

sweetheart swirl pics



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lowell ffa



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lhs sports



start on page 9

Lowell community once again exhibits their capacity to care at Offrink fundraiser

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Shelby and Ben Offrink are not alone. That was more than evident last Friday night when Lowell High School played host to a massively successful fundraiser, “Hoops For Hope,” benefiting the young family struggling with cancer.

Shelby, a 2002 LHS graduate and athletic standout, was diagnosed with stage four glioblastoma of the spine that has since spread to her brain. Her husband Ben Offrink is also battling cancer, facing a relapse of Hodgkin’s lymphoma. The couple share two young daughters.

When the community heard of the enormous struggle of one of their own, thousands turned out in full support of the Offrink family.

Fundraiser, continued, page 2



A record-breaking crowd turned out for the fundraiser, many wearing Pink Arrow Pride t-shirts.

DDA board member excited about changes coming to downtown Lowell

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

You won’t be able to miss all the changes the Downtown Development Authority has in store for Main Street.

“What I’m most excited about is the appearance soon of the [Main Street BBQ] restaurant next door,” said DDA board member Cliff Yankovich, owner of Chimera Design, a jewelry store at 208 E. Main. “I’ve been telling people coming in the door about it. I think it’s going to be a real asset to Lowell. They’re shooting to open the restaurant in June or July. They’re going to town in there. The place has been gutted and they’re in there working on it on a consistent basis. It’s exciting.”

The DDA’s first order of business is parking downtown.

“The DDA has said to Greg Canfield the number one priority in the spring is the parking lot back

there [behind the Moose building],” Yankovich said. “Parking in general is priority one. We want to address that.”

The DDA’s other top priority is making Lowell more pedestrian-friendly by slowing vehicle traffic through town.

“What’s most exciting to me about a lot of their proposals is they’re geared to get people to slow down,” Yankovich said. “We’ve been trying for years to get a crosswalk with a light that actually makes traffic stop. I don’t think we’re going to realize that goal anytime soon. [The Michigan Department of Transportation] isn’t interested in letting us have one.”

The DDA is working with MDOT and the Grand Rapids engineering firm Williams & Works to come up with ideas for improvements. One idea is adding “bump-outs” to the

downtown area of Main Street to make crossing Main Street easier, safer and less intimidating for pedestrians.

“The cool thing about the bump-outs is they are a proven device that make people slow down,” Yankovich said. “If we can’t get people to stop completely, if we can get them to slow down, then maybe they would be more inclined to stop if there was a pedestrian in the road. What’s really neat is we can actually try it out with road striping first. One of the other things that they’re kicking around is that we could go back to the way Lowell was at one point and have parking on both sides of the street.”

The DDA will schedule meetings in the future to get the public’s input on what should happen.

“We’re going to be having some work sessions

coming up,” Yankovich said. “We really haven’t finalized any one particular plan. [Williams & Works]

has a couple of different things that look good.”

Downtown changes, continued, page 3

Issues linger on how to enter agenda items at council meetings

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

There has been some controversy lately about adding items to Lowell city council meeting agendas. The council even had to cancel its last meeting because they could not agree on the agenda.

During some recent meetings, councilors Jeff Altoft and Matt Mayer have tried to get topics added to the meeting agendas, but with no success. The

“rules of procedure” on the city council website is from 2012. It says, “any councilmember shall have the right to add items to the regular agenda before the meeting commences,” but it doesn’t tell the councilmember exactly how to add items.

“I don’t really know because I’ve tried it

Agenda item issues, continued, page 2

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Agenda item issues, continued

every which way you can imagine," said city councilor Jeff Altoft. "I hand-delivered it, I e-mailed it and they didn't put it on. I am frustrated that we can't bring something out in the open and discuss it. I mean, that's what the city council is supposed to do. We're supposed to be out in the open, up front and honest, and how can we be if everything is done behind closed doors? I'm not just going to go along to go along, to make it look like we're a happy little town."

Mayor Jim Hodges said that city manager Mark Howe is in charge of meeting agendas.

"The city manager creates the agenda for city council meetings," Hodges said. "He includes background information and numbers, recommendations and time for us to consider the proposals or action items."

Hodges said the reason Altoft's items weren't added was because there was insufficient documentation.

"It is important to have written information to us in advance so we can think through the issues. Recent proposed additions to the agenda have come either without advanced written information, nor have these

items been shared with the city manager or the mayor, in advance, with supportive written information," Hodges said.

According to Altoft, it's personal.

"That's what Howe wants," Altoft said. "If we don't do anything, then he can balance his budget, because we didn't spend any money. All he needs to have

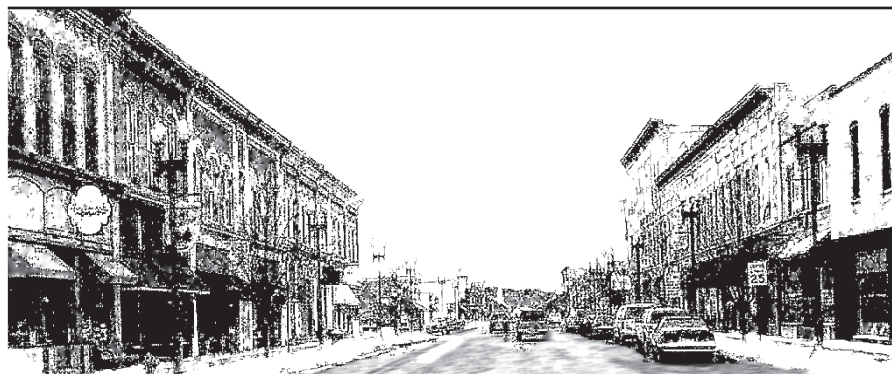
is five years and he's got a pretty good retirement from here, because he's already vested. If we fire him he has jack..."

Altoft said he will continue to try to get items added to meeting agendas and is confident he'll be successful.

"Yes, I'm going to e-mail Mr. Howe again and see what happens," Altoft said. "I don't think he will have any problem putting anything on the agenda this time."

...
"A leader... is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are directed from behind."

~ Nelson Mandela



along main street

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thursday, Feb. 19 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ASSISTANCE

Available Feb. 20 from 10-4 pm at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton East. Call 897-8260 for additional information.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAM SESSION

Sat., Feb. 21 from 2:30 to 5 pm, Lowell fairgrounds, King building. Come to jam or listen. Everyone welcome.

COMMODITIES

March 3, 9-11 am at FROM Food Pantry, 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell.

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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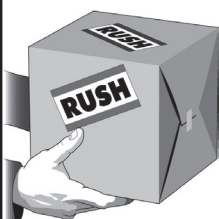
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Fundraiser, continued

I was thrilled and just overjoyed to see the community's support on Friday night for Shelby and her family. There was so much love and positive support in the building," said LHS athletic director Dee Crowley.

More than 1,500 people turned out for the spaghetti dinner generating a total of \$7,700.

Student athletes were highly involved in the support effort. The boys and girls varisty basketball teams sold "Team Offrink" t-shirts at the game, Lowell

wrestlers raised nearly \$2,000 dollars raffling a donated flat screen TV at their meet with FHC and Lowell gymnasts took a break from their usual practice to join the event.

East Grand Rapids donated \$10,000 dollars on behalf of their school. Pioneers' basketball coach Craig Welch presented Ben Offrink, who attended the boys game briefly, with a \$10,000 check raised by EGR families.

Crowley called EGR's generosity "amazing."

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The offices of Lowell City Hall, Lowell Police, Light and Power and the Department of Public Works will be closed Monday, February 16, 2015 in observance of President's Day.

ALSO

Due to President's Day, the Lowell City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.



Betty R. Morlock
 City Clerk

the lowell ledger

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Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

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Murray Lake blood drive a success despite weather

The Murray Lake Elementary student council has held a blood drive for the past seven years. Unfortunately, the last two

years' drives have been on days with awful weather conditions. This year's blood drive took place last Thursday when school was

canceled due to weather conditions.

Despite school being closed, Michigan Blood consultant, Wendy Berg-

DeWeerd asked the district if the drive could still be held, "I was so appreciative that Mr. Pratt and Mr. Noskey allowed us to have

this drive. We had three other drives canceled on that date and due to the inclement weather we have had many local hospitals [are] running short on their blood supplies. I was so happy that we were able to have the drive. I know the weather kept some people from coming, but we were still well over the average blood drive numbers at Murray Lake."

Forty-eight people signed in for the drive. Thirty-six of these potential donors were able to give. There were eight first-time donors. Alan Kreps and Ryan Wittenbach earned gallon pins for their donations. The Murray Lake students are hoping for better weather next year.



Lowell High School teacher, Tim Dimmick, getting ready to donate blood.

...
"To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart."
 ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

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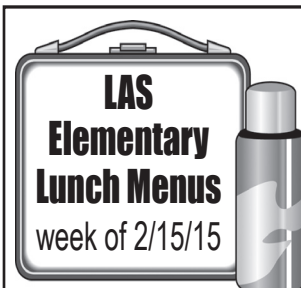
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Downtown changes, continued

The changes won't happen quickly, but by this time next year Lowell's downtown could look radically different.

"Trying to get everybody on the same page at the same time to do the same thing and make something happen is difficult," Yankovich said.

"Anything we can do to slow traffic down and give pedestrians a better chance. It's been a thorn in the side of anybody who has a business on Main Street. I think within the next year this block is going to be very much different. It's exciting."



MONDAY: No School

TUESDAY: Beef & cheese nacho, refried beans; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes (served at Bushnell), baby carrots (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), banana, mixed fruit (pears served at Bushnell).

WEDNESDAY: Pancakes & sausage (at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake) with eggs (served at Bushnell), hashbrowns; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, grapes, apple slices. (applesauce served at Bushnell).

THURSDAY: Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, mandarin oranges, fruit goop.

FRIDAY: Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, side salad; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, juice, mixed fruit (pineapple served at Bushnell).

Cards for Hammer!

Dennis Anchors (Hammer) has been admitted into Spectrum's Butterworth Hospital for his bone marrow transplant on February 2nd and will be in the hospital for the next couple of weeks.



Positive thoughts and encouragement are the most powerful medicine so I want to start a **"CARD SHOWER"** where he will receive cards from his friends and family while he's in the hospital.

MAIL A CARD TO:
 Spectrum-Butterworth Hospital
 100 Michigan Street Northeast
 Attn: Dennis Anchors - Room 5277-South
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF LOWELL 2015 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2015 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St SE, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting: Monday, March 2nd, 11:00 am

Appeal Hearings:

Monday, March 9th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 Wednesday, March 11th, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2015 assessments
By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 2nd, 2015

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2015 are as follows:

Commercial.....	47.18.....	1.0598
Residential.....	47.27.....	1.0578
Industrial.....	49.68.....	0.9621
Personal Property.....	50.00.....	1.0064

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days' notice.
 Contact: Mark Howe – City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457



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outdoors

advantage Michigan

Dave Stegehuis

When something is easy or common, it is human nature to take it for granted. Those who live and work in Michigan must guard against this tendency in regards to our states natural resources and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Other states and other countries certainly have remarkable landscapes which accommodate the interests of tourists and active outdoor people. But few places have such a wide variety of outdoor pursuits that are found in Michigan. Just as important, the natural resources necessary for the enjoyment of these activities are readily accessible to residents and visitors.

Vast tracts of land were bought by private companies during the logging boom. When the timber was gone the land had little value to

the owners and much of it reverted back to the state for taxes. The result is that large areas of woods and water are owned by local, state and federal governments. Much of the land remaining in private hands is open to the public through access agreements with the state. Public parks, beaches, boat launches, and access sites allow anyone to take advantage of the thousands of acres of fresh water lakes as well as four of the Great Lakes plus thousands of miles of streams and rivers which are found across both peninsulas. It is not necessary to travel very far to do your thing. There are venues for bikers, hikers, campers, snowmobilers, dog mushers, swimmers, runners, motor sports enthusiasts, fishermen of multiple species, hunters of

a long list of game species, and bird watchers. There are many more users we could add to the list.

In most countries the hunting of wild game is reserved for the few wealthy and well connected. By contrast, only a handful of foreign countries maintain armies larger than the 700 thousand plus hunters who take to the field during the Michigan firearm deer season.

So, the unique advantage we enjoy in Michigan is the diversity of outdoor activities and the easy access to abundant resources to engage in these activities. Like so many aspects of our lives, many of us don't realize how privileged we are to live in a country with so many opportunities available to everyone. Get out and take advantage of your good fortune.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Financial preparations for spouse can brighten every Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is almost here. And while it's certainly fun to give and receive chocolates and roses, why not go a little deeper this year? Specifically, if you are married, consider using this commemoration of love as a starting point for

taking care of your spouse in the future — even if you're not part of it.

Actually, both you and your spouse could designate Valentine's Day as the beginning of your joint efforts to provide financial security for the surviving spouse when one of you is gone. Your strategy should involve at least these three key elements:

- *Understanding your household's finances* — In some marriages, one spouse handles all the household financial matters, including investments. If this person were to pass

away first, it could leave the surviving spouse with the dual responsibility of managing day-to-day finances and tracking down all investment information. These tasks could be overwhelming to someone who is unprepared to deal with them, so you'll want to take steps to ensure you and your spouse are aware of your joint financial picture. For starters, keep good records of all your financial assets, including investment accounts, life insurance policies and legal documents — and make sure both of you know where these records are kept. Also, if you use the services of a financial professional, it's a good idea for you and your spouse to meet regularly with this individual to ensure both of you know where your money is being

Financial Focus, continued, page 14

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IT'S TAX TIME!

FROM is providing **free tax preparation and e-filing services** to qualifying families with an annual household income of less than \$60,000. All volunteer tax preparers are IRS certified.

Tax services are available by appointment only.
 To verify your eligibility and register for this program please call United Way at 211 or 1-800-887-1107



viewpoint

to the editor

everybody's views

Dear Editor,
I was thrilled to see all the Letters to the Editor that were written in the last week's Viewpoint. It is always encouraging to me to see people getting involved in their local community and politics. I was disappointed by one letter which complained about Jim Howard writing in Viewpoint too much.

I don't always agree with Jim, but I will always defend his right to say whatever he thinks and feels he wants to write. That is called freedom! Even if you don't agree never encourage complacency and silence. The reason you notice Jim's letters are because not that many other people write to the Viewpoint. The idea that subscribers tell the

Ledger whose opinions are important and who should not be printed in the Viewpoint is just wrong! It is okay to disagree. We become more rounded people when we hear other's ideas. I rather ask subscribers to get more involved. If you feel strongly about anything, good, bad, ugly, or funny, let us know. Join in, be brave and daring.

I think the Ledger does a pretty good job reporting on the life in Lowell. I love this small community. We turn out for activities, sports, our children and when someone needs help we are supportive. The Viewpoint is for everybody's views, so start writing. (Even you Jim).

Bif Altoft
Lowell

too expensive

Dear Editor,

A quote from Mark Howe from the January 21, 2015 Lowell Ledger:

"My only hope is that it does not cast a shadow over the many great things we can accomplish by working together and I appreciate the comments from the earlier speaker, that I hope this [is] a day where we can start moving forward and we can start pulling together because I do believe we have a great team. I think we all make mistakes. I certainly made one here, probably bigger than I would have liked, but I made a mistake and I apologize for that and I hope we can move forward."

What a bunch of hot air! "We have a great team"? Is that what Mark Howe calls a polarized city council and an outraged community who is trying to figure out how to compel them to remove this arrogant city manager?

"We all make mistakes"? Let's define who "we" is: Mark Howe and the three city councilmembers who have drunk his Kool-Aid.

"I certainly made one [a mistake] here, probably bigger than I would have liked"? Well, his "mistake" cost Lowell, so far, nearly \$150,000. His "mistake" was breaking the law. Therefore, his statement would be more correct if worded thus: "I broke the law and I apologize for that...."

I go back to the city council meeting of October 21, 2013 in which he arrogantly dismissed the outraged citizens who filled the room to overflowing with this televised statement: "There were a dozen taxpayers that asked us to not appeal it tonight, but that's a dozen out of 3,700 people that live in the city of Lowell," city manager Mark Howe said. Flash forward to January 28, 2015, now he says: "I think it's important to note that that was not appeal." Which is it, Mr. Howe?

So, \$150,000 down the drain. No worries. He just dips his hand into the Lowell Cable Television Endowment Fund and helps himself to the entire

sum that would have been doled out to worthy causes that enhance life in Lowell.

What follows is taken from the Lowell Ledger archives, July 2011: Council picks top finalist for manager:

"Howe said he should be appointed the Lowell city manager because he has a vested interest in serving the city to move forward," he said. "I am a nice guy. I value relationships; I enjoy success. Lowell is the place where I am." Among his

disappointments, Howe named a conflict with a department head that deteriorated a professional relationship 10 years ago."

Interesting, isn't it? Mr. Howe, you have lied, broken the law and abused our city workers. It looks like you are now moving into damage control in a bid to retain your high-paying job. I don't think Lowell can afford you anymore.

Gail Roderick
Lowell

in support of letters

To the Editor,

I am writing first in regard to the letter sent by Joe Sejat in the February 4th issue of the Ledger. The Ledger has a policy that is inserted every week at the bottom of their Viewpoint page stating, "We love to hear from you!" Apparently people don't care as much about the community leaders as Mr. Howard does, as evidenced by his letters. anyone is welcome to voice their opinion, just as you have!

I would also like to share my wholehearted agreement and support for the letters written by Mike Larkin and Alan Teelander within the same issue. It would appear that common sense and conservative thinking is the minority within the council.

The February 2nd council meeting was cancelled because they couldn't decide on an agenda? It's no wonder Mr. Howard keeps his pencil sharpened!

Finally, I would love to see city council respond to Peggy Covert's questions outlined in last week's issue, especially question no. 8. I don't see how this manager can retain his position, but that's what lawyers are for, no?

The council majority needs to learn to work with the other councilmembers (minority) that may not agree with them or question their reasoning. In Larkin's words, "And on and on it goes."

Sincerely,
Nancy Stroosnyder

parking lot will help businesses

Dear Ledger,

I am writing in response to Mike Larkin regarding the proposed parking lot and the BBQ restaurant that is slated to open next summer in the Moose building. Those of us who own and operate businesses in the block where the parking lot will be were under the impression that it was going to happen well over two years ago. I think it is a bit misleading to give Ledger readers the impression that the parking lot is being put in place solely for the benefit of the new restaurant.

The wheels were put in motion for parking behind our building way before anyone was even thinking about a restaurant going into the old Moose Lodge. Our business will benefit from a better parking situation out

back as will all the others in our block.

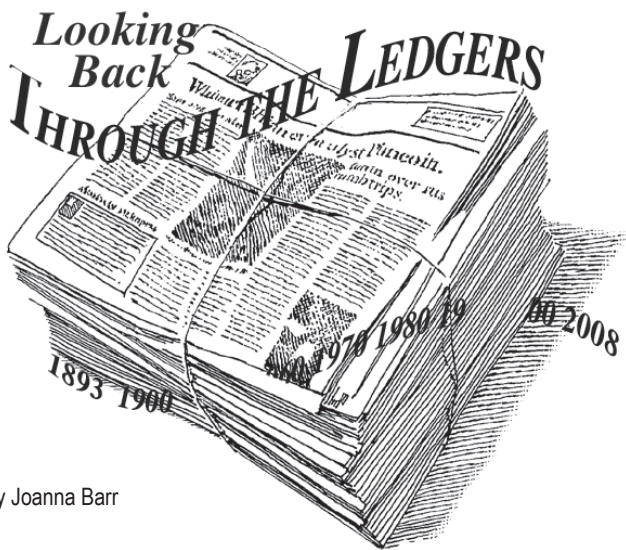
For that matter, it will benefit the community in general to have more organized, paved parking spots for events like the summer concerts, Riverwalk Festival, Christmas Through Lowell, Girls Nite Out and others.

In addition, it was great to learn that the biodigester is up and running. I firmly believe that alternative energy is the wise path to be on. It was also good news to learn that LowellWellness has attracted the attention of some pretty big players in healthcare in MI. Lowell rocks!

Cliff Yankovich
Lowell

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the lowell ledger



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal February 12, 1890

Jake Lawyer's team, which was hitched in front of the express office, broke loose and ran away, Monday morning, doing no serious damage. They were stopped near J. Burgess', on the depot road.

Another old land mark is disappearing. The old Foundry is being torn down to make room for a residence. The foundry was built more than 25 years ago, but its days of usefulness are ended and it has to step aside.

Tuesday evening as Frank McMahon was riding Jas. Murphy's horse, a team coming around a corner ran into him, the tongue of the wagon entering the horse's shoulder as far as the neck-yoke. The horse will probably die.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 11, 1915

Spt. McMahon and a gang of 13 men worked all day Sunday on the line between A. W. Knee's and the plant repairing lines downed by the recent storms.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ayres have moved to Detroit, where he is employed in the Fisher automobile factory.

The annual convention of the Michigan Good Roads association will be held in Grand Rapids March 9 to 12. As the Michigan Press and Printers federation meets there at the same time, there will surely be something doing in the old town.

Frank Baker is making his home with Wm. Schrader and wife, doing chores for the remainder of the winter.

The annual mid-winter meeting of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical society will be held at the Hackley art gallery, Muskegon, Feb. 17 and 18... There will be Indian songs and incantations by R. E. Southwick and several Ottawa Indians.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 15, 1940

The fourth annual basketball game between Main St. Supermen and a team from the high school faculty, played last Tuesday night, resulted in a 21 to 19 victory for the business men's team. The intellectuals were victorious in the first three games played.

For several years the management of the Strand theatre has transported its films to and from the distributor in Detroit. Now comes the Film Operators' Union of Detroit ordering the Strand management to quit the practice, or else—meaning that union trucks must be used. It looks like a racket pure and simple.

area births

Wirgau



Kaitlin Ann Wirgau

Andrea (Richmond) and Dustin Wirgau of Lowell are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Kaitlin Ann. Born on Friday, January 16 and weighing 8 lbs., 3 oz., she was welcomed by her older siblings, Gabriel and Nora. Kaitlin is the fourth grandchild for Barb and John Wirgau of Posen and twenty-third grandchild for the late Diane and Jerrold Richmond of Lowell.

engagements

Wyckoff/Rohde



Joshaua Rohde and Kelly Wyckoff

The marriage of Kelly Wyckoff of Belding and Joshaua Rohde of Reese will be celebrated on June 12, 2015. Parents of the bride are Michael and Ruth Wyckoff of Belding.

Maid of Honor will be Beth Wyckoff. Bridesmaids will be MacKenzie Jansen, Brynlee Pomper, Michelle Sullivan and Kellie Giles.

Best man will be Phillip DuRussel. Groomsmen

will be Tyler Blake, James Hughey, Drew Benson and Marc McKenney. Ushers will be Jacob Swanson and Jonathan Wyckoff.

The bride has a BS in biology at Ferris and is pursuing a Doctorate of Physical Therapy at Grand Valley State University.

The groom is pursuing a BS in marketing at Western Michigan University.

Wyckoff/Burgett



Peter Burgett and Beth Wyckoff

Beth Wyckoff of Belding will become the bride of Peter Burgett of Dexter on July 11, 2015. The future bride and groom are middle school teachers at International Community School, Bangkok, Thailand.



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Pastor Rod Galindo
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
Nursery available at both services
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happy birthday!



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10:30 A.M.Fellowship
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Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

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FEBRUARY 16
Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main.

FEBRUARY 13
Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.

FEBRUARY 17
Chris Hodges, Justin Stanford, Stephanie Ellison, Reatha Johnson, Lynda Horsley, Deb Tulecki.

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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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Barrier-free entrance

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:30
Sunday School.....9:30
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.

Pastor Brad Brillhart

To The Editor, continued

representing the community

Dear Editor,
The Lowell city government was essentially shut down by councilmembers Altoft and Mayer at the last city council meeting. When councilmember Mayer inappropriately tried to add an item to the agenda the motion failed to pass. Members Mayer and Altoft retaliated by voting against the posted agenda which also failed to pass. Left with no agenda, the meeting adjourned.
That means a resolution to pass the union contract did not come to a vote, the proposal to fix several city streets and more did not get accomplished. Councilmember Altoft said to me, "See what you get when you don't give in a little?" I do see. I see that some are willing to sacrifice anything to satisfy a personal agenda.

The real losers in this situation? The citizens of Lowell. Who would want to invest in our community when elected officials won't civilly and effectively work together? What impression does this present to the greater West Michigan Community?
The recent work session (not the first on these subjects) was specifically held to discuss proper procedures for introducing agenda items, appropriate behavior at a meeting, communication and more. Not helpful to those who don't attend or refuse to listen. Is this really the representation that citizens want for their community?

Sincerely,
Sharon Ellison
Mayor pro tem

explaining his jet ski to jesus

Dear Editor,
I have always been repulsed and angered by great personal wealth because of the inequity it represents. Multimillion dollar salaries, castles for homes, 300-foot yachts and the recent report of the theft of a \$250,000 stuffed leopard from an estate are displays of profound greed, not to be admired, but to be seen as gluttony. I read some place that 85 families have wealth equal to the poorest 3.5 billion people in the world and that the top one percent in the U.S. have 50 percent of all the wealth in this country. Clearly, these people of great wealth have more than they need while others lack so much.
While personally outraged at this inequality, I neglected my own self-examination. After all, I don't have a yacht, or a \$250,000 stuffed leopard, or make a million dollars a year. I give regularly to various charities. Those who have "more than they need" clearly have more than I do. So, I'm okay; right? But, something's happened.
I was filling up my car at a gas station when a woman of about 60-years-old went by pushing a grocery cart containing all of her belongings. She went in the station for something. It struck me that I should offer some kind of help, even though she had not asked for anything. On her way out, I gave her \$20. She explained that she was trying to get enough money for a bus ticket to get to her daughter's place in Ohio. She insisted on giving me

something in return. It was an old Donald Duck VHS. She thanked me again and left.
Recently, I was at a meeting where we were all sharing our experiences. A woman in her 40s shared that her life was getting better. However, her only regret was that the following day was her daughter's 13th birthday and she had no money for a gift of any kind. At the end of the meeting, I gave her the \$7 cash that I had.
Some time ago, there was a disaster in Southeast Asia killing thousands of people. I felt the need to do something to help beyond my regular charities. I went to the Red Cross office and gave them a check for \$200, which was very gratefully received. I was feeling good about myself. I had gone out of my way to make this extra donation. Just as I was leaving, a scruffy old man came into the Red Cross office with a glass full of coins. He explained that he has been saving so he could help those people who had suffered so much. He said proudly that he had \$5.80.
I was blown away. My good feelings were instantly gone. I realized he had given so much more than I had. The \$200 would not cause me to sacrifice anything that mattered. He had made the sacrifice. I had not. I am not a religious person, but I am reminded of a Biblical story where wealthy merchants showered Jesus with magnificent gifts, while a poor widow gave the tiny sum of a mite. She was mocked by the wealthy

Dear Lowell citizens,
I have lived in Lowell for over forty years and have always appreciated the way that our community comes together. One of the things that makes this city a great place to live is that we care about each other and we care about the well-being of our community. Yet, some members of our city council are playing games to push their own agenda.
I am perplexed that two members of the council would think it appropriate to oppose approving an agenda because an item they wanted to discuss did not appear on the agenda, an item that was discussed at a previous meeting and on which councilmembers had many opportunities to voice their concerns or questions.
Citizens of Lowell,

the city council works for us; it's time we hold them accountable for doing their job. If councilmembers are unable to do something as simple as approve an agenda in order to carry out the business of our city, then I question whether they belong on the council.
Perhaps I'm an idealist, but I believe that someone should be in public office because they care about making their community a better place to live, not to play games or push their own agenda. Impeding the ability of our city government to function efficiently does nothing to help Lowell develop and grow.

Tamela Spicer

perplexed

he'd like a house

Dear city of Lowell,
I would like you to give me a house. Preferably with good views, lots of light and a fireplace. I feel entitled to this. All citizens of Lowell should think long and hard about what they would like the good city of Lowell to give them. We are all equally deserving. That is to say equal specifically to the gift of a parking lot that our generous city is bestowing on one lucky citizen.
All specious arguments aside (the city needs more parking), we know our friend whined on record at a city council meeting, stating that they promised him that parking lot and that he bought a building on the basis of that promise. The words skullduggery, chicanery and legerdemain (sleight of hand; trickery) come to mind. But realistically, after spending all of our money on this

man's gift, you may not have enough to go around.
A token gift to be considered would quite appropriately be a copy of Babbitt, by Sinclair Lewis, for one and all. Published in 1922, it became a raging success and Lewis won the Nobel Prize in Literature largely for this book. It's timeless; about a fictional city in the Midwest; a satirical exposure of corruption and hypocrisy with which I'm confident we can all identify. Since I'm taking this initiative, and since, in all honesty, inequality is the norm here, I still want my house.
Thank you ever so much in advance,
Stephen Thurtell
Lowell
PS: Lafayette St. would be especially nice. I'd like the sunset over the river. Just sayin'...

merchants for making such a tiny donation. Christ rebuked them, saying that she had sacrificed more than all of them put together.
Why hadn't I bought the bus ticket for the homeless woman trying to get to her daughter? Why hadn't I figured out some way to get that girl a gift for her 13th birthday?
Why don't I give more? Why don't we give more? We have an endless list of reasons: "The poor are just lazy;" "Welfare queens;" "The money never gets to those who need it;" "My donation won't make a difference;" "I worked hard for my money." No doubt there is an element of truth in these arguments. But, none of them apply to the man who gave \$5.80 or the street person trying to get to her daughter in Ohio or the birthday of a 13-year-old girl. Nor do they apply to food banks, homeless centers, the Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, or a hundred other legitimate charities. I know it. You know it. We all know it. So, what am I going to do with this difficult realization that while I have donated, I have not sacrificed?
A few years ago, I bought a Jet Ski/wave runner for about \$7,000. It has provided a great deal of pleasure for my family and friends. I try to be a good person, one who is helpful, fair, generous and hardworking. But, I thought about facing my creator upon my death. How would I justify my Jet Ski to Jesus? How could I convince him that my Jet Ski was more important than the real needs of others? I could not!

I am finally forced to admit that having more than I need is morally wrong. Wrong as a human being, a neighbor, a community member, a citizen of the world. Wrong! Sacrifice is required. This was not a discovery that I wanted to make.
I am not asking anyone to do anything. This is about my experiences. I now see my Jet Ski the way I see the \$250,000 stuffed leopard.
I will try to do better.
Michael A. Stephens
Lowell

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WRWW 92.3 & Internet Schedule

<p>[SUNDAY] [02-15-15]</p> <p>9:00 pm Old-Time Radio</p>	<p>[MONDAY] [02-16-15]</p> <p>2:45 'The Infinite Show' with Raiden Miller</p> <p>4:30 'Kids These Days' w/Roman the Showman</p>	<p>[TUESDAY] [02-17-15]</p> <p>11:25 'Noon with Noah' with Noah Worsley</p> <p>3:00 'The Lovely Beats Show' with DJ Cupid</p> <p>4:30 'Its Everything' Show with DJ Mickey & Emma</p>	
<p>[WEDNESDAY] [02-18-15]</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>7:00 Varsity Wrestling: Team Regionals</p>	<p>[THURSDAY] [02-19-15]</p> <p>2:30 'The No Topic Show' with Dakota Krzysik & Devin Read</p> <p>4:30 'The Classic Music Show' w/Clayton Brown</p> <p>8:00 'The Night Shift' with Clayton Brown & Jerry Thompson</p>	<p>[FRIDAY] [02-20-15]</p> <p>11:25 'Noon with Noah' with Noah Worsley</p> <p>6:00 Boys Varsity Basketball vs Jenison</p> <p>7:30 Girls Varsity Basketball vs Jenison</p>	
<p>[SATURDAY] [02-21-15]</p> <p>3:00 'The Random Explosion Show' with Joe Ryder</p>			<p>WRWW (92.3 FM) and Internet (www.lowellradio.org) radio stations are licensed by the FCC to Lowell Area Schools. When the programs above are not 'airing', a variety of music is played. WRWW would like to thank the Lowell Ledger for being one of its sponsors/underwriters.</p>

LHS Sweetheart Swirl court



Seniors, front row: Alon Watson, Bailey Cummings, Queen Ashlin Stedman, Anna Organek, and Katie Bush; back row: Josh Branagan, Zach Ritchie, King Kenny Duke, Bailey VanAmburgh, and Brendan Spencer.



Juniors, left to right: Danny Kruse, Gabe Steed, Prince Nick Kloosterman, Princess Madison Kaminiski, Rachel Fox, and Kelsey Emmanuel.



Sophomores, left to right: Nate Stephens, Hayden Barry-Coulier, Prince Zach Petroelje, Princess Alyssa Roest, Lilly Quiggle, and Tiana Petricevic.



Freshman, left to right: David Kruse, Eric Dimmick, Prince Garrett Pratt, Princess Nicole Nugent, Riley Conlan, and Megan Summerfield.

2015 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE Lowell, MI 49331

2015 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2015 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 10 a.m. = **Organizational Meeting**
- Monday, March 9, 2015**
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. &
- Thursday, March 12, 2015**
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2015 assessments. By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 12, 2015.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2015 are as follows:

Agricultural	45.03	1.1103
Commercial	48.55	1.0298
Residential	47.20	1.0593
Industrial.....	47.66	1.0490
Personal.....	50.00	1.0000

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

Contact: **Supervisor Jerry Hale, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
616-897-7600**

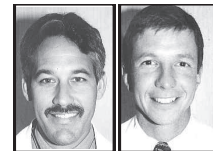
Board of Review Members, Barbara Tremblay, Nancie Mathews & James Foerch. Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor, Secretary of Board of Review.

...

“A man always has two reasons for doing anything: a good reason and the real reason.”

~ J.P. Morgan

health



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



lung cancer screening

Recently we have been getting more questions about the benefits of lung cancer screening. Lung cancer is the most common cancer death worldwide. Smoking is the primary risk factor for the development of lung cancer. Prior to 2013 no screening test has been shown to be effective for reducing deaths associated with lung cancer.

Screening tests can detect cancer before symptoms develop with a goal of decreasing deaths to the particular cancer screened for. Common beneficial screening tests in wide use are mammography and colonoscopy.

The National Lung Cancer Screening Trial, which involved a large number of patients at high risk for lung cancer was the first study to show that screening with low dose CT scans reduced lung cancer deaths by about 20 percent. In the study there was a high rate of false positive screening results, which later was found to not represent lung cancer. False positive results occurred in one of every four baseline or first-year screening CT scans. The trial showed that about 320 people would have to be screened to prevent one death from lung cancer. False positive tests

can lead to unnecessary testing and follow-up. Most of the false positive tests can be resolved by doing a standard CT scan but more invasive testing such as a biopsy may be needed.

People are eligible for lung cancer screening if they are between the ages of 50-80, have at least a 30 pack year history of smoking and are current smokers or have quit within the past 15 years. If you meet these criteria you should discuss with your doctor whether screening with low dose CT is right for you. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force has released a grade B for screening which means that most private insurances will be covering the cost of screening.

Screening for lung cancer with low dose CT is not a substitute for smoking cessation. Stopping smoking is the most effective way to reduce the risk of lung cancer and other long-term health risks.

Red Arrow **SPORTS**

Wrestlers clinch OK White and honor former coach Dave Dean

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity wrestling faced OK White conference competitor Forest Hills Central (FHC) at home and easily tallied the win with a 52-15 victory and clinched the OK White regular season title. The team also celebrated the seniors and former coach Dave Dean.

This was their sixth straight outright win at the OK White Championship tournament. Friday the team sent 12 of 14 wrestlers into the finals and won the meet by a large margin.

The meet started by honoring the eight senior members of the team, Josh Colegrove, Jordan Hall, Louis Hart, Nick Higgins, Tom Mahalic, Aaron Ward, Logan Wilcox, and Steven Williams.

Then, former coach Dave Dean was honored by assistant principal Dustin Cichocki as part of the official dedication of the 2014 Division II Wrestling State Championship banner.

“He [Dean] was our coach for nine years with an overall record of 232-38. During that time Red Arrow wrestling racked up seven conference championships, nine district championships, seven regional titles, three state runner-up titles and two Division II state championships. Dave took over an already successful wrestling program and brought it to even higher levels of success and accountability,” said Cichocki in his introduction.

Cichocki finished by thanking Dean for the work ethic, determination

and skill he instilled in Red Arrow wrestlers and coaches, a tradition of winning that continued that evening against FHC.

Several wrestlers were also awarded individual conference titles, Zeth Dean, Sam Russell, Danny and David Kruse, Jordan and Lucas Hall, Tyler Lynch, Logan Wilcox and Josh Colegrove.

This Thursday the team will travel to East Grand Rapids High School for district level team competition and then welcome the same foes to Lowell for individual competition on Saturday beginning at 9:30 am.



Junior Danny Kruse, shown here against FHC, went on to win an individual conference title later in the week. He is among nine to receive the honor.

Lady Arrows record two wins this week

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow girls varsity basketball recorded two wins last week besting non-conference competitor Kenowa Hills on the road and OK White nemesis East Grand Rapids at home Friday night.

Seniors Katie Holzhueter and Kate Montgomery led the way to the team’s first victory of the week, Kenowa Hills. Holzhueter, a four-year member of the varsity squad, sank an impressive four three-point baskets and racked up 14 total points and five assists at the glass. Her top notch performance was matched by teammate Montgomery who also earned 14 and five on the night.

Lowell outscored Kenowa Hills 29-15 in the first half and again in the third giving the Arrows a 48-22 lead moving into the final eight minutes of the game.

Their first third quarter success came on the back of tough defense from Ally Frederickson, who earned five blocks, Kennedy Coxon who tallied seven rebounds and Tara McQueen who racked up four steals as well as a well-spread offensive effort. In total, eight Lady Arrows contributed points to the board. Bridget Garter

and McQueen both came in at nine points followed by Frederickson with four and Rae Mongar, Bailey Reitsma and Catherine Stump who each chipped in two.

Though Kenowa made a big run in the fourth holding Lowell to only

nine points and earning 25 for themselves, they were unable to recover from the large deficit and Lowell claimed the win, 57-47.

Friday, in front of a jam-packed gymnasium the girls faced their second challenge of the week in OK White

conference rival East Grand Rapids (EGR).

Though the Arrows started off slow in the first, ending the period down 13-7, their focus sharpened in the second as they earned 20 points and kept EGR to just eight. The half ended 27-21 Lowell advantage.

The Arrows trumped EGR by seven points in the third and stunted their opponent’s offensive effort to extend their lead to 39-26 moving into the fourth period.

Similar to Tuesday’s game, EGR made a good run

in the final stanza outscoring Lowell 18-13, but their effort was not enough and the Arrows claimed their second win of the week 52-44.

Frederickson produced well, once again, for the defense logging five blocks and nine rebounds. Holzhueter added six steals and four assists while Montgomery grabbed up ten rebounds.

Montgomery also had an outstanding offensive showing, leading her team with an impressive

23 points. Garter also scored in the double digits adding ten to the winning total. Frederickson followed chipping in eight. Holzhueter, McQueen and freshman standout Cassie Dean also put points up for the squad.

Lowell (10-5), will face another OK White showdown when they take on Grand Rapids Christian this Friday at GRC. Tip off is scheduled for 7:30 pm.



Senior Kate Montgomery aggressively advances toward the basket to earn two of her 23 points during the Arrow’s win over EGR.

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Red Arrow BASKETBALL SPORTS

Two wins for boys varsity basketball

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell boys varsity basketball team hit the paint twice at home last week facing non-conference competitor Kenowa Hills on Tuesday and longtime OK White rival East Grand Rapids (EGR) on Friday.

Sophomore Matt Beachler opened up scoring against Kenowa with a three-point shot and his teammates quickly gained momentum to out shoot their opponents 16-9 in the first. Juniors Ryan Stevens put up two points and Gabe Steed four to accompany Beachler's ten in the period.

Stevens racked up five points in the second, as well as two assists, which led to four points from Austin Branagan. Their combined effort along with a solid defensive showing kept the Arrows on top by ten at the half, 25-15.

Kenowa opened up scoring in the third but Lowell's Steed answered

with a three-point bucket and Branagan added two from the line. Kenowa then faced a huge scoring run from Beachler who landed six consecutive successful

two-point buckets. Stevens and Steed added two points a piece near the buzzer to move the Arrows 46-34 into the fourth.

Lowell's lead began to

ebb in the fourth as Kenowa made a strong offensive run that put them within striking distance of the win. Several fouls from Lowell's Steed and one from Beachler put Kenowa on the line multiple times as the clock wound down. They capitalized and tied up the game at 54 forcing overtime.

In the extra period Beachler shined once again earning a total of eight points to seal the win for the Arrows 63-60. In total Beachler racked up 31 points, followed by Stevens, 14 and Branagan and Steed who each offered up eight.

Friday in front of a record-breaking crowd the Arrows faced off against a hot EGR team fresh off of a three-game winning streak. The Arrows sought to end that run and did so in big fashion taking down the Pioneers 73-41.

Lowell started off strong both offensively and defensively in the first half of the game putting up an impressive forty points and keeping EGR to just eleven. The Arrows' strong momentum was sparked by a couple of scoring tears: a 14-0 and a 17-0 run and the beginning of a three-point onslaught from Steed.



Sophomore Austin Branagan gets the tip as the Arrows move into overtime against Kenowa Hills.

Steed racked up a season-high 26 points in the blow out by way of eight successful three-point attempts, five in the third period. His effort came one short of setting the school record currently held by alumni athlete Josh Hettinga and current teammate Beachler who put up nine earlier this year against

Hastings with 44 points overall.

Steed's big effort was accompanied by a healthy offensive effort which had seven other players putting up points. Beachler ended with 15 followed by Branagan with 12 and Stevens who added ten.

Defensively, the team was led by Beachler who added three steals, one block, three assists and seven rebounds. Stevens put up one steal, six assists and eight rebounds. Branagan also performed well earning three blocks, one assist and seven rebounds. The young teams only senior, Josh Branagan, contributed two assists and four rebounds.

Lowell's enormous lead after the third, 62-26, kept the team's starting lineup on the bench for all but a minute of the fourth and the Arrows easily grabbed up the conference win.

Lowell (3-2, 9-4) will take on Grand Rapids Christian on the road this Friday in another important OK White match-up. Tip off is scheduled for 6:00 pm.



Kenowa Hills' defenders surround sophomore Austin Branagan at the glass during the Red Arrows' non-conference win.

•••

"A leader's job is to develop committed followers. Bad leaders destroy their followers' sense of commitment."

~ Dean Smith

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015 1:00 P.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

& 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

(NOTE THE EVENING HOURS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE TAX ROLL AND HEARING ALL CLAIMS. YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR ASSESSED VALUATION ONE OF (2) WAYS: BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND RECEIVED BY HIM PRIOR TO MARCH 6, 2015 OR BY APPEARING IN PERSON ON ONE OF THE DATES THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

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

Agricultural Ratio	47.46	1.0535.....Multiplier
Commercial Ratio	47.38	1.0553.....Multiplier
Industrial Ratio.....	50.02	.9966.....Multiplier
Residential Ratio.....	47.14	1.0606.....Multiplier

DENNIS MCKELVEY-ASSESSOR
RANDY WILCOX-SUPERVISOR
BOWNE TOWNSHIP

Red Arrow
GYMNASTICS
SPORTS

Gymnasts claim two victories this week, qualify for regionals

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Double victories were earned by the varsity gymnastics team last week as they faced competitors East Kentwood on the road and Kenowa Hills at home for senior night.

On Wednesday the Lady Arrows earned several personal bests and edged out their competitor East Kentwood 136.025-127.475. Lowell's top all-around athlete Seal Bauman earned a 32.225 overall placing within the top four for her team in both the floor exercise and the beam.

Senior Danielle Krajewski earned the team's best score on the floor with a 9.0 followed by Bauman (8.75), Alise Forward (8.9) and Lena Weiler (8.65).

On the beam Lauren DeHaan earned an impressive 9.15 to lead scoring for the Arrows. Her score put her quite a distance ahead of her teammates Weiler (8.2), Bauman (7.75) and Lauren Browning (7.7) who rounded out the event's top scorers.

Browning (8.7) was followed by Sarena Wilterdink and Maura Fitzpatrick who both earned 8.575 on the vault. Senior Bethany Kaczanowski earned an 8.5.

DeHaan scored best for Lowell on the bars with a 8.575, her personal best on the event. Her accomplishment was accompanied by Krajewski earning an 8.5, a best for her. Their effort was followed by that of Forward and Karmen

Anderson who earned an 8.3 and an 8.2 respectively.

"Very interesting night on the bars to say the least," said head coach Michele DeHaan, who noted both the accomplishments of Krajewski and DeHaan as well as a big recovery from Anderson. "She didn't make her first giant in the routine so she turned around as she was falling and did a long hang pullover. She was facing the wrong way and then just turned around again on the bar and continued her routine adding two skills to fulfill the requirement that she lost by not making the giants. That quick thinking to save as many points as she could makes me so proud to be her coach."

DeHaan was made proud once again when the team celebrated senior night during their home meet against Kenowa Hills where they edged out another win 139.975-137.00.

The night was emotional according to DeHaan, "Senior night always gets us because high school gymnastics is only varsity so we have the privilege of coaching these amazing young ladies all four years of their high school career. Makes me tear up every year."

Athletic director Dee Crowley was on hand for the event and shared some thoughts on the team's senior members during the brief ceremony, "There were many other little gymnasts when you started, but only you four had the strength,

desire and commitment to continue. Colleen, Lauren, Bethany and Danielle, thank you for the way you have represented our school and community and we know

Kaufman led on the bars with an 8.525 and was joined by Wilterdink (8.45), DeHaan (8.35) and Fitzpatrick (8.175) as the Arrows top performers.

now where everything fell into place," said coach DeHaan. "Senior night was the perfect time to do it." She was joined by DeHaan

for regional competition, "I am proud to say we are finished in our quest in qualifying for regionals. This is the first year in a



The team's four senior members were honored last week during competition. Pictured here are coach DeHaan, Lauren DeHaan, Danielle Krajewski, Bethany Kaczanowski, Colleen Cater, and coach Buikema.

that great things are in your future."

In competition top Lowell all-around honors went to DeHaan who scored a 35.1 cumulatively placing in the top four for the Arrows on all events, including first on the floor and on the vault where she earned a 9.0. She was followed closely by teammates Browning (8.95), Corah Kaufman (8.75) and Forward (8.7).

DeHaan scored a 9.1 on the floor to lead teammates Browning (9.05) Kaczanowski (8.775) and Krajewski (8.575).

Two personal bests were recorded for the team on the beam. Senior Kaczanowski nailed her routine to earn her best competition score, a 9.1, to lead her team. "Bethany has not had a routine until

(8.65), sophomore Paige DeHaan with a personal best (8.025) and Kaufman (7.8) in the top four for Lowell.

As the season begins to draw to a close coach DeHaan reports that the team has already qualified

long time that everyone that could qualify has qualified. We have qualified all 14 girls for the vault and the floor, 10 of 14 on the bars and 12 of 14 on the beam. What an exciting year so far."

...
"Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flow charts. It's about one life influencing another."
~ John C. Maxwell

The team (3-4 in conference) will take on Forest Hills this Wednesday in their last conference dual of the season before competing in the regional competition on March 7.

...
"Leadership is an action, not a position."
~ Donald McGannon



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obituaries

BOOTH

Nora 'Kay' Booth, age 74 of Belding, passed away Sunday, February 1, 2015 at home with her family beside her. She had been fighting cancer for the last seven months. Kay was born June 10, 1940 in Greenville, Michigan to her parents Leonard and Luella Harris Satterlee. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert E. Booth Senior in 2001; her parents; her daughter Patricia Lynn Booth; her grandson Kristopher Booth; two brothers, Charles and Stuart Satterlee; three sisters, Jackie Sawtell, Mary Ella Dixon, Charleen Satterlee. She is survived by three sons, Bryon Booth of Lowell, Ken Booth of Lowell, Robert Booth, Jr. of Traverse City; two daughters-in-law Irene Booth and Janet Booth of Lowell; grandchildren, Chad, Danny, Kim, Ken Jr., Jeremy; one sister Sharon Kennedy of Monroe; three brothers, Jerry Satterlee of Ionia, Richard Satterlee of Fenwick, Kenneth Satterlee of Connecticut; 12 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Upon her wishes, Kay will be cremated and a service will be held at a later date.



CASH

Betty Lou (Kyser) Cash passed away at the age of 89 after a brief illness on January 25, 2015, in Chandler, AZ. She was preceded in death by her husband, John L. Cash in 2001. Surviving are son, Jeffrey (Janet Lim) Cash of Seattle, WA; daughters, Corrinne (Paul) Wentz and Laurie (Jim) Wallace, both of Chandler, AZ; grandchildren, Adam and Brian Benner, Emma (Spencer) Blaylock, all of Chandler; Samantha Wallace of Tucson, AZ, Ian and Elizabeth Wallace, both of Chandler; two sisters, Mildred Mullen of Mesa, AZ and Sharon (Gary) Eickhoff of Lowell. Contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Gilbert, AZ, 331 South Cooper Road, Gilbert, AZ 85233.

FARR

1963 - 2015
Jeffery Lynn Farr, age 51, of Saranac, passed away at Carson City Hospital, following a long battle with cancer, on February 5, 2015, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on November 20, 1963, in Charlotte, Michigan; the son of Wendal and Shirley Ann (Huff) Farr. Jeff graduated from Saranac High School with the class of 1983. One of his early jobs was with the Department of Public Works in Stanton and he also worked at several area manufacturing companies, including Electrolux in Greenville and Anathol Plastics in Belding. He loved to work with wood and made many things that he gave to his family members, which they now treasure as items that remind them of him. Jeff was diagnosed with cancer nearly 15 years ago and that long hard struggle brought him back to church. He drew great strength from the faith he developed over the years through his Bible studies and attendance at Saranac Community Church. Jeff is survived by his children, Shurie (Kyle) Simons of Sheridan, Jessica (Skylar Brooks) Farr of Sheridan and Tiffany (Charlie Evans) Miller of East Jordan, Michigan; a granddaughter, Eshanna Simons with another one on the way, due in June; his fiancé and dear companion, Marjorie Baker of Saranac; siblings, Brenda Thierian of Vermontville, Mary French of Ionia, Becky Farr, Rodney Farr of Charlotte and Mike Farr; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his grandparents, including a special grandmother, Isabel Huff. No services are being planned at this time. Verdun Family Funeral Home, 303 S. Bridge St., Belding, 616-794-1300 or verdunfh.com is caring for the arrangements.

HALL

Beverly Joyce (Burnham) Hall, age 72, of Lowell, Michigan, lost her battle with Cancer on February 2, 2015. She was preceded in death by her parents, Burl and Hazel Burnham and brother Richard Burnham. She is survived by her loving husband of 46 years, James Walter Hall; her children Troy (Lisa) Hall, Tanya (Jeff) Paas, Andrea (Jeff) Harwood, Krystin (Brian) Ryder; her grandchildren Brandon, Stephanie, Dustin, Mackenzie, Chris, Casey, Tyler, Megan, Rachel, Emma, Brady, and Jon and her great-granddaughter Riley. Beverly retired from Root Lowell Manufacturing and was a longtime member of the Women's Club of Lowell in which she was elected Woman of the Year in 2013. Beverly loved to cook, read, travel and especially her cat, Gabby. Beverly will be cremated and her family plans to have a memorial in her honor in the spring to celebrate her life. Memorials are suggested to be made to 'Pink Arrow Pride' of Lowell, P.O Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



HURLEY

Julia C. Hurley, age 84 of Lowell, passed away Friday, February 6, 2015. She was preceded in death by her parents George and Lena Hurley; brothers, Kenneth, Charles, Harold, Robert, and Gerald Hurley. She is survived by her brother, John; sister-in-law, Ella Hurley; dear long time friend, Larry Douthett; and many nieces and nephews. After her retirement from Wolverine Worldwide in Rockford, she enjoyed working in the classroom with the children and the sisters at the Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell. Julia was a devoted member of St. Patrick Church in Parnell where she will be interred. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4351 Parnell N.E., Ada, MI 49301. Rev. Mark Peacock presiding. Interment St. Patrick Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. with Vigil service 6:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Catholic Church or Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes Street Lowell, MI 49331.



RAYMOR

Norma Jean Raymor, age 74 of Lowell, passed away Monday, February 2, 2015. She is survived by her husband Roger, of 57 years and children Terry (Nancy) Raymor and Carrie (Ron) Metternick; grandchildren Amber (Mike) Pollema, April (Rod) Glover, Tim Raymor, Allen Metternick, Becky (Joe) Boruta, Ben (Anna) Raymor; 12 great-grandchildren; brothers Chuck (Joan) Briggs and Richard (Becky) Briggs; sister Carol Briggs; brother-in-law Duane (Carrie) Raymor. A funeral service was held at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Interment Saranac Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell Pink Arrow Project, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 15-196866-CA, 15-196867-GA

In the matter of HELEN SPIVEY.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Armisha Spivey, Patricia Smith, Paul Smith, and Bernice Campbell whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on

03/13/2015 at 9:00 am at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of Michele Boley for the appointment of a guardian and conservator for Helen Spivey.

02/05/2015

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

...

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea."
~ Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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

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for sale

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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}

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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}

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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}

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ARROWHEAD & MORRISON LAKE GOLF COURSES ARE HIRING! - We'll be hosting a job fair on Feb. 27, from 10-4 p.m. Call Josh for an appointment, 616-218-3669. Morrison Lake Golf Course, 6425 Portland Rd., Saranac.

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

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.

RNs/LPNs - Lakeshore Home Health Care is hiring licensed RNs/LPNs to provide in-home care to our pediatric clients in Cascade, Rockford, Belmont & Comstock Park. These are 3rd shift positions & hours vary depending on case. Duties include: meds, assessments, trach/GT/Vent care. Contact Angila at 616-534-9300 ext. 3301 or at angila@lakeshore services.net

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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}

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

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 you left us February 10, 2014, we love you and miss you.
 Becky, Bob & Mary

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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.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION - March 3, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at FROM Food Pantry, 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell.

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.

TECH SERVICES - Wednesdays by appointment only, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Help with internet, email, ereaders, computer basics. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

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

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

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

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.

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

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

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Don Aversano at 847-571-8373 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

INTERMEDIATE COMPUTER CLASS - Fri., Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. Topics include flash drive basics (bring your own flash drive), managing folders & files, Windows updates & overall learning more about your computer. Reservations required. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., 616-794-1450.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Key Heights, 11335 Fulton, Lowell.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

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.

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.

STORYTIME - Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Nikki. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main.

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

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

college news

Katie J Jousma of Lowell has received recognition on the dean's list for the fall 2014 semester at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. To be eligible for the dean's list a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Western Michigan University has announced the dean's list for the 2014 fall semester.

To be eligible for the dean's list, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average (on a scale of 4.0 being all As) in

at least 12 hours of graded class work.

Ada: Mikaela Harris, psychology; general psychology, College of Arts and Sciences; Trevor Roberts, physics, College of Arts and Sciences; Avery Snyder, biology, College of Arts and Sciences; Ben Argo, aviation flight science, College of Aviation; Christian Knape, aviation flight science, College of Aviation; Peter Carpenter, music therapy, College of Fine Arts; Lauren Donahue, dance: BA program, College of Fine Arts; Cassandra Hartline, dance: BA

program, College of Fine Arts; Anna Mainero, dance: BA program, College of Fine Arts; Cassaundra Marshall, pre-sales and business marketing, Haworth College of Business

; Joel Fain, interdiscip health services, College of Health and Human Services; and Stephanie Shreve, nursing, College of Health and Human Services. Alto: Kelsey Haverkamp, psychology: behavioral science, College of Arts and Sciences; Rachel VanBeek, pre-psychology, College of Arts and Sciences; Spencer Plattner, aviation flight sci: option A, College of Aviation; and Sarah Clements, undecided: pre-

business, Haworth College of Business. Lowell: Elena McKendrick, pre-film, video and media stds, College of Arts and Sciences; Connor Smith, global and international studies, College of Arts and Sciences; Robert Nichols, aviation flight science, College of Aviation; Emilyn Dec, pre-English: secondary educ., College of Education and Human Development; Zachary Crawford, pre-ind. and entrepreneurial Eng., College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Jessica Graves, pre-chemical engineering, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Matthew Haan, pre-engineering mgmt. tech.,

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Nicholas Smith, music theatre performance: BFA, College of Fine Arts; Alexander Tobin, multimedia arts tech – music, College of Fine Arts; and William Athmann, finance, Haworth College of Business.

Western Michigan University has announced the graduation list for the 2014 fall semester.

The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors: Ada: Cheryll Elizabeth Fox, social work: Interpersonal practice, Master of Social Work; Marlene Kowalski-Braun, educational leadership: higher education, Doctor of Philosophy; and Brianna Rashell Wilson, exercise science, Bachelor of Science. Lowell: Joanna K Butler, vision rehabilitation therapy, Master of Arts.

Looking Back, continued

The Lowell Manufacturing Company is enjoying its greatest volume of business since the boom year of 1929, according to I. O. Altenburger, local manager. About 90 persons are employed steadily turning out compressed air sprayers and the company expects to continue at this rate until well into the summer. A mighty fine thing for the entire community.

The Ledger is in receipt of an attractive photograph of Miss Betty Freeman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Freeman of South Boston, a Lowell high school graduate of 1939 who is now attending a fashion school in Chicago. The picture shows Betty modeling a dress which she designed herself. Those who care to, may see the picture in the Ledger office window.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 11, 1965

Petitions are being circulated in Lowell and several residents have written to Secretary of State James Hare, objecting to the removal of the drivers' license bureau here. The request for a mobile unit for small cities of the county has been forwarded to Kent County Sheriff Arnold Pigorsh.

Sally K. Kwekel is this year's Belly Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow for Lowell High school. She scored highest here in a written homemaking examination taken December 1 by 552,704 senior girls in 14,236 of the nation's high schools. She is now eligible for state and national scholarship awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

Jerry Cohen, retired Army Sargeant and a veteran of 21 years of service, joined the Lowell Police Department Tuesday. Cohen is the brother of Mrs. Joe Goodwin, Bowes Road, Lowell.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 14, 1990

Headline: Electric goes down with pole in M-21/Alden Nash accident. Roughly 200 homes and businesses were without electricity for 1 ½ hours (5-7:30 p.m.) on Thursday (Feb. 8) following a one-car accident at the corner of M-21 and Alden Nash. The Kent County Sheriff Department's report stated that Daniel Joseph Barrett, 19, of Lowell, was eastbound on M-21 when he suffered an epileptic seizure, causing his vehicle to cross the road and enter a small dip in the boulevard. Upon leaving the low area, the car became airborne, striking the Harold Zeigler Ford sign and the power pole about ten-feet above ground before the vehicle came to a rest on Alden Nash.

With the heated summer of 1989 behind them, the City of Lowell and the YMCA came together on a one-year agreement on the usage of the parks, and the management and leasing of King Memorial Pool. The current lease on the pool expires in June. The City and the YMCA held meetings prior to the agreement so that discussions could make for a smoother transition. The two sides agreed that the lease on the pool would run from year-to-year due to the pool's age and not knowing its future condition. City manager Dave Pasquale added that the development of Stoney/Lakeside Park's beach area for public swimming was also a contributing reason for the year-to-year lease.

Wear your heart on your sleeve

February is the month when we celebrate love and friendship. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has also declared February as American Heart Month to bring awareness to the leading cause of death for both women and men in the United States: heart disease.

Just as the heart is vital to our emotional and physical well-being, Social Security disability benefits are often a vital lifeline for people who are

unable to work due to severe disabilities—whether heart-related or not.

Social Security pays benefits to covered people who can't work and whose medical condition meets the strict definition of disability under the Social Security Act. A person is considered disabled under this definition if he or she cannot work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted or is expected to last at least one year or result in death. The person's medical

condition must prevent him or her from doing work that he or she did in the past, and it must prevent the person from adjusting to other work based on their age, education, and experience.

If you are disabled, and think you are eligible to receive disability benefits, you will need to complete an application for Social Security benefits. It's easy to apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

We also invite you to

visit our *Faces and Facts of Disability* website to watch and read stories about people who have truly benefited from Social Security's disability program and to get the facts about this very important program.

Helping people is at the heart of what we do. You can learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts.

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

...

**“Management is doing things right;
leadership is doing the right things.”**

~ Peter F. Drucker

Financial Focus, continued

invested and how close you are to achieving your financial goals.

• *Creating a future income plan* — You and your spouse should discuss your sources of income and identify which ones are specifically tied to each spouse and may be affected by a death, such as pensions and Social Security

benefits. You'll also want to talk about options to boost future income upon the death of a spouse. Do you have adequate life insurance? Have you considered investments that can be structured to provide a lifetime income stream? Have you thought about having the higher-earning spouse delay taking Social

Security to maximize the survivor benefit for the surviving spouse? These are the types of questions you'll want to answer as you think about providing adequate income for the partner who outlives the other.

• *Leaving a legacy* — If you and your spouse haven't already done so,

take this opportunity to discuss your estate plans. For example, you may want to talk about the need to consult with a legal advisor to determine if you, as a couple, could benefit from setting up some type of trust arrangement. You should also discuss how, when the time comes, you want to handle any retirement assets, such as IRAs, that were titled in the deceased spouse's name. Do you both want the assets to immediately roll over to the surviving spouse, or should you name your children as beneficiaries? Estate considerations can be complex and involve many different aspects of your financial resources. So you and your spouse need to be “on the same page” with your desires and goals.

Valentine's Day will come and go quickly. But if you use the occasion to start having the types of discussions described above, you can create something that will last a lot longer than candy or flowers.

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LOWELL**

**THEME:
THE OSCARS**

ACROSS

1. They can sting
6. *Oscar winner Henry Fonda to Peter
9. ____ of operation
13. Traditional Inuit home
14. Site of 2016 Olympics
15. Unpleasant airport news
16. Beach souvenir
17. Australian runner
18. On or to one side
19. **"The Theory of Everything" physicist
21. *Filmed over a 12-year period
23. Take your pick
24. Wild guess
25. Bygone bird of New Zealand
28. Ogle or gape
30. School break
35. Great horned _____, pl.
37. Make-up artist?
39. Blind alternative
40. "I'm _____!"
41. Where vows are often exchanged
43. Type of track
44. Renaissance fiddle
46. Deity, in Sanskrit
47. A hair treatment
48. *Yearly Oscar winner for Best Film Editing
50. *Warren Beatty won for directing this flick
52. Yellow _____
53. "My bad"
55. Berg matter
57. Thorough
61. ***"The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance"
65. Evian, backwards

CROSSWORD														
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FEBRUARY 4 - 10

- Boston snow unimaginable! Six feet of snow in the last month and still counting.
- NBC news anchor Brian Williams takes a leave of absence after investigation regarding his past stories.
- Dean Smith, legendary North Carolina basketball coach, passes away at the age of 83.
- 94-year-old company, Radio Shack, filed for bankruptcy protection last week. The move will ensure 2,000 stores closing.
- United Arab Emirates launches powerful airstrikes from Jordan against ISIS.
- 37-year-old man, a comic book fan, chops off nose to look like Captain America villain Red Skull.
- Heinz Sriracha Ketchup is coming to America. Are you ready?



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66. In the past

68. Like a gymnast

69. Step

70. Create with cloth

71. _____ Easter's

marshmallow treat

72. Church bell sound

73. Unagi

74. *Academy Award winner, _____ Lubitsch

DOWN

1. _____ list
2. Turkish honorific
3. Boatload
4. "Roll Out the Barrel" dance
5. Putting on a new sole
6. Small amount of residue
7. Between "ready and "fire"
8. *Meryl Streep was nominated for this 2008 movie
9. Netting
10. Assortment
11. Carpenter's groove
12. Gave the once-over
15. A seat by day, a bed by night
20. African antelope
22. Argo propeller
24. Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, e.g.
25. *Alice actress
26. Had title to
27. Cover story
29. *Witherspoon stars in this hiker's story
31. Photoshop option
32. Bat dwelling?
33. Extra tire
34. *Famous march starting point
36. Leave in, as text
38. *Kind of film review
42. Forearm bones
45. *Nominee three years in a row
49. Decompose
51. Claw mark
54. _____ of the moon
56. Gardening tool
57. In or of the present month
58. Created in 1949 for security purposes
59. Obsolete phone feature
60. Bad to the bone
61. New Year's Day game
62. Bearing
63. *Setting for 1965's "The Sound of Music"
64. Hawk's aerie, e.g.
67. "____ whiz!"

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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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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FFA teams advance to regionals

On Wednesday, February 4, 38 FFA members from Lowell traveled to Caledonia to compete in the district leadership contest. The events are designed to help students develop leadership skills and prepare them for future careers. Students research chosen topics in any area of agriculture and demonstrate their knowledge through speeches and presentations. The contest's areas range from public speaking events to job interview and parliamentary procedure. Students from Lowell competed against students from five area schools, with the top two teams in each event advancing to compete at the regional level.

Lowell had members advance to the regional level in seven of the nine contests in which they competed. Finishing in first place in the Jr. High Conduct of Meetings contest, middle school members had to demonstrate knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Team members included Ashton Blum, Ella Dougherty, Kaitlyn Florian, Holden Guinn, Sierra Heintzelman, Ethan Kelley, and Haley Nieuwkoop.

Lowell also placed first in Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, a parliamentary procedure contest for first-year high school students. Team members included Bethany Blattner, Keana Fahrni, Autumn French, Casey French, Jenna Harper, Abigail Kastanek, Lizzie Kuhns, Avery Lupton, Keegan Mebert, Samuel Misak, Haley Nieuwkoop, Conner Nugent, and Lauren Snarski.

Emily Kropf advanced to the regional level with a first-place finish in the Greenhand Public Speaking contest with her speech on immigration. This contest for first-year high school members requires the students to research, write and present a speech on an agricultural topic. In the Agricultural Issues contest, members select a current issue facing agriculture and develop a skit to show the

pros and cons of the issue. The team of Maria Blough, Emma Clouser, Paul Crosby, Mary Leasure, and Richard Misak presented on urban chicken farming. They finished in first place and will also compete in the regional contests. In the Extemporaneous Speaking contest, Brad Depew was given 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech. He also will be moving on to the regional contests after finishing in first place. Kara Jefferies also competed in this contest for Lowell, finishing in third place and being named the alternate for the regional contests. In Creed Speaking, middle school or freshman members memorize and recite the FFA Creed and then answer questions on how the creed pertains to their life. Katie DeYoung finished in first place and also will compete at the regional contests. Taylor King finished in second place and advanced in the Job Interview contest after preparing a resume and cover letter and successfully going through a mock interview. Lexie Shaffer finished in fourth place. The remaining students were all recognized with either a gold or silver award at the competitions but failed to advance. In the Demonstration contest, the team of Nate Blattner and Mark Rasch were named alternates after a fourth-

place finish, while the team of Dante Smith and Brad Stoffers finished seventh. In the Prepared Public Speaking contest, Brianna Raspor and Kenneth VanOosten had to prepare a six to eight minute speech and answer questions about their topic.

The regional contest will be held on Wednesday, February 18 at Lowell High School. The top teams will

advance to compete at the State Convention March 11-13 at Michigan State University.

FFA is a national youth leadership organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Lowell FFA has over 70 members in grades 7-12.



Advancing in Agricultural Issues was the team, back row, left to right: Paul Crosby and Richard Misak; front row: Emma Clouser, Maria Blough and Mary Leasure.



The Greenhand Conduct of Meetings' team that advanced to regionals includes, front row: Lauren Snarski, Keana Fahrni and Autumn French; second row: Bethany Blattner, Abigail Kastanek and Jenna Harper; third row: Avery Lupton, Casey French and Richard Misak; back row: Lizzie Kuhns

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For more information go to:
www.laughfestgr.org/event/costaki-economopoulos
or www.laughfestgr.org

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~ John Maxwell

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

CITY OF LOWELL

COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

City of Lowell – Lowell, Michigan, County of Kent will hold a public hearing to consider potential projects for which funding may be applied under the CDBG Small Cities Program for Program Year 2015-2016.

Suggestions for potential projects will be solicited, both verbally and in writing, from all interested parties. The expected amount of CDBG funds for this year will be discussed along with the range of projects eligible under this program and a review of previously funded projects.

The hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2015 and will be held at the Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Further information can be obtained by contacting Lowell City Offices at 616-897-8457.

Susan Ullery
Deputy City Clerk