scored a basket to only trail by one point then fouled Lowell. The Arrows missed the free throws and Christian got the ball back with six seconds remaining in the game. They took a shot, but missed and Lowell got the rebound and the win.

Leading the offense

was sophomore Ryan Stevens with 18 points and freshman Matt Beachler with 17 points. Freshman Austin Branagan pitched in eight.

On Friday, Lowell had to face Jenison, who is undefeated in the OK White conference and lost 74-54. The score doesn't reflect how Lowell stayed with Jenison for most of the game, but the fourth quarter was their undoing. Jenison only led by three after the first quarter and then Lowell was outscored in the second quarter by seven, going into halftime down by ten. They made adjustments in the third quarter and outscored Jenison by three. In the fourth quarter, Jenison forced a lot of Lowell turnovers and scored 31 points to Lowell's 18.

Leading the offense was Beachler with 21, Stevens with 17 and Josh Branagan with 11.



Matt Beachler takes the ball up to the basket.



Isaac Brenner gets the two points.

The boys will host East Grand Rapids on Friday. Game time is 7:45 pm.

## Girls hang tough to beat Jenison, 53-42

by Karen Jack

The Lowell girls' basketball team split in the win column in OK White play, falling to Grand Rapids Christian 53-42 on Wednesday and then beating Jenison 57-50 on Friday.

In the Christian game, Lowell fell behind early getting outscored in the first half by eight points, which was about the same difference in the final score of the game. The team cut the lead to four a couple of times, but Christian would then go on a 6-0 run.

In the third quarter, they were only outscored by two points and in the fourth quarter, they were only outscored by one point. At one point, Lowell

was down by 16 points and cut Christian's lead to six with three minutes left in the fourth quarter. The Arrows missed three lay-ups to shorten the gap and Christian made most of their free throws at the end of the game.

"We played well in spurts but just couldn't get over the hump," said coach Jake Strotheide. "We are learning to compete with the best and I think our girls feel they can compete, but we just need to be more consistent."

Kate Montgomery and Aubreigh Steed led the offense with 16 points each.

Friday's game was a whole different story. Jenison, who many thought was the best team in the conference, didn't hold up well to Lowell's size. The Arrows were able to get some of the Jenison girls into foul trouble early, which was definitely a factor in Jenison's game playing. The Arrows played aggressive the entire game and never let up on Jenison, holding them to only 16

points the entire first half to their 24 points.

Jenison came out after halftime and matched the Arrows point-for-point in the third quarter Lowell outscored Jenison by one point in the fourth, not even opening the door to a possible run on Jenison's behalf.

"I'm really proud of our team defense," said Strotheide. "I was also proud of our third quarter [play, where] we had eight field goals on eight assists, which shows our girls are very unselfish and will make the extra pass to make the easier play."

Steed had her best game of the season with 15 points, four assists, five blocks, four steals and a career-high 17 rebounds. Montgomery led the offense with 21 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

The Lady Arrows will host East Grand Rapids on Friday at 6:00 pm.

...  
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~ Heywood Broun (1888 - 1939)

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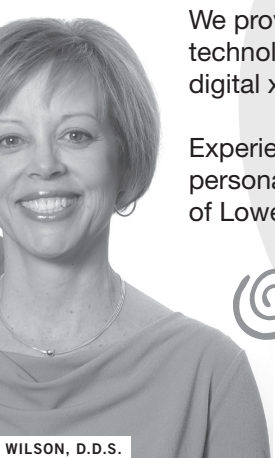
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# obituaries

## HARPER

Terri Jeane McPharlin Harper, 62, of Lowell, artist, teacher, mother, passed away January 2, 2014. She was born at home in Flint on Easter Sunday, March 25, 1951. She is survived by her sons, Drake V. Harper, 29, of Los Angeles, CA, and August (Gus) Langway Harper, 26, of Grand Rapids; sisters, Nancy (David) Klinger, of Redlands, CA, Shelia (Walter) McPharlin, of Old Saybrook, CT, Diane (Andy) McPharlin, of Ann Arbor, and Candace (Dennis) Williams, of Harbor Springs; and extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vincent Sears McPharlin and Sara (Sallie) Morris McPharlin. Terri earned a BA and teaching certificate from Western Michigan University, in elementary education, fine arts and reading. Like her father, she taught at Northern High School, Flint. She studied ceramics with and assisted Richard Leach, of Albion College, then became resident potter on the Art Train, traveling the rails in lower Michigan with art workshops and exhibits of Michigan artists. She also studied ceramics in Sun Valley, ID and Lansing. Her forte was functional pottery, high and low fire, raku, salt, and pit firing. She taught young children at Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp, Head Start for migrant children, and as substitute teacher. Terri was a member of Fountain Street Church and enjoyed art activities in Lowell and activities with the Seventh Day Adventists and Gilda's Club. She was diagnosed with MS in January 2013 and in August, on her way home from Fallasburg Fall Arts Festival, was in a bicycling accident and rehospitalized in December. She is remembered for her wide smile and her love of family, fine arts, culinary arts, and Northern Michigan. A remembrance gathering is scheduled for Sunday, June 22 at the Cross Village cottage. Donations in her memory may be made to Gilda's Club, 314 S. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331.

# ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

In the past articles, the five components of self-esteem were presented. The components presented were: 1.) the practice of living consciously, 2.) the importance of self-acceptance, 3.) the value of self-responsibility, 4.) the necessary quality of self-assertiveness, and 5.) the meaning of living purposefully. The last component that we will discuss is the practice of personal integrity.

Personal integrity involves living with ourselves on a very fundamental level. Questions such as: Are we honest? Are we trustworthy? Can we keep our promises? need to be asked on a daily basis. If we say we have standards, but our behaviors

don't match what we say, we lose self-worth and our self-esteem goes down. This is because our words and our behaviors don't match.

Most of the behaviors involved with our issues of personal integrity are small ones, not big ones. It has to do with being our own best friend and being comfortable in our own skin. For instance, when our lack of integrity has been exposed to other people, we can avoid them but you cannot avoid yourself. You are in your own skin 24/7. The feelings you have about yourself follow you around and these feelings deeply affect your self-esteem.

Your self-esteem is dependent on how well you negotiate your standards with your behaviors.

Sometimes our standards are too high, which can create a constant state of self-denigration. This form of self-destruction can lead to frustration and anger. Which, in turn creates low self-esteem. When this is a problem, we need to adjust our standards. Conversely, when our standards are too low, we can become disgusted with our lack of excellence. Once again, the standards need to be adjusted.

The challenge for all of us in the world today is to keep our standards realistically high while society values are disintegrating all around us. Far too often we feel like we're living in a moral sewer. Personal integrity is one of the hardest ones to achieve, but it truly is the one that allows you to feel

comfortable in your own skin. Also, it has major implications on how you conduct yourself with others on a day-to-day basis. Even though we might be far from perfect, we need to remember than small growth steps in the right direction help us build higher self-esteem.

Like so many things in life, in order to improve our self-esteem, we need to be aware of the components of self-esteem and then take the time to practice, practice and practice.

Next month, we will be discussing anxiety. These articles will be reviewing the new research that has been done on anxiety. If you have questions about this article or other general questions, please contact kathryndenhouter@gmail.com

## — LEGAL NOTICE —

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194850-DE

Estate of JAY DEVRIES,  
deceased. Date of birth:  
11/27/1930.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jay DeVries, deceased, who lived at 2154 Creekside Dr., SW, Byron Center, MI 49315, died 11/18/2013.

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

January 30, 2014

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

David DeVries  
1978 Glenvale Dr., SW  
Wyoming, MI 49519  
616-745-2047

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF  
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 14-195015-GA

In the matter of ADEM  
EJUPOVIC.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Hikmet Ejupovic, Zineta Stark, and Fikret Ejupovic whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 02/25/2014 at 9:00 am at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of Michele Boley for the appointment of a guardian for Adem Ejupovic.

02/03/2014

John D. Flynn (P27413)  
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
616-897-6632

Michele Boley  
121 Franklin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
616-826-1975

the lowell ledger

OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Thursday:  
8 am - 5 pm  
Friday: 8 am - Noon  
Closed Sat. & Sun.



## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

7	1	3	6	8	5	4	2	9
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### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

# TOWNSHIP OF BOWNE COUNTY OF KENT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**APPLICANT** – Township of Bowne, Alto, Michigan, County of Kent will hold a public hearing to consider potential projects for which funding may be applied under the CDBG Small Cities Program for Program Year 2014. Suggestions for potential projects will be solicited, both verbally and in writing, from all interested parties. The expected amount of CDBG funds for this program year will be discussed along with the range of projects eligible under this program and a review of previously funded projects. The hearings will begin at 7:30 P.M. on February 17, 2014 and will be held at Bowne Township Historic Township Hall at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, Michigan 49302. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Bowne Township Office at 616 868-6846. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during these hearings should notify Bowne Township at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, MI 49302 at least seven days prior to the hearing to be attended.

Published in Lowell Ledger  
on February 5, 2014  
Posted January 30, 2014,  
February 5, 2014



**office hours:**  
**Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.**  
**Fri. 8 a.m. - noon**  
**closed Sat. & Sun.**

# classifieds

## for sale

**BED & MATTRESS SET** - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.<sup>TFN</sup>

**FREEAD!**- Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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

**ARUBA TIME SHARE FOR RENT** - Weeks 13, 14 & 15, 1 week or all 3. Ground floor, walk out to the pool & beaches. For more information call 505-860-5296 or email: mcraig30@hotmail.com

**SAFE WOOD HEAT** - Remove fire hazard, smoke & dirt from home. Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace with 25 year warranty. Instant winter rebate, call for details. SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

**SOLID OAK DINING SET** - 41" circular table, with two leaves extending it to 65" long. Six solid oak decorative chairs (2 arm, 4 side) with removable sage chair pads, \$450 for complete set. Call Carol at 897-5501 if interested.

**2002 GMC SAVANA** - No Rust 3/4 ton, 2500 130K miles. AT-AC-ABS security system. Roof ladder racks, complete rear shelving with drawers, driver and passenger steel protection panel, new struts. Runs great. Perfect for service van, \$4,650. Make offer 616-822-8945.

**A BED** - A brand new queen pillowtop mattress set in plastic, w/warranty, sacrifice, \$135. Call 989-584-6818.<sup>TFN</sup>

**200 APPLIANCES** - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.<sup>TFN</sup>

**FEDEX NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE** Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

**KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET** - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.<sup>TFN</sup>

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

## for rent

**WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW** - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. In the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing, in the provision of real estate brokerage services and in the appraisal of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

**RENOVATED 2-BEDROOM VICTORIAN** (circa 1870) HOME IN LOWELL - 8 room (original woodwork/stained glass) including a pantry w/floor-to-ceiling cabinets & bonus room. New kitchen/bathroom cabinets & fixtures. Newer fridge. Washer & dryer included. New gas furnace (except water) included. Newly painted inside & out. Yard maintenance provided. Sits on 1 acre wooded lot w/plenty of space to play. Only a 3-minute walk to historic downtown Lowell. No smoking. \$950/month. Call 312-203-7350 for details. Available immediately.

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

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

**PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.**<sup>TFN</sup>

**UPS SHIPPING FEDEX PICKUP COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE**  
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 Fax 897-4809  
 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

## help wanted

**NOW HIRING** - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.<sup>TFN</sup>

**DRIVERS** - Local & regional! Wyoming, MI terminal. Company paid health insurance for FT jobs. Required: CDLA, 21+, 1 yr. or 50K miles in last 5 years in like-kind equipment, hazmat/tanker endorsement. Apply online: www.hollandregional.com/careers

**WALKING ROUTE CARRIER NEEDED FOR THE BUYERS GUIDE FOR SATURDAY DELIVERY** - Please apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Must be at least 15 years old to apply. No Phone Calls Please!

## wanted

**I WANT TO BUY** - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.<sup>TFN</sup>

## card of thanks

**THE FAMILY OF ALLAN BAIRD** expresses heartfelt appreciation to family & friends for their support during his illness & passing. Our sincere thanks for taking time to visit, sharing memories, sending cards, plants & flowers; bringing food & making monetary contributions to preserve Historic Alton Church. Your acts of kindness mean a great deal to us.

## card of thanks

**WE WISH TO THANK ALL OF THE PEOPLE** for the kind expression of sympathy at the passing of our brother and uncle Allan Baird. Also, thank you for the food, planter and cards.  
 Bruce & Marcia Baird & family

## WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS

our gratitude to family and friends who supported Philip Seese during his illness and passing. The encouragement, visits and kindness shown by so many were deeply appreciated.  
 Our heartfelt thank you,  
 Lois and Larry Seese

## services

**HANDY REPAIR SERVICE** - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.<sup>TFN</sup>

**GLOBAL DISCOUNT GARAGE DOORS** - Spring repairs, electric openers replaced & repaired. Free estimates. Lowest prices guaranteed. Call 616-334-3574.<sup>TFN</sup>

**TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE** - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.<sup>TFN</sup>

**SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!!** - Call us for a price comparison. We will need: weight, zip code & dimensions of the box. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

# Coming Events

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

**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.

**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.

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

**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 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

**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.

**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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**EVERY THURSDAY** - Night service at First Congregational

United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome.

**NEW CLASSES FOR EVERYONE** - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is invited to attend.

**MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNATIONAL** - Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Friendship Country Chapel, 10200 Grand River Ave. Moms & grandmas come pray for our kids & schools. Contact Missy at 308-7920 or missykooistra@gmail.com with any questions.

**ORIGAMI** - Tuesdays, 2-3 p.m. Learn the ancient art of paper folding. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

**KNITTING** - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Instructional knitting class by Cathie Richter. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

**SUPPER TOGETHER** - Tuesdays, 5:30-6 p.m. Join in a meal together before group begins. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

**GRIEF - ADULT GROUP** - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. A committed group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

**ANNUAL LEGO CONTEST** - Mon., Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. at Alvah N Belding Library. Stop in the library to sign up & pick up your instructions. Build your creation at home & return it to the library on or before Jan 31. Lego party & awards at Alvah N Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, MI, 794-1450.

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

**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.

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

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

**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.

**LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB** - Meets the second Wed. of each month, Sept. - May, 11:45 a.m., Schneider Manor. For more information call Jan at 897-2533.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A Christ centered program to help overcome life's hurts, habits, hangups. Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, www.impactchurch.org or www.celebrater-recovery.com

**FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS** - Fun at Calvary for boys & girls preschool - 8th grade. Cadets for boys 1st-8th; GEMS for girls 3rd - 8th; Kingdom Kids for boys & girls preschool - 2nd grade. 1125 W. Main, Lowell. Ph. 897-7060.

**LOWELL** - Varsity sporting events, concerts, school board meetings, city council meetings, DDA meetings & planning commission meetings can be viewed on the 'local' Comcast public access channel (25) within a day or two of when they were held. Many athletic contests & concerts can be heard 'live' from the www.wlhrsradio.org internet radio website.

**FIT CLUB** - Every Tues. at 9 a.m., Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

**FREE SENIOR PANCAKE BREAKFAST** - Every third Wed. from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St. RSVP 897-8473.



# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Wrestling, continued

At the conference meet, Lowell blew the entire conference away, scoring 198 points. The next closest team was Forest Hills Central (FHC) with 118 points. In that meet, Lowell sent all 14 wrestlers to the finals where 11 were crowned champions and

three crowned runners-up.

In the finals, Lucas Hall beat Daniel Tomko of Forest Hills Central at 112 lbs., Zeth Dean beat Austin Tomko of Forest Hills Central at 119 lbs., Krajewski beat Jared Smith of Caledonia at 125 lbs. and Jack beat Nick Hughes of Forest

Hills Central at 130 lbs. all by major decision. Jordan Hall pinned Jordan Steiner of Caledonia at 135 lbs. and Kruse beat John Leark of Forest Hills Central at 140 lbs. by decision. Garcia beat Andrew Walski of East Grand Rapids at 152 lbs. by major decision and Kanon

Dean beat Dan Burkholder of Jenison at 160 lbs. by decision. Both Max Dean, who beat Joey Alcala of Caledonia at 171 lbs. and Garrett Stehley, who beat Zane Gorby of Caledonia at 189 lbs, both won by pin. Josh Colegrove beat David Evens of East Grand Rapids

by decision at 215 lbs.

“Having 14 wrestlers in the finals is a great accomplishment but I was more proud of the way our guys wrestled regardless of who their opponent was,” added Boudro. “Dan Kruse started us off with [a] huge win over John Leark and

I thought that Eli Boulton and Logan Wilcox really showed how tough our team was against some top guys from FHC. Our guys brought great intensity to the finals and I am happy with the direction our program is headed.”



Lucas Hall takes control.



Max Dean gets the pin.

**The Arrows head to districts on Thursday at Lowell High School beginning at 6:00 pm. They head to Coopersville on Saturday for individual districts. Tournament time is unknown.**

# EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** Does the fact that we've had such a cold and snowy winter mean that global warming might not be such a big problem after all? - *Lacey L., Lynchburg, VA*

It's tempting to think that the cold air and snow outside augur the end of global warming, but don't rejoice yet. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), weather and climate are two very different beasts: "Weather is what's happening outside the door right now; today a snowstorm or a thunderstorm is approaching. Climate, on the other hand, is the pattern of weather measured over decades."

Isolated weather events and even seasonal trends are not an indication of global warming's existence one way or another, and most climatologists agree that the carbon pollution we have been spewing into the atmosphere for the past century is leading to more frequent and intense storms of every kind and causing greater temperature swings all around the planet. In short, the harsh winter we are having shouldn't be viewed as a refutation of global warming, but rather as further evidence of a growing problem.

"There is a clear long-term global warming trend, while each individual year does not always show a temperature increase relative to the previous year, and some years show greater changes than others," reports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The

agency chalks up these year-to-year fluctuations to natural processes such as El Niño or volcanic eruptions, but points out that, regardless, the 20 warmest years on record have occurred since 1981, while the 10 warmest were in the past 12 years. And global average temperatures have risen by 1.4°F overall since the early 20th century.

According to Becky Oskin of LiveScience.com, shrinking polar ice caps as a result of global warming in recent decades are one factor that may be contributing to the cold weather in North America this winter. "One way the shrinking ice changes weather is by pushing winter air south," she reports. "When the stored ocean heat gradually escapes in autumn, it changes the pattern of an atmospheric wind called the polar vortex, streaming frigid Arctic air into North America and Europe." Meanwhile, a 2012 study by researchers Jennifer Francis and Stephen Vavrus concluded that intense warming in the Arctic has caused changes to the jet stream that regulates air circulation around the planet, potentially leading to stronger winter storms hitting the eastern seaboard of the U.S.

And what about all that snow? "Hotter air around the globe causes more moisture to be held in the air than in prior seasons," reports UCS. "When storms occur, this added moisture can fuel heavier precipitation in the form of more intense rain or snow." The U.S. is already enduring more intense rain and snowstorms, says the group: "The amount of rain or snow falling in the heaviest one percent of storms has risen nearly 20 percent, averaged nationally—almost three times the rate of increase in total precipitation between 1958 and 2007." And some regions of the country "have



seen as much as a 67 percent increase in the amount of rain or snow falling in the heaviest storms."

And Oskin points out that while we may be bundling up and shoveling out in the U.S., it's turned into another scorcher of a summer in the Southern Hemisphere: 2013 was Australia's hottest year on record, and 2014 has started off even hotter, with temperatures soaring to 125°F and severe fire warnings issued in at least two states there. Apparently global warming is still on.

**CONTACTS:** UCS, [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org); NOAA, [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov); LiveScience.com, [www.livescience.com](http://www.livescience.com).

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**THEME:**  
**VALENTINE'S DAY**

- ACROSS**
- \*"Love Me Tender" performer
  - "And She \_\_\_\_" by Talking Heads
  - "For Whom the \_\_\_\_ Tolls"
  - Wall coat
  - B&B, e.g.
  - \*He fell in love with a face "that launched a thousand ships"
  - February "People," e.g.
  - Parental involvement org.
  - Trojan War story
  - \*He fell in love with Little Red-Haired Girl
  - \_\_\_\_\_'s fee
  - Old age, archaic
  - Display displeasure
  - \*Bride and groom say their "I \_\_\_\_"
  - Choir voice
  - Part of Yugoslavia
  - Iris holder
  - Paleozoic and Mesozoic
  - The fourth prime number
  - Rigid necklace
  - Of the kidneys
  - Baseball points
  - Was attached
  - Jittery
  - It should be opened when starting a fire
  - Winslow \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ Simpson
  - Back talk
  - "C'\_\_ la vie!"
  - EU currency

CROSSWORD														
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71						72				73				



**JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4**

- Superbowl XLVIII had the Seattle Seahawks crushing the Denver Broncos 43-8 to win their first-ever Superbowl.
- Actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46, was found dead in his apartment.
- The 2014 Olympics begin tomorrow Feb. 6 in Sochi, Russia.
- Last Sunday, a convicted murderer, Michael David Elliot, serving four life sentences, escaped from an Ionia Correctional Facility, hijacked a car. He was captured by LaPorte, Indiana police on Monday.
- A fisherman was rescued on the remote Marshall Islands, more than 5,000 miles from Mexico, after being lost at sea for over a year. He says he lived on rainwater, fish and turtles.
- A Goodwill store manager discovered \$43,300 in \$100 bills in blue envelopes sticking out of a donated bathrobe pocket. A first he thought the envelopes were just trash, checked and found the money. The store is located in Monroe, Michigan.

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- |   |  |                                    |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 55. *"Just an ____-fashioned love song" | 64. Disturbances                                       | 25. *Even-Steven kind of date      |
| 57. *Cyrano de Bergerac's love interest | 65. Get it wrong                                       | 26. Convex molding                 |
| 60. *Popular Valentine's delivery       | 67. Spur on  | 27. Red Cross supply               |
|   | 68. Strong adhesive                                    | 29. Arborist's concern             |
|   | 69. By means of  | 31. Lord's worker                  |
|   | 70. Fragrant resin                                     | 32. Egg cell                       |
|   | 71. "I, Claudius" role                                 | 33. *Aphrodite's Roman counterpart |
|   | 72. Bird-to-be   | 34. Early stage of sickness, e.g.  |
|   | 73. *What Snow White did before Prince Charming's kiss | 36. High school breakout           |

**DOWN**

- Larger-than-life
- Alfred "\_\_\_\_" LaRue
- Americans need one to enter Australia
- Accustom
- Sister to Blanche DuBois
- Clean the blackboard, e.g.
- Symbol of industriousness
- Mix-up
- Like white-headed eagle
- Albany-Buffalo canal
- His pants are on fire?
- Hallucinogen
- Slang for communist sympathizers
- Lazybones
- Breed
- What's-his-name

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12

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		7	4					1
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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.

**THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL**

**When you think about going to the dentist, would you say..**

- I go every 6 months
- I go only when I have to
- I don't go because of cost
- I don't go because of fear
- I go once a year
- I never go

**TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL**

go to

**WWW.**

**thelowellledger.com**



# "Bricks" offers new food options in Alto

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Residents of Alto welcomed a brand new dining option to the area when Bricks opened for business last month inside the popular Alto Marathon gas station located on M50.

Owner of the store and the newly opened eatery Brad Yonker said that plans have been in the works for a new food option for several years while they finished up a contract with their recently closed pizza franchise. "When we first bought the store we were not in a position financially to pursue other food service options, so we signed up for

five more years with Noble Romans," said Yonker.

In the meantime, he and his partner Nick Fischer started to think about what they would do with the space in the future. "We looked at many different chain fast food restaurants but most would not fit in our building as we are very limited on room. A year ago, we really started to look at what we wanted to do. We knew pizza was a given because of its popularity and we knew we could make a better pizza. We also knew we did not want subs because it seems everyone has them. We wanted

something with a broader appeal." So they did away with the idea of a franchise and began to develop their own restaurant concept.

"Nick and I both love Mexican food so we thought that was an option," said Yonker. The station previously housed a successful Taco Bell restaurant but they did not feel returning to this format was their best option. They began studying, and eating at, Mexican food restaurants, such as Chipotle and Qdoba in an effort to gain more insight into the customized food experience offered at those restaurants.

"We felt that it was a better way to do Mexican because it allows you to create your food your way." The duo decided on a pizza and Mexican combination soon thereafter and then began deciding on a name.

"We really had no idea but wanted a single word," said Yonker, "an easily remembered word that sounded good." It was actually Yonker's wife Megan who came up with the name Bricks, a clever combination of the co-owners' first names: Brad and Nick. "It stuck!" exclaimed Yonker.

Bricks' menu offers a wide variety but keeps it simple. Pizza is sold ready-made by the slice, along with bread sticks, both with and without cheese. Custom made large pizzas are also available.

The Mexican portion of the menu boasts burritos, burrito bowls, tacos and salads, all made to order with chips and salsa; queso or guacamole are also available. Bricks will also offer breakfast options for its patrons. "I am very excited about breakfast," said



Bricks is housed inside a completely renovated and updated space. The new countertops are shown here in progress.



Bricks is located inside this Marathon gas station on M-50. (stock photo)



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Please keep your submission to 200 words or less.

Feel free to submit a photo as well.



Yonker. The list of morning options is also customizable and includes sandwiches, breakfast burritos, biscuits and gravy and a variety of breakfast pizzas. "You can put fresh salsa and veggies in your breakfast burrito or have a ham and Swiss croissant. There [are] a lot of options."

The newly renovated space where Bricks resides is sleek and modern in decor. Its menus are displayed across a series of big screen televisions for ease of viewing. It includes its own register where guests can pay for both restaurant and general merchandise purchases from the store adding additional customer convenience. The space is inviting and quite

unexpected for its location. "The dining experience will hopefully not be like anything you would expect to have in a gas station. We are building a product we like and then pricing it accordingly rather than choosing product solely based on price," said Yonker, who reports that the restaurants price points are similar to those competing in the same markets.

Yonker is personally managing Bricks at this time but hopes to hire a full-time manager and several more employees in the coming months. Bricks entire pizza and breakfast menus are currently available and the Mexican portion of the menu will be phased in over the next few weeks.

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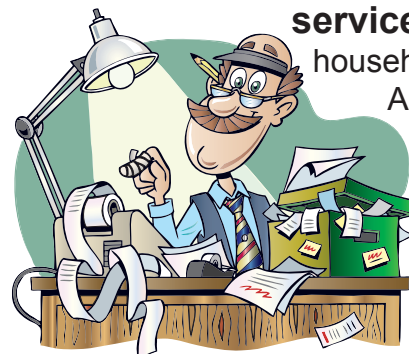
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