

**Behind  
The Scenes**



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## Governor signs Main Street Fairness tax bill

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed the “Main Street Fairness” tax bill into law on Thursday, January 15. The law, which takes effect Oct. 1, will force large internet retailers such as Amazon.com to charge Michigan sales tax on all purchases.

Local retailer Cliff Yankovich, owner of Chimera Design, 208 E. Main, was one of the local business leaders who helped get the bill passed.

“I don’t know if you remember, but initially Governor Snyder said, ‘Hey, this is a federal problem. This has to be addressed in Washington. I’m not going to touch it,’” Yankovich said. “Maybe he realized that the people in D.C. weren’t going to do anything, because they

haven’t done anything for four or five years, and the state is losing revenue.”

Yankovich traveled to Lansing and attended the bill’s signing ceremony.

“I’d never been to a ceremonial bill signing before, so it was educational from that standpoint,” Yankovich said. “It was neat. We were in this little room in the Romney Building.”

Collecting sales tax on internet commerce will add millions of dollars to the state’s budget.

“About \$60 million annually will go to the state,” Yankovich said. “If the feds would plug up the loophole on the federal level it would probably be double or two and a half times that. That would pay for a couple of schools to come out of



From left: Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, Okemos jeweler Becky Beauchine Kulka, former State Rep. Eileen Kowall, Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, Rockford retailer Barb Stein and MRA President James P. Hallan.

Photo by David Trumple

bankruptcy or something. Schools were originally one of the big things that sales tax was supposed to help.”

The bill is intended to “level the playing field” between online and brick and mortar retailers.

“I think it’s a good step for ‘Main Street’ retailers all over the state,” Yankovich said.

## Small plane crashes near Lowell Airport

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Tragedy was averted on Monday evening when a single-engine plane, destined for the landing strip at the Lowell City Airport,

lost control and crashed in front of a nearby home.

The plane, a 1962 Cessna 172, was piloted by a 40-year-old Grand Rapids

man who was receiving flight training from Majestic Air to whom the plane was registered.

After a two-hour flight,

alongside his instructor, the pilot was attempting a solo landing.

According to the Kent County Sheriff’s Department

the plane clipped several tall pine trees while in descent causing a crash landing onto the property of Suzanne Fedewa about a mile from the airport at 484 Lincoln Lake Avenue. The plane came to rest in the driveway just feet from Fedewa’s front door.

The homeowner reported she thought the loud crunching noises she heard at around 5:45 pm were from a car crash and was shocked to peer out her front window and find a plane in her front yard.

“I was so shaken up because I realized how close it was to my house and the fact that that plane could catch fire, so it was scary,” Fedewa said.

First responders reported that the pilot was walking and talking after the crash though understandably shaken up. He was later hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries.

It is not yet known whether the crash was due to pilot error or mechanical failure but the Federal Aviation Administration was on the scene and is investigating the crash.

This is the tenth crash at or near the airport since 1982 and the third in less than a year’s time.



This single-engine propeller plane crashed Monday evening about a mile from the airport into the yard of a nearby home.

# Grain bin safety critical this year according to experts

High moisture levels and declining quality from this year's harvest are raising the risk of grain engulfment, and grain handlers across the nation should keep safety top of mind, said experts at the 2015 Michigan Agri-Business Association winter conference in Lansing this week.

"Maintaining best practices when it comes to storing grain and working around grain bins is always important, but this year really stands out," said

Jim Byrum, president of MABA. "High moisture levels will increase grain bridging, and [people] working in or around grain storage facilities should take the time needed to be safe and prevent engulfment and other hazards."

Bob Marlow of The Andersons Inc. said millers, elevator operators and farmers should think of quality and safety as interconnected goals that can reduce risks, both physically and financially. Marlow and other experts said the issue is especially timely; data indicates a correlation between high-yield harvests with a rise in grain entrapment incidences.

According to Purdue University, which has tracked grain entrapment

occurrences nationwide since 1978, the highest number of reported incidents per year — 38 and a record

51 — occurred when corn harvests were the highest, 2009 and 2010, respectively. These years were notable

for high moisture content and low test weight. In 2010, 26 people died from grain bin entrapment, the

highest recorded, according to the Occupational Health

Grain bin safety, continued, page 7

## Chase Bank closes for good in Lowell

Nearly a dozen Chase Bank branches located inside Meijer stores are scheduled to close permanently this spring including the location at 11901 Fulton Street in Lowell.

Reportedly the two parties ended their business relationship mutually and amicably sighting a change in circumstances. No official announcements have been made by Meijer what bank may fill the vacancy.

The Lowell branch is scheduled to close on April 9 with the rest closing by the end of the month. Local customers can find alternate branches in Ada at 455 Ada Drive and at 6335 28th St SE.



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# along main street

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### BLOOD DRIVE

Be somebody who shares. Give blood on Fri., Jan. 30 from 8 to 11 am at Lowell YMCA, 1335 West Main St. Appointments recommended. Contact Marta Rozema at 897-8445 or mrozema@grymca.org.

### FEATURED ARTIST

Barbara Groat is the featured artist at Flat River Gallery and Framing, 219 East Main, for March and April.

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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# Governor says road funding plan would restore crumbling roads and bridges if backed by voters

Gov. Rick Snyder Monday signed legislation that would restore Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges, in part by ensuring taxes paid by consumers at the gas pump are dedicated to that purpose.

The initiative, which requires voter approval, would end years of financial neglect that plague Michigan's deteriorating infrastructure by providing a long-term funding source, according to a press release from the governor's office. The multifaceted plan also would benefit Michigan by generating additional dollars for education, local governments and recreational opportunities and by giving low-income families a tax break.

"Michigan's roads and bridges put lives at risk, drain family budgets and impede job growth," Snyder said. "But we have an opportunity to change that. This plan makes long-term investments that will give motorists a safe, modern transportation system. It is a fair, thoughtful proposal that incorporates taxpayer protections and public transparency."

Michigan hasn't updated its overall investment in roads since the gas tax was adjusted in 1997, he said.

If approved by voters, the legislature's action would raise an estimated \$1.3 billion a year for

transportation. After the first two years when debt reduction is a priority, it would include nearly \$1.2 billion going to roads and an estimated \$127 million for public transit. More than 60 percent of the road revenue would go to counties, cities and villages for their local road and bridge needs. The plan also would protect revenue for schools and local governments.

Highlights of the plan include:

- Removing the current sales tax on fuel and switching to a new wholesale tax for motor

fuels (gas and diesel) that is more dynamic but includes protections for consumers. Snyder explained that the current sales tax on fuel is constitutionally dedicated to the support of schools and local governments. It does not go toward road maintenance. The ballot proposal would ensure that all state taxes paid at the pump would go to the support of transportation.

- Protecting schools and local governments from lost revenue by asking voters in the May 5 election to approve a 1 percent increase in the state sales and use tax

on retail purchases, taking it from 6 percent to 7 percent. The result would bring an additional \$300 million a year for schools and \$94 million a year for local governments.

- Supporting state and local harbors, boating access sites and off-road vehicle trails with an additional \$26 million a year when fully implemented.

- Providing tax parity by making the wholesale tax rates on diesel and gasoline equal.

- Freezing the registration depreciation tax for current vehicles and

eliminating its applicability for new vehicles. The registration rate is increased for trucks over 13 tons.

- Assisting low-income families by restoring the Earned Income Tax Credit to its full level. The credit was reduced in 2011.

- Requiring that at least 20 percent of all maintenance contracts entered into by the Michigan Department of Transportation provide for payment based on performance outputs or outcomes. Michigan's seven largest road agencies would be included in this system.

- Increasing the use of pavement warranties as much as possible, by establishing them on all projects where appropriate for state and local governments. In a reporting requirement, the governmental entity must explain if it did not secure a warranty for a project over \$1 million.

"We are grateful for and encouraged by the bipartisan leadership that led to passage of this package of bills that will provide a new, stable, long-term investment in our transportation infrastructure, while also preserving and enhancing investment in K-12 public education," said Teresa Weatherall Neal, Grand Rapids Public Schools superintendent.

Snyder was joined by legislative leaders, members of the business and education communities, and transportation advocates as he signed House Bill 4539, sponsored by former state Rep. and current state Sen. Wayne Schmidt, which eliminates the sales tax on motor fuels.

More information on Michigan's road needs is at [www.michigan.gov/fixtheroads](http://www.michigan.gov/fixtheroads).



Gov. Rick Snyder holds up a piece of concrete that fell from a bridge in Michigan. One in nine Michigan bridges are in need of repair. (Photo provided)

## LEGAL NOTICE

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NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 14-196664-DE

Estate of JOSEPHINE  
M. HEINTZLEMAN. Date  
of birth: 10/07/1929.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Josephine M. Heintzleman, died July 16, 2014. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against

the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Thomas W. Heintzleman, personal representative or to both the probate court at Kent County Courthouse, 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

January 14, 2015

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When the politicians complain that TV turns the proceedings into a circus, it should be made clear that the circus was already there, and that TV has merely demonstrated that not all the performers are well trained.

~ Edward R. Murrow (1908 - 1965)

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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Kids in college? Fill out that FAFSA

We've just begun the new year, but the next academic year is still months away. Nonetheless, if you have a child who will be attending college in the fall, it's not too soon to start thinking about what might be a vital component of paying for his or her higher education: *financial aid*.

Specifically, to help ensure that your child doesn't miss out on federal and state student grants, work-study and loans for the 2015-2016 school year, you'll want to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. (You can start the application process by visiting [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).)

Even if you have a fair amount of financial assets, you should probably fill out a FAFSA. In the first place, all parents receive an "asset protection allowance," based on the age of the older parent. For two-parent families, this allowance generally shelters between \$25,000 and \$50,000 in assets from FAFSA considerations; for single parents, the range is typically between \$6,000 and \$10,000. The allowance

may be higher for parents 65 and older. Furthermore, in determining your expected family contribution, FAFSA won't look at your pension plan, your IRA or your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement account.

Those of your assets held outside retirement plans — the balances in your checking and savings accounts, CDs, investment real estate, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and so on — will be counted in the FAFSA calculations, but as a parent, you will only be expected to contribute up to 5.64 percent of these assets, as opposed to assets held in your child's name, which are usually assessed at 20 percent.

You may want to pay special attention to one particular asset — the 529 plan. A 529 plan is a popular college savings vehicle, and for a pretty good reason: The investment dollars you place in a 529 plan can grow tax-deferred, and withdrawals are free of federal and state taxes, provided the money is only used for higher education expenses. (The earnings portion of withdrawals used

for other purposes may be fully taxable, and might incur a 10 percent penalty, as well.) Plus, your 529 plan contributions may be deductible on your state taxes. Like your other non-retirement assets, a 529 plan will be assessed at up to 5.64 percent for FAFSA purposes. Some families, seeking to totally keep their 529 plan assets out of aid calculations, ask the grandparents to own the account. This could be a problem, though, because while the grandparents' 529 plan won't be reported as an asset on FAFSA, withdrawals from the plan will be treated as untaxed income to the beneficiary (i.e., the grandchild) on the next year's FAFSA — and that can have a big impact on financial aid, a much bigger impact, in fact, than if the 529 plan was listed as a parental asset.

Consequently, you might want to ask the grandparent to award ownership of the 529 plan to you. However, some state plans don't allow this change, so the grandparent might have to transfer the money to a different state's plan before giving up ownership.

In any case, be aware of these issues when you tackle the FAFSA. And don't delay in filling it out. Colleges have a closing date for accepting financial aid applications — and that's one deadline you won't want to miss.

## kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

Last summer I was looking for things to do and I came across a booth at the summer concert series for the Lowell Arts Council. I knew that they organized the summer concert series and did some adult plays in town, but what I didn't know was that they also did plays for kids.

I had never been in a

play before but the idea of it interested me. I decided to pick up a flyer at the booth and check it out. Lots of people had told me that I was very dramatic, so I thought, why not give it a shot? I participated in the workshop for youth theater sponsored by the Lowell Arts Council and had a lot of fun. So, when I saw that

...

**A conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who, however, has never learned to walk forward.**

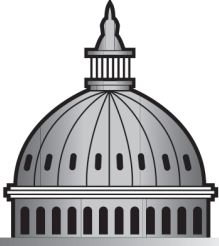
~ Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

they had tryouts for a "real" youth theater production of *The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs*, I decided to go for it. That was all back in October and the cast has been rehearsing for over three months now. I know my lines and I am looking forward to the big performance this weekend.

But, I know that none of it would be possible without volunteers from the Arts Council who have worked very hard to make this into a reality. So if you are looking for something fun to do this Saturday, January 24, please come to the high school at 7:00 pm to watch our performance. The cast, crew, directors, volunteers and parents have put a lot of time and effort into this and I think you would enjoy seeing some of Lowell's finest up and coming actors and actresses. And on a personal note, I would like to thank the Lowell Arts Council for providing this opportunity to the kids in Lowell.

# viewpoint

## out of lansing



Michigan will begin to level the retail playing field this fall when certain out-of-state merchants, including online giant Amazon, are required to collect sales tax just as the state's retailers do. Governor Rick Snyder signed Michigan Retailers

Association's Main Street Fairness legislation into law on January 15, capping MRA's long battle to close a tax loophole that has favored out-of-state merchants over Michigan-based retail businesses. "This Main Street Fairness

legislation levels the playing field for local businesses, helping Michigan job providers better compete with online retailers," the governor said during a public signing session in his Lansing office.

Local, brick-and-mortar businesses drive our economy, and without implementing this fix they would continue to serve as showrooms for online retailers."

The bipartisan legislation,

enacted by lawmakers in the final, frantic hours of the 2013-14 legislative session, takes effect October 1.

"This is history-making legislation and a great victory for the home team," said MRA President and CEO James P. Hallan.

"The governor and lawmakers agreed the state will no longer give 'remote sellers' a built-in 6 percent price advantage over our Michigan-based retailers.

On behalf of the 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."

Under federal law, out-of-state merchants are not required to collect a state's sales tax on goods they sell to residents unless the remote sellers have "nexus" – a physical presence such as a store or warehouse – in that state.

The new Main Street Fairness law would redefine physical presence to include certain practices that out-of-state companies are using to generate sales in Michigan either online or through phone or catalog sales. These include selling through subsidiaries, affiliate networks or other persons with substantial nexus in the state.

The new law will not force all out-of-state retailers to collect sales tax, only the ones that fall under the new, expanded definition of physical presence. Congressional action is still necessary to require all out-of-state merchants to collect sales tax.

The Michigan Department of Treasury estimates the new law will mean \$60 million annually in additional sales tax revenue. The additional revenue does not constitute a new tax, because purchasers have been required by existing law to pay the sales tax when

they file their income tax – but few actually do.

The problem is one of enforcement of a current tax and not creation of a new tax, the governor explained.

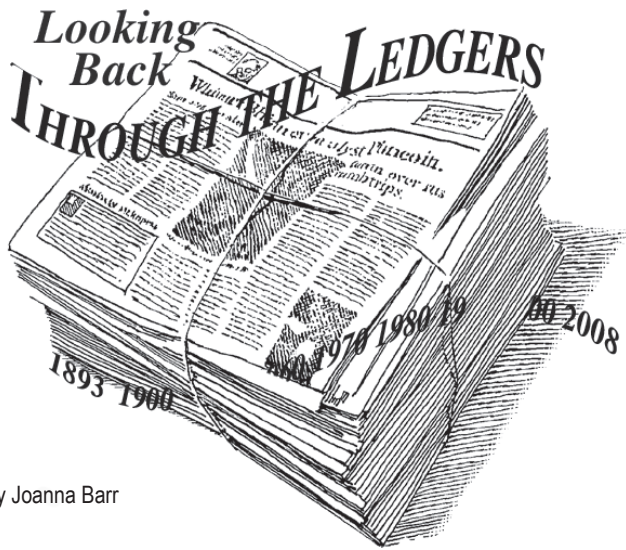
Both the governor and Hallan hailed the new law as a giant step forward for Michigan. Some two dozen states have now taken similar collection actions.

The legislation does not affect Michigan-based retailers who sell remotely to other states.

MRA has been involved in the fairness issue for some 40 years, Hallan said, since furniture retailers complained about unfair competition from drop-ship merchants located in North Carolina who escaped collecting Michigan's sales tax on items delivered to Michigan residents.

The latest, successful push for fairness began in 2011 and continued into the 2013-14 session. Senator Jim Ananich (D-Flint) sponsored the Senate bills, S.B. 658-59, that were enacted. Reps. Eileen Kowall (R-White Lake Township) and Rob VerHeulen (R-Walker) sponsored similar bills in the House.

Local retailers attending the bill-signing included Barb Stein, of Great Northern Trading Co., in Rockford, Becky Beauchine Kulka, of Becky Beauchine Kulka Diamonds and Fine Jewelry in Okemos, and Cliff Yankovich of Chimera Design in Lowell.



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal January 23, 1890

The usual rain Sunday, freeze up Monday, blizzard Tuesday; what will we have the rest of the week, La grippe?

The trial of murderer McKenzie began Tuesday in Circuit Court. What a pity we don't have capital punishment in this state.

Chas. Althen, Misses Matie and Zoa, and Masters Phil and Clare Althen are all suffering from the epidemic which is catching us all.

The South ward school is closed this week on account of the epidemic. A large portion of the school being sick, and the teacher, Miss Ruby Blanding, seriously so.

One of the boys, on a "toot" and a broncho, tried to follow the example of the wild and woolly west, by riding into a saloon after a drink, Morgan "rounded" him up and after a short stay in the "corral," he was bailed out (not with a pail), but by a friend.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 21, 1915

Slippery walking, watch out! Good weather for blacksmiths.

Sheriff Berry has appointed Bert Hayes as deputy sheriff at Lowell. The new deputy runs a meat market in the Pullen block and can be readily located when needed.

Earl Hunter has received notice of his appointment as postmaster; has sent in his bonds and is now awaiting his commission. He expects to retain the services of Garfield Ford.

The new Haysmer barber shop is doing business at the stand formerly occupied by the coffee ranch.

It may be the third and last call on the school house January 26. Let every voter turn out and say what he or she wants.

The case of Herman Raimer, charged with perjury, is on trial at Ionia this week. Judge A. M. Andrews was called as a witness yesterday.

James Judson has purchased a fine new cutter.

A sleighing party of young people spent last Sunday evening at the pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Tiffany. The "round up" was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hartwell, where the Misses Kate and Dorothy served a luncheon. All spent a delightful time.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 25, 1940

Headline: Street accident proves fatal to B. F. Kammeraad. Aged man walked in path of truck. In last week's issue, the Ledger briefly mentioned the accident which happened just at the time of going to press which inflicted serious injuries to Barend F. Kammeraad, 84, when he was struck by a truck on Monroe Ave. and the community was greatly grieved at his death which followed that same afternoon in a Grand Rapids hospital. The accident occurred, witnesses reported, when Mr. Kammeraad stepped from between parked cars into the path of a truck driven by Junior Ayres, 20, of Lowell. In attempting to avoid Mr. Kammeraad, Ayres swerved the truck into a tree and was injured about the head and chest and suffered a cracked kneecap. The accident was investigated by Frank Stephens and Fred Gramer.

The local Kroger store is installing a new steam heating plant.

Half-year license plates were placed on sale today (January 25) at all branch offices of the secretary of state.

Today is primary election day in this congressional district, but the Ledger goes to press too early to give results this week. Let us hope that Johnny Q. Voter uses good Judgment.

The work of remodeling the eastern half of the Gee block, which has been underway for the past several weeks, is nearing completion. Another fine improvement for Main street.

We learn that there are a number of persons in the community having more than general interest in the merciless war being waged by Russia against Finland. Among

Finland's brave defenders frequent mention is made in the press of General Oesch, chief of the army staff, who has a number of cousins here, among whom are included

the names of Mrs. Mary Wingeier, Mrs. Margaret Keech, Mrs. Rose Wingeier, Fred Oesch, Charles Oesch, Mrs. Fred Wittenbach, Emiel Stauffer, John Fahrni, Fred

Fahrni, Chris Fahrni, James Fahrni, Mrs. Guy Tallant and Mrs. Alice Dennie.

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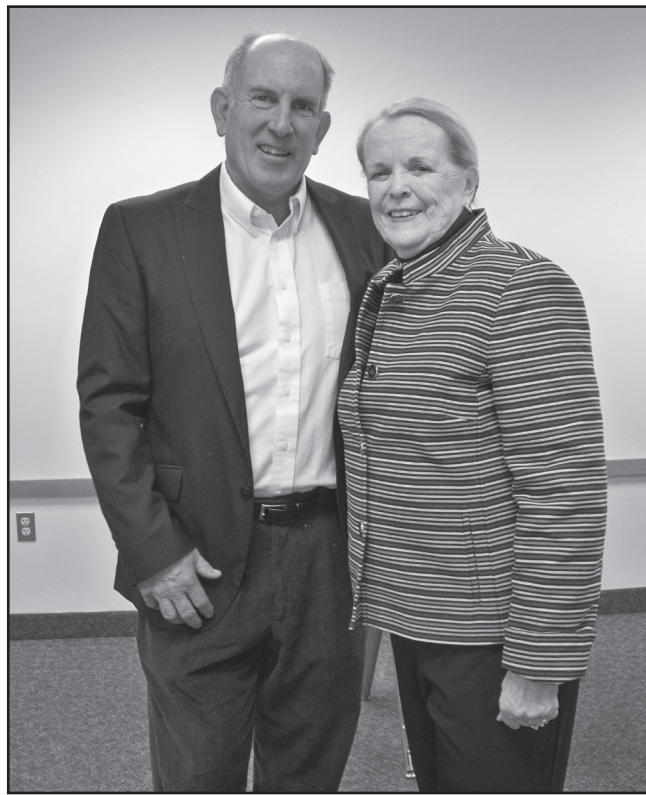
**Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.**

# Tom Rademacher speaks at women's club/rotary luncheon

The Lowell Women's Club (LWC) hosted 76 members of the Lowell Rotary Club, Rotary's Interact (student) Club and the junior members of the LWC who were on hand for the 2015 joint meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 14. The meeting was held at the Lowell Township Hall where everyone was held spell bound by the stories and humor of guest speaker, Tom Rademacher.

Rademacher is an award winning author and columnist who has entertained Michigan readers with his column for more than thirty-six years. His comments on Wednesday were an easy balance for his written words as he kept everyone entertained and laughing with his easy speaking style.

At the request of the Women's Club, he brought along copies of his book "Knocking at Your Door" and sold many. At one point while signing books he said to everyone that he was so impressed with the spirit he found in Lowell that he donated one third of that day's book sales to the Lowell Women's Club Student Scholarship Fund. Cheering followed and the line for books nearly doubled.



Tom Rademacher and the Lowell Women's Club president, Jan Thompson.

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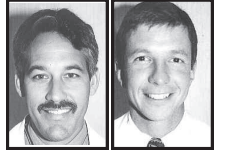
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### over-the-counter laxatives

Laxatives are medications that are used to treat occasional constipation. Most laxatives are sold over-the-counter (OTC) without a prescription. Different classes of OTC laxatives work in different ways:

- Lubricants make it easier for stool to pass out of the body. A commonly used lubricant is mineral oil.
- Stool softeners moisten and soften the stool, making it easier to pass. The most commonly used stool softener is docusate.
- Fiber supplements are natural dietary supplements that absorb water and help maintain regular bowel habits. They are good for people who don't consume enough fiber in the diet.
- Bulk-forming laxatives are special fiber products such as psyllium.

These products are not absorbed by the intestines and as a result "bulk up" the stool, which makes having a bowel movement easier.

- Stimulant laxatives cause the muscles of the intestinal wall to contract, which helps to push stool along.
- Osmotic laxatives draw water into the intestinal tract, which makes it easier for stool to pass. Examples include polyethylene glycol, sorbitol, lactulose, and saline laxatives. These are very effective but if used in excess may cause problems with the body's water and electrolyte balance.

There is no single laxative that is the best. If you have questions about which one is best for you, ask your pharmacist or your health care provider for advice.

# area churches

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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Pastor Tony Shumaker

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11:00 A.M. .... Worship

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(Nursery available)

Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307  
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**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
Pastor Rod Galindo

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

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**WEDNESDAYS:**  
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Sunday School, nursery - adult.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA - K-5, during school year.....Wed. 6:15 - 8 P.M.  
Youth Ministry - grades 6-12.....Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
(Youth Ministry moves to Wed. during summer)

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
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897-5936  
www.lowellumc.com

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Sunday School.....9:30  
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.

Pastor Brad Brillhart

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Cheryl DeYoung, Bob Pfaller, Dale Latva, Jenni Magner, Frances Walling, Glenn Vanbuskirk, Shane Gildner, Reece VanderWarf, Frances DeVries, Elijah Barr.

**JANUARY 23**  
Amanda Wingeier, Zach Stauffer.

**JANUARY 24**  
David Szymczak, Haleigh Timmers, Mackenzie Stiles.

**JANUARY 25**  
Molly Doyle, Dean Olin.

**JANUARY 26**  
Victor Weeks, Steven Uzarski, Andy Nowak, Alex Dommer.

**JANUARY 27**  
Jacqueline (Bay) Saylor, Brittani Anderson, Dianna Rhodes, Lori Smith, Nancy Roth, Andrea Dewey.

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# Grain bin safety, continued

and Safety Administration. “If we address quality, we can eliminate the need to enter a confined space where the grain is flowing,” Marlow said. “These bins, these elevators, weren’t designed for us to be in there. The only time we’re in a bin is when there’s a problem.”

Marlow and Purdue University’s Klein Ileleji emphasized the importance of proactive grain storage management practices to control moisture, temperature, pest infestations and other issues that affect quality and ultimately safety. Marlow advocated coring and hearting bins; cooling grain mass; tracking temperatures and carbon dioxide readings; taking samples and transferring grains; and inspecting surfaces safely, using smell and touch.

Ileleji said Michigan agriculture could greatly

benefit from focusing on sanitation, loading, aeration and monitoring, or SLAM. Mike Boring of The Andersons Inc. said it is critical to share the grain quality and storage safety messages with farmers and others, and to take preemptive safety steps at all stages of the harvest.

“Take time to do that little bit of maintenance to avoid any problems down the road,” Boring said. “Safety is a priority. We continue to drill that message with our producers.”

Jeff Waggoner at Fumigation Service and Supply said storage safety also includes handling fumigants in a safe way, including ensuring that fumigation is done by trained, skilled and licensed staff.

“We need to be mindful of where we are and the industry setting we’re in,” Waggoner said. “When

we’re working in these bins, we can get complacent. We need to realize we’re 80 feet up. We need to monitor our surroundings.”

Jeff Trudell of Frankenmuth’s Star of the West Milling Co. said weather conditions also can be a safety factor. Moisture can make some fumigant products more dangerous.

MABA has focused on grain bin safety this year and will continue encouraging producers, agribusiness operators and grain handlers to learn more at [www.graintrappingprevention.com](http://www.graintrappingprevention.com).

The grain storage experts’ presentation was part of the MABA Winter Conference at the Lansing Center that ran Monday, Jan. 12, through Wednesday, Jan. 14.

For more information, visit [www.miagbiz.org](http://www.miagbiz.org).

# Top 5th grade spellers



Thirty Murray Lake fifth graders took the stage for Murray Lake’s 11th annual spelling bee. After 15 rounds, a champion was crowned. Lillian Kooistra, left, was the champion and Brianna Laux, right, was named runner-up. Both will move on to the regional competition to be held at East Grand Rapids Middle School on February 10.



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## WRWW 92.3 & Internet Program Schedule

<p><b>[SUNDAY]</b> [01-25-15]</p> <p>12:00 Wrestling vs Brighton @ MSU</p> <p>9:00 Old-Time Radio</p>	<p><b>[MONDAY]</b> [01-26-15]</p> <p>11:25 'Noon with Noah' with Noah Worsley</p> <p>2:45 'The Infinite Show' with Raiden Miller</p> <p>4:30 'Kids These Days' w/Roman the Showman</p>	<p><b>[TUESDAY]</b> [01-27-15]</p> <p>11:25 'Noon with Noah' with Noah Worsley</p> <p>3:00 'TeenTalk/Music' with Taegan Folk</p> <p>4:30 'The Archer Pina Show' with Archer Pina</p> <p>7:00 Girls Basketball vs Caledonia at Lowell</p>
<p><b>[WEDNESDAY]</b> [01-28-15]</p> <p>11:25 'Noon with Noah' with Noah Worsley</p> <p>2:30 'The Music Locker' with Connor Smithee</p> <p>4:30 'The ToxicTunes Show' with Jacob Hulst</p>	<p><b>[THURSDAY]</b> [01-29-15]</p> <p>11:25 'Noon with Noah' with Noah Worsley</p> <p>2:30 'The No Topic Show' with Dakota Krzysik &amp; Devin Read</p> <p>4:30 'The Classic Music Show' w/Clayton Brown</p>	<p><b>[FRIDAY]</b> [01-30-15]</p> <p>11:25 'Noon with Noah' with Noah Worsley</p> <p>2:20 Wrestling vs Richmond @ Richmond</p>
<p><b>[SATURDAY]</b> [01-31-15]</p> <p>10:00 'ArrowTalk' – School Security &amp; Safety. Connor Smithee your host.</p> <p>3:00 'The Random Explosion Show' with Joe Ryder</p>	<p>WRWW is a 24/7/365 radio station licensed by the FCC to Lowell Area Schools. It can be found at 92.3 FM. The station simulcasts on its internet radio station located at <a href="http://www.lowellradio.org">www.lowellradio.org</a></p> <p>When the above-mentioned programs are not 'airing', a variety of music is played.</p> <p>1-23: Wrestling: Detroit Catholic Central at U of M</p>	

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# Red Arrow **SPORTS**

WRESTLING

## Lowell plays host at annual Gary Rivers tourney

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

The legacy of Gary Rivers lives on in his namesake tournament and in the outstanding abilities of the Lowell varsity wrestling team.

Last Saturday wrestling elite gathered at Lowell High School to face off in the Gary Rivers Memorial Invitational held annually in honor of former Lowell head coach Rivers.

Rivers served as the lead of the Red Arrow wrestling program for 39 years. During his expansive

career in Lowell grapplers won 499 matches and lost only 133 establishing a history of success for Lowell wrestlers that has continued into the current day. He was awarded Regional Coach of the Year honors on five occasions and state honors twice by the Michigan High School Wrestling Coaches Association (MHSWCA) and was inducted into the MHSWCA Hall of Fame in 1993.

Lowell's current head coach, RJ Boudro, led his talented team to the finals on

Saturday in a performance that most certainly lives up to the winning heritage of the program.

Action kicked off at 9 am offering up simultaneous action on five mats spread across two gymnasiums. Nationally ranked Lowell squared off against the Mustangs from Portage Central in the first of their round robin matches. Lowell dominated the points race winning the round by an impressive score of 78-5.

Round two was fought against local team Byron Center whose Bulldogs also fell hard to the Red Arrows on the mat losing the round 60-17.

Moving into the third and final round Lowell faced the Sturgis Trojans whom they also beat handily by a score of 70-10 to go undefeated in their pool and firmly secure their bid into the semi-finals.

The Grand Haven Buccaneers were the last team standing between the Red Arrows and an appearance in the finals. Strong performances from Logan Blough, Kyle Washburn, Sam Russell and Lucas Hall, who earned his pin in just 15 seconds, were enough to propel the Arrows into the finals as they trumped Grand Haven 53-13.

The Hartland Eagles, ranked no. 5 in Division 1, met the Arrows in the championship round. Lowell started out on top in the match up when Josh Colegrove earned six points and a pin in the first match. Lowell lost some ground in the second match but regained the lead in the third when Hall earned a pin in



An official watches as Lowell's Danny Kruse dominates his Byron Center opponent.

just 54 seconds putting his team up 12-10.

Jordan Hall was the next Arrow to earn a win,

by major decision, to tie the score at 19. David Kruse added a win and four points to extend the Lowell lead 23-19. After a hard fought three point loss from freshman George Gonzalez in the next match Hartland moved atop again 28-23 in the back and forth contest that was now down to its last match.

Needing a pin for the win Blough grappled with the Eagles Andrew Spisz. Blough won in a major decision, but his opponents determination to not get pinned ultimately granted Hartland a 28-26 upset victory. Hartland is the first non-Michigan team to defeat the runner up Arrows in more than a year.



Zeth Dean works toward his second round win.



Aaron Ward prepares to grapple.



Lowell varsity wrestling head coach, RJ Boudro, talks to his team.

Lowell wrestlers will travel to take on OK White rival Jenison Wednesday, Detroit Catholic Central on Friday and Brighton on Saturday.

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

BASKETBALL

## Girls go one and one in competition last week

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Red Arrow girls varsity basketball went one and one last week facing non-conference competitor Forest Hills Northern (FHN) on the road and battling their first OK White opponent of the season in Grand Rapids Christian (GRC) at home.

On Tuesday, the girls traveled to take on the Huskies of FHN and were severely outworked by their opponents in the first earning only three points to their 11. Lowell rebounded well in the second coming back to outscore FHN by six but still trailed 17-15 at the half.

"Even though we started off very slow and sluggish, I thought our bench was really good. Catherine Stump, Bailey Reitsma, and Kennedy Coxon all came in and gave us energy when we needed it," said Lowell

head coach Jake Strotheide, "They are very unselfish coming off the bench when they could easily be starters for us. They give us points and rebounds and are always willing to do the little things to help us win."

Lowell continued to outscore the Huskies in the second half of the game despite a very poor showing from the free throw line. The team was only 1-13 at halftime and ended the game at a dismal 9-30.

"We did not shoot the ball well from the free throw line at all and that has been a growing problem for us. To compete in our league, we will need those points to help us be successful. I know our girls want to make every free throw, but our focus needs to be better when we are on the line."

In the end the Arrows were able to hold off the

Huskies 45-40 thanks in part to a key three point play in the last moments of the game from top scorer Bridget Garter who earned 15 points. She and Kate Montgomery also ironically added four successful free throws to seal the win.

Montgomery was the games second best scorer earning nine followed by Katie Holzhueter (6), Catherine Stump (5) and Ally Frederickson (4).

Friday at home the Arrows dove into the conference pool when they faced their first OK White rival of the season the Grand Rapids Christian (GRC) Eagles.

Lowell's Garter was the first to earn a basket after both teams went scoreless for nearly the first three minutes of the slow starting game. Montgomery added a two point basket and she



**Katie Holzhueter earned seven points and four assists last week in the team's first OK White competition.**

and Frederickson added two each from the line to bring the Arrows to eight at the end of the first, trailing GRC by four.

Both teams scored 13 in the second with Lowell's Montgomery, Frederickson, Garter and Bailey Reitsma adding points to the board. The first half ended with Lowell still trailing by four 25-21.

GRC went on to outscore Lowell 33-19 in the second half with three of their players scoring into the double digits and their

strong defense forcing 30 Arrow turn overs, "We just turned the ball over way too many times. Their pressure really hurt us and forced us to throw the ball around and create some easy baskets for them. We had to work hard for everything we got and they were able to stay fresh and keep coming at us because we did not execute well down the stretch."

The game ended with the Eagles on top 58-40 putting the Arrows current record to 6-3 overall and

0-1 in the OK White. Montgomery earned four steals and was the top scorer with 14 points. Garter earned eight points followed by Holzhueter (7), Reitsma (5) and Frederickson (4) who Strotheide applauded for her aggressive defense of the glass, "I thought Ally Frederickson had one of her best games this year with 13 rebounds and four blocks. She allows us to play pretty aggressive on defense and she's a huge asset to our team."

## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold Public Hearings to consider the following requests from Stony Bluff LLC:

1. A request to rezone a 120 acre parcel from R-1, Rural Low Density Residential to Open Space Planned Unit Development for the purpose of constructing a 220 lot subdivision for single family houses. The lots would be served by public roads and utilities with A minimum lot size of 10,000 sq. ft. and 80 feet wide with 38 acres set aside as dedicated open space. The subdivision would be development in phases.
2. A request for Preliminary Plat approval for 31 lots which would constitute the first phase of the proposed 220 lot subdivision.
3. A request for a variance from Section 4.06(4) of the Lowell Township Subdivision Ordinance which requires that a second means of vehicle access be provided after 20 lots are developed. The applicant has proposed to provide the second access after 75 lots are developed.

**LOCATION & ADDRESS:** The property is located at 11736 Foreman Street which is the site of the former Qua-Ke-Zik Gun Club located west of Alden Nash Avenue on the south side of Foreman Street and north of and abutting the Whispering Hills subdivision.

The hearing will be held as follows:

**WHEN:** MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**WHERE:** LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI. 49331

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

Tim Clements, Secretary  
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

**Lowell travels to East Kentwood on Tuesday in non-conference play and then to Jenison on Friday for their second shot at an OK White win this season.**



# Red Arrow GYMNASTICS SPORTS

## Gymnasts doing well at home and on the road

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell's varsity gymnastics team came out on top at home and fell just fractions short of victory on the road when the squad faced both East Kentwood (EK) and Kenowa Hills (KW) High Schools in league competition last week.

Tuesday the team faced EK in their second home meet of the season. Though no Lowell gymnast scored

high enough to earn an all around title, as a team they triumphed earning 135.175 to EK's 124.425 to win the meet.

The top four Red Arrow scorers on the vault were Lauren Browning (8.8), Corah Kaufman (8.55), Karmen Anderson (8.5) and freshman Maura Fitzpatrick (8.45).

Kaufman led on the bars earning an 8.35 followed by Sarena

Wilterdink (8.2), Fitzpatrick (8.2) and Browning (7.9). Sophomore Anderson also achieved a personal first on the event according to head coach Michele DeHaan, "Karmen's score didn't count for our team but I was so proud of her for making her Giants on bars for the first time in competition."

On the floor exercise Browning impressed most earning a 9.2 to lead her team. Seniors Bethany Kaczanowski (8.85), Danielle Krajewski (8.75) and Lauren DeHaan (8.7) rounded out the top four.

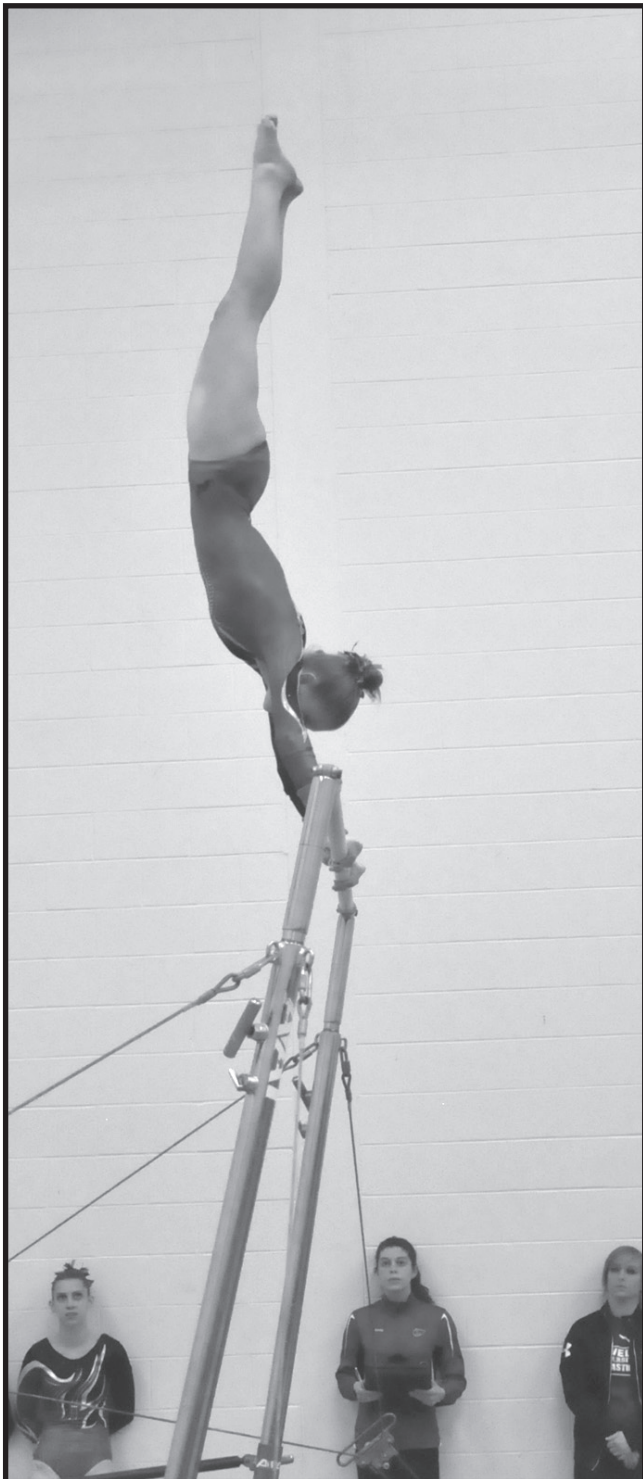
Kaczanowski earned an 8.9 on the beam, an event that is a personal strength for the student athlete according to DeHaan, "Bethany Kaczanowski continues to be a rock for our team on the balance beam with her consistency and confidence." Anderson (8.525) came in second for the team followed by Krajewski (7.75) and DeHaan (7.55).

On Wednesday at KH, in a meet where every fraction of a point mattered, Lowell fell to their opponent by a devastatingly small margin of 139.25 to 139.275.

"Always a heart breaker coming out on the bottom of such a tight meet. I knew the meet would be close, but I had no idea it would be that close. Kenowa has a great



Lauren DeHaan showing height with a wolf jump on beam.



Alise Forward performing a giant on bars.

After an extremely busy week of competition the girls will now enjoy a bye and commence action January 24 at the KH Invitational where they will face some of the areas top teams beginning at 10 am.

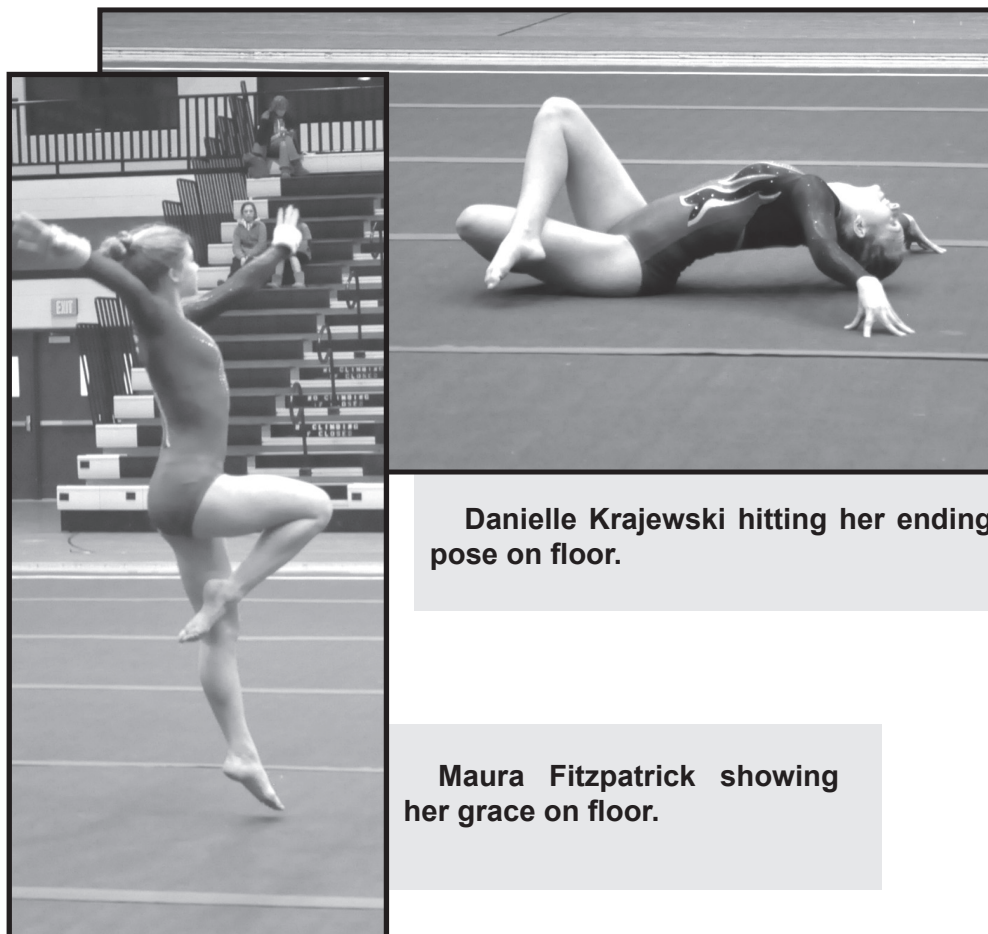
program and they were the better team tonight. We just made too many mistakes."

Despite the loss the Red Arrows managed to score extremely well on several events and achieved some personal competition goals. Three athletes earned a 9.0 or above on the vault including DeHaan (9.1), Browning (9.05) and Alise Forward (9.0) her highest score ever on the event. Kaczanowski came in at an 8.8 on the event to round out the group.

Leading on the bars were Kaufman (8.8), Fitzpatrick (8.45), Wilterdink (8.35) and DeHaan and Forward who tied with a score of 8.25.

Kaufman earned a personal best and led her team on the beam with an 8.8. DeHaan (8.65), Anderson (7.925) and Wilterdink (7.525) followed.

The Red Arrows performed extremely well on the floor exercise counting 9's for all four top scores in the event, a feat that DeHaan says she doesn't remember happening in the last 20 years of teams history. DeHaan led the impressive scoring run with a 9.25 followed by Browning (9.15), a personal best for Krajewski (9.075) and Fitzpatrick (9.075). DeHaan also earned Lowells top all around spot with a score of 35.25.



Danielle Krajewski hitting her ending pose on floor.

Maura Fitzpatrick showing her grace on floor.

**LAS**  
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**Lunch Menus**  
week of 1/26/15

**MONDAY:** Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mini corn dogs, baked beans (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mixed fruit, apple slices (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), grapes (served at Bushnell).

**TUESDAY:** Cheese ravioli w/marinara sauce, green beans (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), Bosco sticks w/dipping sauce, seasoned corn (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, black eyed peas (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), cucumber coins (served at Bushnell), apple-sauce, banana.

**WEDNESDAY:** Breakfast pizza w/cheese stick, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, peaches, applesauce.

**THURSDAY:** Homemade macaroni & cheese w/dinner roll, seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, fruit goop, apple slices.

**FRIDAY:** Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, side salad, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, orange slices (mandarin oranges served at Bushnell), juice.

# obituaries

## FREDRICKS

Richard Michael Fredricks, age 76 of Lowell, passed away Saturday, January 17, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Katherine Fredricks; and wife of 37 years Geraldine. He is survived by his significant other, Marie Munroe; children, Michael (Sandy) Fredricks, Mark (Bobbi) Fredricks, sisters, Elaine (Farrand) Holt, Judith West; grandchildren, Matthew Fredricks, Andrew Fredricks, Nikki (Jay) DeJong, Brandon (Karen) Scudder, Justin Scudder (fiancé Rosa) Scudder; eight great grandchildren. Rich was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy. He had several pleasures in life including his work at the bait and tackle shop in Lowell, hunting, fishing, bowling, golfing, and playing pool. A memorial gathering will take place Saturday, January 31 at the Lowell Moose Lodge, 1320 E. Main St., from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice, 2300 Raybrook SE Ste 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or Gilda's Club of Lowell, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331.



## HATHAWAY

Robert Hathaway, age 62 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, December 30, 2014. He is survived by his daughters Heather Hathaway (Nick Stanard), Jennifer Hathaway and their mother Janet Hathaway; his mother Shirley Hathaway; sisters Donna Jean Hathaway and Sheryl Hathaway and granddaughter Ashlie Hathaway. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.



## KREBILL

Laurie Marie (Askins) Krebill, age 61 of Lowell, passed into the hands of our Lord on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. She is survived by her husband and lifelong friend, Tom; son, Kyle (Machele) Krebill; daughter, Brooke (Justin) Slocum; daughter, Beth (Scott) Westemeyer; son, Keith (Courtney) Krebill; beloved grandchildren and joys of her world, Benjamin, Isabel, Ava, Samuel, Louis, Calvin, and an expected seventh; mother, Madelyn Askins; seven sisters, Linda (Mike) Walker, Leslie (Bob) Rosenbach, Louise Stormzand, Liz (Kevin) Fegan, Margaret (Tony) Krenselewski, Maureen (Mike) Finn; brother, Matt Askins; mother-in-law, Helen Krebill; and many brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by father, Laurence Askins; father-in-law, Marvin Krebill; nephew, Rob Rosenbach. Laurie created an unbreakable bond within her family and found pride everyday in her children's accomplishments. A warm and nurturing grandmother, nothing brought Laurie more joy than to hold, kiss, love and spoil her grandchildren. A mother figure to all she met, her beautiful smile and boisterous laugh brought happiness to all. A celebration of Laurie's life, love and joy will be continued for years to come through the memories and everlasting impressions she has left in so many hearts. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's of Parnell, 4351 Parnell Ave. NE, Ada, MI 49301. Rev. Mark Peacock presiding. Visitation Friday 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to be made to St. Patrick's School of Parnell or Helen Devos Children's Hospital, 100 Michigan St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



## VANLAAN

Doris Mae VanLaan, age 90 of Lowell, a prayer warrior, entered into Eternity on Saturday, January 17, 2015. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl VanLaan; sister, Jane VanLaan; brother, Jerry Datema; sister-in-law, Jean VanLaan; grandsons, Greg Williams, Matt Craig. She is survived by her children, Pat (Joel) Walker, Barb (John) Williams, Mary (Jim) Craig, Nancy VanLaan, Sue Dykstra, Phil (Becky) VanLaan, Linda VanLaan, Karen (Roger) Onan, Ruth (Jeff) Gesselman; brothers, Phil (Gen) Datema, Jim (Phyllis) Datema, Pete (Nancy) Datema; sisters, Nancy (Jim) Fitzsimmons, Joyce (Royce) Wilcox; sister-in-law, Eleanor Datema; 23 grandchildren; over 40 great grandchildren. Funeral service was held Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at First Baptist Church of Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Lowell.



## WADE

Mary Beth Wade, age 59 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly, Wednesday, January 14, 2015. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bernard and Erma VanGeest. She is survived by her Moon and her Stars, Bret Kellam; children, Matthew (Nicole) Wade, Randy (Melissa) Wade, Valerie (Michael) Britt, Brenda (David) Kellam and Jennifer (Joe) Smith; grandchildren, Elijah and Adalyn Britt, Emmaline and Evan Wasciuk; brothers, Bruce (Meem) VanGeest, Brian (Michelle) VanGeest; sister, Sally Carnevale; bestie Megz (Jay) Wasciuk; many nieces, nephews and "The Pack". Mary Beth worked for 25 years for the Lowell School System. She was an avid reader, Detroit Tigers fan and dog lover. The family suggests wearing Detroit Tiger apparel. Memorial services were held at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Rev. Charles Preston Smith, officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to Michele's Rescue, c/o Michele Barnes, 301 Alten Ave., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503.



## ZANDSTRA

Raymond Louis Zandstra, age 73 of Lowell, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, January 15, 2015, with his loving family by his side. He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Barbara; children Rayna (Alan) Jones, Wendy Zandstra-Harp, Shelby (Kevin) Sakowski, Kim (Mike) Harding and Ryan (Chayo) Gould; his brother Scott Beaudette; his father-in-law Bruce Weeks; grandchildren Caleb, Jillian, Whitney, Danton, Dylan, Corrie, Jacob, Jordan, Brayden and Gavin; two great-grandchildren Skye and Aidan; nephew Robert Beaudette. Following high school, Raymond proudly served in the United States Navy in Italy and California. He returned to Grand Rapids and built a career in Civil Engineering and eventually formed V-Tec Engineering with his business partner Larry Wilson. He dedicated his life to taking care of his family and helping others. Raymond was a fixture in his community. He served on numerous boards and committees including Schneider Manor Board of Directors, Lowell Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the City of Lowell Planning Commission. Raymond was also recognized as Person of the Year by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce in 2006. A funeral service was held. Memorial donations may be made to the Lowell Pink Arrow Pride, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331 or the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce Foundation, P.O. Box 224, Lowell, MI 49331.



## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

B	A	T	C	H		T	I	P		B	A	C	H	
A	L	O	H	A		E	M	U		P	O	D	I	A
S	I	G	I	L		A	P	R		L	O	A	T	H
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			S	A	P			T	E	E	N			
S	H	E		H	O	U	R		S	E	T	O	F	F
W	O	R	K		C	R	E	W		T	E	R	R	A
I	V	A	N		H	A	M	E	S		E	B	O	N
F	E	T	O	R		L	O	R	E		M	I	S	C
T	R	O	W	E	L		L	E	N	S		T	H	Y
				D	A	D	O		S	E	W			
	G	F	O	R	C	E		L	E	T	I	T	G	O
N	I	O	B	E		I	C	E		O	M	A	H	A
A	R	R	O	W		G	O	O		U	P	S	E	T
G	L	E	E			N	O	N		T	Y	K	E	S

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

4	3	5	1	2	8	6	9	7
6	2	8	7	4	9	1	3	5
9	1	7	6	3	5	2	8	4
5	8	3	2	7	4	9	6	1
1	9	2	8	5	6	4	7	3
7	6	4	9	1	3	8	5	2
8	5	1	3	6	2	7	4	9
3	7	9	4	8	1	5	2	6
2	4	6	5	9	7	3	1	8

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

# classifieds

## for sale

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

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. TFN

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.

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

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. TFN

**2002 DODGE RAM 3/4 TON CARGO VAN - 115,000 miles, runs great. \$2,200. Call Jon at 897-9555.**

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. TFN

2011 GMC SIERRA SLE - Denali grill, loaded, tow pkg, running boards, 115,000 hwy miles. Always serviced at Wittenbach. \$20,900 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. TFN

## wanted

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

**LEDGER OFFICE**  
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.  
 Phone 897-9261  
 Fax 897-4809  
 www.lowellledger.com

## help wanted

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

TAKING APPLICATIONS - Composites, an ISG company is taking applications for: fiberglass fabrication, general shop work & field services. Apply between 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. 683 Lincoln Lake Ave SE, Lowell, MI 49331.

ANIMAL CAREGIVER - Still looking for that special person who wants permanent work. Ambitious, physically fit person to care for many small dogs in a large, impeccably clean facility. Part or full-time. Alto area. E-mail resume/inquiries to: animalcaregivers@outlook.com or 868-7382.

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 followership/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

SERVICE TECHNICIANS WANTED - Established home improvement company looking to add service technicians. Family owned & operated for over 33 years. Position involves inter-department communication between management, sales staff, installers & customers. Applicants must possess fantastic customer service skills, be detail oriented, ability to work alone or on a team, complete tasks in a timely manner, have craftsmen skills & use hand tools, comfortable climbing ladders & some heavy lifting, understand & able to measure for repair &/or install siding, roofing, windows. Steady, year round work, salary, bonuses, benefits & vehicle. For interview, please call Scott at 616-648-7036.

## help wanted

DRIVERS - Dedicated home every other day. Holland to KC, KS, 100% round trip runs. CDL-A, 6 mos. OTR good background. Apply: www.mttstrans.com MTS: 800-305-7223.

LOOKING FOR A WEEK-END JOB? OR YOUR TEENAGER WANTS SOME CASH? - We are in looking for carriers to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Looking for walking and driving carriers. (You must be at least 15 years old to apply for a walking route). Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. No phone calls accepted regarding this position.

## 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.** TFN

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. TFN

## card of thanks

THE FAMILY OF OSCAR PECKHAM would like to thank Rev. Sherlock, Roth-Gerst, Drs. Lang and Gauthier, Hospice, Men and Women of the Moose, Veteran's Honor Guards, Daisy's Floral, donations of your choice, plants, food, cards, and all acts of kindness at Oscar's passing.

Thank you,  
 Shirley,  
 Tony & family,  
 Heather & family,  
 Howard Peckham & Corkie Yeiter

## services

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

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

SOUTHERN MI ROOFING SOLUTIONS - Is your roof leaking or in need of a roof replacement? New & reroofs. Flat & sloped roofs. Do you need dependable service & quality roofs installed right? Free estimates. Contact Paul at 517-852-2044.

## services

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

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

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

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

## 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@lowellbuyers  
 guide.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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY 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.

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

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.

INTRODUCTION TO MINDFUL MEDITATION - Over 35 years of published research supports the mental & physical benefits of mindfulness meditation. Instructors from the Grand Rapids Center

for Mindfulness will introduce you to the theory & lead you through several foundational practices. A guided meditation CD & handouts will be provided. Pre-registration is required. Sat., Feb. 14, 11 a.m. Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

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

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.

MOMS IN TOUCH GROUP - forming for Alto Elementary. Call Suzanne for more info, 868-7337.

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

# Looking Back, continued

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 21, 1965

Mild spring weather which has prevailed in Michigan during the winter months, took a cooling off with temperatures reaching below zero this week. Snow put a white blanket over the area, and the wind cuts sharply as shoppers go from store to store. The various changes in the weather has caused local residents to see their fuel bills rise and fall.

Wittenbach Sales and Service were represented at the Inaugural Parade in Washington on Wednesday by six new Oldsmobiles, which were provided by the local agency to transport the Saranac American Legion Historical Honor Guard to the ceremonies. The honor guard was one of four Michigan units in the parade.

Albert J. Hermans, proprietor of the Lowell Gamble Store on West Main Street, is starting his 20th year as a local businessman. Mr. Hermans opened his store here in 1945. His business was plagued by a fire that struck his store on January 13, 1945.

The strike at Newell Manufacturing Company over a closed shop continues. The plant is operating with about half of its normal working force. An injunction was secured in Circuit Court last Friday prohibiting violence and permitting employees who wish to work and trucks and cars to enter and leave the plant.

The Southern trek of lucky Lowellites has begun, and we have started to receive notes from our "southern friends." Most of the replies that we have been getting are a "little frosty."

The Lowell Police Department will be reduced to four members again next week when the resignation of the newest member, James Rabbai, takes effect. He has joined the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 24, 1990

Headline: FCC ruling forces Lowell to drop channels 6 and 10. Subscribers are asked to send in suggestions for replacements; future rate hike likely. Lowell Cable subscribers will have their cable feed to Channels 6 (WLNS) and 10 (W1LX) dropped due to a recent FCC ruling on local television rights, according to Lowell Cable Supervisor Herb Haines. The ruling is to provide local stations with exclusive rights over distant stations. The FCC also believes the ruling will help to diversify local programming. The ruling will give local stations exclusive rights over distant stations to, let's say, the Oprah Winfrey Show. It will reduce the duplicating in

programming." Haines said. "Currently there are only about 4-5 hours of daily television shown on stations 6 and 10 that is not carried on local television stations in this area.

Hoping to discourage a continuing trash dumping problem, the Kent County Road Commission will put up a barricade to close off the 1320 feet SE of the Timpson and 36th St. intersection in Lowell Township. "The County received authorization on Thursday, Jan. 18," said Tom Byle, Director of Road Maintenance. "As the work load permits, a barricade will be erected. Right now, we're looking at late winter or early spring." Property owners pleaded to have it closed off. However that request was denied because there is still an easement there for road building. Residents were willing to fence it off themselves but were told by the county they could not.

Rotary International will, on Saturday, Feb. 3, interview team member candidates for a Rotary Group Study team consisting of a leader and five business and professional men, 25-35 years of age, for travel, at Rotary's expense, to a Rotary district in the eastern part of the Netherlands.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

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

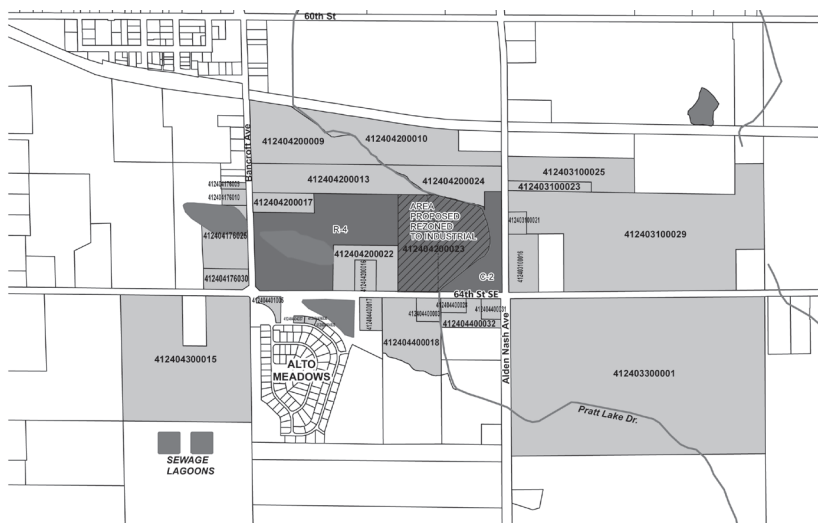
An amendment to rezone the following described portion of a parcel from R-4 Multifamily Residential District and C-2 Commercial District to IND Industrial District:

Parcel Identification:

Parcel Number: 41-24-03-300-001  
Property Address: 11635 64th Street SE  
Alto, Michigan 49302

Area to be rezoned, generally:

Part of the Northeast ¼ of Section 4, Town 5 North, Range 9 West, Bowne Township, Kent County, Michigan.



REQUEST FOR REZONING  
PROPOSED PARCEL  
PROPERTIES WITHIN 300 FEET  
BOWNE TOWNSHIP  
LOCATION MAP FOR PUBLIC HEARING  
SCOTT ROKERS RESIDENCE

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
WHERE: BOWNE TOWNSHIP HALL  
8240 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
ALTO, MI 49302

The proposed amendment is available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan, 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk  
Bowne Township

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to be your  
Other Family  
Doctor.

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming



Dr. Bruce Langlois, D.V.M.

Call 897-8484

11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF



LOWELL

## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Synopsis of Minutes • January 12, 2015

### Motions Approved:

- New Farm Lease for Grattan Water Treatment Committee Appointment for Board of Review
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan for 2015-2019
- Resolution 2015-001 for Parks and Rec Master Plan
- Resolution 2015-002 for Mileage Rate
- Resolution 2015-003 Roberts Rules of Order
- Resolution 2015-004 Designating Banking Facility

### Budget Amendment:

Our next Township Meeting will be **January 26, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**  
The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org)

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**THEME:  
THE GRAMMY AWARDS**

**ACROSS**

1. A bunch, as in cookies
6. \*Q-\_\_\_, Grammy-winning rapper from A Tribe Called Quest
9. \*Yo-Yo Ma won for performing this composer's Cello Suites
13. Luau greeting
14. Australian runner
15. Podium, pl.
16. Letter's end
17. The lower this is the better
18. Unwilling
19. \*\_\_\_\_\_ Center, Grammy Awards event host
21. \*It's shaped like an antique record player
23. Fool
24. Not quite an adult
25. Mother, sister or daughter
28. 1/168th of a week
30. Depart
35. \*1983 Grammy winner, Men at \_\_\_\_\_
37. "... the good ship and \_\_\_\_\_ was in peril," according to Gordon Lightfoot
39. \_\_\_\_\_ firma
40. "Terrible" czar
41. Attached to the collar of a horse, pl.
43. Of a dark black
44. Foul smell
46. Typically passed down by word of mouth
47. Miscellaneous, abbr.
48. Used for spreading plaster or cement
50. Carl Zeiss' product
52. Your, to Shakespeare
53. Carpenter's groove

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
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48					49		50			51		52		
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	57	58	59					60				61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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55. Do needlework
57. Measurement of acceleration
60. \*"Frozen" song
64. Weeping queen of Greek mythology
65. \*Grammy winner, rapper and actor, \_\_\_-T

67. D-Day beach
68. Cupid's projectile
69. Sticky stuff
70. 16 seed over 1 seed, e.g.
71. William McKinley High School \_\_\_ club
72. '90s rock band "4 \_\_\_ Blondes"
73. Little ones

26. A helicopter parent might do this
27. Muse of love poetry
29. Eurasian mountain range
31. Do like bees
32. Path of #15 down
33. First-year undergrad
34. \*Iggy Azalea's hit
36. \*Best Rock Song at '96 Grammy Awards, "You Oughta \_\_\_"
38. \*Grammy in '75 for Best Original Score, "The Way We \_\_\_"
42. Is it really that common?
45. Made a new picture
49. French lake
51. Take the first steps
54. Condescend
56. "Diary of a \_\_\_ Kid"
57. \*Pharrell Williams' album
58. "Watch out!" in golf
59. Double-reed instrument
60. \*Grammy winning group, Kings of \_\_\_
61. Homework to a student
62. Clarified butter
63. Feed bag contents
64. Old horse
66. Dove's sound

**DOWN**

1. \*"All About That \_\_\_"
2. Dismounted or climbed down
3. "Animal House" party garb
4. It starred Erik Estrada
5. Sabbath loaf
6. Steeped beverages
7. Mischief-maker
8. Rid of impurities
9. Real estate \_\_\_
10. \*\_\_\_ Levine of Grammy winning band, Maroon 5
11. C in NYC
12. "A likely story!"
15. It revolves around a star
20. Geologic period
22. Hi-\_\_\_
24. Trembling effect in music
25. \*"Shake It Off" singer

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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		5		2	8		9	7
	2					1	3	
9				3			8	
			2		4			
		2		5		4		
			9		3			
	5			6				9
	7	9					2	
2	4		5	9		3		

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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.

## Lend A Hand



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**tutors needed**

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on the 2003 National Assessment for Adult Literacy and the 1992 National Adult

Literacy Survey, up to 14.6 percent of adults in Kent County lack basic prose literacy skills and have difficulty using certain reading and writing skills considered necessary in everyday life. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

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

## business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Hesche received Realtor of the Month in December. This award recognizes Hesche for his outstanding success and achievements.



Ryan Hesche

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Jeff Depew

Behind  
The Scenes

**Position:** Recycling consultant, Grand Rapids Iron & Metal

**Education:** Lowell High School class of 1988

**Experience:** Engineer, Hendrickson Mobile Equipment

**Interests:** Outdoors, hiking, hunting

**Family:** Divorced father of two sons and one daughter



## Business owner says you have to have the right group of people

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Grand Rapids Iron & Metal is one of the oldest companies in Grand Rapids. Jeff Depew, 44, of Alto, is part of the company's leadership. Unlike most businesses, Grand Rapids Iron & Metal makes mentoring company policy.

"The company was started by the Levenburg family the early 1900s," Depew said. "They were

Jewish rag traders. It was one of the earliest trading companies in Grand Rapids. They would drive around and collect rags and paper for companies. The Erismann family bought Grand Rapids Iron & Metal in 1999, and they started rebuilding the company, rebuilding the name."

The company purchases scrap metal, plastic and paper products, and then

process the material so it can be used by other industries.

"After scrap metal is purchased, it's sorted so it can get sold to different foundries," Depew said. "Every foundry wants something different. It's just like baking a cake, they need different ingredients for their recipe. We also process about 40 to 50 million pounds of paper every year. You have to pull out all the

non-compliant material like wax-coated cardboard, glass bottles, tin, whatever happens to be in there, then it goes to a paper mill. The cardboard will become new cereal boxes within a week.

Office paper is typically turned into pulp and then made into tissue products like Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper, that type of thing. We do a lot of post-consumer plastics and post-industrial plastics so we buy plastics from the Kent County Recycling Center. They sort it and bale it, then we move that stuff into the mills. We service mainly West Michigan, but we also do business as far away as Iowa."

Depew's goal for the company is to increase efficiency.

"Our objective is to get businesses in and out of here quickly," Depew said. "As a business owner you don't want to be sitting in line somewhere for an hour waiting to scrap out. We have three scales and bilingual English and Spanish buyers, so that they can get in here and get out. It's nice because it's a 'one stop shop' for a business. We give them the option, either we sort it or they can sort it. If they sort it, we teach them how and they get paid more."

Grand Rapids Iron & Metal biggest source of

pride is the mentoring they do with their employees.

"Our goal here is to build a group of people," Depew said. "If you have the right group of people you can do anything. It doesn't matter what business you're in, you've got to have the right group of people."

One of those people is Michael Palmer, a 22-year-old graduate of Lee High School who was grew up "a couple streets over" from the company's location at 1701 Clyde Park SW in Grand Rapids.

"Michael came in looking for a job, all dressed in a suit," Depew said. "He came back the next day and the next day. He really wanted the job. He had some personal things he needed to work through. I knew that, and we were willing to work with him. He held up his end of the deal and worked through it and now he's a full-time employee. He's worked hard and done a very good job growing, taking initiative, learning the product and looking for new ideas, which is great. He's done a good job. I was very impressed with him."

"My background isn't too nice," Palmer said. "I got into some trouble and was living in a halfway house. I was looking for work. I came in with suit and tie begging for work. I talked to them and they

believed in me. [This job has] kept me clean. Working with these guys every day, coming to see the same people every day, it put me on the right path. We all get along, there's no negatives to it here. We just come here, we just keep chugging along. That's all it is, every day. I'm going to be here a while."

"Too many people get out of bed every day and hate what they do," Depew said. "They're miserable, they don't know why they're doing it. You want to build a group of people, and then your business just happens. Most people go about that the other way around. It's fun to mentor and grow people like Michael."

Depew said that his mentoring was inspired by people in his own past who took the time to help him out through the years.

"Growing up, there were people who mentored me," Depew said. "I can remember vividly certain people in my life when I was young that, instead of riding your butt or yelling at you, they took time to sit down and explain things. They stopped and took time, and that really stuck with me. It meant a lot."

Depew was born and raised in Alto. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1988. He's divorced with three kids and currently lives "between Alto and Clarksville." His son Joshua, 22, works in sales at Bill & Paul's Sporthaus. Daughter Kaylee, 20, works with aggressive dogs at a kennel. Bradley, 17, is a junior at Lowell High School.

"I've been fortunate enough to travel around the States and out of the country a little bit, and I love Alto," Depew said. "I love the people and the community. It's a good place."

Depew said that their employees are Grand Rapids Iron & Metal's greatest asset.

"We're blessed with some really good people here," Depew said. "We really do care about our people."



Jeff Depew and Michael Palmer on the job.

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