

tots at the museum



page 3

local connection to "unbroken" story



page 9



lhs sports



pages 10, 11 & 16

50 CENTS



Cold temperatures, icy roads, schools close - Michigan winter returns

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Last week's severe winter weather wasn't assigned a cool name like "Snowpocalypse," but local residents suffered just the same.

The bad weather has caused Lowell Area Schools to be closed three times this year. Lowell Area Schools has not designated make-up days for the ones that were canceled.

Total snowfall ended up at about six inches. The extremely low temperatures caused sinkholes to form on streets in Grand Rapids, including one on the busy East Beltline.

Whiteout conditions were to blame for dozens of car accidents, including one near Battle Creek that involved over 200 vehicles and shut I-94 down for two days.

Monday night brought a record-breaking -5 degrees in Grand Rapids breaking the previous record of -2 set in 1974 and originally in 1929.

High temperatures are expected to be between 16 and 39 degrees by the end of the week, and more snow is on the way.

Lowell woman completes hike of North Country Trail

by Shelly Sulser
J-Ad News Services

With stretches of low temperatures, loneliness and length, the 4,600-mile North Country National Scenic Trail proved to be the most challenging for experienced long-distance hiker Gail Lowe, who recently became the first woman in U.S. history to complete the seven-state footpath in one season.

The North Country Trail winds across the northern states, from New York to North Dakota, including several miles in Barry County.

Despite contracting mononucleosis, getting clobbered in the head by a giant goshawk in the McCormick Wilderness in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and even having to explain her mission more than once to a police officer, she also experienced high points during her eight-month trek.

"I'm very proud in one sense because one of the areas that I dreaded but wound up falling in love with. One was the Kekekabic Trail in Minnesota," said Lowe from her hometown of Lowell last week. "It's part of the North Country Trail that has been around for a hundred years, longer than the North Country Trail but the two trails have hooked



Gail Lowe, strings together all of the sandals she wore on the 4,600-mile hike. (Photo supplied)

up. It's in desperate need of maintenance or we're going to lose that whole section completely."

As she battled her way along the path, she posted on her Facebook page that it might be lost to foot traffic within five years.

"And, I believe, as a result of that, this whole crew has come together for next spring and they've titled it 'Save the Kekekabic Trail' and they're going to go out there and try to clean it up. I came away from that section saying, 'This trail is one of the jewels in the crown of the North Country Trail, and it needs

to be saved.' It's a very, very special section."

Lowe — who started her walk in Ohio at age 64 last March, ambled through Calhoun County in April, and finished at age 65 Thanksgiving Day in Logan, Ohio — has become the first woman since the trail was authorized in 1980 to hike the entire North Country Trail in one season.

"We just think it's great," said North Country Trail Association Executive Director Bruce Matthews. "We think she's helped to show others they can do it, too."

Matthews issued Lowe a certificate of achievement after she filled out and sign an affidavit declaring her achievement.

"We're happy about her accomplishment," said Matthews. "We followed her avidly and saw that she got a lot of assistance along the way, which is unique for this particular experience. It's a chance to not only see the sights but to catch the local flare along the way."

Her mission was twofold: to honor the memory of her daughter, Becca, who died of breast cancer last year at the age of 46, and to find a place in the

long-distance hiking record books.

The first man to through-hike the North Country National Scenic Trail in one season was Ed Talone, who traversed the 4,600-mile path in 1994.

The North Country Trail Association is also headquartered in Lowell, and Dr. Larry Hawkins of Hastings has served on the NCTA board of directors, most recently as president.

The North Country Trail Association had the honor of announcing not only the first female through-hiker

Lowell woman completes hike, continued, page 7



Lowe the end of Becca's Hike, marking her spot in U. S. long-distance hiking history books. She completed the walk in memory of her daughter who died in 2013 of breast cancer. (Photo supplied)

Retailers praise lawmakers for passage of Main Street Fairness

James P. Hallan, president and CEO of Michigan Retailers Association (MRA), issued the following statement following legislative approval of Michigan Main Street Fairness legislation that MRA has strongly advocated for years:

"We are extremely pleased that lawmakers passed Main Street Fairness legislation, and we look forward to Governor Snyder's signature. On behalf of thousands of Michigan retail businesses

and their hundreds of thousands of Michigan workers, MRA thanks lawmakers for stepping up and doing the right thing, the fair thing.

"This bipartisan legislation is an important victory for 'the home team.' It enables Michigan retail businesses to compete on a more level playing field with out-of-state merchants selling to Michigan residents. 'Remote sellers' such as Amazon will no longer be given an automatic 6 percent price advantage

over Michigan businesses. That's fair and it's good public policy.

"Main Street Fairness is good for Michigan's economy, good for our local communities, good for our consumers and good for our retail businesses. It has made no sense for government to give an advantage, at the expense of companies here in Michigan, to out-of-state businesses that don't invest in this state, don't create Michigan jobs, don't pay local and state taxes, and don't support

local communities and organizations.

"Michigan will join more than two dozen other states that have taken similar action to ensure fair competition within their state. This legislation also hastens the day when Congress enacts a nationwide solution and provides a playing field that is 100 percent level.

"MRA's work on this issue in one form or another spans more than 40 years. The explosive

growth of Internet retailing transformed the problem from an aggravation to a jobs- and business-killing crisis in our state. This is historic legislation and we're proud of what Michigan has accomplished.

"We thank Gov. Snyder and the four legislative leaders, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville, House Speaker Jase Bolger, Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer and House Minority Leader Tim Greimel for their positive

action on this issue. Thanks also go to: bills sponsor Sen. Jim Ananich; Reps. Eileen Kowall and Rob VerHeulen, sponsors of similar legislation in the House; committee chairs Mike Kowall in the Senate and Jeff Farrington in the House; and all the members of both chambers who did the right thing for Michigan."

Note: Governor Snyder will sign the bill Thursday and a complete story will appear in next week's Ledger.

Lowell High School January Students of the Month

Lowell High School has announced that Keara Anderson, 11th grade, Kelsie Jurmo, 10th grade and Sara Majestic, 10th grade are the Lowell High School January Students of the Month.

In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based



Kelsie Jurmo



Sara Majestic

on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Jeff Larsen nominated Anderson and he writes, "Keara Anderson exemplifies the dedication to educational excellence we hope to see in all students at Lowell High School. She is an exceptional writer and voracious reader; her work in AP Literature leads me

to believe she'll succeed on the AP exam next May. Keara's contributions to class discussions are always thoughtful, always insightful. She's a wonderful young lady and very deserving of this award."

Jurmo was nominated by Mike Lincolnhol and he writes, "Kelsie is a pleasure to have in class. She is a deep thinker and very aware of others and their opinions. She is open to trying new things and is a leader in stepping forward in class. She is also a talented artist that has produced some wonderful pictorial analogies to relate

biology to everyday life. Kelsie always seems to have a smile on her face and is happy to help others that are struggling."

Sara Ellis nominated Majestic and she writes, "Sara is an extremely hard worker, always on task, does everything asked of her and to the best of her ability. Sara has an A in Spanish this trimester, received an A last trimester and continues to amaze me in the creativity she exudes within her language practice. Sara is polite and courteous to others in class, she often helps others with their questions."

Snyder to keynote Michigan Conservative Energy Forum Catalyst Conference

The Michigan Conservative Energy Forum will host its first annual Catalyst Conference on Thursday, January 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Speakers include General Ronald E. Keys, United States Air Force (Ret.), Chairman of the Military Advisory Board, and Brigadier General Michael A. Stone, Assistant Adjutant General for Installations of the Michigan Army National Guard. Gov. Rick

Snyder will deliver the keynote address.

Gov. Snyder has named energy policy a top priority for 2015, as Michigan's current energy policy is set to expire this year. Recent economic impact studies conducted by The Hill Group, Inc. found that expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency programs in Michigan could lead to billions of dollars in economic impact and tens of thousands of new jobs.

Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow.

~ Jeff Valdez



along main street

GILDA'S CLUB CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Book Club – Tue., Jan. 20, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. This month the book club is reading *Sharp Objects* by Gillian Flynn. Pick up a book to borrow at the parlor desk. **Laughter Circle** – Tues., Jan. 27, 4-5 pm. Come exercise your laughter muscles! Join Lindsay Jousma for this wellbeing workout that encourages laughter for no reason. No yoga mat or experience is required. Please wear comfortable clothes and

prepare to leave happy, healthy and energized. **Valentine Crafting** – Tues. Jan. 27, 4-5 pm. Join Mary Shipley at the Lowell Clubhouse for an afternoon of crafting! Mary will teach us how to create a Valentine craft that you will love to create and take home. Supplies are provided and no experience is needed. Please register in advance. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

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Historical museum helps children learn and explore

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

For the fourth time this school year the Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) welcomed children aged 0-5 and their caregivers to learn and explore as part of their new Museum for Tots educational program.

"The idea is to get a young audience in and start introducing them to the idea of history as well as to get people familiar with the museum and what we

have to offer," according to LAHM director Lisa Plank.

The low cost program, just \$1 per child, has covered a variety of historical topics supported by exhibits at the museum including an exploration of the groovy 60's, an old fashioned Christmas celebration and the experience of early schooling practices. Each topic is explored through a series of fun crafts and activities including a take

home project.

Plank said attendance at the program has been varied with one session even seeing 50 young guests.

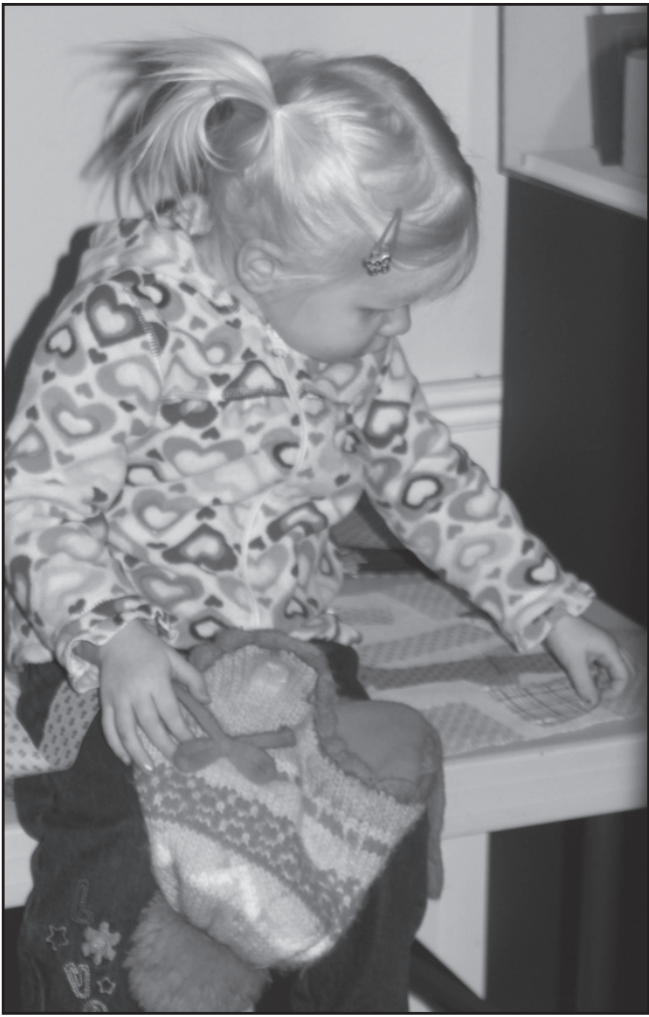
This month nearly 30 youngsters learned about the ways in which people have kept warm throughout the past during the Winter Warmth session. Participants were able to try on examples of warm clothing from the past, feel a heating stone, practice on quilt sewing cards with real needles and create a small quilt.

The three remaining sessions of this school year will be Victorian Valentines in February, Easter Traditions in March and Building Main Street in April where attendees will learn about the history of Lowell's own historic Main Street. The program will continue annually during the school months.

Registration for the Museum for Tots is located on the LAHM website www.lowellmuseum.org. Drop-ins are also welcome. Sessions are held the second Monday of the month from 10:30-12:30. Activities typically take about thirty minutes and exploration of the entire museum is included with entry fee. LAHM is located at 325 W. Main.



Four-year-old Vivian Rerucha learns sewing skills from recently appointed museum executive director Lisa Plank.



Aurora Maatman selects pieces for her mini quilt during the hands on exploration of the January edition of Museum for Tots.



At left, young learner Braan Mattman works diligently on his take home stuffed animal size mini quilt at the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

...

A synonym is a word you use when you can't spell the word you first thought of.

~ Burt Bacharach (1928 -)

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sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

Connecting with Kids through "Lunch with the Leader" & School Board Recognition Month 2015

The Chief Executive Officer for a school district is the superintendent of schools. The work is broad and much of it is based on collaborating with other school administrators, carrying out policies that govern the district, partnering with community leaders and parents, and being a liaison to Board of Education members. This work sets the foundation for an effective and successful school district. However, there is one thing that most superintendents would like more of...connecting with the kids they serve. That's why I am implementing a new initiative for 2015, "Lunch with the Leader."

The *Lunch with the Leader* initiative will allow me to reach out and gain perspective from the students' point of view about their experience at Lowell Area Schools. Most moms and dads will agree that the dinner table provides

an opportunity for healthy conversation, to catch up on the day's ups and downs, tell stories, and connect. It also helps kids learn to listen and gives them a chance to express their own opinions.

I want to connect with the hearts of the kids that I serve and learn about what they like about their school, or what they don't like. I want to understand what issues they face at school or among their peers and give them an active voice as a member of Lowell Area Schools. I will intently listen and invite them to share their ideas with me. Conversation with students over lunch will also serve as a real encouragement for me and the work that I do to support them. Breaking bread together breaks down walls. At the least, some kids will be excited to meet with the guy who calls snow days!

Here's how *Lunch with the Leader* will work: the

principal of each school will seek 5 students who represent a cross-section of the school to meet with me for lunch. Parents of those students will be asked, in advance, to sign a permission slip for them to participate. The principal will inspire the students to talk about their experience at school. I will explain to the students that "I'm a learner too" to set a casual tone so that they are comfortable sharing their thoughts with me. I look forward to hearing, first hand, about what student attitudes are on topics related to learning, transitioning from middle school to high school, or what it's like to be a non-resident student in Lowell.

I believe in the power of communication. As your superintendent of schools, I want to keep focus on real communication and build healthy working relationships with all stakeholders across the school community. I'm looking forward to *Lunch with the Leader* and to a great new year in Lowell Area Schools. The New Year also brings *School Board Recognition Month*. In January, Lowell Area Schools will join 545 local and 56 intermediate school districts across the state to celebrate our Board of Education members and thank them for their untiring dedication to public education. Serving on a school board has been described as the "toughest volunteer job in America." Yet Michigan's public school board members dedicate countless personal hours to attending meetings, school functions, and hours of preparation for the decisions they make. On top of that, many pursue their own professional development to stay on top of the ever-changing education landscape.

Lowell Area School Board members are dedicated to the continuing success of our schools and students. We proudly join educators and community members in saluting these education advocates as they provide vision and leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding and school facilities. The men and women serving Lowell Area Schools are: President Jim Turner; Vice-President Brian Krajewski; Secretary Pat Nugent; Treasurer Maureen Fleet; Trustee Gary Blough; Trustee Tom Kaywood, and Trustee Laurie Kuna. Thank you Lowell Board of Education members for your selfless work!

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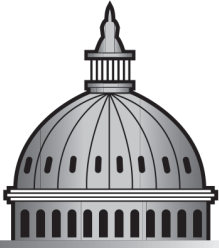
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viewpoint

out of lansing



Gov. Rick Snyder on Monday signed into law legislation sponsored by Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker that will allow law enforcement officers to carry Naloxone, a medication that can counteract the effects of a heroin overdose.

“Law enforcement agencies are eager for the opportunity to carry this life-saving medication,” said Schuitmaker, R-Lawton. “Too many of our families have lost loved

ones to heroin abuse. This is an opportunity to be on the front lines of the fight against heroin abuse.”

Public Act 462 of 2014 will allow law enforcement officers to carry Naloxone, an opioid antagonist that can counteract the effects of a heroin overdose if administered in time. The bill requires officers carrying this medication to be trained in its use and provides them immunity from civil liability if they

administer the medication in good faith.

“I have worked extensively on improving our response to heroin overdoses and was pleased to sponsor this important legislation,” Schuitmaker said. “Law enforcement officers are oftentimes some of the first people to respond to an overdose situation and have the best chance at intervening.”

Legislation championed by Schuitmaker in early 2014 allows the friends and family of heroin users to obtain the medication. Nationwide, states are making Naloxone more available as deaths from heroin overdoses continue to rise.

Fatal heroin overdoses

increased 45 percent from 2006 to 2010, with 3,038 such deaths reported that year, and the numbers are believed to still be on the rise, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. According to recent news reports, emergency use of opioid antagonists resulted in more than 10,000 overdose reversals since 2001.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have amended laws to allow increased access to blocking agents that can decrease the effects of an overdose. Naloxone is a harmless medication that has no purpose or effects other than counteracting an opioid overdose.

outdoors

bows and arrows Dave Stegehuis

Archery as a sport has enjoyed a spike in popularity among young women since the release of movies where the heroine, among other attributes, is a skilled archer. Hunters are drawn in by the promise of an extended deer season. The first has led to the second for many new archers. Whatever the reason for getting started, shooting a bow is just plain fun.

Archery can be a shared family activity and be enjoyed by young and old alike. Equipment can be found to accommodate a range of physical abilities. Straight bows and laminated recurves have a large following of archers dedicated to traditional archery. Modern compound bows continue to evolve technically at a pace exceeded only by digital electronics.

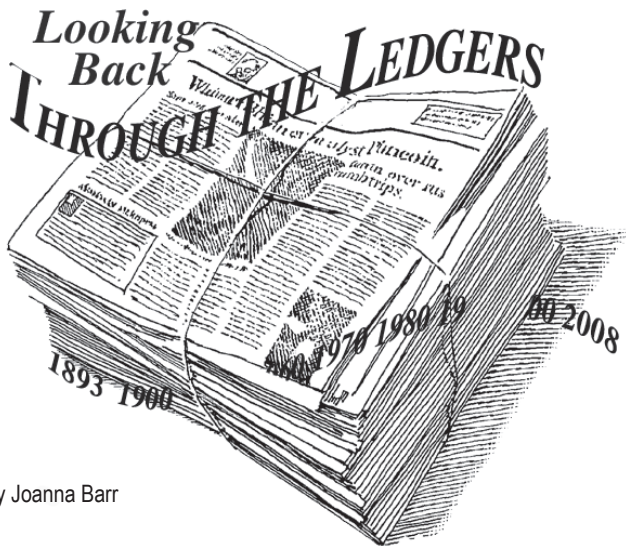
or games played between friends and family using paper targets or balloons. Full size 3-D animal targets provide realistic practice for hunters.

Equipment can be expensive like in most sports, but quality bows and arrows are available at reasonable prices. Good used compound bows are on the market because manufactures are constantly competing for market share and are aggressively working on developing new products and refining old ones to impress a segment of the archery crowd that is always looking for the latest and greatest. The result is a wide selection of quality new and used products for the average archer.

If one is not interested in competition shooting or hunting, archery is still an enjoyable and rewarding recreational activity. Targets can be set up in lots or backyards where there is an appropriate backstop for safe shooting. Indoor ranges provide a place to shoot during adverse weather conditions or when shooting outdoors is not possible.

Many once popular pastimes have been overlooked in our plugged in culture. Now that archery has been rediscovered, it might be a good time to jump on the bandwagon and get started shooting a bow and arrow.

Hand-eye coordination must be combined with proper form to achieve consistent accuracy. Regular practice is necessary to gain competency and maintain it. Tournament archers know they will compete with shooters as determined to win as they are. Bow hunters must be able to make a well placed shot under many different circumstances. Serious practice sessions are required to prepare for these challenges and would seem to be a lot like work. Practice sessions, however, can turn into friendly competition



By Joanna Barr

Ionia justice is lively. A theft was reported to the sheriff and in less than four hours the goods were discovered, the thief arrested, tried and had begun on a 90 days of sentence at the State House of Correction.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 14, 1915

Headline: The three linkers – Fifteen lodges represented at Oddfellows rally. The “get-to-gether” meeting of the local lodge of I. O. O. F. on Tuesday evening was a success both in number attending and in enthusiasm. There were present about 150 Oddfellows. Alto, Belding, Ada and Clarksville were the lodges called here by Grand Master Grey, these four lodges contributed about seventy members. Including the local lodge there were fifteen different lodges represented by visiting brothers.

Lowell’s big contribution to the Belgium relief work was started on its way last Saturday, L. J. Post having spent two days in packing and boxing the large supplies of wearables and provisions. The cash contributed by our citizens was expended with Lowell merchants for new and serviceable goods that are out of style but unimpaired for comfort and durability, many generous concessions being made by the dealers.

Earle Henderson spent Saturday night and Sunday with his friend, Eugene Pippin, in Smyrna. Eugene Pippin, vaudeville artist, has come to spend a couple of months with Earle Henderson.

The Supervisors of Kent county visited the Juvenile home and found 50 kiddies in the home, all well cared for, well fed and apparently happy. They agreed that the county expenditure of \$11,243.90 which covered the old Walker avenue roadhouse into a sanitary, wholesome home for the county’s child charges was well administered.-News.

Perry Schad, the local boxer and wrestler, will meet Joe Nasser of Saginaw in a six-round boxing contest at the City hall next Tuesday night. Some good preliminaries will also bestaged. Adv.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 18, 1940

Headline: Family of eight has narrow escape. The fire department was called out at 3 am Monday morning by an alarm of fire at the William Collins home, corner of Avery and Washington streets. The fire originated

125 years ago Lowell Journal January 16, 1890

In some way the support under the stand pipe, at the depot, was washed away Sunday night and the pipe broke allowing the water tank to empty itself, which it speedily did. It was put in shape again Monday.

Nelson E. Fifield, of Spencer, has apparently got his foot in it. On Tuesday, Jan. 7th accompanied by Mary Violet Peterson, he applied for a marriage license and in the application swore that the prospective bride was 18 years old, which fact she stoutly maintained, although she didn’t look it. They were married by Justice Hydorn and it has since transpired that the blushing bride is only 16 years old and her father had the husband arrested for kidnapping, but the girl swore she accompanied him voluntarily and he was discharged. The prosecuting attorney now has the matter in charge and it is quite probable that he will be prosecuted for perjury.

Eight tramps enjoyed the hospitality of the village bastille Monday night.

Miss Mate Headworth has been suffering from an attack of that all prevailing disease, La grippe.

A couple of enterprising farmers have started a skunkery and live skunks are quoted as worth \$2.00 delivered.

They are putting a fine galvanized iron cornice on the buildings east of Ort Hill’s on Main St. It will improve their looks very much.

Talk about patience, Job was merely an amateur compared with one of Lowell’s photographers, who recently took the picture of five babies in a group.



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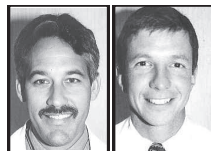
engagements

VanAssen /Steffensen

Krystal VanAssen of Lowell and Jeffrey Steffensen of Rockford announce their engagement. The bride is the daughter of Rhonda Baker of Lowell. The groom is the son of Lloyd and Linda Steffensen of Rockford. A September 5, 2015 wedding is planned with Reverend Dean Bailey officiating.

Maid of Honor will be Taylor Steffensen. Bridesmaids will be Tamisha Roossien and Katie Steffensen. Flower girl will be Laney VanAssen. Best man will be Dave Steffensen. Groomsmen will be Adam Roossien and Tim Eaton. Ring bearer will be Dylan VanAssen.

health



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

Inflammatory bowel disease

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a disease that causes chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. There are two major types of IBD: ulcerative colitis and crohn's disease. Ulcerative colitis only affects the colon, while crohn's disease can affect any part of the GI tract. The cause of IBD is unknown, but four factors are thought to play a role: genetics, intestinal bacteria, the environment and an abnormal immune

response in the gut. IBD is most often diagnosed in people between ages 15 and 30 years.

IBD symptoms can range from very mild to very severe. They include diarrhea, blood in the stool, abdominal pain, fever, fatigue, and weight loss.

IBD is diagnosed by a combination of careful patient history, imaging tests such as CT scans and endoscopic evaluation with a camera inside the GI tract. Endoscopic evaluation can include upper endoscopy, colonoscopy, or both,

depending on where the symptoms are located and whether ulcerative colitis or crohn's is suspected. During the procedure, biopsies of the GI tract are taken, which often confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment of IBD depends on how severe the disease is and is usually managed by a gastroenterologist. People with IBD that involves the colon are at increased risk of colon cancer. Therefore they need to have routine colonoscopies throughout their lives.

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college news

Michigan Technological University has released the dean's list for the 2014 fall semester. To be included, students must achieve grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. Asterisks indicate those earning straight-A averages of 4.0.

Among the honorees are the following from the local area: Ada: Kailey Feuerstein, biochem & molec biology-bio sc; Laura Rudy*, medical laboratory science; Anna Waller*, biomedical engineering. Alto:

Daniel Ellis, mechanical engineering; Elizabeth Sickles, biomedical engineering. Lowell: Corey Bilski, computer science; Derek Chopp, computer engineering; Benjamin Peterson, general engineering.

The following local students were named to Albion College's dean's list for the fall 2014 semester. Students named to the dean's list must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester. This GPA must be based on at least

three units in graded courses and a minimum of four units completed.

Makenzie Frederickson is a first-year student and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. She is the daughter of Lyle and Fionna Frederickson of Alto and a graduate of Lowell High School.

Ethan Sutton is majoring in economics and management and minoring in business and organizations and mathematics. He is the son of James Sutton of Lowell and Darla Sutton of Lowell and a graduate of Lowell High School.



Happy Birthday to my loving and kind husband, Dave!

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Amy

happy birthday!

area churches

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Lowell woman completes hike, continued

to complete the trail Nov. 27, but also someone from the same town as the NCTA headquarters.

“Today Chosen Hiker [Lowe’s trail name] shared on her FB site that she finished her hike of the North Country National Scenic Trail in Logan, Ohio.

Gail has been on the NCT since March 16, seeking to complete an E2E [end-to-end hike] in honor of her daughter Becca. Congratulations, Gail!

‘Becca’s’ March 16 - Nov. 27, 2014.’

“There’s a whole country now that’s aware of Becca, and she would just be thrilled to have that be the case — that she has not been forgotten,” said Lowe, who carried Becca’s picture in a locket around her neck along the route. “When I started this hike, I had no idea that anybody would even care about it. Nobody cared about any of my other long-distance hikes. But, I think it was the two elements of losing a daughter and also being the first woman in history to do this in one hiking season.

“Those two things seem to have come together,” she continued, “to bring people’s interest and attention to the hike, and I was really taken by surprise when it started being important to people.”

Lowe said she had 40 to 50 media interviews during her eight months on trail but said only one reporter, (Sulser) whom she met during her Battle Creek trek, followed her to the very end.

With her completion of the North Country Trail, Lowe’s name will be added to the list of five other people — all men — who have walked the rugged foot path end to end in one season.

And, having already hiked 10,000 miles before — twice hiking the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail and once hiking the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail, Lowe said she wants to add one more hike to her legacy: the 3,100-mile Continental Divide Trail from Mexico to Canada, starting in April.

She has also hiked solo the Brooks Range in Alaska, climbed Mt. Fuji in Japan, California’s Mt. Whitney, which is the highest mountain in the lower 48 states, the Florida Trail, Isle Royale, and she has walked the Michigan shore-to-shore trail.

Lowe is a retired ICU nurse, having worked in medicine for 30 years.

“I’m also a respiratory therapist, so I have two skills,” she said. “I was doing the ICU nursing when I retired. I managed to squeeze in a few hikes while I was still working.”

She’s wasting no time getting ready for the Continental Divide Trail.

“I just ordered \$100 worth of planning books,” said Lowe, who expects to spend three months first in Costa Rica, working on a book about her daughter, before starting her next adventure. “If I’m successful with that hike, I will be the first woman quadruple crowner in the history of hiking.

And if the organization [American Long Distance Hikers Association] recognizes both my Appalachian Trail hikes, I will be the first woman quintuple crowner.”

Back in April, Lowe, who lives in Mexico when she’s not on a quest, started her morning hiking just south of Marshall.

The Chief Noonday Chapter of the North Country Trail Association maintains a total of 95 miles of the trail passing through Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties.

Matthews said that chapter — one of 14 in Michigan — is one of the most active in the state.

Lowe posted regular updates on her Facebook page and through her Nature Nymph LLC YouTube channel where she posted video blogs along the way.

Lowe began the journey in the trail’s middle, just north of Cincinnati, and originally planned to hike north and west to North Dakota, then to New York and back to Ohio.

But a spring snowstorm and poor health just as she was about to enter the Upper Peninsula forced her to reroute to eastern Ohio to cover that section before returning to where she left off to hike to North Dakota, before then flying to New York to hike the final leg of her journey.

She credits more than 100 “trail angels” — strangers who stepped forward to offer supplies, food, rides and lodging when needed — for playing a critical role in her success.

“It was never more than I wanted,” she said. “It was delightful and with a trail of this undertaking, it was just so needed, especially at the end with the cold weather. The last month on trail I don’t think I slept in my tent once, I had a warm place to stay every single night.”

A lot of that was due to the churches,” she said.

“The Methodists were wonderful,” she said. “All I had to do was place a call to a local Methodist church, and they took me in for the night. I didn’t have any of them tell me, ‘no.’”

She said the assistance of strangers always restores

her faith in human kind and provides ample time for self-discovery.

“All of my long-distance hikes are pilgrimages of one sort or another,” she said. “And that means that I’m always trying to develop a deeper sense and also trying to become a better person, and on this one, I don’t know how successful I’ve been, but I certainly became aware for the first time in my life of this little mountain or ocean of love being washed over me, you know, and I had never experienced that before.”

Lowe was referring to the generosity and compassion of her supporters.

“There was so much love given to me, and I guess I was open to it because I did have the awareness,” she said. “I could literally feel it and sense it, and that was monumental to me — to know that there was that much love still out there in the world.”

Lowe said a major difference, other than its extreme distance, between the North Country Trail and the other multi-state trails is the direction.

The North Country Trail stretches from east to west and is entirely in the northern section of the country, while other trails, all less than 3,100 miles long, stretch from south to north.

“My main thing with this trail is I would tell people, ‘Don’t try to accomplish it in one year,’” she said. “Schedule it so that you can, at very minimum, do it over two years, which, doing it over two years, each half is still longer than the whole Appalachian Trail.”

She also encountered more wildlife this time, especially in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she encountered a small pack of wolves, one black bear and an aggressive hawk.

Lowe said she had just learned how to use a global positioning system device prior to entering the McCormick Wilderness, had a map and a compass, but no cell phone signal and no way of getting help.

“This goshawk — which is a huge bird, has a 40-inch wingspan — clobbered me in the back of my head so hard that it gave me a headache for the rest of the day,” she said. “I have hiked solo in Alaska in the Brooks Range, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in some ways felt more wild to me than Alaska. And so I was attacked by this goshawk and it would not leave me alone.”

She said as much as

she loves animals, being alone in the wilderness and under attack forced her to make a choice out of self-preservation.

She picked up a stick to protect herself from the relentless assault.

“It didn’t matter how far I got from the nesting area, he kept coming at me, and so finally he got within about a foot of my face and just raised that stick with all my might and clobbered him as hard as I could, and we went from hearing this fierce battle cry into a little tuck and roll onto the forest floor and I have no idea where he wound up, but I heard this pitiful little peeping,” recalled Lowe. “But by then, this whole experience brought out some kind of warrior in me that I just didn’t even know existed within myself.”

Another major difference is the lack of other hikers on the North Country trail, unlike the Appalachian Trail.

“It’s [the AT] a very social trail, so you’ve got a lot of other hikers,” said Lowe. “This trail [NCT] was over the top with loneliness. I love my solitude. My other 10,000 miles has all been solo, and I’ve been fine with that but there’s been other hikers there. I was the only one out there this year. 4,600 miles of just my own company, so there are no other people to camp with at night. No other people to sit around campfires with and lie to about how far you hiked that day. No other people to go into town and meet up with and have dinner with and share your joy with about the hike.”

She said the Pacific Crest Trail includes the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the State of Washington “which is just beyond beautiful,” she said.

“This trail has very little of those things to offer, so it just became a matter of, ‘I have to get the miles done’ and that’s not a good enough reason to go out there,” she said.

“I had health setbacks almost the entire hike. I was plagued with respiratory infections in the beginning. I came down with mononucleosis for three months, and, during that time, I was so sick that before I got diagnosed — I didn’t get diagnosed until the very end — I thought it was just old age and I was mentally just beating myself up, ‘Come on, old woman, get out there, you’ve gotta get these miles done.’ And so, I would force myself to keep hiking when I was so desperately ill because I thought I was just old and tired and worn out, which was unacceptable to me, so



I watched my miles drop from 30 to 35 miles a day to 15, and I was lucky to pull that off.”

She never fully regained her groove, she said.

“Which I had always been able to work up to on the other trails, but the fact of the matter is that every long-distance trail I do is harder for me because I’m older,” she acknowledged.

“I turned 65 on this hike. My last long-distance hike, which was in 2011 and was my second thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, I got to the halfway point, I had surgery, I was in the hospital for a week. I wasn’t deathly ill, but I recovered and I finished my hike because I always do.

“This hike made me see that my days of long-distance hiking are numbered,” Lowe admitted.

While the magnitude of her achievement hasn’t hit her yet, Lowe said she did choose to finish with no fanfare.

“When I got to the end of the hike, in the last couple weeks, I really wasn’t sure how I was going to feel about it, whether I would want a big party at the end with lots of publicity and media there to greet me or whether I would just want to play it very low-key and have more of a sacred finish,” said Lowe, “and when push came to shove, it was the sacredness that mattered to me and I found that I wanted to finish alone, I wanted to finish quietly, I wanted to finish under the wire, I didn’t want any publicity and I pulled that off by planning on purpose to finish on Thanksgiving Day so that people and media would be busy with their holiday events and their families and dinners and things and so I snuck in under the radar intentionally, doing the last two miles on Thanksgiving Day.”

She said she only had two miles to cover on the final day of her epic endeavor.

“I tend to be spiritual, not religious, but spiritual,”

she said. “The day before that, I had found a dime and two pennies and so while I was hiking my last two days I thought, ‘wouldn’t it be cool to find enough coins to make up Becca’s age?’ She was 46 when she died, and I decided it was too hard for serendipity to pull off so I said to myself, ‘If I find a quarter, I’ll know Becca’s with me.’”

“And the next day, my last two miles, there’s my quarter,” she said. “I burst into tears. At the end, it just came down to Becca and me.”

While Lowe stopped short of expressing regret for the ordeal through which she put herself, she’s glad it’s now behind her.

“It was time for it to be over,” she said. “It took a lot out of me. It was just a huge undertaking. I’m no quitter. If I set a goal for myself, I don’t stop, no matter what, until it’s been accomplished. Especially being in my daughter’s name and having so many people support me, follow me and root for me, I just couldn’t see letting anybody down, either.”

What she doesn’t regret are the newfound friendships.

“I met my real family on this hike,” she said of fellow hikers and trail angels. “Just yesterday, I lined up my first visitor who is coming to Costa Rica for 10 days, my North Dakota cowboy, as I call him. We have a couple of couples who were huge support people for me, too, who are toying with the idea visiting.”

At present NCTA’s records show 13 individuals have completing what is considered an end-to-ender.

“Because the trail’s route and length has varied since its 1980 authorization [and it continues to do so] there is little point in making comparisons among these pioneers based on their routes or methods,” according to the North Country Trail’s main website.

Featured Artist

Barbara Groat

During February and March Flat River Gallery & Framing is featuring artist Barbara Groat.

Groat was born and raised in Grand Haven. After graduating from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in interior design she worked for three decades in commercial interior design.

A talented artist and designer, Groat has spent her life dedicated to the arts. She finds inspiration everywhere from her travels around the globe to flowers in her garden. Favorite subjects include pears,

oranges, and delphinium. She has worked in many mediums including stained glass, weaving, pottery and oils. Currently, she concentrates on pastels and watercolor.

In addition to her love of art, she enjoys art consulting, interior design, opera, ballet, theater, international travel, her two cats and her family and friends.

The closing reception for her work will be held Thursday, March 19 from 5 to 8 pm.

The Flat River Gallery and Framing is located at 219 W. Main St.



EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: How is it that antibiotics are being "overused," as I've read, and what are the potential consequences? - Mitchell Chase, Hartford, CT

The development and widespread adoption of so-called "antibiotics"—drugs that kill bacteria and thereby reduce infection—has helped billions of people live longer, healthier lives. But all this tinkering with nature hasn't come without a cost. The more we rely on antibiotics, the more bacteria develop resistance to them, which makes treating infections that much more challenging.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), overuse of antibiotics by humans—such as for the mistreatment of viral infections—means these important drugs are less effective for all of us. Besides the toll on our health, researchers estimate that antibiotic resistance causes Americans upwards of \$20 billion in

additional healthcare costs every year stemming from the treatment of otherwise preventable infections.

A bigger issue, though, is our growing reliance on feeding antibiotics to livestock for growth promotion, weight gain and to treat, control and prevent disease. This increasingly common practice is a significant factor in the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) acknowledges can get passed onto humans who eat food from treated animals. The non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) reports that the majority of the ground beef and ground turkey sold in the typical American grocery store contains antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Last year, 26 animal pharmaceutical companies voluntarily complied with an FDA request to re-label

medically important antibiotics used in food-producing animals to warn against using them for growth promotion and weight gain. FDA also recommended that medically important antibiotics be prescribed by licensed veterinarians and only to treat, control and prevent disease. "We need to be selective about the drugs we use in animals and when we use them," says William Flynn of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine. "Antimicrobial resistance may not be completely preventable, but we need to do what we can to slow it down."

Still some worry that the FDA's action doesn't go far enough, given that farmers will still be able to administer antibiotics to their livestock for disease prevention. The fact that more and more livestock operations are switching over to Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) whereby animals are confined in crowded enclosures (instead of allowed to graze at pasture) means that antibiotics will play an increasingly important role in disease prevention.

For its part, the FDA argues that since veterinarians need to authorize antibiotic use for disease prevention, farmers and ranchers are less likely to overuse antibiotics for their livestock populations. The same can be said about doctors' limiting the prescription of antibiotics for their human patients, but only time will tell whether such newfound restraint is enough in the fast evolving arms race between bacteria and our antibiotics.

Of course, consumers can do their part by avoiding antibiotic medications unless absolutely necessary and eating less meat (or giving it up entirely) to help reduce demand.



CONTACTS: CDC, www.cdc.gov; EWG, www.ewg.org; FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine, www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

college news

Andrea Wirgau from Lowell was chosen by Aquinas College to be featured as the We Are The Independents "Alum of the

Day". She was selected from among more than 230,000 alumni who attended the 15 independent colleges and universities that make up the Michigan Colleges Alliance (MCA). Alumni are showcased as part of the Alliance's collective marketing campaign, We Are The Independents, which offers helpful information and scholarship opportunities to high school students and their parents

who are considering college choice in Michigan.

Wirgau graduated from Aquinas College in 2008 with a degree in Communication Arts. Currently the assistant director for the Doctorate of Community College Leadership program at Ferris State University, Wirgau plans to become a Gallup Certified Strengths-Based Coach.



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WWII drama has Lowell connection

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Hollywood's recent World War II drama "Unbroken" has a local connection.

The movie, directed by Angelina Jolie, stars Jack O'Connell as Louis Zamperini, who is tortured and kept prisoner by the Japanese for two years during World War II. The movie was based on a successful book by Laura Hillenbrand called "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption."

Judy Rosenberger, an employee of the Huntington Bank in Lowell, had an uncle who fought along side Zamperini.

"Yes, that was my dad's older brother," Rosenberger said. "His full name was Harold Brooks but they nicknamed him Harry. My dad had two brothers who went to war. Harry was ten years older than my dad. He was in the Air Corps group with Louis Zamperini."

Zamperini's initial notoriety was from his participation in the Olympics.

"Louis Zamperini was an Olympic hero," Rosenberger said. "He competed in the Olympics in Germany in 1936. He did not win but he did one of the fastest sprints at the end of whatever meter run he was doing and Hitler wanted to meet him, so he met Hitler and then later on he actually took down a Nazi flag."

Zamperini enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, which is where he met Rosenberger's uncle.

"The war that [Brooks and Zamperini] went to was the Japanese theater," Rosenberger said. "They were on a B-24 bomber. In the movie, [Brooks was depicted] in the first air-raid on an island called Nauru. They were going to bomb it, and after they bombed it the Japanese came after them and shot their plane all up and my uncle was injured in the back of the head and in the back by shrapnel. There were problems with the plane so they crash-landed. Later on that night [Brooks]

passed away. I think there were two that died on that mission. Later on they had to take another plane up and that plane went into the ocean. Eventually three men survived for a time period, and then one more died. The pilot [Russell Allen "Phil" Phillips] and Louis Zamperini drifted on the ocean for 47 days. They floated up to an island that was Japanese-controlled. The island was called 'Execution Island.' Usually you'd get beheaded on that island, but the commander in charge had a picture of Zamperini when he was in the Olympics, and that saved his life. Later on they tried to get him to do propaganda on the radio for Japan. They first allowed him to greet his parents, to let them know that he was still living. Then they came to him and said, 'Now we want you to do this,' and he refused and so he had to go back to the prison camp where he was treated brutally. The person over that prison camp [Mutsuhiro Watanabe] was

called 'The Bird' and he was very cruel to [Zamperini]. He was in the prison camp for two years until they all were rescued at the end of the war."

Rosenberger and her family kept in touch with Zamperini over the years.

"My grandmother actually wrote to Mr. Zamperini," Rosenberger said. "In the late 1990s I was able to get a hold of Mr. Zamperini again, and I have a letter that he wrote me back, and pictures that he sent to me. Later on when the book came out I wrote him again thanking him and he sent me back a little note, and then on the little P.S. he said, 'Universal Studios has been to my home a couple of times,' so he was excited about the movie being made of his life."

Rosenberger said she liked the movie version of "Unbroken."

"I was very impressed," Rosenberger said. "The whole movie was wonderful and something that the family will want to go see."



Harold Brooks, who served with Louis Zamperini, died after his plane was shot down during World War II.

Lowell gymnasts show appreciation for new mats



by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell competitive cheer thanked Meijer last week for donating new mats to their athletic program in a special dedication ceremony.

Todd Noskey, store director of the Lowell Meijer, was on hand for the West Michigan Middle School Conference Lowell Jamboree, the first time the mats were to be used in competition.

The middle school and varsity cheer squads and their coaches Diane Jager (varsity), Shari Jager (assistant varsity) and Amanda Mccune (middle school) presented Noskey with a thank you card.

"On behalf of myself, my coaching staff, the teams, the parents, our athletic director Dee Crowley and the entire school board we wish to thank Meijer for their generosity," said Jager.

The middle school team went on to compete and moved from seventh to fourth place in the south division. The varsity competed later in the week placing third in Division 2 at the Gull Lake Invitational and improved their overall score by nearly 50 points.

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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS**Good showing for Red Arrow wrestlers at first Mat Mayhem tourney in Indiana**

submitted by Matt Bishop

Last Saturday the Red Arrow varsity wrestling team traveled to Ft. Wayne, Indiana to compete in the first annual Mat Mayhem tournament.

In their first round the Red Arrows notched a 38-

28 win against a very strong Merrillville team, that is currently ranked seventh in Div. 3A in Indiana.

In their second round the Red Arrows beat a very good Brownsburg team by a score of 30-26. The competitive Brownsburg

team is also a ranked team in Indiana at no. 18 in Div. 3A. In their final round Lowell beat Mechanicsburg, the no. 5 ranked team in Div. 3 in Ohio, by a score of 44-23. Lowell had three undefeated wrestlers on the day; Lucas Hall (120), Aaron Ward

(126) and Josh Colegrove (220).

This Saturday, Jan. 17, the Arrows host 16 teams at the annual Gary Rivers Memorial team tournament at the high school. The field of 16 consists of

six teams ranked in their respective divisions. The teams attending include; Allendale (no. 8, D3), Battle Creek Lakeview, Belding, Byron Center, Dearborn Crestwood, Grand Haven (no. 10, D1), Grandville

(no. 6, D1), Hartland (no. 5, D1), Hudsonville, Lincoln Park, Lowell (no. 1, D2), Plymouth, Portage Central, Portage Northern, Stevensville Lakeshore, Sturgis (no. 8, D2). Wrestling begins at 9 am.

- BASKETBALL

Lowell boys win on the road, 77-37by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Red Arrow boys varsity basketball squad dominated Cedar Springs last week on the road pulling off an impressive 40 point victory that heavily relied on the teams defense and sophomore scorer Matt Beachler.

Lowell outscored Cedar Springs in all four periods of the game beginning with putting up 23 points to the Red Hawks 11 in the first. Lowell went on to put up 14 additional points in the second while holding off Cedar Springs to only five to move into the second half of play with a commanding lead of 37-16.

The Arrows scored 20 additional points in the third and the fourth while Cedar Springs continued to struggle under the Red Arrows fierce defensive pressure earning only 21 points combined in the same time frame.

At the final buzzer Lowell lead by a massive 40 points 77-37, the most points they have earned in a single game this season. "It was the first time that we really played well as a team," said Lowell head coach Kyle Carhart, "We were very active defensively, got a lot of deflections and our guards were able to force a number of turnovers."

Beachler led Lowell in scoring contributing 35 percent of the teams point total with 27. Junior Ryan Stevens added twelve, sophomore Austin Branagan chipped in ten and senior Gabe Stead earned nine. Juniors Carter Noskey and Avery Buckius each contributed five. Overall ten team members added points to the board in a good offensive showing for the Lowell team. The squad also scored well from the line landing 27 of their 35 attempts for a .771 free throw percentage.

Carhart said that despite the cohesion of the team

and their big win he is still looking for areas to improve upon as they move deeper into the season and into

conference competition, "We need to improve in our defensive rebounding,

offensive and defensive execution, and our mental toughness."

Lowell, now 4-2, will compete twice at home this week welcoming non-conference competitor Forest Hills Northern on Tuesday and OK White rival Grand Rapids Christian on Friday.

Lowell
Little League 

2015 Spring Registrations are now open!

Early Bird discounts expire January 31st.

Age divisions are as follows

EDL-coed (4, 5, 6) & 7-8, 9-10
11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

**For more information: www.llmi.com
Any questions: lowelllittleleague@gmail.com**



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SATURDAY
Jan. 21 - 24**

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Red Arrow **SPORTS**

Red Hawks fall to Lady Arrows 54-48

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Red Arrow girls were triumphant in non-conference play over the Cedar Springs Red Hawks in front of a home crowd. Despite outscoring Lowell by four and playing hard until the buzzer the Red Hawks fell to Lowell 54-48.

The game started off tight with Tara McQueen scoring the first point of the game from the line. Cedar Springs followed with two before Katie Holzhueter landed her first three point shot of the night to put

Lowell up 4-2. Cedar added another two to tie the score at four before an aggressive Kate Montgomery earned three to put the Arrows back on top 7-4.

Junior Ally Frederickson forced Cedar Springs to fight hard at the glass contributing several nice blocks in the period as well as the next two points earned for the team. Bridget Garter added two in the form of free throws and Catherine Stump added two as well to put the Arrows up 15-10 at the first buzzer.

The Red Hawks opened scoring in the second quickly earning three two point baskets. Bailey Reitsma

answered by sneaking in two off of a rebound tying the game once again at 17. McQueen added one from the line and Holzhueter and Montgomery another pair of three point shots during a back and forth period that ended with Lowell on top by three, 27-24.

Moving into the second half of action Cedar Springs quickly earned three points to tie the game yet again at 27. Garter and Montgomery working with Frederickson added four points to reclaim the lead. Holzhueter offered up another successful three pointer which was immediately rebounded into a two point basket by

McQueen to give the Arrows their biggest lead thus far, 36-27. Frederickson and Montgomery added two points a piece from the line and Holzhueter another impressive three to extend the lead to 43-27. Despite a small scoring run from the Red Hawks toward the end of the third Lowell lead at the buzzer by ten, 44-34.

Head coach Jake Strotheide said he was happy with the way the girls finished their free throws to hold off the competition but sees room for improvement.

"We need to be more consistent with our defense in allowing us to pull away from other teams. We went

up two or three times by 10+ points and allowed Cedar to come back each time. We also need to continue to rebound the ball better to limit their shots and allow us to get out and run the floor."

Nine Lowell netters

added points to the board with Holzhueter leading the way with 14. Montgomery added 12 points while Garter contributed eight. Kennedy Coxon, Rae Mongar, Frederickson, McQueen, Reitsma and Stump also scored for the squad.

LAS
Elementary
Lunch Menus
week of 1/19/15

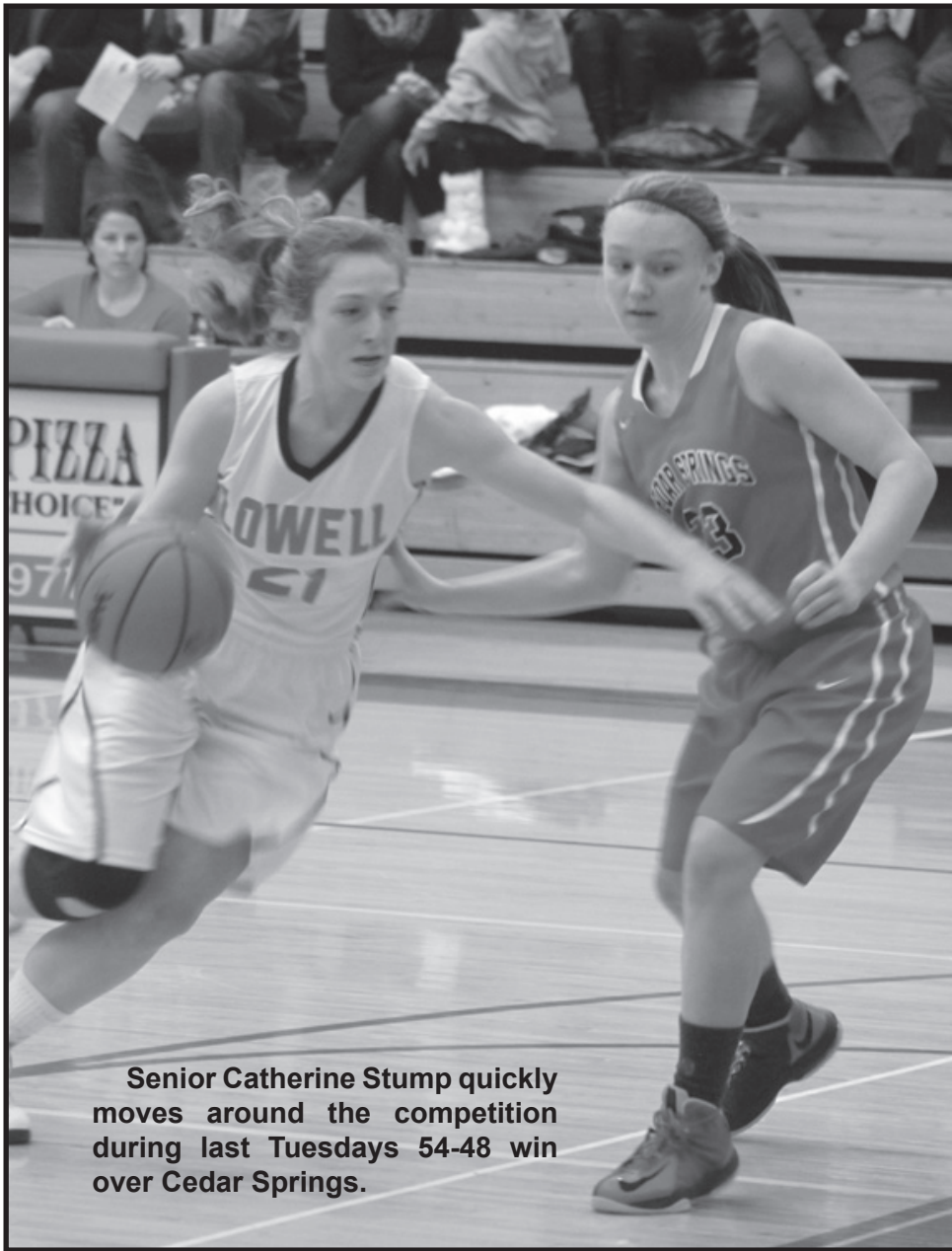
MONDAY: No School

TUESDAY: Chicken tenders (served with roll at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, peaches, applesauce.

WEDNESDAY: French toast sticks served w/eggs, hash-browns, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, apple slices, orange juice (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), broccoli florets, pineapple, orange juice (served at Bushnell).

THURSDAY: BBQ pork ribbie on bun (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), Chicken nuggets w/dinner roll (served at Bushnell), mashed potatoes & gravy, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, strawberries, peaches.

FRIDAY: Tony's pepperoni pizza on WG crust, baby carrots, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, apple slices, juice.



Senior Catherine Stump quickly moves around the competition during last Tuesdays 54-48 win over Cedar Springs.



Top scorer Katie Holzhueter earned 14 points in the game including an impressive series of three-point baskets.

This week the team will face Forest Hills Northern on the road and enter into conference competition Friday at home when they take on Grand Rapids Christian.

Go Red Arrows!

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell **ledger**

obituaries

CARIGON

Marion Maxine Carigon (nee Peckham), age 92 of Ada, formerly of Lowell, went to be with her Lord on Monday, January 12, 2015. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry; sisters Pearl Peckham and Dorothy Thompson. She is survived by her children Dorothy (Richard) Sypniewski; Rosie (Lawrence B.) Haywood and Tommy Brooks; her grandchildren William James Atkinson III, Andrea Gibson, Richard Sypniewski, Raquel Soyka, Breyound (Jennifer) Haywood, Isaac (Leah) Haywood, Miranda (Joseph) Curry and Amber Rose Haywood. A funeral service will be held Friday 11:00 a.m. at Ada Christian Reformed Church, 7152 Bradfield St. SE, Ada. Pastor Rick Kiekintveld, Pastor Robert Holmes and Rev. David Plutschow officiating. Visitation Thursday 2-4:00 and 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Memorial contributions may be made to Ada Christian Reformed Church or the Christian Life Center of Lowell, 3050 Alden Nash Avenue Southeast, Lowell, MI 49331.



GREEN

Richard Arthur Green, 69 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, January 11, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Dorothy Green. He is survived by his brother Bob (Lu) Green and sister Joyce Green. Nephews and Niece, Don (Lynn) Green, Jo (Scott) Myers, Bill (Sue) Green and Doug (Wendy) Green, as well as many great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. Richard proudly served with the United States Marine Corps including time in Vietnam. Visitation with his family will be held Thursday, January 15 from 6-8 at First Baptist Church, 2275 W. Main St., Lowell. Memorial service Friday at 11:00 a.m. (visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m.) at the Church. Mr. William Green officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Church.



Tip your hat for Pie Day and Social Security

A hundred years ago, no one would leave the house without a hat. Hats were everywhere: top hats, cowboy hats, stovepipe hats, even pork pie hats. Women wore elaborate hats to church, matching them to their fashionable outfits.

Today, people celebrate their favorite sports teams with ball caps. And, we celebrate National Hat Day on January 15.

Social Security wears many hats to provide you with world-class customer service and benefits.

One of the hats is as the administrator of the nation's Social Security disability insurance program, known as SSDI.

This program provides critical support to some of our most vulnerable citizens—those with severe disabilities. You can start your disability application online from the convenience of home by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability. You will save time and money by avoiding a trip to a Social Security office.

And, hats off to Pie Day on January 23! Planning and applying for retirement is as easy as pie at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement, where you'll have quick and easy access to online financial planning tools like the Retirement Estimator. The Retirement Estimator lets you experiment with different earnings and retirement dates to make sure your slice of retirement is just right for you. Make sure you have your piece of the pie covered. Create your personal mySocialSecurity account to view your Social Security Statement instantly and to learn

about retirement benefits you can receive. Sign up for your account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Wearing another hat, Social Security offers survivors benefits. Once you've registered for a mySocialSecurity account, view your Social Security Statement to see the total survivors benefits your family may receive if something happens to you. Take the time now to make sure your family is provided for in the event of your death. You can get started at www.socialsecurity.gov/survivorplan. Now there's a plan that's fully baked!

Whether you are retiring, are disabled, or are a survivor, you can use the online benefits planners at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners to understand your Social Security protection better.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 14-19692-CA, 15-196693-GA

In the matter of DOROTHY PIERSON.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Robert Copeland whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

on 01/28/2015 at 1:30 pm at 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of Michele Boley for the appointment of a guardian and conservator for Dorothy Pierson.

01/08/2015

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

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

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held at a special meeting on **Monday, February 2, 2015 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to accept comment for the application as summarized below:

Blake Conklin of Faulk & Foster for Verizon Wireless is applying for a special exception use permit under section 201.432 Wireless Communications Facilities to place a 150 foot high monopole communications tower for Verizon Wireless service antennas. The tower will be located at the east back area portion of the parcel located at 900 Fero Ave NE, Lowell.

The complete special exception use permit application can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674] or on the website at www.vergennestwp.org.** Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	T	A	F	F	O	P	S	S	M	U	G
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8	6	2	5	9	7	3	4	1
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4	5	3	1	8	2	9	7	6
5	7	1	3	2	8	4	6	9
9	4	6	7	1	5	8	2	3
3	2	8	4	6	9	1	5	7

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\$1.00 First Sheet
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office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

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

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - Plush & thick. New. \$245 & up. FREE delivery to Lowell until 1/15/15. Grand Mattress Co. 616-682-4767.

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

2000 BUICK LESABRE LIMITED - \$2,995. Excellent shape. Runs good, 130K miles. Good tires, heated seats, power everything. All options w/ moonroof. Call Chad at 616-204-9599.

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

COLD WEATHER IS HERE! - & along with it, comes chapped hands! Try something different this year - homemade, all natural hand lotion. Lasts a long time & leaves your skin super soft! Many scents & unscented available. Check out my store at www.etsy.com, search for Nana-Hannahs. For local pickup, use coupon code LOCAL15 & we can arrange a pickup in Lowell.

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

A CLASSIC OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE - gives you an independent & self-sufficient lifestyle but only if you buy before EPA rule on or about April 2015. Call today to learn more & for special pricing, SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

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

2011 GMC SIERRA SLE - Denali grill, loaded, tow pkg, running boards, 115,000 hwy miles. Always serviced at Wittenbach. \$21,900 obo. Call 269-208-9223.

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

help wanted

WALKING ROUTE OPENING - for delivering the Buyers Guide every weekend. Paycheck every week. Must be at least 15 to apply for this position. Please apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. NO PHONE CALLS regarding this position.

LOOKING TO HIRE A DIRECT CARE STAFF - Please call 897-8340 & ask for Brenda or Staci.

RESIDENT CAREGIVERS - Provide comfort, safety & general supervision to residents by assisting them with activities of daily living & tending to their individual care needs while learning their unique preferences & personalities to assure a safe, protected, clean & orderly environment. 1st & 2nd shift positions available. Please apply in person, Fountain View of Lowell, 11537 E. Fulton St. SE, Lowell. Ph. 897-8413, fax 897-7839, email fvwlowell@baruchsls.org

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

HELP WANTED - My beloved spouse & dancing partner for 60 years died. I'm a fairly active 81 year old who loves dancing & would like to find a 70+ dancing partner. I'm 6'3" so need a partner 5'7" or taller. 676-9734.

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

MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR - The North Country Trail Association (NCTA), located in Lowell, seeks a creative & enthusiastic team player to support integrated marketing & communications initiatives designed to grow awareness to the North Country Trail National Scenic Trail as well as increase follow-ership/membership w/the NCTA & our community. Using a strategic selection of traditional as well as digital media & social networking venues, this half-time position provides coordination for a broad-based set of priorities in the marketing, outreach, public relations & communications arena. For a detailed position description & how to apply, visit northcountrytrail.org/employment

wanted

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

for rent

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

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

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

ONE BEDROOM LOWER UNIT - in cozy older house. Heat included. Must have references, deposit required. Washer/dryer. \$550/mo. Small dogs & cats considered w/non-refundable deposit. 987-9124.

services

EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE - Lowell & surrounding areas. On road repairs. Rob's Towing & Auto Salvage. "CHEAP HOOKER" 616-292-7649.

TANK FULL? CALL FULLER! - Cleaning residential septic tanks. Over 40 years of great service. Owned & operated by Stoneybrook Sanitation. Call 24/7, 897-3050 for an appointment.

BETH'S UPHOLSTERY - Custom, quality work. Home furnishings, antiques, marine & more. 30 years experience 616-902-6710.

SEAMLESS GUTTER - Bleam Eavestroughing. Free estimates, 50 colors, leaf guards. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

ASSISTED LIVING - private licensed home accepting residents for private & semi-private rooms, Alto/Caledonia area. 868-6872.

CARPENTER WANTS JOBS, JOBS, JOBS - New homes, remodeling, additions, roofing, siding, decks, kitchens, baths, plans drawn. Licensed since 1967. References. Mel Cooke, 676-9239. No Sunday calls please.

services

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

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

COUNSELING SERVICES LOCALLY - Mental health for individuals, couples, families & groups. Life Transitions Therapy 616-238-2116.

ELECTRICIAN - retired electrician doing small jobs. Reasonable rates, discounts for seniors. Call 616-401-6547.

services

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. Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

SELL AVON - Only \$15 to get started. Call 616-897-5086 or sign up now at www.startAvon.com and use ref code SGRIMM

START THE NEW YEAR HEALTHIER - & energize your life - Yoga, creative movement & hoop dance classes offered. 893-5661 or visit www.thehammockllc.com for details.

services

UPS SHIPPING FEDEX PICKUP COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-noon Closed Sat. & Sun. Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Coming Events

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

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

THE PIRATES LIFE FOR ME! - Mon. Jan. 19, 1 p.m. Learn to look like a pirate, talk like a pirate, play pirate games & fill your treasure chest. For all ages at Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

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

FLAT RIVER WATERSHED GROUP - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. Our purpose is to protect, enhance & maintain land & water quality & other natural resources surrounding the Flat River Watershed. For more information, call Lloyd at 676-1812. Also, "Like" us on Facebook at the Flat River Watershed Council.

LADIES SEWING CLOTHES TO DONATE - First Friday of the month, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Items are made from donated material & fabrics, clothes from newborn to 12 years old. Items are donated to Blodgett Children's Home & St. John's Home. Join us to cut out patterns, Christian Life Center, Lowell.

KDaLe: BEER TASTING WITH PAULY'S - Wed., Jan. 28, 6 p.m. Brew guru Stacey Faba will help you choose the right beer. Pre-registration is required. Must be 21 or older. Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

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

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

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

MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on

is open every Friday & Saturday 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.

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

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

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

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

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

KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Beltline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716.

ALTO LIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.

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, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, Lowell. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/ adult programs available, Call Shawna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://mi222.miwg-cap.org

SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH - Community Crisis Fund meeting at 7 p.m. at Poppa C's in Clarksville.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS - Thurs., March 12, 2015. Teams of 4 participants read four specific books between now & March for a final battle of fun trivia. Teams need to be registered no later than Dec. at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding, 616-794-1450.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION FOR FROM - 1st. Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. FROM, 11535 Fulton St. E. Call for more information 897-8260.

the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042.

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SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH - Community Crisis Fund meeting at 7 p.m. at Poppa C's in Clarksville.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS - Thurs., March 12, 2015. Teams of 4 participants read four specific books between now & March for a final battle of fun trivia. Teams need to be registered no later than Dec. at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding, 616-794-1450.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION FOR FROM - 1st. Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. FROM, 11535 Fulton St. E. Call for more information 897-8260.

FOOD PANTRY - First Friday of month at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. Registration 1 p.m., distribution 4 p.m. Bring own containers. 868-6402.

Looking Back, continued

in the kitchen and it is thought to have been caused by mice gnawing matches in a cupboard. Mr. and Mrs. Collins and their five children and Mrs. Collins' mother, Mrs. Joseph Gaunt, escaped from the burning home without injury but lost much of their personal clothing. It is thought that damage from fire and water to house and contents will amount from \$700 to \$800, covered by insurance. A fire insurance adjuster here on Tuesday paid high compliments to the local fire department for its splendid work in subduing the flames. It is fortunate that the fire was discovered early else the children and Mrs. Gaunt might have been trapped on the second floor with perhaps fatal results.

Thieves entered the Ford garage sometime late Saturday night and made off with a number of articles including three tires, two tubes, a dozen spark plugs, seven batteries and two flashlights. The theft was not discovered until Monday forenoon. A number of persons rent storage space in local garages and thieves have found it quite easy to enter and leave just as do those who have a right to without exciting suspicion, but next time they try it they are apt to meet up with quite a surprise.

Two 16-year-old boys, runaways from the State Vocational School at Lansing, stole the new sedan

belonging to Royden Warner from the parking lot back of his store on Main St. early Saturday evening. Robert Warner saw the boys driving away with the car and officers were immediately notified. The car was recovered in Grand Rapids about a half hour later, when the boys, trying to avoid being caught by a police cruiser, skidded into the ditch. The boys were captured after a short chase. The car was badly damaged from landing in the ditch.

The semi-annual statement of the Lowell Building and Loan association for the period ending December 31, 1939, will be found on page three of this issue. This association has rendered splendid service in this community for half a century and ranks among the very best in the state for sound management.

Lowell Rotary Club is keeping in close touch with the work of the local Boy Scouts. Each week two or more members of the Scouts are guests of the club, those present last week being Richard Warner and Rodney Kropf and this week the guests were Albert Stryker, William Basler and Roger Krum.

The John O. Clark store building on East Main St., next to the State Savings Bank, has been purchased by Earl D. Cole. The building is occupied by Fahrni's Cream Station.

Lowell. He was found to be AWOL from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Military police picked him up for the return trip back to fort, before he reached home.

Mrs. Dave Clark, sr. and Mrs. Clara Kingdom were only slightly injured when the car in which they were riding was struck from behind on East Main Street, Friday evening. They were passengers in a car driven by Dave Clark, sr. He told the police he was hit by Jerry Cook, 30, of Saranac, after he was pulling away from the bowling alley.

Postmaster George Hale has been named Lowell Township chairman for Michigan Week, May 16 to 24, it was announced today by H. Wayne Parker, Postmaster of Grand Rapids and 1965 County Chairman. Mr. Hale has been Postmaster at Lowell for the past 15 years.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 18, 1990

Did you suffer a financial loss because of last week's gas leak on West Main St.? If so, not to worry, there is insurance to cover your loss. Ron O'Connor, an adjuster with American International Adjustment Company, Inc. told the Lowell City Council at their regular Monday meeting that his company is prepared to cover all legitimate losses. O'Connor's firm is the insurance carrier for Hunter Environmental, the company installing the test well at Action Auto when the gas main was ruptured on Monday, January 8. O'Connor said there is still a slight possibility that Consumers Power and their Miss Dig program may share in the responsibility for the accident through faulty information or an inaccurate survey. O'Connor says that if Hunter Environmental is clearly responsible, his firm will stand behind all claims, including a sizable claim from the city for overtime paid city crews and emergency personnel.

Headline: Strong winds befall 36th St. tree. Mary Dillree's Law - If something can go wrong while house-sitting it will. Dillree and her sons Chad and Chris were house-sitting for her parents while they vacationed in the Bahamas. Both Dillree and her sons were awakened to the sound of a tree landing on the corner of the garage before it plummeted onto the hood of her parents' car Thursday morning (Jan. 11). "The first thing I did was grab the boys. I thought the house was coming down," explained Dillree. "This is the second time a tree has fallen on the garage." Prior to the befallen tree incident, Dillree's son Chad incurred severe burns on his hand and the basement of her parents' house flooded. "It's unbelievable all the things that have happened since my parents left for the Bahamas a week before Christmas."

The recycle station in the Food City parking lot (1335 W Main) is experiencing sporadic pickup of its recyclable materials. This is due to the transition of recycling operations from Recycle Unlimited to the county. The County of Kent will be taking over the recycling operations starting Feb. 1, 1990. All recyclers are asked to not use the facility until Feb. 1 when normal operations resume.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 14, 1965

The strike called at the Newell Manufacturing Co., according to Rex Bailey, President of the group, is over a closed shop contract and check-off of dues. The company and the union are very close on the economic demands but differ on demanding that all employees of the plant belong to the union and the company deduct the monthly dues from the employee's pay. Wallace Hook President of Newell Manufacturing Co. said that he was only acting to protect the right to work guarantee of the employees who do not wish to join any union. Hook said that in the election held last July 16, the vote in favor of the union was only 32 for the UAW and 24 for no-union and one contested vote. The right of 24 to work without belonging to the Union, Hook said, is the right of every working man and to protect those rights he was not willing to sign a contract with a closed-shop contract. About 30 pickets were on hand Monday morning, office workers and supervisory employees went to work as usual. By Wednesday, about 10 hourly employees had returned to work.

Men's umbrellas are back in style...Coons Store, West Main Street, has just received a complete stock of umbrellas. The men's umbrellas are returning to the store after a 30 year absence.

Jim Wood of Hillside Court reported to the police that \$125 in clothing, that he was drying at a self-serve laundry on East Main Street, was stolen. A tip led Wood and the State Police to an Ionia County home, where some of the clothing was recovered.

Timmy Risher, 18, of Saranac, was picked up in Lowell at 2:45 am Sunday, while he was hitch hiking in

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NOTICE**

2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

**TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS –
3RD MONDAY**

**PLANNING COMMISSION –
1ST THURSDAY**


**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –
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CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- Supporting workers
 - Military activities
 - Self-satisfaction
 - *Mike Ditka has his own brand of this smoke
 - One who is not Jewish, Yiddish
 - Done for dramatic affect?
 - Often done for one's sins
 - Unagi
 - Garment enlarger
 - *The _____
 - *Winners of first two Super Bowls
 - AprÈs-_____
 - Keep it up?
 - State V.I.P.
 - Starch used in Asian food
 - Extremely tiny
 - Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.
 - Texting button
 - Result of too much pressure
 - Pharrell Williams' 2014 album
 - Last European colony in China
 - Muslim honorific
 - Tax evader's fear
 - *Something to play for
 - Track _____
 - Confusion
 - Feudal laborer
 - Like humor or martini
 - Charades action
 - 401(k) alternative
 - *Super Bowl host state
 - Fracas
 - Precedes birth
 - Former measure of U.S. economy

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- Made cow noise
 - Mixtures
 - Earned at Wharton or Kellogg
 - "_____ it!" said the accused
 - *Hendricks and Ginn Jr.
 - Make a scene
 - Type of car
- DOWN**
- Wound, eventually
 - South American monkey
 - All excited
 - Vampire's feature, pl.
 - One who _____ out at the site of a snake
 - Curved molding
 - "The Raven" writer
 - Airy spirit
 - Dropped or fell
 - Source of artist's inspiration
 - ____-friendly
 - Understands
 - Alfresco meal
 - Unhealthy vapors
 - *Teams rely on this kicker sense
 - To the point
 - Lady of "Applause"
 - Poppy product
 - Opera composer Giuseppe _____
 - *Cleats, helmet, pads
 - Pack like sardines
 - Was violently angry
 - Shade of yellow
 - *49
 - Copenhagen native
 - *Super Bowl half-time performer
 - Finno-_____ language
 - Malignant or benign ones
 - Bowling target
 - Drab and unattractive people
 - Molten rock
 - Before, in the olden days
 - Sir Mix-_-_____
 - Rapid series of short loud sounds
 - Footnote acronym
 - Menageries
 - A quarrel
 - *Not a Super Bowl party without it?
 - Bulgarian money
 - Place of forbidden fruit
 - *Where to watch

Puzzle solutions on page 12



JANUARY 7 - JANUARY 13

- Millions march in Paris with world leaders arm-in-arm and throughout France as a show of solidarity and support for those murdered by extremists in the worst massacre in 50 years last week in Paris. Many carried signs declaring "We are not afraid" and "Je Suis Charlie" (We are Charlie) to stand for freedom of speech for the members of the Charlie Hebdo magazine staff that died.
- Many actors and actresses echoed the sentiments and support for France at the annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony when giving their acceptance speeches and on the red carpet.



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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Do you make New Year Resolutions?

- YES.....33%
- NO67%
- I'VE ALREADY BROKEN IT!.....0

TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

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Red Arrow - GYMNASTICS SPORTS

At first home meet team pays tribute to the military

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

On Saturday the Lowell varsity gymnastics team hosted their first home meet of the season, The Red Arrow Invitational, which included an opening ceremony paying tribute to the men and women of the military.

With the help of Boy Scout Troop 102 and the Lowell VFW Color Guard, Lowell gymnasts were introduced along with their selected military honoree who then made their way through a patriotic tunnel of flags.

The gymnasts then performed a "21 Tuck Salute" for their honorees before enjoying the National Anthem performed by Lowell gymnast Alise Forward.

Coach Michele DeHaan said that she considers the fun and emotional tribute a success, "The salute went even better than I expected. It was more than a meet, it was a time to celebrate veterans and appreciate our freedom to do the sport we love. It was great to be able to honor those veterans and thank them for their service to our country."

The meet also served as a collection point for the military charities Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) and Operation Care Package (OCP) according to DeHaan. "We raised \$150 for WWP and collected two huge boxes of items for OCP."

Based on community support and positive feedback for the special

event DeHaan said that the squad will continue the practice as a tradition in the future.

Lowell was also successful in competition at the meet coming in first alongside Rockford both earning a score of 137.925.

The unexpected win was the icing on the cake according to DeHaan, "The crowd was bigger than normal and the girls were pumped. What's great was it wasn't about them, they wanted to make their honorees proud. The confidence, focus and determination just made everything fall into place for us."

Medaling for Lowell on the vault were Lauren DeHaan who earned second with a 9.0, Lauren Browning

who took third with an 8.925 and Bethany Kaczanowski who scored a personal best with an 8.8 to earn sixth place. Danielle Krajewski and Forward earned ninth and tenth respectively.

Corah Kaufman scored an 8.4 on the bars to claim the second place medal followed by Sarena Wilterdink who earned fifth with a 7.975, another personal best. Browning,

DeHaan, Forward and Karmen Anderson also placed in the top ten.

Lowell had three medal winners on the beam. DeHaan took third with a 8.925, Wilterdink bested herself again with an 8.675 for fifth and Kaczanowski claimed eighth with a score of 8.45.

Browning blew away her previous high score in the floor exercise to claim the

top spot with an impressive 9.475 followed by DeHaan and Maura Fitzpatrick who claimed seventh and eighth place with a tied score of 9.125. Kaczanowski earned her first 9.0 in the event to claim ninth.

Overall medal winners were DeHaan in second, Wilterdink in fourth, Browning in fifth, Kaufman in eighth and Kaczanowski in ninth.



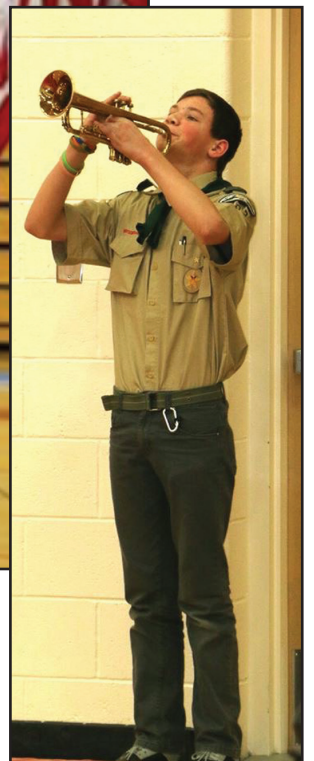
Sergeant Matthew Boulis and Airman First Class Rebecca Chamberlain from the U.S. Air Force with the team. Photos submitted by Shannon Neilsen



Sergeant Matthew Boulis with Calib Taylor and Duncan Elliott, LHS seniors that have enlisted in the US Marine Corps.



Lowell VFW Color Guard walking through flags being held by Boy Scout Troop 10 and, at right, James Brillhart, played reveille and taps at the military salute.



ask THE ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO MEDICAID AND LONG TERM CARE

QUESTION: I've heard that Medicaid is making big changes to long term care. Can I still protect my assets?

ANSWER: Recently, Michigan's Department of Human Services has begun denying eligibility in Medicaid long term care cases in which there is a married person, and in which assets were placed in a so-called "solely for the benefit" trust ("SBO trust"). For those of us who do Medicaid planning, the SBO trust is the most favored planning tool in most married persons cases.

The SBO trust has traditionally allowed assets in excess of the protected spousal amount to be preserved for the needs of the community spouse. The State of Michigan will not say why it changed its interpretation of Medicaid policy that allowed for the trust and gave no warning to folks applying for Medicaid that the interpretation would change.

The good news is that other planning

options exist and should be considered. Each of these options have challenges and considerations which need to be thoughtfully reviewed.

We are entering a new era of long term care planning. Now, more than ever, seniors facing long term care costs need experienced and knowledgeable legal advice in order to protect and preserve their estate.

Please contact our office to discuss the latest changes to Michigan's Medicaid policy and the most up-to-date planning techniques for you and your family.

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This week the team takes on two conference competitors, East Kentwood at home and Kenowa Hills on the road.