



**Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 9 at 2 am!**  
*spring can't be too far behind... can it?*

**gymnasts head to state**



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**new salon**



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**lhs sports**



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## Laughfest comes to Lowell this weekend

by Tim McAllister  
 contributing reporter

LaughFest returns to Lowell this weekend with a performance by former 'Blue Collar Comedy' star P.J. Walsh at Lowell High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 8 at 7 pm.

The all-star comedy event LaughFest, now in its fourth year, is a benefit for Gilda's Club, an organization dedicated to supporting people with cancer.

with folks like Bill Engvall, Larry the Cable Guy, Ron White, and Jeff Foxworthy. He's performed all over the world, had his own show on Sirius Satellite Radio and had a small part in a movie called "Delta Farce."

Walsh got his start in comedy when he was a young man in the navy working on Bill Clinton's teeth.

"First time on stage was Bethesda, Maryland; when I was stationed at the

White House at the time. I was the primary dental technician for the first and second families, the White House and for all the troops at Camp David and for President Clinton. That was a pretty wild time. I look back at that and I'm like, 'What? Really? They let me in a room with sharp, metal instruments and the president? All right!' I don't know how I ever worked with mouths, to be honest with you. I look back... It's been a very long time. Sometimes I look at someone's mouth and I'm like, 'Really? I did that? Like, at the highest level? For real? Mouths?' I was in the navy for five and a half years. Great experience, loved it. I joined the day after I graduated high school, June 1990. Then I



**Comedien P.J. Walsh will perform this Saturday. Tickets are available at Cousins' Hallmark on Main Street.**

technician. I was trained as a field medic and I was with the marines for three years and was on a ship with them in the Persian Gulf for six months. That's why I'm very passionate about performing for the troops."

Walsh spends a great deal of time overseas performing for our troops.

"On February 26 I get to go on another trip overseas," Walsh said. "I do it yearly. For years I was with a group called 'Comics on Duty,' but this trip I'm going with a group called 'G.I.s of Comedy,' which [is] all comprised of military veterans. Every comic on the stage is a veteran themselves. It's very fun because the stage is just full of veterans. There's

was in navy boot camp for about a month when Iraq invaded Kuwait and I was like, 'Yeah! Why wouldn't there be a war now? There's been no war since Vietnam, my entire life. I join, we're going to war.' So I ended up going to field medical school with the marines after I trained as a dental

**Laughfest in Lowell, continued, page 7**

**"And this will be a clean show. I like all comedy, but my rule of thumb is, I don't talk about anything that would upset my sisters."**  
 ~ P.J. Walsh

Walsh, a native of Brewster, New York; has been doing comedy for over 20 years. He has toured

Bethesda Naval Hospital," Walsh said. "My navy buddies got me on stage. I was actually working at the

## Expo to feature a prize-packed game show

by Justin Tiemeyer  
 contributing reporter

On Saturday, March 22, the Lowell area celebrates the 18th annual Lowell Community Expo, which allows businesses, churches and schools, an opportunity to showcase their organizations.

Josh Bruwer is the chairman for this year's expo. As the general manager of Arrowhead Golf Course, Bruwer has been to a great deal of expos and trade shows in his career. With the help of his wife Kristen and chamber of commerce director Liz Baker, Bruwer feels certain that this year's expo will bring a lot of excitement into Lowell commerce.

The community expo is executive produced by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lowell Area Schools and Harding Enterprises. Touting

over 150 businesses and organizations, food and beverages, giveaways and entertainment throughout the day, Bruwer is certain that the event will be a great time for the people of Lowell.

"It's one of the biggest in the area," Bruwer said. "It is also one of the oldest."

Regarding the programming, Bruwer said, "We're changing it up a little bit."

Bruwer is debuting the first ever "Next Place to Be" game show. Modeled after the hit CBS program "The Price is Right," made famous by spayed or neutered activist Bob Barker, the game show will allow people to compete in business-sponsored events for significant prizes. Among other games, Arctic Heating and Cooling will host the infamous Plinko competition with over \$300 in furnace and insulation services going to the winner.

The game show will take place near the end of the expo. Bruwer hopes the programming will spread the excitement throughout the length of the event.

Comprenew will also be present at the expo from 9 am to 2 pm making their recycling trailer available for disposal of electronic

**Expo, continued, page 2**

## Tower Barn is "Barn of the Year"



The Fallasburg Historical Society's (FHS) Tower Barn preservation work, in part funded by a Lowell Cable TV grant, has earned the recognition of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN). The Tower Barn

has been named "Barn of the Year" for 2014 in the "Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use" category. Lowell residents and longtime FHS board members, Ed and Doris Roth, will attend the MBPN

Awards Banquet in Lansing on Friday, March 7, to accept the award on behalf of FHS.

The barn is located across the Fallasburg Covered Bridge on Covered Bridge Road NE.

## Council reviews strategic plan and sexton's dilemma, then goes into closed session to further discuss union negotiations

by Tim McAllister  
 contributing reporter

The regular city council meeting at city hall on Monday, March 3, lasted 35 minutes and was attended by eight residents, none of who addressed the council during the opportunity for public comment.

The council discussed the city's "strategic plan" for over ten minutes. The "strategic plan" is a broad

outline that will be used to achieve a list of goals the city intends to set for itself. Upon its finalization, citizens will be able to read the "strategic plan" and chart the city's progress on the city's website, <http://www.ci.lowell.mi.us/>. Print copies will be made available at city hall.

Councilperson Jeff Altoft brought up Don

DeJong, a city employee in the public works department who has been digging graves by hand because the city does not own a backhoe.

"I don't think that... he might [not] have all the safety equipment he needs to do that by hand in this day and age," Altoft said.

**City council meeting, continued, page 2**

# Expo, continued

waste. This service is important to the Lowell community because of the harmful toxins that can leak into soil and water when what is termed "e-waste" is placed in landfills. Those wondering what types of items can be recycled

can rest assured that most items with a cord or battery will be accepted. For the security savvy, Comprenew guarantees security of all computer hard drives.

Bruwer notes that the weather could be a wild card in the success of the

expo, but admits that snowy, cold or icy conditions might actually work to the event's benefit. After all, the better the weather, the more people will want to be outside instead. The Lowell Community Expo could very well serve as an

entertaining escape from the cold.

"We're looking forward to a big turnout," Bruwer said. "It is really a great time for customers looking for a place to do business."

The Lowell Area Community Expo takes place from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, March 22

at Lowell High School. Admission and parking, as always, is free to the public.



## along main street

### 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

### HISTORY OF ANNA BISSELL

Enjoy an afternoon tea discussing Anna Sutherland Bissell, a turn-of-the-20th-Century Grand Rapids businesswoman, at the Lowell Township Hall (2910 Alden Nash Road). Sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library and the Lowell Area Historical Museum. For adults. Tuesday, March 11, 2:00 pm.

*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.*

### 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.

# City council meeting, continued

"It came to my attention that the cemetery sexton [Don DeJong] was digging graves by hand," said city manager Mark Howe. "That was his choice. I think part of it was because he didn't want to use the light and power backhoe because it's cold to drive it down there. I've thrown up the option that we could rent one, if we needed to rent one, from some other place. But in the meantime he was up there digging graves. We've asked

him to not do that anymore and if we need to rent one, we'll rent one."

Todd R. Cooper was appointed to the historical commission.

The meeting went into a closed session to discuss union negotiations. Councilperson Chris Schwab was alone in voting against the closed session.

The next city council meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, March 17.



## At Your Local Library

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

### 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 6 and older. Wed., March 26 at 6:30 pm.

...

**But it does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no God.**

~ Thomas Jefferson

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Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

**The Lowell Ledger**

P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

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## 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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# Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams prepare for competition

Six teams from Lowell Area Schools met recently at Cherry Creek Elementary to show off their creativity in a dress rehearsal for their upcoming competition. The Lowell teams will travel to Greenville Middle School on Saturday, March 8, for the Region 13 Odyssey of the Mind competition.

The teams will perform a long-term performance that they have been working on since October. Their long-term performances

include: a team-built vehicle where a student driver attempts to complete tasks in order to pass a driver's test, a not-so-haunted house with special effects, a prehistoric art festival and a structure built using only balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. On the day of competition, the teams will also be judged on how well they solve a spontaneous problem.



The Driver's Test team from Murray Lake perform their long-term skit. Pictured, from left to right: Ryan Goggins, Ramsey Ponchaud, Max Stoner and Carter Peel.

## Beware the Ides of March (and everyday)

"Beware the Ides of March," said the soothsayer to Caesar in William Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*. We at Social Security recommend you beware not only the Ides of March, but every day- and every time-you go on the Internet. Identity theft and cyber-crimes are among the fastest-growing crimes in America.

Today's savvy thieves have added identity to the

list of things they can rob. Their targets are people who use the Internet, and by the time you realize you've been robbed, Brutus may already have done his damage and escaped.

"Et tu, Brute?" Caesar said as his good friend Brutus betrayed him. Even webpages and online sources that appear friendly and trustworthy could be plotting against you. This is why you should protect

your personally identifiable information, such as your Social Security number, date of birth and mother's maiden name. Never give this information out in an email or fill it in on a website asking for it, unless you are absolutely sure that you know and trust the source. And even then, be cautious.

That said, if you conduct business on [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), there is no need to worry. Our

online transactions are secure and convenient. You are protected when you are on our website.

If you think you've been the victim of an online Brutus, you should contact the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov/identifytheft](http://www.ftc.gov/identifytheft). Or you can call 1-866-653-4261.

Treat every day as though it's the Ides of March, unless you're in a

secure place that you trust, like [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). After all, on the Ides of March and every day of the year, Security is our middle name-literally.

Learn more about identity by reading our online publication, *Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number*, available

at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://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](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov)*

## If Trees Could Talk

### Writing contest March 10 deadline approaches

Submitted by:  
Melissa Eldridge,  
Ionia Conservation District

There's one week left to submit writing contest entries! The Go Green Youth Challenge (GGYC) Creative Writing contest seeks to engage students by getting them to explore their imaginations. K-12 students are eligible to submit a short creative writing piece of any type to express what they think it would be like "If Trees Could Talk." There are three age categories and first-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded for each. Entries must be postmarked by March 10.

In addition to the writing contest, the GGYC features a fundraiser challenge. The GGYC fundraiser challenges students to raise money to

plant trees in Michigan. The individual, classroom or club who raises the most money will win a tree planting of their own, an invitation to the State Arbor Day Celebration in Lansing and other assorted prizes. All money raised will go directly toward funding community tree plantings and statewide outreach efforts. GGYC fundraiser

entries must be submitted by March 31.

GGYC celebrates all that trees give us by engaging Michigan's youth in community development and service-learning through a friendly, statewide competition. Details, rules and entry forms on both of these contests can be found at [www.miarbordayalliance.com](http://www.miarbordayalliance.com).

If you have any questions you can email [miarborday@gmail.com](mailto:miarborday@gmail.com) or call (517) 543-5848 ext. 5.

This contest is being held in partnership with the Ionia Conservation District. For more information, please contact us at 616-527-2620 ext. 101 or [www.ioniacd.org](http://www.ioniacd.org)

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## 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.

OR

2.) By \* letter addressed to:  
Vergennes Township/Assessor  
10831 Bailey Dr.  
P.O. Box 208  
Lowell MI 49331

**\*Letters must be received  
before March 7, 2014**

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Smart financial moves for women

On March 8, we observe International Women's Day, a celebration of women's economic, political and social achievements. Yet women everywhere still face challenges — and here in the United States, one of their biggest challenges may be to gain the resources they need to enjoy a comfortable retirement. So, if you're a woman, what steps should you take to make progress toward this goal?

Your first move should be to recognize some of the potential barriers to attaining your financial freedom. First of all, a "wage gap" between women and men still exists: The median earnings of full-time female workers are 77 percent of the median earnings of full-time male workers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Also, women drop out of the workforce for an average of 12 years to care for young children or aging parents, according to the Older Women's League,

a research and advocacy group — and this time away from the workforce results in women receiving lower pensions or accumulating much less money in their employer-sponsored retirement plans.

To give yourself the opportunity to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle, consider these suggestions:

- **Boost your retirement plan contributions.** Each year, put in as much as you can afford to your traditional or Roth IRA. A traditional IRA grows on a tax-deferred basis, while a Roth IRA can grow tax free provided you meet certain conditions. Also, take advantage of your employer-sponsored, tax-deferred retirement plan, such as a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b). At the very least, contribute as much to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. And every year, if

your salary increases, try to boost your contributions to your retirement plan.

- **Consider growth investments.** Some evidence suggests that women may be more conservative investors than men — in other words, women may tend to take fewer risks and pursue "safer" investments. But to help build the resources you will need for a comfortable retirement, consider growth-oriented vehicles in your IRA, 401(k) and other investment accounts.

- **Talk to your spouse about Social Security.** If your spouse starts collecting Social Security at 62 (the earliest age of eligibility), the monthly benefits will be reduced, perhaps by as much as 25 percent. This reduction could affect you if you ever become a widow, because once you reach your own "full" retirement age (which will likely be 66 or 67), you may qualify for survivor benefits of 100 percent of what your deceased spouse had been receiving — and if that amount was reduced, that's what you'll get. Talk to your spouse about this issue well before it's time to receive Social Security. (You may also want to talk to a financial advisor for help in coordinating survivor benefits with your own Social Security retirement benefits.)

- **Evaluate your need for life insurance benefits.** Once their children are grown, some couples drop their life insurance. Yet, the death benefit from a life insurance policy can go a long way toward helping ensure your financial security. Again, talk to your spouse about whether to maintain life insurance, and for how much.

International Women's Day is a great occasion for commemorating women's accomplishments. And by making the right moves, you can eventually celebrate your own achievement of attaining the financial security you deserve.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### just say yes

To the editor,

I am writing on the behalf of the workers of the department of public works. Recently you might have read in the Lowell Ledger about how we have just received the results of the state appointed fact finder and are probably wondering, what is the progress of contract negotiations? Currently we are optimistically awaiting our first meeting with the city since receiving the fact finder's recommendations.

It is encouraging to hear the city manager, in last week's Lowell Ledger, express his enthusiasm "to get to the table and negotiate an agreement." I believe everybody is ready to get this contract done and now with this fact finder's

report, both the city and the workers have a clear, easy way to achieve it. So with that in mind, we the workers are willing to accept the fact finder's recommendations as a working contract.

Of course there will be some parts that both the city and the workers will agree and disagree with, but I believe that nobody can say that the report is not fair. We feel it is time for both sides to compromise for the good of Lowell. By accepting these recommendations we can finally put this behind us; all each side has to do is say yes. We are willing to take the first step and we are simply asking the city to do the same.

Thank you,  
Ralph Brecken

### Tough action against tax evaders is only fair to those who pay their share



Sen. Carl Levin

The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, has spent several years examining the ways offshore banks have aided and encouraged U.S. taxpayers in evading their responsibility to pay what they owe. By using secret bank accounts, these taxpayers conceal their income and therefore avoid paying taxes.

We recently issued our latest report, examining how one Swiss bank, Credit Suisse, attracted thousands of U.S. customers seeking to avoid U.S. taxes, and how our own Justice Department hasn't done enough to collect back taxes from tax dodgers at Credit Suisse and other offshore banks.

Our report followed up on a hearing we held in 2008, where we showed that UBS, the largest bank in Switzerland, at one time had 52,000 U.S. customers with Swiss accounts holding \$18 billion in hidden assets.

UBS acknowledged its misdeeds and, to avoid prosecution, turned over the names of more than 4,700 U.S. taxpayers with previously undisclosed accounts. Those revelations led to a broader voluntary disclosure program in which 43,000 taxpayers have paid back taxes, interest and penalties totaling \$6 billion to date, with more expected.

Our latest investigation chronicles the uneven and halting progress in identifying U.S. taxpayers

who cheated Uncle Sam by using hidden offshore accounts. Along with Sen. John McCain of Arizona, I released a bipartisan report showing that at its peak, Credit Suisse had more than 22,000 U.S. customers with accounts containing up to \$12 billion.

One client described an experience right out of a James Bond movie when the client visited the bank's main offices in Zurich. The client was ushered into a remotely controlled elevator with no floor buttons, and escorted to a bare room with white walls. The client always signed a form ordering that the Credit Suisse account statements be immediately shredded.

One Swiss banker met with a U.S. client over breakfast at a U.S. luxury hotel and slipped the client bank account statements in-between the pages of a Sports Illustrated magazine. Some Swiss bankers also advised U.S. clients on how to structure cash transactions to avoid filing reports of transactions over \$10,000 that are required by U.S. law.

Once UBS' misconduct was exposed, Credit Suisse started closing U.S. client accounts in Switzerland. In the end, the bank kept accounts for only about 3,500 out of the 22,000 U.S. clients, after verifying them as compliant with U.S. tax law, meaning they were disclosed to the IRS. The bank closed accounts for the other 18,900 U.S. customers. The vast majority – up to 95 percent – were undeclared, meaning hidden from Uncle Sam.

We need to know how many of those accounts belonged to people dodging U.S. taxes, and we need to collect back taxes from those tax evaders. The key to answering those questions is getting the names of U.S. account-

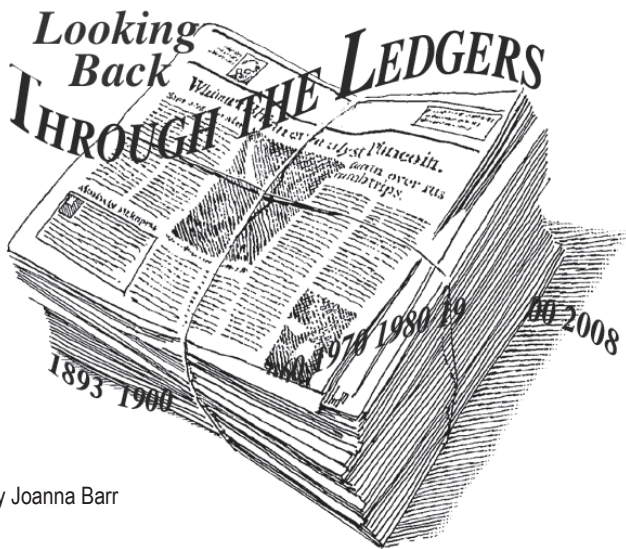
holders. But so far, Credit Suisse has handed over identification for just 238 accounts of U.S. clients. To me, getting 238 in five years out of a universe of 22,000 – less than one percent – is beyond embarrassing.

During our hearing, Credit Suisse executives told us they will not hand over names of its U.S. clients because doing so would violate Swiss law. That's outrageous. When a bank comes to the United States to do business, it should comply with U.S. law, including laws that protect us from tax evasion.

But enforcement action against Credit Suisse has stalled, even though the bank has been under criminal investigation since 2011. While seven of its bankers were indicted by U.S. prosecutors in 2011, none has stood trial. Instead, they are residing openly in Switzerland. None has been the subject of a U.S. extradition request.

Unfortunately, U.S. law enforcement hasn't been as tough as it should be. Rather than use proven U.S. tools that could be enforced in U.S. courts, the Justice Department bowed to the wishes of the Swiss government and voluntarily limited its requests for Swiss documents, including names of tax evaders.

Individuals who use bank secrecy to hide income and evade taxes are cheating not just the government but also the honest Americans who pay what they owe. Michigan's working families are required to report their income to the IRS; wealthy individuals with Swiss bank accounts should have to do the same. Hopefully our investigation, report and hearing will mark the beginning of a renewed push by the Department of Justice to act against tax evaders and tax haven banks.



By Joanna Barr

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

Messrs. R. J. Flannagan and A. H. Peckham are now the proprietors of the Cutter Works formerly owned by the Star Cutter Co. and later by the Cragin Mfg., Co. They are putting in a new Russell 50-horse engine and will soon be in shape to resume manufacturing.

Michael Farrell, of Ada, Kent County, is in hard luck. He reared 11 children, nine of whom are girls and to seven of these when they were married he gave \$1,000 each. To the remaining daughters Mr. Farrell deeded 360 acres of land valued at \$11,000 and now the old man asks to have the deeds set aside as none of the children will care for him. It's the old, old story.

Mrs. Thompson and son and Mr. Beasler and wife, of Keene, were driving home from town in a double seated buggy Saturday and just east of the M. E. church, their team was frightened by some fast drivers who came-up behind them and ran into C. VanDeusen's wagon which was ahead of them. All in the buggy were thrown out and Mrs. Thompson was quite severely bruised.

Among the many different kinds of manufacturing which Lowell is peculiarly fitted to carry on because of its water power and the abundance of the various kinds of timber used in the manufacture are oval dish,

basket, pail or tub factories. The timber used would be elm, ash, basswood, poplar, beech and hard and soft maple.

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

Headline: Flourishing condition – village finances shown by clerk Taylor. Light & power bonds paid from plant earnings before maturity with improvements. The superintendent and the Lowell Light and Power committee have added another year of success to the history of Lowell's municipal plant and in order that the citizens may be able to tell at a glance some of the most important doings of the council for the year we write this brief summary. The amount paid for labor alone for the plant was nearly \$4500. Improvements have been made on the plant and line to the amount of about \$1600. In the year 1913 they paid \$4000 light and power bonds and at the last council meeting voted to retire \$3000 in bonds with 5 per cent interest. These are not due until 1916 but were optional at this interest period. In order that the employees might be near their work at all times and have pleasant and convenient homes the council built a double house at the plant. The house is about 24x34, two story, with two good cellars, one large front porch and two back porches. It is all plastered, well wired and has natural finish Southern pine and painted at an expense of about \$1500. The machinery and entire equipment of plant line and station was never in better condition than at the present time. The total receipts from the plant this year was over \$18000 and we have some prospective customers, which, if we can arrange to take them on, will increase the earnings of the plant a great deal.

In a suit brought by Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor against Lowell saloon keepers in the Ionia circuit court, the jury's verdict awarded the plaintiff \$1500 damages for the death of her husband in the Lowell jail a year ago, when his mattress burned and Taylor was suffocated. We understand the case will be appealed.

## We love to hear from you!

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

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

# lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

## tutors needed - information session to be held March 12

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Wednesday, March 12 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on 1990 census figures, at

least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.

# health

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



## dry skin

Dry, itchy skin is a common condition this time of year. As the weather gets colder, the air gets drier and your skin becomes dry and itchy. Humidifying your

home can help to keep your skin moist. You can either get a stand-alone portable humidifier or have one added on to your furnace. Excessive hand

washing and bathing can also cause your skin to become dry. Limiting the number of times you wash your hands can help. Using a waterless hand sanitizer is just as effective at killing germs, but won't dry your skin as much. Limiting the time you spend in the shower or tub can also help. People with dry skin should consider bathing every other day in the winter. Taking quick, luke-warm showers will also help to minimize the drying effects of hot water. Mild, hypo-allergenic soaps are less drying than scented and colored soaps.

Moisturizers are an important part of treating dry skin. They should be

used two to four times daily. A moisturizer should also be hypo-allergenic. They work best when they are applied to the skin right after bathing or hand washing. If a hypo-allergenic cream or lotion moisturizer does not seem to be helping, other over-the-counter treatments can be tried. A one percent hydrocortisone cream is available over-the-counter and could be used for up to one week. Another option is a 12 percent lactic acid based lotion which may help some severe forms of dry skin. If none of these treatments seem to help, see your health care provider for an evaluation.

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# happy birthday!

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Don Silvis, Michael Nearing, Washburn.

**MARCH 11**  
Pat Ball, Ruth Griffeth, Renee Nugent, Larry Martin, Kim Barnes.

**MARCH 6**  
Pat Covell, Darlene McClure.

**MARCH 7**  
Carrie Metternick, Marshal Mooney, Michael Barnes, Shirley Canfield.

**MARCH 8**  
Amber Rittersdorf, DJ Main, Charles Drake, Colleen Lally.

**LUNCH MENU**

**ELEMENTARY MENU**  
Week of  
March 10, 2014

**MARCH 9**  
Bob Vezino, Marsha Roudabush, Mark Richmond, Pam Cebelak.

**MARCH 10**  
Daniel Miller, Randy Kuiper.

**MON:** Cheeseburger on WG bun, seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, fresh baby carrots, mandarin oranges, fresh apples.

**TUES:** Chicken taco on soft tortilla shell, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, mixed fruit, pear.

**WED:** French toast sticks served w/sausage, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, pears, orange slices.

**THURS:** Rotini w/ meatsauce & seasoned broccoli (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG breaded chicken nuggets & mashed potatoes w/gravy (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, red pepper strips, peaches, apple.

**FRI:** Tony's cheese pizza on WG crust, seasoned corn (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), baby carrots (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, juice.

# area churches

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10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
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www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service.....Sunday -10:30 A.M.  
(Nursery available)  
Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
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**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
Pastor Rod Galindo  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

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

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10:30 A.M. ....Fellowship  
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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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
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Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org

Rev. Jon Pickens  
Pastor Phil Severn

Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times  
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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
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897-5936  
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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# Capstone students defy stereotypes by showing initiative

submitted by:  
Garrett Gordon, Caleb Perosky,  
Ryan Lubbers and Spencer Lyon

When you see a teenager, what do you generally think? Do the words lazy, entitled and reckless often cross your mind? Well, a group of students at Lowell High School (LHS) are defying all of those stereotypes.

Groups from the Senior Capstone class at the high

school are volunteering in our community, other cities and helping address needs across the world. They are using their creativity, knowledge and generosity to help the community, as well as the less fortunate in other countries. For example, in our city, there are two groups of four teens that worked at Flat River Outreach Ministries

(FROM). These groups did anything from demolition, to painting and finally, organization.

Tyler Garter, an LHS senior working at FROM stated, "I felt good about myself because I did something to help out the community."

Another senior Capstone group worked with the residents of Green Acres retirement home. They spent time with the senior citizens, exercising with them, painting the women's nails and just spending time with them in general.

Using their connections with LHS drama department, a group arranged to have the musical cast decorate lunch bags for Kid's Food Basket in downtown Grand Rapids; the bags were donated and the students worked at the kitchen for a day.

Another group extended their reach beyond Lowell by working at Mackenzie's Animal Shelter in Lake Odessa, where the students worked in the dog kennels.

Expanding to a worldwide scope, another group has been working to



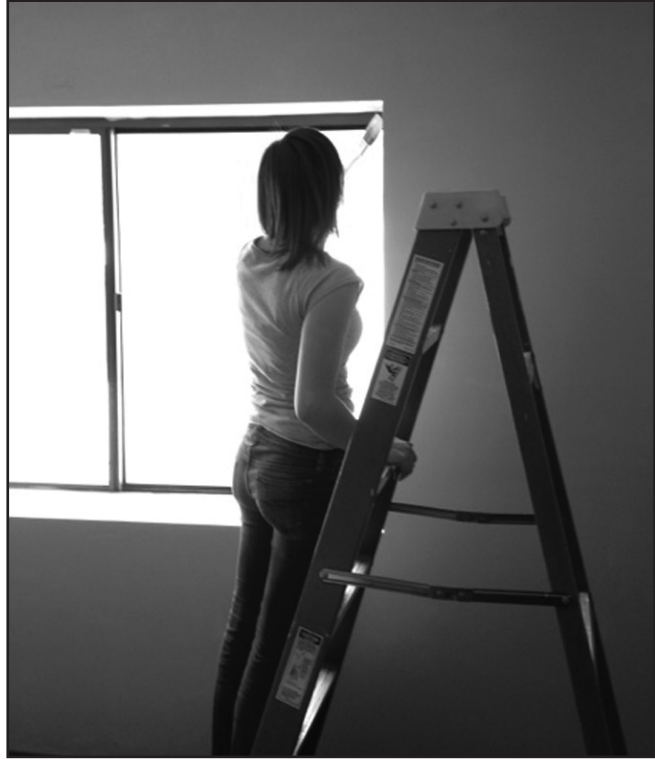
A group of Capstone students with the residents of Green Acres.

raise awareness about the current epidemic regarding the shortage of clean water in Haiti through a presentation at the school and at the Lowell Community Expo in March. A group is also working right in the high school. They are going to Mr. Boeve's classroom to learn and play games with the special needs' students. Another group that is working in the school system is hoping to add comfort for elementary students by making seat cushions for an entire classroom, with the belief that when students are comfortable, academic productivity increases.

These groups of teens

have high aspirations and do not believe that the label put on the average teenager is how they should be defined.

This Senior Capstone class serves as an example that no matter your age, you can always make a difference.



Capstone student Korinna Boston paints a windowsill at FROM.



Capstone students wearing Pink Arrow shirts with a resident of Green Acres.

# Laughfest in Lowell, continued

an army guy, air force guy, a navy guy and marines. There's definitely different material. I know things. I've been in there. I can make fun of them differently if I want to because I wore a uniform and I was deployed. It gives me some leeway. I can make fun of them because I'm one of them. It's almost like family. It's a brotherhood, a sisterhood. You have somebody come over there, they're trying to make fun of them and they've never been in, it's a little bit different. I know a lot of intricacies and things. I went to boot camp. I was in there. So I definitely got an 'inside track' and it's a very comfortable way of talking with them. I always look forward to doing this. When I'm over there I'd say ten percent of the humor I talk about would be specifically to them. Like, if I go to Michigan, depending on the time of year, obviously I'm going to stress the weather!"

Walsh left on a trip February 26 and returns just before his performance in Lowell.

"I'm going to Greenland, El Salvador and then Honduras," Walsh said. "It's going to be interesting, I've never been to those places. Then I fly straight into Grand Rapids on March 7."

When Walsh isn't touring the world's military bases, he also puts on a one-

man show called "Over There: Comedy Is His Best Weapon."

"The one-man show, it's theatrical," Walsh said. "It's a theater show. It's a written play and it's a whole story arc and it has lights and sound and music and it's a lot more in-depth. What I do is, I'm a storyteller by nature. I'm really a long-form comedian. So I'll take some of the one-man show stories and I have been popping them in. They're just fun to tell. But there are a lot of serious moments in the one-man show. It's a story of how I joined the military, the whole arc of how I've been going back and entertaining and how I got into the White House. There are serious moments because I was this kid from Brewster, New York; I'm first-generation Irish, both my parents emigrated here; I didn't really take to school well and when I got into the navy it gave me a lot of tools. It gave me everything I needed to try to become a comedian, which I succeeded at and then work in the entertainment field, but then go back and entertain the troops. It brought up a lot of stuff and I saw a lot of stuff and I just felt like that's a story I want people to feel and people go to the theater to feel. When you watch a play you're so engaged and you feel so much and I wanted people

to feel that story because you'll have an empathetic experience about what service is and what type of person serves. I talk about my family in the military and all the great stuff I think about this country and my experiences in the navy with my friends."

Walsh first heard of LaughFest last year when he was performing in Grand Rapids.

"I headlined Dr. Grins, I think, about four times over the years," Walsh said. "Last year about two weeks before LaughFest started I was in there headlining and I was getting pissed because every night they were going on up and promoting this LaughFest and I'd see these flyers and I was like, 'Is this for real? Nobody asked me? I'd like to do this!' So every night I'd hear about all these shows and I knew some of the comics that were on them. This year they called me up and asked if I wanted to do my own show."

Lowell can expect Walsh to give an energetic performance free of curse words.

"My comedic style, people say it's high-energy," Walsh said. "And this will be a clean show. I like all comedy, but my rule of thumb is, I don't talk about anything that would upset my sisters. I grew up with three sisters. I don't care

what anybody on earth thinks about me, but I love my sisters to death and I don't do anything that they would be embarrassed about. And that's just how I live life, you know? They're the most important people to me, so at some point in my career that just became my guideline. At the end of the day it's about who I care about and what I care about. I love comedy. I love performing, there's a switch that goes on."

There might even be some breakdancing Saturday night.

"I was a big breakdancer growing up and really good at it too," Walsh said. "Go on YouTube and you can find it. If I have a big enough

stage I always do it. I'm sure I have one in the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center, so definitely that will be happening. I like to break it out whenever I can."

If you're looking for one other LaughFest show to attend, Walsh has a recommendation for you.

"I'll tell you who definitely to go see in LaughFest: James P. Connolly," Walsh said. "I think he's in the 'clean comic' show. He's not only one of my closest friends in comedy, but one of my dearest friends. We've taken many trips overseas. He's a former marine officer. We've taken trips to Iraq and Afghanistan many times. I

know there's a huge list of performers for LaughFest, but that's one of my favorite people, one of my favorite comics. He's a great guy."

Connolly's shows are at the B.O.B. in Grand Rapids on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 7, 8 and 9.

Another LaughFest event taking place in Lowell is Kids Joke Night, which will be at Englehardt Library March 11 at 6 pm.

"I love Michigan audiences," Walsh said. "They have a really good, hardworking, mellow, ready-to-laugh vibe. There's just something about them and I think when it gets cold, people are just like, 'Let's laugh!'"

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

- GYMNASTICS

## Gymnasts qualify for state for the first time and for good measure - break school record again

by Karen Jack

The Lowell gymnastics' team shattered the school record yet again at the perfect time – the regional meet which is the meet they had to do well at in order to move on to state. The top three teams qualified and Lowell came in third, just beating out powerhouse Rockford by one point.

"We did some different things at practice to prepare the girls and it was quite a task, but I knew we could do it," said coach Michele DeHaan.

The coaches were a little concerned when they got their rotation draw and realized the beam was their last event. The beam can make or break a team and being last is probably the worst position to be in, partly because throughout the meet, the coaches have no idea what position they're in or how they stack up to other teams' points until the end of the meet.

The girls did very well on their first three events, so it came down to the beam.

"One after another, the girls kept hitting their routine on beam," added DeHaan. "It was like they were at practice and no one was there but us. When Lauren DeHaan's score flashed and it was a 9.325, I knew she had easily qualified individually, but first place never crossed



The Lowell gymnastics' team celebrates their state qualification.

my mind. Then freshman Karmen Anderson's score flashed and it was an 8.95 and our mouths just dropped. Her highest beam score all year was 8.05."

This is the first time in Lowell history that the gymnastics' team has qualified for state.

"They were going through the team places

at the end of the meet and when the places were getting higher and higher and they hadn't called us, I just kept hoping we had done enough," said coach DeHaan. "Then they announced the fourth-place team with 138 and I knew we had beaten that score and had made it as a team. What an amazing feeling.

These girls have worked so hard and I think once they knew it was within reach, everything changed and that's what made the difference."

Lowell has also qualified quite a few girls for the individual state championship as well. Senior Jordan Lytle placed fourth on bars with 8.875 and sixth place on floor with 9.15. Anderson qualified on beam with her score, freshman Corah Kaufman placed second on bars with 8.675 and sophomore Lauren Browning placed eighth on vault with 8.8.

Junior Lauren DeHann placed third on vault (8.9), seventh on bars (8.075) and was the regional champion for beam. She didn't place on floor, but came in second in the all-around so she will still compete on all four events at individual state.

The team will travel to Plymouth High School for the state championship on March 7 and 8.



Lauren DeHaan reaches new heights on the beam as the regional champion.



Corah Kaufman sails through the air on bars.



Jordan Lytle moves from one bar to the other during her routine.



# First “Downright Awesome D.I.Y.” event helps fight cabin fever

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Crafty Lowell citizens braved cold and blustery weather conditions last Thursday night to attend the community’s first do-it-yourself night. The “Downright Awesome D.I.Y.” event was conceived by several local merchants and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (LACC), at an LACC monthly merchants’ meeting.

According to LACC director Liz Baker, “Karen Waid of Flat River Antique

Emporium suggested the DIY event. They have been doing several small events at their location, so we thought it might be a great way to beat the winter blues, get people out of their homes and into the stores. The social media site Pinterest is full of DIY projects and people are always interested in learning.”

Waid was among the merchants who took part in the inaugural event, leading two sessions each at the Flat River Antique Emporium



**Crochet and knitting instructor Dode Dey assists attendee Julie Brady at Springrove Variety.**

on the topics of creating a listing on Craigslist and making a chalk board, that participants were invited to keep.

Other activities in the three-hour schedule included crocheting lessons from Schneider Manor resident Dode Dey held at Springrove Variety; learning how to repair plug-in light cords at Journeys Time Antiques; and trying painting techniques using

Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan at the Flat River Cottage.

LowellArts! hosted two half-hour sessions with tips on hanging and buying artworks and debuted their latest gallery exhibition, The West Michigan Regional Art Competition. L4 Alterations held an hour-long question and answer session regarding sewing and a series of mini classes that covered basics for both sewing and quilting.

Susan Molnar, owner of Glass House Designs, welcomed attendees to design a glass mosaic coaster at her unique store, which recently celebrated ten years here in Lowell. Participants built their own designs using a rainbow of variously shaped glass pieces with guidance from Molnar, who says she enjoys participating in the many events sponsored by the LACC.

“I love it when the merchants get together and do things like this. It is so much fun,” said Molnar.

Baker feels positive about the interactive events’ future, “While we only had seven participating locations, this is the type of event that has potential to grow. Just look at our “Girls’ Night Out” events, not only has the event grown, but many communities are following our lead. That is the ultimate form of flattery to our community!” she exclaimed.

The process of creating a vibrant and thriving downtown is ever evolving for the LACC according to Baker.

“Bottom line is we will continue to look at ways to help bring people to Lowell and encourage our residents to shop, eat, do business and play local,” stated Baker



**Heidi Hutchins uses a sander to finish off her creation at the Flat River Cottage.**



**Susan Molnar, owner of Glass House Designs, demonstrates glass cutting with guest Diane Loomis.**

# Regional art competition on display at King Gallery

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

LowellArts! unveiled its latest exhibition, the West Michigan Regional Art Competition, on Feb. 26 in their King Gallery.

The juried competition, now in its 28th year, focuses on the art of lower West Michigan residents and awards a grand total of \$2,000 in prize money to the top five finishers. Artists aged 18 and older living in a 15 county region were eligible for entry in the contest, which accepted over 300 works in all forms of visual arts’ media, including painting, photography, sculpture and drawing. These entries were

then narrowed down judged and placed on display.

This year’s eclectic collection was juried by the director of Galleries and Collections at Grand Valley State University (GVSU), Henry Matthews. The former museum director was responsible for selecting the winning entries, as well as six Honorable Mention awards and a special GVSU Purchase award.

First-place honors and \$750 were awarded to painter Thimgan Hayden from Parchment for her entry “Gladys with Coffee” which was painted on linen with oils. Hayden, who heard about the competition

through an email, is a first-time entrant in the LowellArts! event. Wife, mother and artist, Hayden says she has been painting since adolescence.

“I started painting when I was a teen and have been painting professionally since that time,” she said. Going on to explain the inspiration for her work, “In general, what inspires my work is recording the fragile and beautiful nature of temporal life, youth and beauty. Specifically, with a portrait, I am trying to relate the strength and character of the sitter to myself and the viewers of the painting. I also enjoy the challenge

of painting from real life, which is how ‘Gladys with Coffee’ was painted.”

Hayden said it felt good to be given top honors in the contest, “While I am naturally pleased, I never lose my sense of gratitude.”

Second-place winner Jovannah Nicholson from Grand Rapids was also awarded the GVSU Purchase award for her unique ceramic entry “Tender Hearted.”

Third place was awarded to Isaac Smith, also from Grand Rapids, whose entry depicts a post apocalyptic zombie scene. The remarkably detailed entry was completed using



only carbon pencil and white chalk.

Two more Grand Rapidsians rounded out the competition’s top five.

Amy Johnson for her stunning jewelry entry “Sunset Blossoms” and photographer Randall Nyhof for his creative work titled “The Checker Game.”

Honorable Mention award winners were Connie Kuhnle, from Rockford; Diane Huhn, from Middleville; Andrew

Jagniecki, from Whitehall; and Mark Dunning, Connie Boeske and Jan McKinnon, all from Grand Rapids.

LowellArts! will be hosting a public reception and awards ceremony on March 16 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The gallery is located at 149 South Hudson Street. Guests are invited to view the collection of outstanding art and meet with the visionary artists that created them.



**The collection will be on display and free to view from now until April 10 during the gallery’s regularly scheduled hours: Tuesday-Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.**

# Red Arrow - WRESTLING SPORTS

## Lowell claims three state champs/nine all-staters

by Karen Jack

For the second year in a row, Lowell had a great showing at the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) individual wrestling state championships with nine placers, three of which were champions in their weight class. Not one of the all-state wrestlers finished below fifth, which is remarkable.

This year's champions were Lucas Hall (112), Max Dean (171) and Josh Colegrove (215).

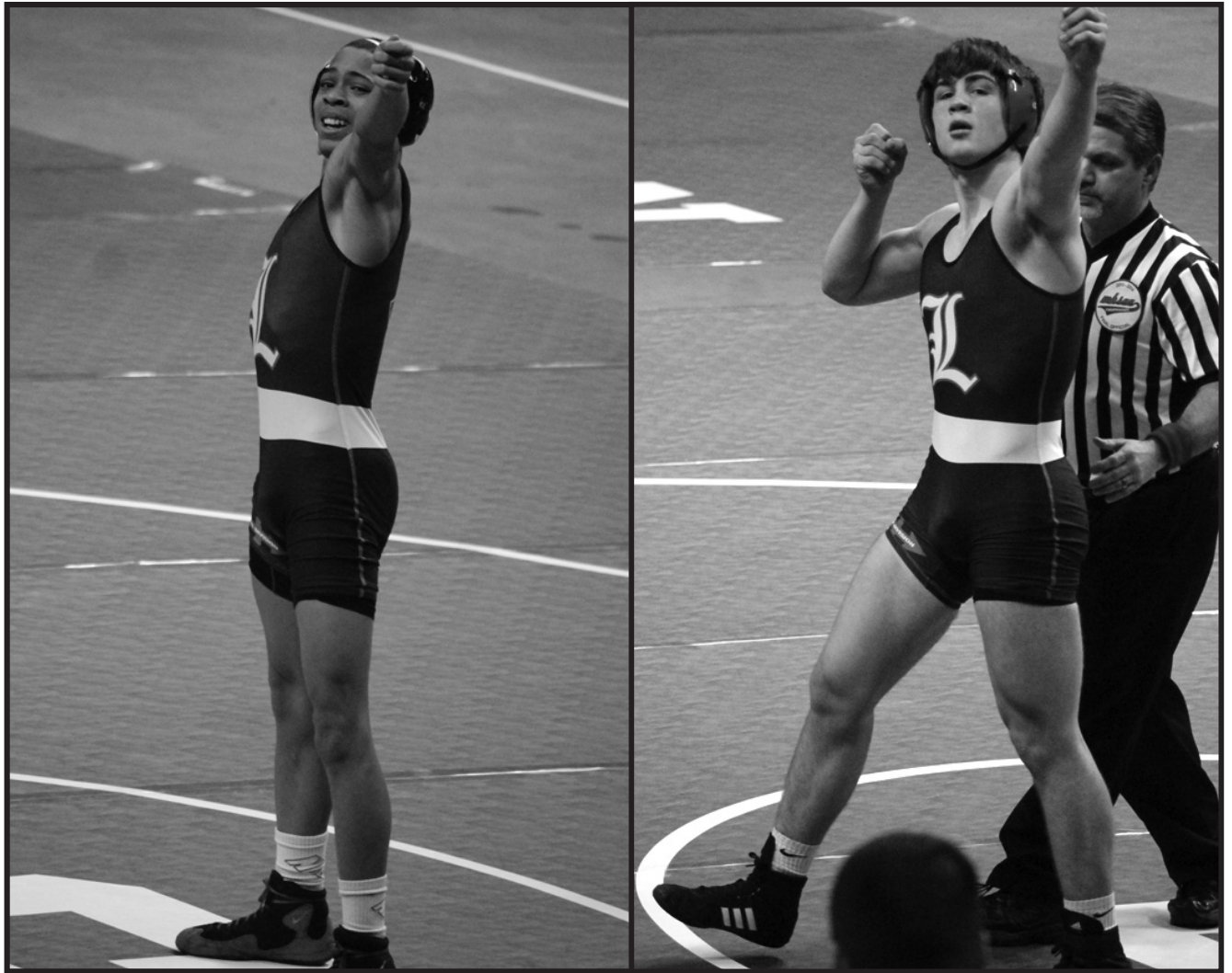
Senior Garrett Stehley was the runner-up at 189 lbs. Taking third place were Bailey Jack (130) and Jordan Hall (135). Derek Krajewski finished fourth (125), and both Zeth Dean (119) and Kanon Dean (160) finished fifth.

Lucas Hall walked through the 112 lb. weight class, beating Noah Schoenherr from Battle Creek Western by technical fall and Aaron Parr-Besemer from Berkley 11-4 in the first round and quarterfinals. In the semifinals, Hall faced St. Johns' Ian Parker, who was highly touted to win

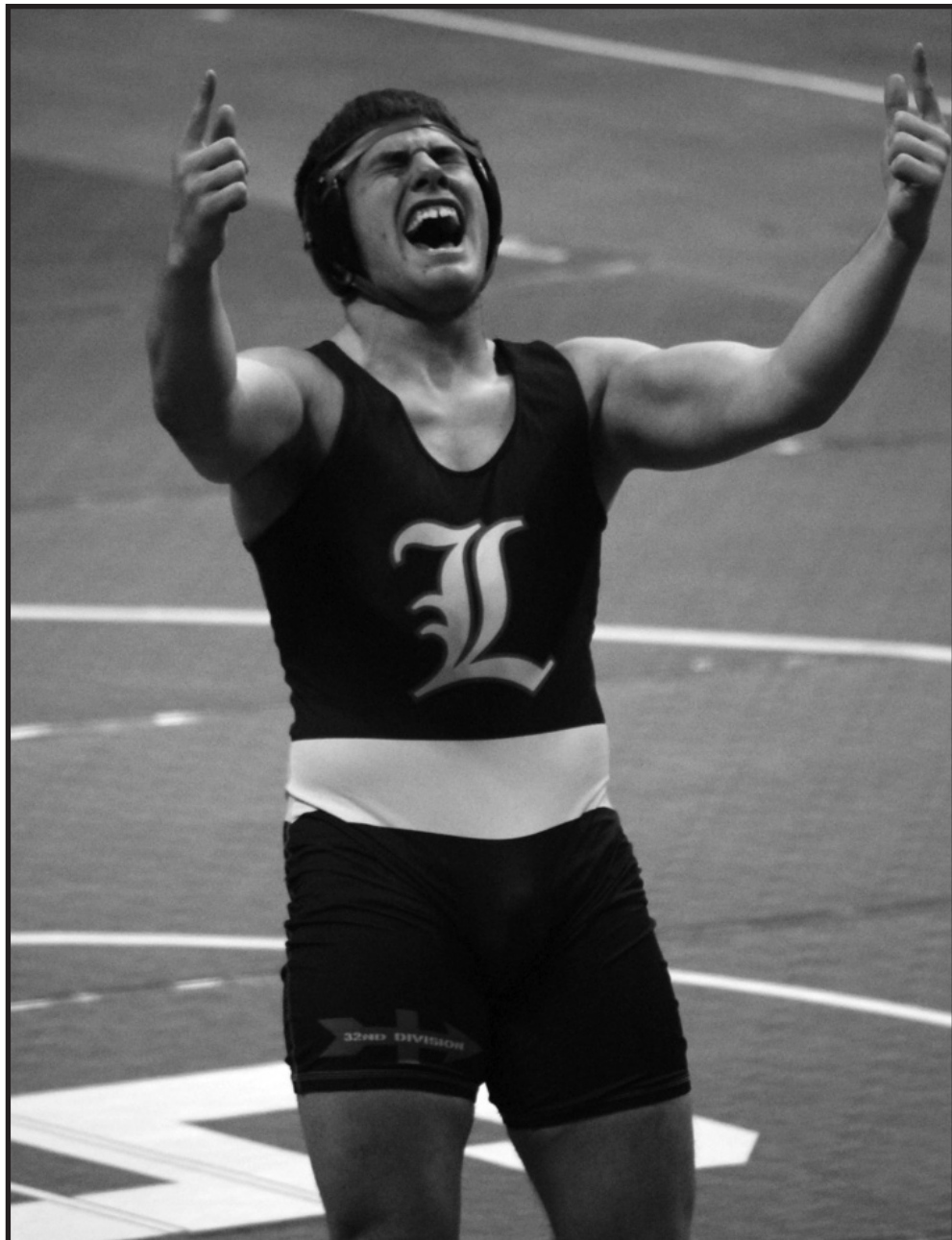
the tournament, by decision (11-6). In the championship match, Hall pinned Brian LaVearn from Ortonville-Brandon.

"There's nothing better than winning two state championships in one year (individual and state)," said Hall. "I knew I had a bulls-eye on my back because I was ranked no. 1, but coach Dean's talks about just wrestling helped a lot because that's really all you can do – wrestle for six minutes. My team also helped me because we're always there for each other, pushing each other to reach our goals."

Max Dean started his run at the Palace majoring Zachary Wamser of Cedar Springs (8-0), then beating Jacob Taylor from Battle Creek Central 15-8. In the semifinals, he beat James Davis from Flint Kearsley by decision (6-2). For the championship, Dean had to face no. 1-ranked Devon Pingel and last year's state champion. He beat him quite handily with a score of 14-8.



Lucas Hall, left, and Max Dean shoot "Arrows" into the Lowell crowd to show their excitement and appreciation.



Josh Colegrove is captured as the whistle blew during his championship match.

"You work so hard your entire life for goals like this and it almost doesn't seem real," said Dean. "I really want to thank my family, the coaches, my teammates and entire community for all the support."

Colegrove's run afforded him another match-up against St. Johns' Tyler Wildmo, who he lost to in the team state finals. Before that, though, he had to get through Brandon Geiser of Croswell-Lexington (pin) and Zack Underwood from Gibraltar-Carlson (3-0). Colegrove beat Wildmo 6-4 to earn his berth to the championship match. There he faced Jacob Alarie from Bay City Western and pinned him in 1:50 to win the title.

Stehley earned his way to the finals and had to face St. Johns' Angus Arthur and almost pulled out the win. Going into the third period only down by one, Stehley knew he had to try to make a move on Arthur to win and with only seconds to

go on the clock, he went for the takedown and Arthur managed to turn it into a takedown himself to win 5-2.

Jack, last year's state champion at 119 lbs., lost to Austin Thompson of Marysville in the quarterfinals. Thompson went on to win the championship at 130 lbs. The loss required Jack to wrestle all the way back for third. In the consolation finals, he faced Ameer Munassar of Melvindale and beat him 4-0 to place third.

Jordan Hall pinned and teched his way to the semifinals, then lost to Austin Melton of Dewitt, who also went on to win the championship at 135 lbs. Hall wrestled back to the consolation finals to beat Thomas Schoenherr of Bay City Western 17-6 for a third-place finish.

Krajewski majored his way to the semifinal's match where he lost to Nick Pipes, who incidentally was the

state champion this year at 125 lbs. He had to wrestle back all the way as well and faced Jon Wellman of New Huron Boston in the consolation finals, but couldn't hang on, which placed him in fourth.

Zeth Dean dropped his match in the quarterfinals to Jacob Chapman of Flint Kearsley and had to fight back to move forward. In the consolation semifinals, Dean faced Chris Poland of Thornapple-Kellogg. That match went into overtime and Dean lost by two. He took fifth by forfeit due to his opponent being injured.

Kanon Dean, like the others, narrowly lost to the state champion in the semifinal round (Logan Ritchie of New Boston Huron) which sent him to the consolation bracket. Dean lost to Drew Wixsom of St. Johns in the consolation semifinals and then won his match for fifth place by forfeit, due to an injured opponent.

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the lowell  
ledger

# Red Arrow **SPORTS**

- BASKETBALL

## Boys out after 71-54 loss to Northview at districts

by Karen Jack

The Red Arrow basketball team had a really tough draw in the first round of districts this year, having to face Grand Rapids Northview and ended their season with a 71-54 loss. With such a young team, where their two standouts are freshman Matt Beachler and sophomore Ryan

Stevens, it's a difficult task to beat a team like that at best.

Northview is an experienced team that's bigger and has been playing together longer and it showed in Monday night's game.

Lowell started off strong and looked like they

might railroad Northview with their attack, leading at the end of the first quarter by six points. But Northview came back in the second quarter and outscored the Red Arrows by ten points, hitting jumpers and rebounding for the re-shot.

Lowell kept it close

in the third quarter, only trailing by 44-37 at the end, but Northview closed the door on Lowell's hopes of moving on in the districts by scoring 27 points in the fourth quarter to Lowell's 17 points. The final score doesn't reflect Lowell's

team effort in the game. They were diving for balls, trying to push Northview into making mistakes and creating turnovers to get the job done, but came up short. Three of Lowell's players scored in double digits in

the game. Ryan Stevens had 13, Matt Beachler had 11 and Josh Branagan had ten.

They ended their season with a 10-10 record, which far exceeded the expectations for such a young team.

## Lady Arrows end season in second round of districts

by Karen Jack

In a year with a new coach and rebuilding, Lowell's girls' basketball team had an amazing year, winning the first round of districts against Rockford, then having to travel to Greenville to face their team, which according to coach Jake Strotheide, is a very good team and has always been a good team.

But the Lowell coaches knew they had to press the Greenville team and try to get them to make mistakes and capitalize on them. Their size alone is a

big obstacle to overcome and Leah Summerfield of Greenville was very good early.

"I thought we came out great hitting back-to-back threes, said Strotheide. Our girls were ready to compete and they played hard, but we got into some early foul trouble which hurt our rotation and I thought Greenville was able to take advantage of that."

Unfortunately, the Yellow Jackets came out in full force in the first quarter

of the game to take a ten point lead, then outscored Lowell by four in the second quarter.

The Lady Arrows made adjustments in the locker room at halftime and came within six points with the ball back twice. They missed a three-point shot that looked like it was going in and in the next possession

turned the ball over. Greenville banked the shot into the basket and it put the game out of reach. Lowell outscored Greenville in both quarters of the second half, but they just couldn't get the points on the board and Greenville ended up winning the game 68-58.

Kate Holzhueter and Kate Montgomery both

were top scorers for Lowell, each with 15 and Aubreigh Steed had 14 points.

"I am really proud of our girls and how we have continued to get better every day," said Strotheide. "Our seniors, Aubreigh Steed and Sarah Oesch, were just really good and showed our younger girls how to work

hard, play for their school and do it with class. I look forward to our future as we have eight players returning from this year's team and a JV team that was 15-5 this season. I think we have some really good players that can come in [and] contribute right away."



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# obituaries

## SCHILLER

Reverend Thomas A. Schiller, of Ludington, was born May 30, 1929 in New Era. A faithful, highly respected and dedicated priest. Father Tom was ordained to the priesthood June 4, 1955. He died February 28, 2014, a few days after surgery for repair of an aneurysm. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edmond and Julia (Greiner) Schiller; brothers, Timothy and Francis; and brothers-in-law, Walter O'Donnell and Cliff Anderson. He is survived by brother Joseph (Ruth) Schiller of Minneapolis; sisters, Stella O'Donnell of Ludington, Sister M. Rosita Schiller, RSM of Grand Rapids; and Rosemary (Norman) Byrne of Ada; sisters-in-law, Genevieve Schiller and Teresa Tillman Schiller Anderson; many, many favorite nieces and nephews; and numerous friends. He served at these parishes: Saint James, Grand Rapids; SS Peter and Paul, Ionia; Saint Joseph Onkama; Saint Simon, Ludington; Saint Mary, Lowell; Saint Mary, Spring Lake; Saint James, Montague; and St. John The Baptist, Claybanks. After retirement he substituted most weekends at various parishes. Funeral services were held on March 3, 2014.

## THURTELL

A few days ago, Ruth Thurtell excitedly called each of her three sons to report that she had joined the choir at her retirement community. Among friends and family, she loved to belt out tunes on her harmonica. Mrs. Thurtell's music ended on Thursday, February 27, when she died suddenly of complications brought on by intestinal illness and congestive heart failure. She was 94. She was born Ruth Eleanor Houseman on February 18, 1920, in Grand Rapids. Her father, Martin Houseman, operated a meat market in Lowell. Her mother, Sue Houseman, was a seamstress. Ruth Eleanor joined the choir of Lowell's First Congregational Church in 1932 when she was 12 years old. She loved her church and her strong, mellow, perfect-pitched voice was a vibrant part of its services for decades. She learned to play harmonica as a girl. Later, she played trombone, violin, viola, cello, and piano. She was drum major in the Lowell High School marching band. A 1938 graduate of Lowell High School, she earned a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan College of Education (now Central Michigan University) in 1942. In 1943 she married Howard Thurtell, a World War II U.S. Army Air Forces pilot, who preceded her in death on September 4, 2009. The 1943 song "Comin' In On a Wing and a Prayer" was a favorite of the newlyweds. Asked recently to play, Mrs. Thurtell picked up her little mouth organ and performed a well-practiced version of "A Wing and a Prayer," complete with after beats. Mrs. Thurtell is survived by sons, Joel, Craig and Steve; grandsons, Adam and Abe; granddaughter, Leila, and niece, Marylyn McLeod. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 am Saturday, March 22, at the First Congregational Church of Lowell, 865 Lincoln Lake SE.



# Looking Back, continued

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

Have you bought a new shaving brush recently? If so and if the lettering "Japan 332" is stamped on the top and "Imperial-Sterilized" on the side of the handle, get in touch with a local health officer. A death from anthrax infection recently in North Dakota has been traced to the use of a shaving brush which had not been sterilized before it was imported into this country, according to the U. S. Public Health Services. And if you are contemplating a new shaving brush or any article where there may be a doubt of its origin, it's just as well to look and see if it is marked "Made in Japan" or "Made in Germany." If so, ask for an American-made product.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 5, 1964

Headline: Offer plan to save Showboat. To meet the objections of residents of Lafayette Street and to allow the Showboat to erect permanent seating on the street, a compromise solution was proposed by mayor Ralph Townsend at the council meeting on Monday, to make a one-way street. This solution was submitted to some 20 residents of the area who did not voice any serious objection to the plan; it will now be presented to the Showboat board of directors. Under the proposed plan, some 10 or 12 feet of street will be left open for traffic; this would allow bleachers to be built over the remaining portion. If this meets the requirements of the Showboat, the council will give permission to use this portion of the street. It was agreed by the members of the council that as long as so many residents objected to the closing, this would not be given further consideration. In a show of hands, almost everyone present at the meeting was in favor of doing anything within reason to keep the Showboat going.

Headline: Attwood Corp. sold. Rumors have been circulating in Lowell for about a week that Steelcase, Inc., manufacturers of metal office furniture, was negotiating with Attwood Corporation for their plants in Lowell and Grand Rapids. The announcement of the outright purchase was made on Tuesday by Robert C. Pew, executive vice president of Steelcase. The plant and equipment in Lowell is appraised for taxes at nearly a million dollars. It was revealed that James B. Cook, president of Attwood Corporation, will continue to head the Lowell firm. Byron H. Cook, present chairman of the board, will retire from the company on April 1st. He joined the company in 1918 and served as president from 1957 to 1961. "There is no change planned," Pew stated, "in the company name, management and the 250 employees in the firm." 75 are employed at the offices in Grand Rapids and 175 in the Lowell plant. Steelcase was established in Grand Rapids in 1912 and now has plants in California and Canada. It is a national leader in the production of metal office furniture. The company has a reputation in Grand Rapids as an outstanding place to work. It boasts a company profit sharing plan that gives its employees an enviable take home pay. Cook said Tuesday that Attwood's sales volume has increased 50 per cent in the last six months. Because of the projected rate of growth, he stated, the many resources of Steelcase will provide help to reach potential production quicker and more efficiently.

Lowell firemen were called to a chimney fire at the Stormzand residence on Washington Street at 10 o'clock Friday evening. Only smoke damage resulted from the fire. At 9 am on Saturday, the Lowell firemen were called to a fire at the farm residence of Nordman on McPherson Street, just west of Lincoln Lake Avenue, four miles north of Lowell. Fire chief Frank Baker reported that Harley Wilcox, who had been renting the house, had moved out, because of a faulty heating plant. He had returned early Saturday and had built a coal fire in the furnace. The building was nearly destroyed. Lowell firemen were aided by the Ada Fire department.

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

The Lowell YMCA has kicked off its Invest in Youth/Pool Fund campaign. James Reagan D.D.S. is this year's chairman. "Invest in Youth dollars go towards scholarships for youth who cannot afford to pay for a YMCA program. No one is turned away because of the inability to pay for a program," Reagan said. The YMCA has set a goal of \$25,000 for 1989. This year's campaign also includes repairing the King Memorial Pool. The city council wants to see the YMCA raise \$11,000 to help with repairs of the pool.

Headline: Cracking down on drugs. Emmons initiates 3-fold information program. In hopes of combating the small city drug problem, Lowell police chief Barry Emmons is spearheading a substance abuse information program which he hopes will allow city enforcement officers to come in contact with the youth before they are approached by drug dealers. The program is a three-fold operation. It will include drug awareness, child watch and crime watch programs.

Board slates findings on M-21 study. The Lowell City Council breezed through a light agenda Monday evening. Three public hearings were slated for the March 20 meeting and it was announced that representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation and state police will reveal the findings of a traffic study on Lowell's west end. Monday's short meeting may be well earned.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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## RoboCop loses sight of humanity

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

The 1987 film *RoboCop* predicted dire circumstances for Detroit in the “near future.” Peter Weller plays the title character, a cyborg trying to make pre-collapse

Detroit a safer place for its inhabitants. In 2014, Detroit has already collapsed, the first major city in America to file for bankruptcy and though the cyborg hero never came to protect the

city’s inhabitants from corrupt private interests, the people have decided to erect a statue to RoboCop anyway.

During a time when investment in Detroit may be the crux of Michigan’s financial future, a reboot of the wildly successful sci-fi hit *RoboCop* has been released by Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Pictures. Joel Kinnaman plays Alex Murphy, a police officer who suffers injuries so devastating that his only remaining organs are transferred into a robotic shell. Abbie Cornish is his devastated wife. Murphy is brought back from the brinks of death by Dr. Dennett Norton (Gary Oldman) at the behest of OmniCorp CEO Raymond Sellars (Michael Keaton) because a cyborg officer is the only loophole in anti-robot law enforcement

legislation. Though it is important to judge a movie by its own merits, it is hard not to compare this film with the original.

The 1987 *RoboCop* effortlessly unfolded into a captivating story of corruption, tragedy, revenge, justice and humanity. There was never a moment where the viewer had time to pause and wonder where the story was going, while the 2014 remake is rife with such moments. Though Murphy is one of the only good cops in Detroit, the way he’s written it is incredibly difficult to connect with him. In fact, the film spends so much time developing the socio-political manipulations of OmniCorp that Murphy feels like a secondary character, an unimportant human in a battle of gods. The only thing that sells the sadness of Murphy’s

descent into inhumanity is the amazing chemistry between Kinnaman and on-screen wife Cornish.

On top of the lack of appeal for the main character, *RoboCop* (2014) is often so heavy handed as to become offensive to viewers. The opening sequence presents a Middle East where there’s a suicide bomber behind every closed job and American forces, be they military or private, have no problem dealing out excessive force and killing innocents. The robots that OmniCorp wishes to police the world with are a highly transparent criticism of American drones in much the same way that Pat Novak (Samuel L. Jackson) and his show *The Novak Element* are meant to represent right-wing-friendly media giant Fox News.

In an attempt to

contextualize a sci-fi home run story in today’s atmosphere, *RoboCop*, like its protagonist, loses touch with its humanity. In a Detroit that feels nothing like Detroit and which viewers only recognize as Detroit because of how often the name is mentioned, the actions of one good cop don’t really seem to matter.

If you’ve got some money burning a hole in your pocket and you want to giggle while Samuel L. Jackson goes on a ridiculous rant, then by all means buy a ticket to this film. But if you loved the first *RoboCop*, do not see the newly released 2014 *RoboCop*. Save yourself some money and check out the original instead. You can probably buy it on BluRay for the price you’d pay to take a date to the movies and you wouldn’t feel any regrets.

# EARTH TALK™

## Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** Should those of us who care about our health and the planet be concerned about the new trend in genetic engineering called synthetic biology? - Chrissie Wilkins, Bern, NC

“Synthetic biology” (or “synbio”) refers to the design and fabrication of novel biological parts, devices and systems that do not otherwise occur in nature. Many see it as an extreme version of genetic engineering (GE). But unlike GE, whereby genetic information with certain desirable traits is inserted from one organism into another, synbio uses computers and chemicals to create entirely new organisms.

Proponents of synbio, which include familiar players such as Cargill, BP, Chevron and Du Pont, tout its potential benefits. According to the Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center (SYNBERC), a consortium of leading U.S. researchers in the field, some promising applications of synthetic biology include alternatives to rubber for tires, tumor-seeking microbes for treating cancer, and photosynthetic energy systems. Other potential applications include using synbio to detect and remove environmental contaminants, monitor and respond to disease and develop new drugs and vaccines.

While these and other applications may not be widely

available for years, synthetic biology is already in use for creating food additives that will start to show up in products on grocery shelves later this year. Switzerland-based Evolva is using synthetic biology techniques to produce alternatives to resveratrol, stevia, saffron and vanilla. The company’s “synthetic vanillin” is slated to go into many foods as a cheaper and limitless version of real vanilla flavor. But many health advocates are outraged that such a product will be available to consumers without more research into potential dangers and without any warnings or labeling to let consumers know they are eating organisms designed and brought to life in a lab.

“This is the first major use of a synbio ingredient in food, and dozens of other flavors and food additives are in the pipeline, so synbio vanilla could set a dangerous precedent for synthetic genetically engineered ingredients to sneak into our food supply and be labeled as ‘natural,’” reports Friends of the Earth (FoE), a leading environmental group. “Synthetic biology vanillin poses several human health, environmental and economic concerns for consumers, food companies and other stakeholders.”

For example, FoE worries that synbio vanilla (and eventually other synthetic biology additives) could exacerbate rainforest destruction while harming sustainable farmers and poor communities around the world. “Synbio vanilla...could displace the demand for the natural vanilla market,” reports FoE. “Without the natural vanilla market adding economic value to the rainforest in these regions,



these last standing rainforests will not be protected from competing agricultural markets such as soy, palm oil and sugar.” Critics of synbio also worry that releasing synthetic life into the environment, whether done intentionally or accidentally, could have adverse effects on our ecosystems.

Despite these risks, could the rewards of embracing synthetic biology be great? Could it help us deal with some of the tough issues of climate change, pollution and world hunger? Given that the genie is already out of the bottle, perhaps only time will tell.

**CONTACTS:** SYNBERC, [www.synberc.org](http://www.synberc.org); FoE, [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org); Evolva, [www.evolva.com](http://www.evolva.com).

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1. Hesitates
6. Cranberry habitat
9. \_\_\_\_ Cola
13. Tropical vine
14. Hole punching tool
15. "\_\_\_\_\_'s Heroes"
16. Type of window
17. "Young" prefix
18. \* \_\_\_\_ warning system for tsunamis
19. \*Twists around an eye
21. \*Polar \_\_\_\_\_
23. To boot
24. Long, long time
25. Communications regulator
28. \*Like frostbitten fingers
30. Snake, usually
35. Porcine fat
37. Hawk's aerie, e.g.
39. Japanese animation
40. Popular three-layer cookie
41. Delivery bird?
43. Singles
44. Out in the open
46. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
47. Poverty
48. Joseph Stalin, e.g.
50. Julia Louis-Dreyfus' show
52. Dog tags, e.g.
53. Solomon-like
55. H+, e.g.
57. \*Tornado visual
60. Swell
64. Japanese-American
65. Victorian time, e.g.
67. Mountaineer's tool
68. Mountain ridge

**CROSSWORD**

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**FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 4**

- The 86th annual Academy Awards were held and the best picture Oscar went to "12 Years A Slave." Best actor went to Matthew McConaughey for his role in "Dallas Buyers Club" and best actress went to Cate Blanchett for her role in "Blue Jasmine." During one bit the show's hostess Ellen DeGeneres grouped together some award-winning stars for a selfie to break a Tweeting record and actually shut down Twitter briefly online.
- Russia invaded Ukraine and took control over the Crimean Peninsula. Russia's foreign minister said that Russian troops are in Crimea to protect Russian citizens and that they will remain "until the normalization of the political situation."
- Disney plans to stop its funding to the Boy Scouts of America beginning in 2015 because of the Scouts' ban on gay leaders.
- The world's oldest person, Misao Okawa, a Japanese woman who just celebrated her 116th birthday, has some simple advice for a long life. She says, "Eat and sleep and you will live a long time. You have to learn to relax."

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69. "Swan Lake" steps
70. Fossil fuel rock deposit
71. Chipper
72. CafÉ alternative
73. Christian virtue, pl.

**DOWN**

1. Eastern \_\_\_\_
2. Ethereal
3. Flock member
4. Genuflected
5. Old West hangout
6. Misery cause
7. Be obliged
8. \*Stops wind from nipping fingers
9. \*Wear a heavy one in winter storm
10. Princess Fiona, at night
11. Mineral residue
12. Take your pick
15. Lifting injury
20. People, places and things
22. Goes with "aah"
24. Let off the hook
25. \*Spring threat
26. Turn pumpkin into Jack-o-Lantern
27. Native American people in parts of Canada
29. Boundary line
31. \*Winter bank matter
32. Biblical mount
33. Make corrections
34. The defense \_\_\_\_
36. Small town or hamlet
38. Test choice
42. Designing Calvin
45. Local in a college bar
49. Black \_\_ event
51. Type of sausage
54. Slumbered
56. Jack Black's Libre
57. \*Lightning can cause this
58. "Breaking Bad" victim
59. Profit
60. Facilitate
61. Cut the crop
62. \*Outburst
63. Donald and Ivana, e.g.
64. Siesta
66. Repeated at rallies

*Puzzle solutions appear on page 12*

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# New salon's name honors memory of young girl

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

After thirty-plus years as a hairstylist, most of them spent here in Lowell, Julie Heimer decided that it was time to open her own salon. She also decided that the endeavor was an amazing opportunity to honor a young woman very close to her heart, Tara Beran.

Beran, a graduate of Lowell High School, passed away in September 2010 in a tragic car accident at the intersection of Cumberland Ave. SE and Bennett St. at the young age of 21.

"It was early in the morning and the sun was bright and I don't know why, but she missed the stop sign," explained Heimer.

She had known and loved Beran since she was an infant. Beran, described by those who knew her as vibrant and funny, was an avid cheerleader and a fellow hairstylist.

"Tara was not my daughter, but she was my daughter. I always told her she was the daughter of my



**Jultara Salon opened its doors in February offering a variety of beauty and spa services.**

heart, not of my womb. It does not take blood to make family," said Heimer of her relationship with Beran.

Jultara Salon, comprised of both Heimer's

and Beran's first names, opened its doors early this February at 505 W. Main St. in Suite C. One of the first things you will see when you enter is an effervescent portrait of Beran hanging on the wall.

Heimer, along with friend and stylist Hailey Degrote, offer a wide variety of beauty services for the entire family at Jultara, including haircuts, up-styling, waxing, coloring and perms and intend to add makeup and hair extensions to their repertoire soon. The salon is open Monday through Saturday and both appointments and walk-in customers are welcome.

The duo has developed a line of exclusive and fun parties for girls called The Downtown Diva and the Pink Princess Party.

"What that is going to be is they will come in and purchase a package, they will have their hair, makeup and nails done. Then we are going to have a red carpet runway where they can be photographed by the paparazzi," explained Heimer.

She says the events are perfect for birthday parties. Jultara will be specializing in bridal parties as well.

"We will close the salon for their day; we will offer them snacks and we will be exclusive to them," said Heimer.

The salon also has an onsite massage therapist, Lori Posshein, who is currently available Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday or by appointment. Massages take place in a private room inside the salon and according to Heimer, Posshein is fabulous at her job. "She is really really good! She has a special right now for a \$40 one-hour massage. Everyone should come down and try it." Posshein will also be offering additional spa services in the future and free chair massages to those purchasing services at the salon.

Degrote reported that their opening week was really good for them. "Everybody really loves the



**Owner of Jultara Salon Julie Heimer and stylist Hailey Degrote stand near a portrait of their honored friend Tara Beran.**

salon and my customers are starting to find me."

Heimer agrees that the reception by the community has been great. Adding additional praise for Degrote, who she had managed at another salon, "She is a good girl. She came along with me and I could not ask for anyone better! She is an awesome girl."

The pair was aided by countless friends and family members in remodeling the space. The result of that hard work is a sleek and modern salon that feels welcoming to clients. Comfortable seating, beautiful work spaces and a private waxing area are just a few of the details.

"I tried to think of everything," said Heimer, who pointed out that the salon is also 100 percent handicap accessible and has terrific parking. The salon's hair washing stations feature both reclining seats and adjustable sinks.

"We give the best shampoo in Lowell!" Heimer exclaimed. "I want a place where people can come have a good experience, be comfortable in a nice salon and not be gouged by price," said Heimer. "I wanted it to be classy but comfortable and not stuffy."

The two stylists say that this career is their passion and that they continue to educate themselves constantly with new trends and techniques. They are both extremely happy to be open in their hometown.

"This is where my heart is. Hailey and I want to be very community friendly. We want to give back to the community. We intend to hold fundraisers here to support different local groups." They are also happy to have the opportunity to honor their lost friend Beran, "We just don't want her to ever be forgotten."

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*From Dr. Reagan & Staff*

Pictured, from left to right: Gail, Dr. Jim, Patty, Carrie, Erin, Lorie, Becky and Julie

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