

saying goodbye to Lowell's Cousins



page 9

annual winter gathering



page 7

lhs sports



pages 10 & 11

50 CENTS



Lowell wrestlers crowned Division 2 State Champs!

by Karen Jack

In an epic battle against Lowell's biggest rival in the past several years, the Lowell Red Arrow wrestling team brought home the gold from Battle Creek in the 2014 team state

championship beating St. Johns 34-34 on third criteria. To get there, though, they had to get through Warren Lincoln in the quarterfinals and Niles in the semifinals. They beat the Warren

Lincoln Abes 58-16 with wins from Sam Russell (major), Lucas Hall (void), Zeth Dean (pin), Derek Krajewski (pin), Bailey Jack (tech), Jordan Hall (pin), Dan Kruse (decision),

Kanon Dean (major), Max Dean (pin), Garrett Stehley (void) and Josh Colegrove (void).

Winners in the 43-16 win against Niles were Jack (decision), Jordan Hall (pin),

Nate Stephens (decision), Jake Garcia (decision), Kanon Dean (decision), Max Dean (pin), Colegrove (pin), Stehley (decision), Lucas Hall (tech), and Zeth Dean (major).

Knowing the finals were going to be a barnburner, the Lowell coaches had several scenarios ready depending on what weight they started at and who won the toss. They didn't know the starting weight until a half hour prior to match time and Lowell won the toss. With starting weight at 285 lbs., Lowell sent Colegrove out as their heavyweight and St. Johns sent Ty Wildmo. Wildmo was too much for Colegrove and beat him by

State champs, continued, page 8



The 2014 state champions surround their well-earned trophy after the meet.

City officials hold cow pie slinging ceremony for Lowell's new energy facility

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The city of Lowell held a groundbreaking ceremony for Lowell Energy AD's (LEAD) Anaerobic Digester at the future home of "the waste to energy facility," located at 625 Chatham, on Feb 20.

Community leaders, employees and board members of Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) were among those in attendance for the event which hosted several guest speakers. They also, as an alternative to the traditional shovel ceremony, participated in an official "poop toss" using mock cow pies to celebrate the upcoming construction.

Pam Landes, co-developer of the project, along with partner Greg Northrup opened the event.

"We are so happy to see so many people here to celebrate the beginning of this project," said Landes, going on to detail the journey taken to make this renewable energy source a reality.

Mayor Jim Hodges also took to the podium and said, "This is a very unique project. It is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come

New facility, continued, page 2



LEAD partner Pam Landes; CEO of Rockford Construction Mike VanGessel; LL&P board chairman Greg Canfield and mayor Jim Hodges toss a "cow pie" as an informal and humorous groundbreaking activity.

Union talks appear to be stalled after latest fact finding

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

There was another bump on the road to a settlement in the perpetually-stalled union negotiations when a meeting was canceled on Thursday, Feb. 20.

"We are extremely disappointed that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) canceled today's negotiation session," said city manager Mark Howe.

"We were informed of this late yesterday afternoon and were told that they need more time to prepare proposals for us."

"He's trying to make the argument that we're delaying the bargaining and that's just preposterous," said IBEW attorney Ted Iorio. "To engage in fruitless meetings that aren't going anywhere is a waste of our time as well as taxpayer money."

The city and IBEW representatives met on Wednesday, Feb. 19 to discuss the contract for light and power workers. A second meeting was scheduled the next day to negotiate the contract for city workers. This meeting

was canceled by the union after they felt the city was unwilling to negotiate during the first meeting.

"We went absolutely nowhere again. Nowhere. They're not willing to do anything," Iorio said. "It didn't make any sense for

us to waste a second day and the mediator agreed with us. The mediator had no problem with voiding the meeting. On every issue they've remained exactly where they were, for all practical purposes and any language agreed to was their language. Why would you waste more time, money and energy if that's what the attitude is going to be?"

Negotiations, continued, page 2

"We are making every effort to get to the table and negotiate an agreement."

~ Mark Howe



along main street

Negotiations, continued

Howe said the city is ready and willing to negotiate.

"We are making every effort to get to the table and negotiate an agreement," Howe said. "I think it's important that you and your readers are aware of this."

Iorio said the IBEW is going to start negotiating with itself if the city is unwilling to participate in the process.

"We're going to negotiate with ourselves and come up with a proposal and give them the proposal and see if that will get them moving," Iorio said. "There is no incentive for them to resolve this."

Unionizing workers have been negotiating their initial labor contract with the city for two years.

TAE KWON DO WORKSHOP
All ages – for beginners and all belt ranks. A great opportunity for additional training and for those who want to try this class. No charge for workshop. Sat., March 1, 2-4 pm at the Lowell YMCA.

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

GILDA'S CLUB ACTIVITIES
Family Night – Tues., Mar. 4, 6-7:30 pm. Kids, grab your adults and join your friends from Gilda's Club Lowell for our monthly Family Night! Each month, Jacqueline Scherer will lead a fun activity specifically designed for the whole family. All supplies will be provided. Seriously Funny Bingo – Tues., Mar. 4, 6-7:30 pm. Getting ready for LaughFest? Come for a fun night of Bingo! LaughFest prizes including tickets, LaughFest apparel & more will be awarded to the winners! This is a member's only event. All ages are welcome.

GIVE BLOOD BENEFIT FOR GILDA'S CLUB
There will be a benefit for Gilda's Club on Wed., March 5 and Mon., March 10 from noon to 7 pm at the Kent County Fairgrounds - King Memorial Youth Center, 225 S. Hudson Street. Each person who attempts to donate blood will get a t-shirt plus be entered to win tickets to see Lily Tomlin, Chris Tucker or other LaughFest shows. For more information contact Michigan Blood at 1-866-642-5663 or donate.miblood.org - appointments recommended.

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., March 5 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

CRAFTS AROUND THE WORLD WORKSHOP
The Lowell Area Historical Museum presents Crafts around the World. Join the fun, for ages 8-14, on March 8, 9:15-10:45 am or 11-12:30 pm at the Wittenbach/Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes. Explore two different cultures. Learn to make your own Jamaican gourd bowls and/or Australian Aboriginal masks and boomerangs. Contact the museum to register at 897-7688 or history@lowellmuseum.org

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
Lowell High School seniors, General Local Scholarship Applications are available in the Student Services Center. To be fair to all students, applications will not be accepted after 3:00 pm on Friday, March 14. Don't forget to include two letters of recommendation, transcript and personal statement. For more information please call Mrs. Nauta at 987-2913.

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.

New facility, continued

together to produce this alternative energy and to be on the cutting front of doing that." He went on to thank the companies contracted to contribute their waste products to the digester, which includes Litehouse Foods located here in Lowell and Swisslane Dairy Farms in Alto.

Greg Canfield, chairman of the board for LL&P, addressed the crowd briefly before project developer Northrup went on to further describe the details of the digester's operations.

"Waste goes into the digester and is converted to methane gas," explained Northrup using a series of diagrams, "this gas then fires the turbines creating energy."

The digester will create 800 kilowatts of energy for

LL&P's 2,600 customers, just one of the many benefits of the development scheduled for completion this time next year, according to LL&P general manager Greg Pierce.

"The project has huge potential to benefit the customers of LL&P. First, it places us among the leaders in the state for providing a significant portion of our energy from a renewable source. Second, based on the current plan LL&P would purchase the facility from the developer in five years. Ultimately this means LL&P will be able to operate the facility itself, integrate this generation into our energy portfolio at a significantly reduced cost and continue to offer rates that are lower than other electric providers in the area," said Pierce.

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City council discusses fate of Riverwalk sugar maple

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The city council meeting at city hall Tuesday, Feb. 18 was relatively uneventful. There was no citizen comment from the audience of five.

The council accepted a low bid of \$18,584 from Sanisweep, Inc., a Grand Rapids' street sweeping company. Sanisweep will clean Lowell's streets three times a year for the next three years.

The sugar maple tree in front of Englehardt Library will be removed. The city has been working to save the tree for five years.

"We're talking about the old sugar maple that's right along the riverwalk," said city manager Mark Howe.

A report from Brian McKenzie, an arborist with the Grand Rapids' firm

Bartlett Tree Experts, said the tree would die within five years despite any efforts taken to save it.

"In spite of these significant efforts," McKenzie's report stated, "unfortunately this tree continues to decline."

According to McKenzie the cost to remove the tree would be "approximately \$1,850.00." The city has spent \$4,603 since 2008 on efforts to save the tree.

"I'm surprised it made it through the ice storm," said councilperson Sharon Ellison. "We all are."

"It's been a grand and wonderful tree, but all things must pass," said mayor James Hodges.

The city will spend \$7,950 on a new garage door at city hall. The door will be purchased from

Raynor Door, an Ada company. "It would be a lot less maintenance and a lot less liability," said Lowell police chief Steve Bukala.

"I don't think we have a choice," Howe said.

Mayor Hodges congratulated Greg Canfield for being named "person of the year" by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Hodges also noted the opening of the biodigester facility would take place Thursday, Feb. 27. Matt Mayer, recent city council candidate, was appointed to the planning commission.

After exactly one hour the meeting adjourned to a closed session to discuss the union negotiations. Councilperson Jeff Altoft voted against the closed session, while councilperson Chris Schwab abstained.



The council in discussion, from left to right Jeff Altoft, Sharon Ellison and Mayor Hodges.

Record snow affects school calendar

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell Area Schools' superintendent Greg Pratt issued a letter to parents on Feb. 19 regarding changes in the school calendar. This year we experienced an unprecedented season of inclement weather that caused a total of nine full day cancellations and a single two-hour delay.

State law regulates the minimum amount of days and instructional hours students are to receive during each school year.

"Under the state school code, as of today, our district will be required to make up two days," stated Pratt in the letter.

Due to record-breaking amounts of snow days reported by a majority of districts throughout Michigan, state legislature is considering a solution in response, though they have not yet laid out any specifics on what this remedy would be.

Typically make-up days are added to the end of the school calendar. The 2013-

2014 school year is/was scheduled to end on June 6. Pratt requested in the letter that parents reserve the entire following week, June 9-13, in the event that additional days are needed to obtain instructional hour obligations.

"We will hold on a final decision as we may experience more inclement weather and we will hear more from our legislators on this issue."

Pratt thanked parents for their patience assuring them that safety is their

main priority when making cancellation decisions. He also expressed his gratitude for the hard work of the schools' transportation department. He added, "If you have the occasion to thank a member of our transportation staff, please do so. They have done an outstanding job in their work to monitor weather, test roads, observe bus stops and check sidewalks to assure a safe transport of students to and from school every day."

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) are proposing to build a 197 foot tall monopole communications tower, at the approx. vicinity of 84th Street SE, Alto, MI 49302. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to:

Trileaf Corp, Noelle Hoeffner
n.hoeffner@trileaf.com
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Lowell man facing felony OWI charges

Michigan State Police are investigating a fatal crash in Lowell Township that took the life of 36-year-old Tonya Beha of Lake Odessa.

The crash occurred on northbound Alden Nash Avenue on the I-96 overpass just after 10 pm Saturday, Feb. 15.

Beha's Honda Odyssey minivan had run out of gas and Beha and another woman were pushing the vehicle. Seven occupants had been in the van, including some of Beha's five children. All occupants were transported to Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids.

A Chevrolet pickup driven by 48-year-old Jay Hobbs of Lowell was traveling northbound on Alden Nash behind the Honda. The pickup rear-ended the minivan, striking

Beha. Hobbs fled the scene and was later captured in the woods south of the intersection. Beha was pronounced dead at the scene.

Beha's neighbor, Marcia Raffler, said the Beha family have been good neighbors.

"We didn't know her well, but are very saddened by all this," said Raffler.

Another neighbor, Trudy Shade, said Beha was a great mom to her five children — four boys and one girl who range in age from six to 14 years old.

"She was always with the kids," said Shade.

Wayne Piercefield, principal at West Elementary in Lake Odessa, said the school is using standard procedure for incidents like this. Anytime the school family experiences

a death like this, he said, a staff meeting is called, so everyone is aware of the situation. Counseling services are made available for anyone directly or indirectly involved.

Alcohol was a factor in the crash and Hobbs is being lodged at the Kent County Jail for operating while intoxicated (OWI) causing death and leaving the scene of a fatal crash.

Michigan State Police, Rockford Post, were assisted at the scene by members of the Lakeview Post, Kent County Sheriff Department, Ionia County Sheriff Department, Lowell and Bowne Township fire departments, Life Ambulance and AeroMed.

Witnesses are asked to call Trooper Surbrook of the Michigan State Police, Rockford, 616-866-4411.

college news

Grand Valley State University announces the names of students who were placed on the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester concluding in December.

Students honored for the fall semester from: Ada: Avery K. Andrus, Haley L. Andrus, Stephanie R. Banta, Amy N. Bartkus, David A. Beerens, Paul D. Bratt, Clare G. Carlson, Edward Carlton, Lauren E. Chan, Martha A. Corby, Amber M. Covert, David A. Emery, Megan E. Emigh, Charles J. Farmer, Dominic G. Fischer, Molly B. Fleetham, Terence A. Gillespie, Ana C. Gomez, Zachary P. Hamersma, Gregory A. Harmon, Elizabeth A. Harris, Sage M. Heiss, Erin K. Hilbert, Jane E. Holshoe, Ryan C. Hoogmoed, Kolby C. Kloosterman, Emma R. LaMore, Meredith A. Lane, Allison G. Lemley, Andrew J. Lesneski, Genevieve A. MacDonald, Laura J. McGuire, Daniel J. Merck, Jenna M. Michael, Amy C. Mohr, Leah C. Monet, Elizabeth A. Monterusso, Lenox J. Napolitan, Emily R. Noordyke, Turner S. Novak, Kaylie S. Petroelje, Katherine E. Platt, Klaire C. Prafke, Michael N. PreFontaine, Tani L. Richter, Zachary N. Rinvelt, Gabriel R. Rodriguez, Kelly A. Schovan, Blake R. Sexton, Guy T. Sexton, Kaley E. Shaheen, Kyrn M. Stoddard, Emma L. Tompkins, Cassandra E. Trapp, Kelly M. Trapp, Paige E. Vandegrift, Merrill E. Weber, Paul D. Westdale, Rose K. White, Jenna M. Williams, Jonathan T. Wood, and Allison J. Young; Alto: Blake M. Abraham, Katrina R. Andutan, Kelsey L. Canada, Taylor A. DeHaan,

Emily R. Dingman, Andrea L. Engerson, Devon T. Fata, Jennifer J. Hedberg, Heidi A. Lenartz, Chelsea E. McNees, Ashley M. Metternick, Brandee D. Taylor, Reuben P. Wattenhofer, and Matthew A. Williamson; Lowell: Kyle L. Barrett, Poulomi Chakma, Lindsey A. Crawford, Brooke A. Curtis, Lauren A. Daniels, Lauren E. Dood, Natasha N. Eggleston, Heather D. Ferris, Alissa M. Ford, Stephen R. Gillhespy, Bailey E. Groendyke, Lauren M. Heemstra, Randal J. Hogan, Alison M. Huffman, Philip R. Janowski, John L. Jansen, Katelyn R. Kaczanowski, Heather E. Kehoe, Kyle J. Klaasen, Matthew A. Kurtz, Austin M. McNeal, Shelby L. Perkins, Andrew S. Potter, Brandi S. Rix, Kaylea W. Sanford, Leah B. Schlosser, Belinda M. Thomas, Rebecca J. Underwood, and Mary K. VanderLaan.

of Business Administration, marketing; Todd Douglas DeJong, Master of Arts, educational leadership: K-12 school principal; and Hilary Jean Byma, Master of Social Work, social work: interpersonal practice; and of Lowell: Melissa Ann Cone, Master of Arts, counselor education: school counseling.

Northern Michigan University has announced their dean's list for the fall 2013 semester.

The following students of Ada qualified with a grade point average of 4.00, Elizabeth Finkelstein and Amelia Richards; the following students qualified with a grade point average of 3.25-3.99, Tanner Sheppard, of Lowell; Marisa Bowie, Peter Gibson, and Johnathon Stasiak, all of Ada.

Central Michigan University announces the names of students who were placed on the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester concluding in December. The list includes those students who earned a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and higher grade point average.

Students honored for the fall semester in Ada: Jacob Aronoff, Kelli Brunette, Melanie Buck, Meredith Greengard, Tessa Heeringa, Peter Konyndyk, Jenna Pope, Kaely Schlosser, and Adam Schmieder; Alto: Alicia Batchelor, Benjamin Ertl, Kalli Fifarek, Leigha Shoaf, and Bridgette Smith; Lowell: Kristin Bouwhuis, Katie DeVries, Kennedy Dodde, Chelsea Dyer, Shelby Herb, Emily Jelsma, Kelsey Mankel, Taylor Schumacher, and Kory Stevens.

Western Michigan University has announced the graduation list for the 2013 fall term. The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors, of Ada: Ryan Paul Koessel, Master of Business Administration, business administration: finance; Michelle Lee Carter, Specialist in Education, educational leadership; Jose Luis Reyna, Master of Public Administration, public administration; Matthew A. Honeck, Bachelor of Arts, sociology; of Alto: Michele Lynn Siderman, Doctor of Philosophy, educational leadership: K-12 leadership; Dillion P Barrett, Bachelor

viewpoint

to the editor

helping to prevent child abuse

To the Editor,

An opportunity for increased child abuse prevention funding in Barry County.

We are writing to request that our friends here in Barry County give special consideration to making a tax check-off contribution to the Children's Trust Fund

(CTF) when filing your Michigan income tax forms. Beginning this year, all new tax check-off contributions coming from Barry County made to the Children's Trust Fund will be returned to us as a dollar for dollar increase in our CTF grant. With this new plan, we have

a tremendous opportunity to increase the support coming to Barry County for our child abuse prevention efforts.

Here in Barry County, we use our funding to help with child abuse prevention programming provided by the family support center. On a statewide basis, grants from the Michigan Children's Trust Fund support a wide range of programs and services

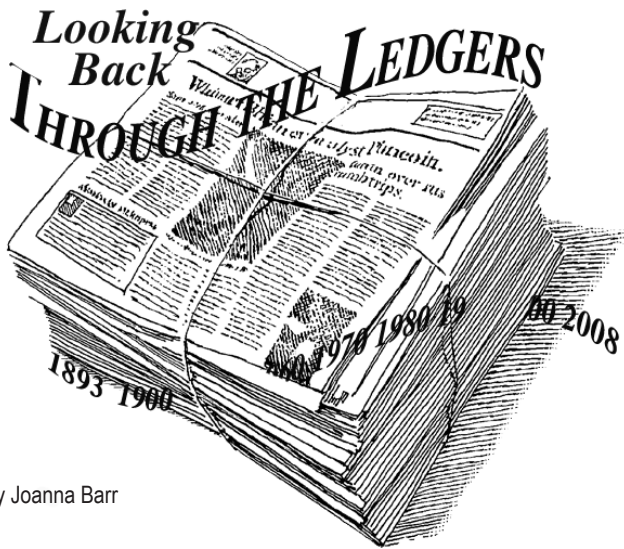
through the network of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils. Based on local priorities, funding is used for initiatives, such as Baby Basics Prevention of Shaken Baby and the CRIB safe sleep education, parent support, child sexual assault prevention and education, "Your Baby's First Year" book for new families, mandated reporter training, communitywide Family Workshop Series,

and education to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

To take advantage of this opportunity when filing your Michigan income taxes, use the charitable contribution Form 4642 to contribute to the Michigan Children's Trust Fund. Our Family Support Center of Barry County, whose mission is to eliminate child abuse and neglect, has a unique opportunity this tax

season to increase funding for the services we provide in our county. Please consider supporting us through a tax check-off contribution to the Michigan's Children's Trust Fund as you file your state income tax.

For more information about CTF, how to contribute and how to participate in local fundraising activities, please visit www.michigan.gov/ctf



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal February 27, 1889

Headline: Four new states. Forty-two stars entitled to a place on the flag. Both houses of Congress vote to admit North and South Dakota, Washington and Montana territories – the bill signed.

Why go to Washington to attend the Inauguration party. Come to Lowell instead.

The Wisner Mills bought 2,000 bushels of wheat from farmers last Thursday.

F. R. Ecker has a lot of little chickens, which are as lively as though the weather was that of May instead of mid-winter.

A day or two ago John Callier had two of his fingers caught between the iron rolls in Wisner's Mills, where he works. They were flattened out at the ends, but will come out all right in the spring probably.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 26, 1914

A large crowd witnessed a hotly contested game of basketball at City hall, last evening, between the local High school team and the High School team from Eaton Rapids. Score 24 to 22 in favor of Lowell.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 2, 1939

The work of digging the foundation for the new post office building is moving along at a good pace. Ernest VanDam who operates the big power shovel is a past master at the job and spectators are always on hand viewing his work with admiration. Men and machinery at work is always an enchanting sight.

The local auto license bureau has been a bee-hive of activity, especially the last five days of February, during which period nearly 1,500 sets of plates were

issued by the branch manager Mary Arehart and her assistants. Tuesday was the biggest single day when 451 sets of plates were issued. About 2,500 sets of 1939 plates have been issued here to date. Under the law, the use of 1938 plates is now illegal.

"Depressions weren't hard to bear in the old days," Elmer White believes, "because there were fewer of these 'necessities' we enjoy today."

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 27, 1964

A communication to all directors of Lowell Showboat, Inc. was issued this week by Frank L. Stephens to hold up all reservations and negotiations for talent until the city council rules on closing Lafayette St. so that permanent bleachers can be erected. The continuation of the Showboat may hinge on this single decision!

Winners of a race from Ada to Lowell Thursday night were the City of Lowell and the County of Kent when they collected in Justice Rittenger's court fines totaling \$53.60 each from Chaz Kiel and Terry L. Dawson. The two 17-year-old boys were observed by sheriff's deputies racing from Ada to Lowell and were followed at speeds of over 95 miles per hour. They were stopped in Lowell where the county and city police each issued tickets to the boys for speeding.

Moore's Restaurant on East Main Street began remodeling operations at their building Monday. Work is underway to lower the ceiling and modernize the building.

A routine stop of a car with no tail lights on Saturday night by alert Lowell police, led to the arrest of two Belding juveniles who had stolen the car they were driving, earlier in the evening. They were turned over to juvenile authorities in Ionia County.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 1, 1989

Headline: City council agrees to help YMCA repair King Memorial Pool. At its Feb. 21 meeting, Lowell's city council voted to allocate \$22,000 toward the repair of the King Memorial Pool - \$11,000 from the Lee Fund and the \$11,000 the Look Memorial Fund board approved at its Feb. 15 meeting.

B.J. Thomas, most notably remembered for his smash hit "Raindrops keep falling on my head," will provide the headline entertainment at the 1989 Lowell Showboat

Stephen Wittenbach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Wittenbach, of Ada, has been honored as District Sales Manager of the Year for the Midwest Region of the Oldsmobile division of General Motors. Out of 120 district managers nationwide. He is a 1977 graduate of Lowell High School with a B.A. degree from Aquinas College in 1981 and [he also] received an M.B.A. degree from Western Michigan College in 1985.

outdoors



think spring

Dave Stegehuis

Springtime may seem a long way off after the extreme weather we are experiencing this winter. It will get warmer, the sun will shine again, and now is time to plan ahead so as not to miss out on any of the opportunities the new season will bring.

Warm water in the rivers that flow to the Great Lakes will attract steelhead trout as they return for the annual spawning run. Rods, reels, line, lures, and waders should be checked out and made ready for the time the fish begin to show up in a favorite stream. Reduce the chances of missing out on early runs of the silver sided fish by personally monitoring trout water, or seek out a reliable info source on the web or a ask really good friend.

Panfish and walleye fishing will pick up soon after ice disappears from lakes and rivers. Boats, motors, and trailers should have been serviced and inspected before winter storage, but if not, there is still time. Tire pressure and batteries always need attention.

Turkey calls, camo clothing, guns, and other essentials for luring in spring gobblers need to be located and set aside for opening day. Turkeys are quite vocal, so pre-season

scouting involves listening as well as looking.

As soon as the snow melts and the ground firms up, work can begin on replenishing the firewood supply. Chainsaws and splitters demand constant maintenance. Working in the woods is more enjoyable without the leaves, heat, and bugs.

Plans for vegetable gardens, flower gardens, and wildlife food plots can be finalized so equipment, seeds, and plants will be ready when conditions are optimum for planting. You don't want to get all excited about putting in the garden and realize the brother-in-law still has your rototiller.

Reservations for campsites and outfitters for spring and summer excursions should be made to avoid disappointment later. Now is the time to check out the RV because the day before Memorial Day weekend is not a good time to get a unit repaired or serviced.

Well, these are some of my concerns this time of year, and I am sure golfers, cyclists, and others have their own special interests. It may be a little early, but planning and anticipating is half the fun, and being prepared always helps things go better.

weddings

Dilly/Trinklein

The marriage of Emily Trinklein of Grand Rapids and Cameron Dilly was celebrated at Grandville Church of Christ in Grandville on November 30, 2013. Parents of the couple are Bill and Mary

Trinklein and Troy and Heather Dilly of Lowell.

Maid of honor was Betsy Trinklein.

Best man was Keaton Dilly.

health

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rebound headaches

There are many different types of headaches. The more common types include migraine, tension, sinus, hypertensive, visual and rebound. Rebound headaches are headaches that occur everyday or almost everyday. They are caused by taking too much pain medicine and/or excessive caffeine. These headaches often occur early in the morning and may also be associated with nausea, irritability and sleeping problems.

When prescription and over-the-counter pain medicine for headaches are taken too often, they can cause headaches. Certain medicines including aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, Vicodin, and Darvocet are more likely to cause rebound headaches if taken regularly. In general, these medicines should not be taken more than twice a week without your doctor's advice.

Caffeine overuse can also cause rebound headaches. Most heavy coffee drinkers are aware of this problem. However, people who suffer regular headaches and take over-the-counter medicines do not realize they may be taking

caffeine. Many over-the-counter headache medicines come with caffeine added to help relieve the pain; one common one is Excedrin.

Anyone that plans to take an over-the-counter medicine or alternative medicine on a daily basis should discuss it first with their health care provider. Also, anyone that suffers headaches on a semi-regular or daily basis should have a thorough evaluation with their health care provider.

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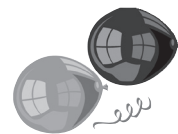
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| FEBRUARY 27
Joshua Soyka, Justin Soyka. | MARCH 3
Sarah Newell. |
| FEBRUARY 28
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Chamber Winter Gathering celebrates and says goodbye to a longtime fixture on Main Street

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

On February 20, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 2014 Annual Winter Gathering of the membership at Grand Volute Ballrooms in which Lowell persons and businesses were honored with a variety of awards.

Chamber executive director Liz Baker welcomed the audience and gave special thanks to the 2014 chamber board of directors, office manager Catherina Bek and volunteers Carol Briggs and Barb Zandstra, and the staff of Grand Volute, April McClure for decorations and Litehouse for dressings.

The event was well-attended and the evening was full of laughs, largely due to award presenters Josh Bruwer and Cliff Yankovich. Bruwer drew laughter from his description of his frugality as displayed by his 2004 Hyundai Accent which he called a “roller skate.” Yankovich nearly brought the audience to

tears with a barrage of jokes that included descriptions of local businesses so perfect that he repeatedly asked business owners for \$10 per advertisement.

A large contingent of the Lowell Rotary Club was present to accept the Nonprofit Spotlight award. Though there were nearly too many Rotarians to fit on the stage, the amount of business persons devoted to community development was just a fraction of Rotary’s membership.

Peter Klaver of Builders Fireplace accepted one of two Brick Awards for exemplary Lowell businesses. Only days earlier, Klaver was in Guatemala for a mission trip, proving his global understanding of the word community.

The second Brick Award was presented to Ryan Peel of Vergennes Broadband. As Peel accepted the award, he was brought to tears, commenting on how much sacrifice it takes to develop



Peter Klaver of Builder's Fireplace.



Justin Bruwer, left, and Ryan Peel of Vergennes Broadband.

a community business and how amazing it feels that his peers believe in him so strongly.

The Business Appreciation award went to Laurels of Kent, a nursing and rehabilitation center described as “a community within a community.”

The chamber introduced a new award this year for the Best Business to Watch. This award was presented to Ella’s Coffee & Cuisine. Owner and chef Ella St. Germain was not present to accept the award because she had been battling the flu. Husband and front-of-house manager Randall St. Germain accepted the award on her behalf.

“We try our best just to put a lot of love into what we do,” St. Germain said. “This community is the closest thing to Mayberry you’re going to find.”

The Person of the Year award was awarded to Greg Canfield for his work with Canfield Plumbing, his leadership on several community boards and his nearly endless volunteer work for the community through flood, snow

storm and even just daily community needs. Canfield made certain that wife Deb Canfield shared the spotlight with him. Canfield recounted his youth spent in Lowell with “The Beach Boys, the Beatles and muscle cars.”

“Lowell is still a wonderful community,” Canfield said.

Expressing humility about his own impact on Lowell, Canfield said, “Lowell really takes care of itself.”

The final award of the night was a bouquet of flowers that Liz Baker presented to Karen Hale who, after 30 years will retire and close Cousins’ Hallmark and River Hollow.

Hale had to fight her way to the stage because of the standing ovation that greeted the mention of her name. Though she said not a word by way of a speech, there was not a dry eye in the house.



Karen Hale of Cousins’ Hallmark, left, received a bouquet of flowers from Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce director, Liz Baker.



Person of the Year Greg Canfield with wife Deb accept the award.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

State champs, continued

two points, giving St. Johns the three point lead.

Lowell's Hall went down to 103 lbs. against Emilio Sanchez and beat him with a technical fall putting Lowell in the lead 4-3. Kyle Washburn went up to 112 lbs. and had to face Ian Parker, who is ranked as no. 2 in the state and got pinned, which gave St. Johns the lead by five points. Lowell won the next four battles with Zeth Dean beating Lucas McFarland by major at 119 lbs., Krajewski beating Derek Droste by decision at 125 lbs., Jack beating Bret Fedewa by decision at 130 lbs. and Hall pinning Alejandro Guajardo at 135 lbs., to give Lowell a 22-9 lead.

Lowell dropped the next four matches, with Kruse having to face no. 1 nationally-ranked Zac Hall at 140 lbs. Kruse broke his nose in the semifinals and went out there anyway to face his toughest competition all year. Zac Hall tried for the pin on Kruse, but Kruse wouldn't budge and although he lost by a technical fall, he saved a point for the team by avoiding the pin. Eli Boulton fell by technical fall to Mark

Bozzo at 145 lbs. giving St. Johns another five points. Drew Wixon beat Stephens at 152 lbs. by pin and Garcia fell by pin to Logan Massa at 160 lbs. That left only three matches for a Lowell comeback. Kanon Dean moved up a weight class to face Blake Thelan at 171 lbs. and pinned him to decrease St. Johns' lead to only three. Max Dean moved up a weight class to face former Arrow Angus Arthur at 189 lbs. In an exciting match-up, Dean gave it all he had and almost pulled out the win but ended up losing by two points to give St. Johns the 34-28 lead with only one match to go.

In the final match, Stehley moved up to 215 lbs. to face Nic Sturgis and had to get a pin or disqualification just to tie the score. Giving up a lot of weight, Stehley came at Sturgis with a vengeance and had him on his back twice for the pin. Sprinkled in there were several stalling calls against Sturgis. With less than a minute to go, Sturgis picked up his fifth stall, which is an immediate disqualification and a six-point win for the opponent.

With the score tied at 34-34, it then goes to criteria. The first criterion is any unsportsmanlike conduct. With neither team having one, it goes to the second criterion which is number of wins. Each team had seven wins, so it's still considered tied and goes to the third criterion, which is the number of six-point wins. Lowell had four to St. Johns' three, which gave Red Arrows the win.

"We've had to face St. Johns twice now in the finals and we didn't get it done," said senior Bailey Jack. "This is the best feeling to beat a quality team and come home with the state championship. I'm so happy for my teammates that we finally got that elusive team gold medal. What a way to go out."

Coach RJ Boudro couldn't put into words what he was feeling. "This was a total team effort. Had one kid not done what he did, we wouldn't have won. We knew it was going to go down to one point or even a tie, so each of them were paramount in the win. I'm just so proud right now."



The seniors celebrate the win, with manager Michelle Griffoen, Kanon Dean, Bailey Jack, Garrett Stehley, Josiah Buys, Derek Krajewski and Jake Garcia.

- BASKETBALL

Girls pummel Rockford to win round one of districts

by Karen Jack

The Lady Arrows' basketball team had a tough past week dropping two games to conference teams. They lost to Grand Rapids Christian 53-35 and then lost to Jenison 47-39, but then turned it all around in a 69-57 win against Rockford in the first round of districts.

In the Grand Rapids Christian game, the girls hung tough for the first three quarters only trailing by three going into the fourth quarter. But in the fourth quarter, Christian's defense held Lowell to only two

points the entire quarter while they scored 17.

"We missed some shots early and they made theirs, which put us in a big hole quickly," said coach Jake Strotheide. "I thought we did a good job overall, but when you score two points in the fourth, it's going to be hard to win any games, especially versus Grand Rapids Christian. I was proud of our girls and how they gritted it out but we just couldn't keep our momentum."

Kate Montgomery led

Lowell in points with 13. Aubreigh Steed and Katie Holzhueter each had seven.

Lowell came out in the first quarter against Jenison with a two-point lead, but lost the advantage in the second quarter getting outscored by Jenison by seven points.

Lowell was slow getting started in the third quarter and only scored six points in that quarter as opposed to Jenison's 11 points. The Lady Arrows came alive in the fourth quarter, but couldn't get over the deficit.

"We shot poorly the entire game," said Strotheide. "We went 2-27 from three and they did a nice job in their zone to keep us out of the paint. We weren't able to attack like we did Tuesday and Jenison made plays when they needed to and we didn't."

Lowell had three players score double digits, with Steed leading the team with 12 points. Montgomery had 11 and Tara McQueen had 10.

On Monday, the team hosted a good Rockford team for the first round of districts. It was a back-and-forth game in the first quarter, but after that it was all Lowell. The Arrows were sinking shots and getting the rebounds on both ends of the court. They came out in the second quarter outscoring Rockford by 13



Katie Holzhueter looks to pass the ball.

Girls' basketball, continued, page 11

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Cousins' Hallmark closes after 30 years of business

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Cousins' Hallmark will close its doors this spring.

In the past few years the word "Hallmark" has become a bad word; holidays like Valentine's Day or Sweetest Day are deemed Hallmark holidays, meaning that someone is making money off of people's feelings of love or desire for one another.

In Lowell, the word has the opposite connotation, perhaps because it is preceded by another word, "Cousins" - it is a cherished and beloved place. Much of this is due to the work of one person, Karen Hale.

Cousins' Hallmark is named for the four cousins who founded the store, husband and wife, Joann and Jerry Hale; and husband and wife, Karen and Mike Hale.

In December of 1984, nearly 30 years ago, the quartet decided to fill the void that had been previously occupied by a greeting card, pharmacy and gift shop called Lipperts, which had been bought out

by Rite Aid. None of them had any experience in retail - Karen had worked in the municipal courts, Mike was a handyman and Joann and Jerry had run a farm - but the town had a need and these four souls had the desire to fill it.

"We thought, 'It'd be great. Let's open up a gift shop,'" Hale said.

The building that Cousins' presently occupies was previously a fireplace store and before that it was Gee's Hardware. In a reverse of Hallmark's normal policy, the Hales chose the building and then spoke with Hallmark about opening the store. Hallmark is usually interested in scouting their own locations, but in this instance they were interested in the Hales' choice of location.

Next to Cousins' at the time of their purchase was a Radio Shack. Some time later, this was replaced by Main Street Antiques. When Main Street left, the Hales bought the building and opened River Hollow. This was about 15 years ago.

By 1990, Joann and Jerry had exited the business to pursue their own ends. This was the year that Cousins' Hallmark transformed into Karen's business. Her husband Mike was heavily involved in renovating and repairing the building, but Karen had become the face of Cousins' Hallmark.

"When you own a business, you try not to have it become an emotional thing," Hale said, "but it becomes part of you."

This year, Karen and her husband have decided to retire. It was a tough decision for Karen. So much of her family life had transpired in or alongside the shop and she'd developed deep relationships with her customers and employees, many of whom had become true friends.

Years ago, members of Karen's family had discussed possibly taking over the business, but in the time since they've all built meaningful lives and careers for themselves.

"Economically, gift



Karen Hale is wrapping up her tenure at Cousins' Hallmark.

shops are different," Hale said. "It's challenging and that's okay with me."

When asked what she plans to do after the business closes, Karen pointed to a picture of her three-year-old grandson John sporting a Play Hard t-shirt. With four children and nine grandchildren in Michigan, Texas and Georgia, Karen will have

plenty of opportunities to play hard.

Karen also enjoys art and has been a part of a group of artists who paint above Chimera Design for 10 years. Their art is often on display at Ella's Coffee & Cuisine.

"I know I won't be bored," Hale said.

As for the retail space, Karen and Mike expect to put it up for sale as soon as March.

"I don't want it to stay empty," Hale said.

Much like Cousins' filled in where Lipperts once was, Hale is positive that some entrepreneur will be able to fill in where Cousins' had been. She describes Lowell as a town

on the verge of bubbling and with no shortage of creative people.

Regarding her customers, Hale kept it short and sweet. "We've loved every one of them," she said.

Lowell and the surrounding areas will certainly miss Karen and Mike Hale and the work they did at Cousins' Hallmark and River Hollow. Karen's retirement sale will last through the end of February for Gold Crown products and into March for the remainder of her inventory. It is with a heavy heart that the Hales leave this business, but as Karen said, "You just gotta move on sometimes."



An undated picture of Main Street when Gee's Hardware inhabited the corner spot.



An early delivery of supplies to the fledgling store.



The building in the process of renovation and, at right, newer storefronts.



Red Arrow - GYMNASTICS SPORTS

Lowell gymnasts host annual Dawn Fisher meet

by Karen Jack

Dawn Fisher was a bus driver for Lowell for many years and had her daughter, Skye, in the gymnastics program which she wholeheartedly supported,



Karmen Anderson performs on the floor.

even after her daughter was done competing. So coach Michele DeHaan started the annual Dawn Fisher memorial meet several years back to give the girls who didn't qualify for regionals a chance to compete against girls in the same situation at other schools.

"We weren't very talented back then," said DeHaan. "But Dawn was our biggest supporter. She made all the girls feel like champions and she lost her battle with cancer five years ago. This meet celebrates the gymnasts she supported most – not the superstars, but the underdogs."

This year, Ionia and Kenowa Hills participated in the meet.

Lowell's Alise Forward took first place in the vault (8.3), Karmen Anderson took second (8.2) and Sela Bauman took third (8.0). On bars, Leana Weiler took first (7.0) and Kaylee Wold took third (5.6). Bauman took first on beam (8.3), Sarena Wilterdink took second (7.2) and Forward took fourth (5.9). On floor, Anderson grabbed the first spot with 8.3, while Paige DeHaan took second with 8.0, Wold took third with 7.9 and Weiler took fourth with 7.7.

"I love this meet because the roles are reversed and our top girls cannot compete and they have to cheer on the other girls," said DeHaan.



Paige DeHaan leaps during her floor routine.

The team will head to Rockford on Saturday for regional competition. Meet time is 10:00 am.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The Vergennes Township March Board of Review will meet at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at the corner of Bailey Dr. and Parnell Rd NE, on the following days and times:

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014
3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

and

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all claims.

You may appeal your assessed valuation one of two ways:

To appear at the Board of Review, call on Monday or Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., (616) 897-5671, to schedule an appointment.

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2.) By * letter addressed to:
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***Letters must be received
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Vergennes Township Clerk



All competitors posing with Elaine Haines (Dawn Fisher's sister) and Aili Fisher (Dawn's granddaughter).

- BOWLING

Both teams narrowly miss qualifying for state

by Karen Jack

Both the boys' and girls' bowling teams just missed qualifying as a team during their regional competition this week against 14 other teams. The top three teams advance to the state competition and both teams took fourth.

The boys' team was only 13 points behind third-place Cedar Springs and the

girls' team was 38 points away from third-place Reeths Puffer.

The boys' team advanced two of their bowlers to state individually, as the top 10 bowlers out of 75 get to advance.

Jason Price had a six-game series of 997 to place seventh and to advance and Sean Ritsema had a

995 series to place tenth. Lowell's Carl Mitchell just barely missed advancing by placing 11th with a 993 series, only two points behind his teammate.

On the girls' team,

Lowell's best finisher individually was Alyssa Darby with an 817 series (20th place) and Ally Stockreef with an 807 series (23rd place).

Price and Ritsema will travel to Century Lanes in Waterford on Friday to begin their state title run. Bowling will start at 8:25 am.

Red Arrow - BASKETBALL SPORTS

Lowell bounces back against GR Christian/falls to Jenison

by Karen Jack

The boys' basketball team fell behind early in their game on Tuesday against Grand Rapids Christian but came back to win 46-42. Hoping to carry that momentum into

Friday's game with Jenison, they couldn't quite get it done, losing 52-41.

Lowell was outscored in the first quarter by seven points in their game against Christian, which can be

hard to overcome with some teams, but not these kids. Lowell bounced back to outscore Christian by three in the second quarter, two in the third and six in the fourth. Isaac Brenner made two free throws at the end of the game to make it a two possession game, which gave the Red Arrows the win.

In typical fashion, Lowell's Ryan Stevens and Matt Beachler shot in double digits to get Lowell the win, along with key plays by other team members. Stevens scored 19 points and Beachler scored 13.

Lowell got down early with Jenison and couldn't come back like they did on Tuesday against Christian. Getting outscored 15-5 in the first quarter, then outscoring Jenison in the second and third quarters by only a total of five points made it too tough to make a comeback. Jenison played tough defense the whole game to give Lowell a hard time in shot selection and sinking their shots.

Beachler scored 22 points and Brenner had seven.



Matt Beachler makes a jumper.



Austin Branagan wins the jump ball.

The team will host Ionia on Thursday at 7:00 pm and then head over to Northview on Monday, March 3 for the first round of districts at 7:00 pm.

Girls' basketball, continued

points. Rockford closed the gap in the third quarter by outscoring Lowell by six points, but the Arrows got

those points back in the fourth quarter.

"This is the best we've ever played together,"

said Kate Montgomery. "We seemed to do almost everything right tonight."

Aubreigh Steed, who led the scoring with 20 points and 17 rebounds said, "This is the most we've scored all season and it's a great feeling to play our best in the first round of districts. We passed well, we rebounded well and we shot well."

"Rockford's a good team and after the first quarter when they kept it tight with us, we knew we had to come out on all cylinders and give them the best we had and we all did

what we were supposed to do," said Katie Holzhueter.

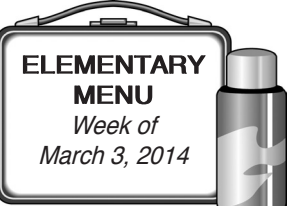
Along with Steed's scoring, Holzhueter scored 17 points and Montgomery scored 16.

The team now will face Greenville on Wednesday for the second round of districts at Cedar Springs. Game time is 5:00 pm.



Aubreigh Steed goes up for the lay-up.

LUNCH MENU



MON: 1/2 day of school. No lunch service.

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, banana.

WED: Popcorn chicken bites, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh cherry tomatoes, peaches, orange wedges.

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

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



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GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Synopsis of Minutes
February 10, 2014

Motions Approved:

- New Firefighter hired
- 1 million gallons of water to be hauled from G/V to Grattan lagoons
- Murray Lake 5K Run Resolution
- CDBG Resolution (North Kent Transit and Senior Meals)
- Withdraw Seeley Creek Grant Agreement
- Resubmit Development Grant in 2015
- Renew 5 year Park & Rec Master Plan
- Roberts Rules Resolution
- Designation of Banking Facility Resolution

Our next Township Meeting will be
March 10, 2014
At 10:00 a.m.

The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

obituaries

DAWSON

Mayoma Cornelia Dawson, age 91 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, February 19, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband William. She is survived by her children Terry (Louanne) Dawson, Linda Black, John (Veronica) Dawson, Ron (Kitty) Dawson, Dale (Mary) Dawson and Gail Dawson; brother Burl (Joanne) Valentine of Washington, D.C.; 13 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A funeral service will be held Saturday, March 1st at 1:00 p.m. Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI 49331. Rev. Eric Coulon presiding. Interment Oakwood. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

KYSER

Carroll Everett Kyser, 91, passed away February 17, 2014, in Dearborn. He was born June 12, 1922, in Lowell, the son of Howard and Johanna Kyser. His days on the football team at Lowell High School he still talked about. He loved all sports, especially football. Carroll was a proud marine serving as a 1st Lieutenant in WWII. He was always a marine. He graduated from Western Michigan University with a BS and University of Michigan with an MS in education. Carroll taught woodshop and drivers' ed. in Wyandotte Public Schools for 30 years. He was an admired teacher. His students still remember him with gratitude and appreciate the impact he had on their life. As an incredible woods' craftsmen, his art will continue to be treasured by many. Everybody loved Carroll. He was a happy man and made it a point to make everyone feel special. He will be missed tremendously. Carroll leaves behind his wife of 40 years, Patricia; four children, Ron Kyser (Susan), Chris Kyser (Joellen), Cindy Haas, Susan Scalisi (Mike); and Pat's son, Ed Gourley (Sandy). He also leaves 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great, great-grandchild. Services will be held in the future in Lowell.

In Iditarod and retirement, prep is key

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, held each March in Alaska, is one the harshest, most challenging races known to man (or dog). The same can be said for your race toward retirement and Social Security. No one would hit the trail without being ready for the challenges. Similarly, no worker today should be navigating toward retirement without a little bit of preparing, planning and stick-to-itiveness.

Choosing your steps is as important as selecting the right sled dogs. Your first step in planning for a comfortable retirement is to look at your *Social Security Statement*, which you can do online easily with a *my Social Security* account. It provides estimates for retirement, disability and survivors benefits, making the *Statement* an important financial planning tool. Your *Statement* allows you to review and ensure your earnings are accurately posted to your Social Security record. If the information is incorrect, or you have earnings missing from your record, you may not receive all of the benefits to which you are

entitled in the future. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to set up a *my Social Security* account and get started.

For retirement planning, you want to test out the *Retirement Estimator* to see how changes in your income, retirement age, and other variables may change your overall plan. Use our *Retirement Estimator*, where you can get a personalized, instant estimate of your future retirement benefits using different retirement ages and scenarios. Visit the *Retirement Estimator* at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. Also, visit the *Ballpark Estimator* for tips to help you save at www.choosetosave.org/ballpark.

Use our online library of publications to help you when it comes to planning for retirement. Check out *When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits*. It and many other useful publications can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

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

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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Board held on February 18, 2014, the Board adopted Ordinance 01-2014, an Ordinance to establish regulations for the outdoor burning of leaves, grass, wood and other vegetation and debris, and to establish penalties for violations of this Ordinance, a summary of which follows:

The purpose of the Ordinance is to protect the health and safety of the people and property in Lowell Charter Township. The Ordinance defines open burning, recreational fire, yard debris and flammable waste material. It prohibits all open burning on properties that are not in the AG-1, AG-2 and R-1 zoning districts. The Ordinance defines permitted open burning requirements, permitting procedures, and regulations for open burning. It also defines the penalties for violation of this Ordinance.

The Ordinance shall become effective March 5, 2014. A copy of the complete text of the Ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, during regular office hours or by calling 897-7600. The Ordinance is also available on our website at www.twp.lowell.mi.us.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk

2014 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE Lowell Charter Township

2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
Lowell, Mi. 49331

2014 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2014 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 10 a.m. - Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 10, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. &
Thursday, March 13, 2014
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2014 assessments. **By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 13, 2014.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2013 are as follows:

Agricultural	47.01	1.0636
Commercial	50.76	0.9850
Residential	48.37	1.0336
Industrial	51.25	.9756
Personal	50.00	1.0000

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.
**Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
616-897-7600**

Board of Review Members, Barbara Tremblay, Lisa Reed & James Foerch.
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

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- BUSINESS CARDS
- ENVELOPES
- LETTERHEAD
- BOOKLETS
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Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

2002 MOBILE HOME FOR SALE - Key Heights, 16x80, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, clean, well kept, all appliances, 10x12 shed, large deck, \$20,000.

HEAT YOUR ENTIRE HOME - Domestic water & more with the Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler.

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

ACREAGE FOR SALE - Ada, 10 wooded acres. Located on private drive. Prime building spot. \$99,900.

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

2003 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT - only 63k miles, khaki w/matching hard & soft tops, manual transmission, single owner, very good condition, \$12,750.

TWIN BED - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy), \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

help wanted

CAREER OPPORTUNITY - King Milling Company is seeking a qualified individual for a second shift (3 p.m. - 12 a.m.) production position.

ANIMAL CAREGIVER - Looking for an ambitious, physically fit person to care for many small dogs in a large, impeccably clean facility.

help wanted

NOW HIRING - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc.

DRIVERS - \$2,500 SIGN ON BONUS - Looking for OTR (5-7 days out), local-regional (1-3 days out) and casual drivers are welcome.

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.

ASSISTED LIVING - Beautiful modern country home in Alto, excellent care. Cathy, 616-891-1840.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate!

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate!

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.

WANTED INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS - Press carriers, Lowell area. Reliable transportation required. Contact Paul at 616-541-0564 or Brian at 616-541-0563.

services

DOG CARE - 18 year old girl would like job walking your dog or in home care of your pets. Has own transportation. Call Paige 897-8981 or 885-3955.

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

MILLERS ROOFING SERVICE - Specializing in roofing. Houses, barns, sheds & garages. Top quality materials & reasonable rates. Free estimates. Allen Miller, 4030 E. Cloverdale Rd., Hastings. 269-758-3270.

services

WEDDING CAKES - Over 30 years experience. Booking for spring, summer & fall. 868-0195.

SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!! - Call us for a price comparison. We will need: weight, zip code & dimensions of the box. No Hazardous materials or firearms accepted at this location.

GLOBAL DISCOUNT GARAGE DOORS - Spring repairs, electric openers replaced & repaired. Free estimates. Lowest prices guaranteed. Call 616-334-3574.

services

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

CARPET INSTALLATION - Residential & commercial, patches, stretch. Free estimates. Call Kevin at 616-813-4299.

TANK FULL? CALL FULLER! - Cleaning residential septic tanks. Over 40 years of great service. Owned & operated by Stoneybrook Sanitation. Call 2477, 897-3050 for an appointment.

services

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees...I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation!

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Quick turn around and you always get a proof before printing!

Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement.

QUAKE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr.

BLOOD DRIVE - to benefit Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, Wed., March 5 & Mon., March 10, noon - 7 p.m. at Kent County Fairgrounds.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. & Fri. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ECO-FRIENDLY GARDEN PROJECTS - Wed., April 9, 1 p.m. Craft earth-friendly spring garden projects using upcycled household containers.

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.

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

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.

LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS - Mon. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson.

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.

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

TODDLER THURSDAY - Every Thursday 11-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes & learning. Ages 18 mo. - 36 mo.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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.

KIDSTALK - CANCER OR GRIEF - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. A group for children in 1st - 4th grade on a cancer or grief journey.

FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR - Third Thurs. of each month. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell.

THERE'S A MOUSE IN THE HOUSE - What could be more exciting than a mouse in your house? Celebrate all things "mousy" with stories, crafts, rhymes, finger-plays & puppets.

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.

MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

NOOGIELAND - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Supervised play for children kindergarten or younger on a cancer or grief journey.

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m.

KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. Beltline.

FRIDAY FUN - Every Friday, 11-11:45 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, games & a simple craft. For 3-5 year olds.

COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL - Come meet & have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers. First Saturday of each month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office.

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport.

Fuss named Staff Member of the Month

Fourth-grade teacher, Julie Fuss, was named Murray Lake Elementary's (MLE) Staff Member of the Month for January. This is Fuss' 19th year of teaching, eight of which have been at MLE.

MLE administrative assistant Joan Weeber commented, "Julie's positive attitude combined with her years of teaching experience provide an outstanding fourth-grade experience for her students. Julie includes a variety of activities in her classroom

to enhance the curriculum. Recently Julie held a 'Little House on the Prairie' day where her students took part in several activities they had read about in the book. We are very fortunate that Julie is part of the MLE staff!"

Julie and her husband Frank reside in Lowell with their three children. "What I enjoy most about teaching is being a life-long learner. The students share new ideas and ways to problem solve on a daily basis, so I'm continuously learning new

strategies. Helping children discover their favorite reading genres is also very rewarding," says Fuss.

When Fuss is not teaching, she and Frank are usually at a sporting event for one of their three sons. They travel locally to watch hockey and basketball games. Fuss also loves hiking and will be traveling to Colorado this summer where she and her family plan to tackle a few mountains and spend time with friends.



Green named Volunteer of the Month

Nancy Green was named Volunteer of the Month for January. Green says this is her sixth year of volunteering at Murray Lake and "I can honestly say that I have looked forward to each and every day. I might be the only person at the school who is a little sad on snow-days. I decided to volunteer at Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) because I saw the positive impact the school had on my three grandkids who attended school there. Their solid academic foundations built at MLE have made them

the excellent students and citizens they are today." "Having the opportunity to assist other children to attain those same solid foundations is reward in itself. I want to commend the entire staff at MLE for their positivity, their creative teaching and the importance of good citizenship that is reinforced by Mr. Noskey each and every morning," added Green.

"I'd also like to commend the other (and there are many) dedicated and talented volunteers



Nancy Green

at MLE every day. There is always room for more volunteers. The daily reward is huge," Green admits.

have three daughters (and sons-in-law), seven grandchildren and two great-granddaughters," concludes Green.

college news

Central Michigan University announces the graduation list for the semester ending December 2013. Following are local graduates and their degrees, in Ada: Nathan Ellis, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Matthew Ellis, Bachelor of Science; Shane Parent, Bachelor of Applied Arts; and Travis Richardson, Bachelor of Science; Lowell: Hillary Briggs, Bachelor of Science; Chelsea Dyer, Bachelor of Arts; Taylor Schumacher, Bachelor of Applied Arts; and Kathryn Winer, Bachelor of Science in Education; Alto: Linnea Churches, Bachelor of Science.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP WILL MEET IN THE NEW TOWNSHIP OFFICE BUILDING - 8240 ALDEN NASH SE., ALTO ON:

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014 1:00 P.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

& 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

(NOTE THE EVENING HOURS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE TAX ROLL AND HEARING ALL CLAIMS. YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR ASSESSED VALUATION ONE OF (2) WAYS: BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND RECEIVED BY HIM PRIOR TO MARCH 4, 2014 OR BY APPEARING IN PERSON ON ONE OF THE DATES THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

THE TENTATIVE REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT MULTIPLIER REQUIRED BY PA 165 OF 1971 ARE:

Agricultural Ratio	47.64	1.0495	Multiplier
Commercial Ratio	53.79	.9295	Multiplier
Industrial Ratio	50.12	.9976	Multiplier
Residential Ratio	47.30	1.0571	Multiplier

DENNIS MCKELVEY-ASSESSOR
CHRISTIAN WENGER-SUPERVISOR
BOWNE TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF LOWELL 2014 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2014 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St SE, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting: Monday, March 3rd, 11:00am

Appeal Hearings:

Monday, March 10th, 9:00am to 3:00pm
Wednesday, March 12th, 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact: City Hall @ ph. 616.897.8457

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2014 assessments

By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 3rd 2014

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2014 are as follows:

Commercial	50.01	0.9998
Residential	47.09	1.0618
Industrial	51.97	0.9621
Personal Property	50.00	1.0000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days' notice.

Contact: Mark Howe - City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457

Lowell FFA members to compete at state competition

On Wednesday, February 12, 13 members from the Lowell FFA Chapter earned the right to compete at the State competitions to be held March 5-7 at the State FFA Convention in East Lansing. The students competed in the regional contests against schools from around the West Michigan area. The top two teams in each contest advance to the state level.

In the Agricultural Issues contest, the team of Maria Blough, Jessica Graves, Mary Leasure and Anna Reynolds placed first at the regional contests. They will give their presentation on the pros and cons of organic beef production at the state contests.

Brad Depew advanced in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest.

In this event, contestants studied a broad-topic area in agriculture and natural resources. At the start of the contest, they are given two questions from their topic area. After selecting one of the questions, they have 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech on that question.

In the Jr. High Conduct of Meetings contest, middle

school members show their ability to run an efficient meeting using correct Parliamentary Procedure. Team members included Keana Fahrni, Jenna Harper, Abigail Kastanek, Lizzie Kuhns, Keegan Mebert, Samuel Misak, Haley Nieuwkoop, and Connor

Nugent. They placed second at the regional contests, receiving a gold award.

Also competing at the regional contests for Lowell were Brad Stoffers in the Greenhand Public Speaking contest and Taylor King in Job Interview.

FFA is a national youth leadership organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



The Jr. High Conduct of Meetings team of Keegan Mebert, Connor Nugent, Samuel Misak, Abigail Kastanek, Haley Nieuwkoop, Lizzie Kuhns, Jenna Harper, and Keana Fahrni will represent Lowell at the State FFA Convention.



Anna Reynolds, Mary Leasure, Maria Blough, and Jessica Graves finished in first place at the regional contests and will compete at the State FFA Convention.

EARTH TALK ™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What are “dirty fuels” and why are they so called?

The term “dirty fuels” refers to fuels derived from tar sands, oil shale or liquid coal. Just like their more conventional fossil fuel counterparts such as petroleum and coal, they can be turned into gasoline, diesel and other energy sources that can generate extreme amounts of particulate pollution, carbon emissions and ecosystem destruction during their lifecycles from production to consumption.

“Because tar sands [have] more sulfur, nitrogen, and metals in [them] than conventional oil, upgrading and refining [them] causes a lot more air and water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions,” reports the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental non-profit. “On a lifecycle basis—that is, extraction all the way through combustion—tar sands cause about 20 percent more global warming pollution than conventional oil,” adds NRDC. “Oil shale and liquid coal are even worse, causing nearly 50 percent more global warming pollution and over double

the lifecycle emissions of conventional oil...”

In North America, the majority of such fuels come from Canada’s vast boreal forest, to where tens of millions of birds flock each spring to nest. “Tar sands oil development creates open pit mines, habitat fragmentation, toxic waste holding ponds, air and water pollution, upgraders and refineries, and pipelines spreading far beyond the Boreal forest,” reports NRDC. “This development is destroying habitat for waterfowl and songbirds that come from all over the Americas to nest in the Boreal.”

Beyond impacts at the extraction sites, dirty fuels cause pollution problems all down the line. For this reason, environmental leaders are opposed to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline which, if approved and built, would transport tar sands fuels through the Midwestern U.S. to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico. “Refinery communities like Port Arthur, Texas...are already unable to comply with their air pollution regulations, so dirtier fuel is the last thing they need in their refineries,” adds NRDC.

And while dirty fuels may reduce our reliance on foreign oil, they won’t help reduce gas prices as they are so expensive to produce that gas prices would have to be higher than they already are in order for them to be profitable. “They also can’t help with stabilizing gas prices in the case of a disruption to oil shipments because each new tar sands project requires huge infrastructure and capital investments, so it takes years for new tar sands projects to come on-line—it’s not as though there is loads of spare tar sands oil just waiting to be put through the pipelines,” says NRDC’s Elizabeth Shope.

“The fact is, we don’t need these fuels,” she adds. “We can reduce oil consumption by increasing fuel efficiency standards, and greater use of hybrid cars, renewable energy and environmentally sustainable biofuels. What’s called ‘smart growth’—how we design our communities—is also a very important element in meeting our transportation needs.

“North America stands at an energy crossroads [and] we now face a choice: to set a course for a more sustainable energy future of clean, renewable fuels, or to develop ever-dirtier sources of transportation fuel derived from fossil fuels—at an even greater cost to our health and environment.”

CONTACT: NRDC, www.nrdc.org.

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

How will Social Security fit into your retirement income strategy?

Have you given much thought to collecting Social Security? The answer probably depends on how old you are — but whatever your age, you’ll want to consider the best way of incorporating Social Security benefits into your retirement income strategy.

Of course, if you have several decades to go until you retire, you might be wondering if Social Security will even be there for you at all. The basic issue is that the Social Security system is experiencing a sharply declining worker-to-beneficiary ratio. In plain English, this means that fewer workers are contributing to Social Security while the huge baby boom generation is retiring and taking money out. Still, Social Security has enough money to pay full retirement benefits to every eligible American until 2038, according to the Congressional Budget Office. After that point, benefits would have to be reduced unless changes are made to the Social Security system.

And several changes have indeed been proposed. Given that we do have

nearly 25 years until benefit cuts may need to be made, it seems reasonable that some type of solution could be reached to put Social Security back on solid ground.

In any case, when thinking about your retirement income, you need to focus on those things that you can control — such as when to start taking Social Security and how you can supplement your Social Security benefits.

Depending on when you were born, your “full” retirement age, as far as collecting Social Security benefits, is likely either 66 or 67. You can start getting your checks as early as 62, but if you do, your monthly payments could be reduced by as much as 30 percent — and this reduction is permanent.

Consequently, if you can support your lifestyle from other sources of income — such as earnings from employment and withdrawals from your IRA and 401(k) — you may want to postpone taking Social Security until you reach your full retirement age. In fact, you can get even bigger monthly checks if you delay

taking your benefits beyond your full retirement age, although your payments will “max out” once you reach 70. Keep in mind, though, that other factors, such as your anticipated longevity, should also enter into your calculations in considering when to take Social Security.

As mentioned above, your retirement income may also include withdrawals from retirement accounts, such as an IRA and a 401(k), along with other investments, such as a fixed annuity. And these other accounts are quite important, because Social Security provides, on average, only about 40 percent of retirement income for the average 65-year-old today.

Consequently, in the years and decades before you retire, contribute as much as you can possibly afford to these other accounts. Given the advances in medical care and the greater awareness of healthy lifestyles, people are living longer than ever — which means you could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. To enjoy those years fully, you’ll need adequate income.

By planning ahead, you can determine how best to fit Social Security into your retirement income strategy. Every move you make to help “secure” your retirement can pay off for you in the long run.

Students at LHS stress being “nice” to alleviate bullying

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Students enrolled in Lowell High School (LHS) Student Leadership class led a charge against bullying when they hosted the school’s annual “Be Nice” week February 17.

“Be Nice week is all about changing the way we interact with each other.

Not just by eliminating negative aspects, but by making a conscious effort to reach out to each other and create a more harmonious environment,” said teacher and head of student leadership Chaye Klomparens.

“It is a positive anti-bullying initiative designed to spread awareness surrounding the issues of bullying and the importance of treating people with civility communitywide.”

Student Monica Bussell said that she enrolled in the unique class to be part of projects like this. “I like being involved with student council and making a difference not only in student council affairs, but the everyday activities of the high school,” said the senior. “I think the message of anti-bullying is an important message to get through our schools. With so many more portals for bullying it’s important for the message of ‘be nice’ to be reiterated.”

Using funds earned through grant applications the classmates planned and executed daily activities. Among those activities were free hot cocoa and ice cream sundae bars served up by staff and leadership class members during lunch periods. Megaphones were used to encourage students to say something nice publicly to one another.

Students also viewed anti-bullying videos and participated in an inspiring assembly led by top motivational speaker Joel Penton, former Ohio State Buckeye football star, whose message to students focused on the positive results of good decisions rather than the negative outcomes of bad decisions.

The Be Nice message on

walls, posters and banners was placed throughout the school to remind students of the message.

Senior Nick Smith said that the effort was well-received by students.

“The student reactions have been quite positive. We all understand that our “Be Nice” week will not change everyone no

matter how hard we try or how cool we can make the week. Our goal is to get the message out to as many kids as we can that bullying is an act that doesn’t have any place in our society. We try to accomplish this by educating kids about bullying, while still giving them a chance to celebrate themselves,” said Smith.



LHS student Victoria Russell uses a megaphone to say something nice during her lunch period.



Senior leadership students and participants in “Be Nice” week, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Amanda Susnak, Alyssa McCormick and Nick Smith.

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