

**Daylight Saving Time begins**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 8 at 2:00am**



**Lhs sports**



**start on page 9**

**50 CENTS**



# Division II State Champs! Lowell wrestlers do it again

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

For the second consecutive year Lowell varsity wrestling plowed through the competition at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena to claim the Division II Wrestling State

Championship racking up impressive wins over Comstock Park, Gaylord and final round rival Eaton Rapids.

The Red Arrows started their run to the top in the

quarterfinals where they faced local West Michigan team Comstock Park (CP). The CP squad earned their way into the state tournament this year for the first time since 1976 on the

back of an undefeated 19-0 season. Their luck would not continue though as the Arrows dominated the mat earning 10-12 match victories, a huge 63-12 overall win and the right to move on to the semifinals.

Wins by pin were achieved by Lowell wrestlers Tyler Lynch (103), Austin McKechnie (112), Lucas Hall (119), Aaron Ward (125), Zeth Dean (130), Jordan Hall (135), Logan Blough (171), Josh Colegrove (215) and Logan Wilcox (285) for a total of nine. Wins by decision were logged by David Kruse (145), Dan Kruse (152) and Eli Boulton (160).

In the semifinals, held the following day, Lowell

grappled with Gaylord for their fourth consecutive opportunity to duke it out in the finals. Producing another resounding win the Arrows topped their competitor 50-19 logging six pins and winning 10 of their 14 bouts.

Pins were earned by L. Hall (119), J. Hall (135), Keigan Yuhus (152), Dan Kruse (160), Blough (171) and Wilcox (285). Ward (125) earned an 8-4 decision, Garrett Pratt (140) a 6-0 and Colegrove (215) maintained his undefeated season with a 9-5 win. Dean earned a commanding 18-0 win by technical fall.

**Wrestling champs, continued, page 9**



The team walks in the finals parade prior to their state title winning match over Eaton Rapids at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

# Lots of entertainment planned for upcoming March 28 Lowell Expo

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

It's almost time for this year's Lowell Expo.

"The details are still being fleshed out right now, but it's going to be exciting," said Josh Bruwer, general manager of Arrowhead Golf Course and one of the people putting the Expo together. "I think we have a good game plan in place to get folks out there."

The Expo, which will take place on March 28, is your chance to explore a ton of local businesses without having to drive all over town.

"The Expo is a great place where local businesses can come and talk to folks in the community about what they have to offer and

what they can bring [to] the table," Bruwer said. "Sometimes folks will just come to the Expo because it's something to do on a Saturday and they'll stumble upon a service that they're in need of. It's a great way for them to get some questions answered and if they've got a lot of things going on there's a lot of folks they can meet up with and talk to there. It's a great way to see a lot of local vendors all in one place. It's a way to get a lot done in a short period of time all in one place."

They're adding entertainment to the bill this year.

"This year we're going to have a lot of

entertainment," Bruwer said. "We always have a lot of great local acts, whether they're elementary kids, high school kids or folks in the community that have performed in the main gymnasium, but we're also opening up the Performing Arts Center for additional acts. We've had a lot of acts sign up. A lot of the groups that will be performing will be student-led groups, like a garage band situation."

As always, there will be a mix of old and new sponsors.

"Arctic Heating & Cooling has been a sponsor for years. They will be back,"

**Lowell Expo, continued, page 2**

# Poor turnout spells the end for DIY Night

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (LACC) held their second and final annual DIY Night last week after poor attendance and merchant participation called for the cancellation of the event.

Only four merchants participated in this year's hands-on learning night, each reporting that customer participation did not grow at this year's event. Springrove Variety provided basic instruction of knitting and crochet, Flat River Antique Emporium offered up creative framing tips, Flat River Cottage gave customers a chance to try Annie Sloan Chalk Paint and Journey's Time Antiques provided instruction on lamp repair.

According to LACC director Liz Baker the night did not take off for a variety of reasons, including weather, lack of affordable marketing and low merchant participation, "For whatever reason, it

just wasn't an event that got people excited."

While merchants may decide to continue to host similar events at their individual businesses, Baker said that the LACC cannot continue to organize the event because it only benefits a few of the city's many businesses.

"So we will concentrate on proven events like Girls' Night Out (GNO) and the largest retail event sponsored by the chamber, Christmas Through Lowell," said Baker.

This year's spring GNO is scheduled for April 16 and will feature a cowgirl theme. The fall event will take place October 15 and focus on the theme of pirates.

All merchants are welcome to contribute their ideas and opinions regarding downtown commerce at monthly meetings held the first Tuesday of every month at the LACC, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, beginning at 5:30 pm.



# along main street

## Lowell Expo, continued

Bruwer said. "Harding Enterprises are going to be our main sponsor this year as they were last year. Oak Meadow Tree Service is a new sponsor. We get a very high retention rate, so a lot of the folks that were there last year will also be here this year."

In addition to the live entertainment they're also planning to have a live game show that anybody can participate in.

"Last year what we did was, we had a game show session toward the end of the Expo," Bruwer said. "Something where folks who had been there all day had something [to] look for to cap off the experience. It went over really, really well. This year we thought it would be cool and exciting to mimic the game show 'Minute To Win It' where contestants come in and play various games and they have a minute to accomplish a goal. There are a variety of games. What we're envisioning is, the contestant goes up there, they have a minute, we'll

have the crowd, we'll have a big timer up there and then it counts down and folks can see how the contestant is progressing toward the prize. It's just a way to cap off a great day in an exciting manner."

Participants will be able to win various interesting prizes.

"Each of our sponsors are giving away a prize and they're really cool prizes," Bruwer said. "For example, Oak Meadow Tree Service is giving away a chainsaw, Greenridge Realty is giving away a 'Taste of Lowell' basket with a bunch of local goods in it. Arrowhead is giving away a golf membership. There are a lot of really, really cool prizes that contestants could win."

The Expo will take place at Lowell High School on Saturday, March 28 from 9 am until 3 pm.

"It's always an exciting time of year and we're looking forward to another great year," Bruwer said. "I think this is going to be the biggest and best Expo to date."

### COMMODITIES

Thurs., March 5, 9-11 am at FROM Food Pantry, 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell.

### COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

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

### GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

**LaughFest Clubhouse Tours & Open House** – Tues., March 10, 1-5 pm. Gilda's Club Lowell welcomes LaughFest visitors & guests to tour the Lowell clubhouse and learn more about our cancer and grief programs. **Movie Matinee** – Tues., March 10, 3-5 pm. Join your friends in Lowell for an afternoon movie! **Laughter Yoga** – Tues., March 10, 4 pm. Join Certified "Laughter Yoga" instructor, Angela Dykes, for this opportunity to laugh for the health of it! Laughter Yoga is a unique concept based on the principle of "acting happiness" – tell your body what to do and your mind will follow! Through a series of simple exercises and breathing techniques, Laughter Yoga will unlock the door of your heart and soul, releasing your "inner joy," thus re-acquainting you with the carefree, light-hearted spirit you once were. Pre-registration is required. Call the clubhouse at (616) 453-8300 or visit our website to sign up. **Woodcarving** – Tues., March 17, 3:15-4:15 pm. Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. **Chitchat Readers Book Club** – Tues., March 17, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join the Chitchat Readers Book Club group as they discuss a new book each month and spend time with members who love to read. Pick up a book to borrow at the parlor desk. **Spring Craft with Mary** – Tues., March 24, 4-5 pm. Please join Mary Shipley here at the Lowell Clubhouse for an afternoon of crafting! Mary will teach us a Spring craft for you to create and take home. All supplies are provided and no experience is necessary! Please register in advance. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

### SCHOLARSHIP

#### APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

General Local Scholarship Applications are available in the counseling office. To be fair to all students, applications will not be accepted after 3:30 pm on Friday, March 13. Don't forget to include two letters of recommendation, transcript and personal statement. For more information please call Lisa Nauta at 987-2913.

### A VICTORIAN LADY...

Special guest Wendy Batchelder will present "A Victorian Lady... From the Inside Out," a historical program about women's clothing from the Victorian Era, on Tues., March 17, at 2 pm at the Lowell Township Hall (2910 Alden Nash Rd.). Tea and refreshments will be served. Event sponsored by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Friends of the Englehardt Library. For adults.

### EUCHRE TOURNNEY FUNDRAISER

A Euchre Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 21 from 3 to 7 pm at the Lowell Moose Hall. Proceeds to go to the Offrink family. Participants must R.S.V.P. For more information call Cindy Clark, 616-302-3478 or Mary Ellen Ingersoll, 616-284-7453.

*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.*

## January police beat

Lowell police had a busy January. There were 24 arrests and 146 complaints in Lowell during the first month of 2015. Most of the

arrests were for outstanding warrants.

The police department also assisted the Kent County and Ionia County sheriff departments and the Michigan State police on another 29 incidents and they assisted the Forsyth, Ga. police in the recovery of a stolen gun. There were seven assaults and one dog complaint.

The Lowell Police Department made 103 traffic stops, wrote 18 tickets, let 94 drivers off with a warning and dealt with 12 car accidents.

## It's a Card Party For JOHN "JACK" FRIESNER

Jack is currently undergoing extensive rehab and I know he would love to hear from all his friends.

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## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE 2015 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS

The Grattan Township Board of Review will meet at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, Belding MI on:

Monday, March 09th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Thursday, March 12th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call (616) 691-8450 for appointment  
Frank Force, Supervisor  
Matt Frain, Assessor

## the lowell ledger

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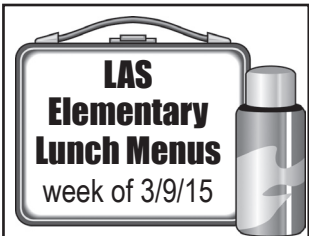
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**MONDAY:** Cheeseburger on a bun, seasoned corn; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mandarin oranges, apple.

**TUESDAY:** 1/2 day - no lunch

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

**THURSDAY:** Spaghetti w/ meatsauce, seasoned broccoli (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG breaded chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes & gravy (served at Bushnell); fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, peaches, grapes.

**FRIDAY:** Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, side salad; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, applesauce, juice.

# City council renews wastewater contract, airport agreement and establishes criteria for sidewalks

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell city council held their regular meeting at city hall on Monday, March 2.

Seventeen citizens attended the meeting. One of them, Perry Beachum, spoke during "public comment."



Prein & Newhof's Brian Vilmont was on hand to help the council deal with water treatment issues.



Wastewater treatment plant superintendent Mark Mundt spoke at length.



Perry Beachum thanked the Department of Public Works for keeping the ice skating rink clear all winter.

Beachum reminded the council about the LaughFest event that will take place at the Grand Volute Ballroom on Saturday, March 7. He also thanked the Department of Public Works and the lacrosse club for maintaining the ice skating rink.

The council spent over 45 minutes discussing the wastewater treatment plant and whether or not to renew the city's contract with United Water, the company that runs the plant. Brian Vilmont from Prein & Newhof, an engineering company based in Grand Rapids, presented information he received from the plants in several local communities and advised the council to continue contracting the work. The alternative would be for the city to hire its own staff to run the plant. Mark Mundt, the wastewater treatment plant superintendent, gave a passionate speech asking the council to renew the city's contract with United Water.

"The city gets a professional, compliant, award-winning operation that preserves the city's assets," Mundt said. "They get extra services beyond the day-to-day operation of the plant. They get a professionally-run operation that saves the city money and enhances city revenues."

The council voted 4 - 1 to have city manager Mark Howe negotiate a new contract with United Water.

The council approved a five year "fixed base operation agreement" between the Lowell City Airport and the company Williams Air Power. The airport and Williams Air Power already had such an agreement in place but it expired. The new agreement will expire in five years. A "fixed base operation agreement" is an agreement that allows a private company to handle services such as fueling, hangaring, flight instruction and other services at a public airport.

The council established "deficiency criteria" for how badly sidewalks have to be damaged before

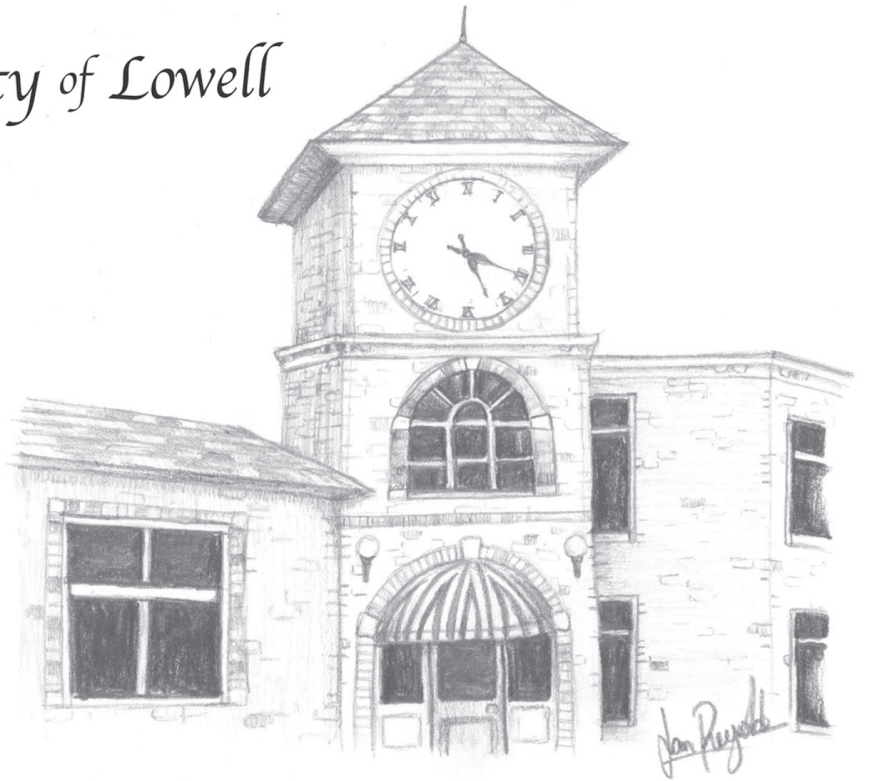
letters are sent to residents. Homeowners can expect to get a letter if there is a one inch or greater elevation between the sidewalk squares in front of their

home. They also passed a "block grant" resolution that will "reallocate funding [\$27,186] to a Donna Street improvement project." The project is described in

the resolution as "public pathway improvements."

The next city council meeting will be at city hall on Monday, March 16 at 7 pm.

City of Lowell



During the meeting Lowell Middle School student, Ivan Reynolds, revealed this artwork he drew for the city's new note cards.



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# Huge road repair project scheduled for this year

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

There will be a huge road repair project downtown later this year.

“We will resurface [the] asphalt [on] 2.3

miles of M-21, from Valley Vista Drive to the Kent/Ionia county line,” said John Richard, MDOT communications representative.

The project won't be cheap.

“Project cost is approximately \$1.5 million,” Richard said.

Look out for some

traffic delays through downtown.

“Traffic will be maintained using lane

closures,” Richard said.

Everything should be back to normal by the time next winter starts.

“This is scheduled for August through early October,” Richard said.

# business directory

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# Souper Thursday event raises funds for FROM

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The annual “Souper Thursday” competition was held on Feb. 19 at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

“We ask chamber members to participate by being a soup chef for the day,” said Liz Baker, chamber director. “It’s a friendly competition among members.”

About 60 people attended the event, which raised \$265 for Flat River Outreach Ministries.

“This year we had 17 soup chefs from different chamber member businesses,” Baker said. “Soups ranged from carrot,

vegetable bean, white chicken chili, to everyone’s favorite, cheesy turkey potato soup.”

It was a competition with judges and prizes.

The judges were Ella St. Germaine from Ella’s Coffee & Cuisine and Rob Leonard from the Flat River Grill. Two prizes were awarded. “Judges’ choice” won a traveling plaque and \$25 “Shop Lowell” gift certificates. “Members’ choice” won \$20 in “Shop Lowell” gift certificates. Ella’s also gave each of the winners \$10 in gift certificates to be used at Ella’s.

The same soup chef won both the “Judges’ choice” and “Members’ choice” awards.

“Our winner in both categories was Brian VanderMeulen of United Water,” Baker said.

Baker added “bragging rights” were the biggest prize.

“This is what we call a fun event for members to network, socialize and compete,” Baker said. “We hold it in the colder months. In years past it was in January, but this year it was February due to the chamber’s busy schedule.”

# KCTC announces February Students of the Month

Lowell High School is pleased to announce that two Lowell High School students have been named Student of the Month at Kent Career Technical Center. Kenneth Vanderwarf, 11th grade, is enrolled in the Diesel and Equipment Tech program; and Jared Wilson, 11th grade is enrolled in the Graphic Communications program.



Jared Wilson



Kenneth Vanderwarf


...

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~ Mickey Rooney (1920 - )

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### be a good example

To The Editor:

In the past years as my faith has grown stronger, so has my doubt. As a result I appreciate the frustrations some feel toward our community leaders. For most, however, I do believe their hours [spent] away from personal entertainments and family are motivated by public service and not personal gain.

Errors in process and differences of opinions are to be expected, but so is courtesy. Loud public

anger, name calling and personal attacks diminish your positions and harm those whom you are trying to benefit. Thoughtful, chronological statements of facts and law forward your positions far better than bullying.

It is hard, thankless work trying to accomplish benefits for our city and community, which is so blessed. Let us strive to be the example we want to be for our children and neighbors. I am awake.

Jack Misner

### semantics

Dear Editor:

Words are interesting and powerful. For instance, the word "stooge." Most of us think of the three stooges of comedy. Actually the

word "stooge" as defined by the Oxford dictionary is: stooge {stooj} NOUN – a person who serves merely to support or assist others, particularly in doing

unpleasant work: "you fell for that helpless-female act and let her make you a stooge."

synonyms: underling, minion, lackey, subordinate, henchman, puppet

Interesting and powerful.

Now think about the fact that a person who lies is a liar, a person who steals is a thief, a person who threatens and coerces using perceived power is a bully. Interesting and powerful. Think about it. Thank you.

Marrie Gordon

speaking on their behalf and we think he's doing a good job of representing our interests in the face of the

three bullies who no longer represent the citizens.

Jan J. Bieri

### teach the bullies

To The Editor,

On Friday, February 27th, the Cherry Creek Connection was sent out to the families of the students. In it the principal detailed the Peace Shield/6 strategies to solve conflicts and respond to disrespectful behaviors that is being taught in the classrooms. (The full text of the Peace Shield/6 strategies is located at the end of this letter.)

This Peace Shield/6 strategies is basically the perfect guideline for how to be an abuser/bully and get away with it. These guidelines suggest that the person being abused should have correctly followed these six strategies in a particular order to avoid being in an abusive situation.

The guidelines provided by The Peace Shield is indoctrinating our grade-school children into the world of victim-blaming by suggesting a particular mind-set for abusers: "I can keep being an abuser and attacking you because you haven't used the right combination of words, rules, etc. to make me stop." These guidelines suggest that the abuse would not continue if the person being abused had used the correct funny phrase, told the right person, hadn't been at that place at that time, or if he or she had said "NO" loud enough.

Ending these rules with telling the abused and bullied students to 'not be mean or physical' in response is akin to telling them to 'turn the other cheek' and not defend themselves against physical attacks. The rules suggest that when a bully hits, kicks, pinches or pushes, the child receiving the abuse should make a joke or tell themselves that they are 'cool' while the abuser continues to bruise them. I do not believe an all-out brawl should happen, but any person should have the right and the okay to defend him or herself from physical attack.

I take exception to victim-blaming teaching,

not only because I am a decent human being, but because my son has been verbally and physically abused for the two years he has been attending Cherry Creek Elementary. He has been called names, cursed at, told the things he likes are stupid and that he is stupid for liking them and had his glasses knocked off and stomped on. In each instance he has told cafeteria and playground workers as well as his teachers. He was told to stay away from the student. The student would just search out my son in the hallways, cafeteria and playground. It wasn't until an adult actually witnessed an act of physical abuse, the student grabbing my son and kneeling him in the groin, that any punishment was issued to the student. However, the student is still in my son's classroom and they were both told to avoid each other.

It disturbs, upsets and sickens me that we are teaching our children how not to be abused instead of teaching them not to be abusers. They should be taught respect for each other, respect for different looks, likes, ideas, beliefs, colors, scents, etc. Crimes perpetrated against another, be it rape, domestic violence, assault, robbery or arson has bullying at its core.

I realize that risk reduction is a strategy employed in lots of arenas, but it does not stop the abuse. Encourage students, employees, etc. to come forward with their complaints and let them know that abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

Teach the children to not bully and to respect others. The world will be a better place.

Here are the 6 strategies from the Peace Shield:

1. Go for HELP. Adults need to be involved if bullying is persistent or if a conflict becomes physically aggressive.

To The Editor, continued, page 8

### it's in the numbers

To The Editor:

It seems that three of the five councilmembers like to align with the city manger to spin the facts to their own benefit. I have found some numbers that pretty much speak for themselves:

Election of 2013—Total voters, 698: Jeff Altoft, 476; Jim Hall, 316; Jim Hodges, 322; Matt Mayer, 242.

Lest they still try to spin these facts, let me elaborate. Remember Matt Mayer was a write-in candidate who received a huge percentage of write-in votes and who is now one of the two minority

councilmembers that the other three are blackballing. He was appointed by these very councilmembers last year to take the place of Chris Schwab who stepped down and he was then voted in by the citizens at the last election.

Looking back at these numbers, notice that Jeff Altoft, who they are trying to say is running his own agenda, actually received the number of the votes far above the others. He was voted in by a vast majority of the voters who want him

last week Monday night. David Flanagan gave a fine recitation and D. O. Shear sang a Scotch song, after which they listened to a fine selection of music on the Victrola.

Don't take chances but buy an Overland, the car that will bring its load home. R. D. Stocking, Agent.

Dr. Huntley has moved his office to the rooms over the Avery photo studio, the former Rhodes gallery.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 7, 1940

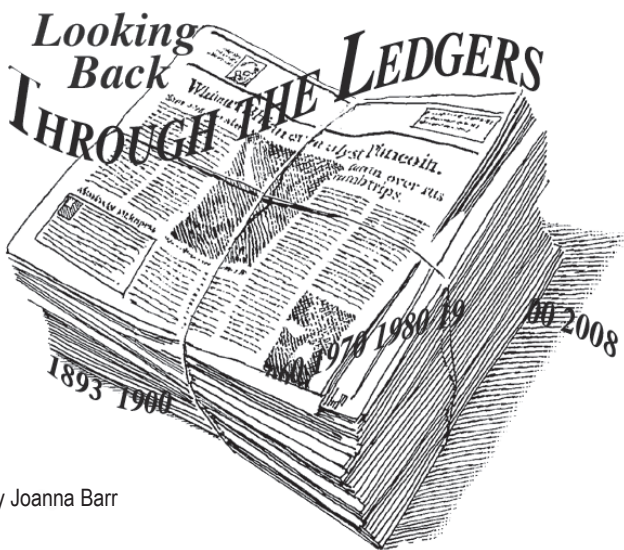
Headline: Lowell exchange base rate area to be enlarged - Bell Telephone Co. adds another section to Urban Lines. Announcement was made today by the Michigan Bell Telephone Company that the Public Service Commission has approved its petition to enlarge the Lowell telephone base rate area by adding a section south of the city that has become urban in character. The result will be to eliminate mileage charges for four urban line customers in the district and to make it possible for 18 rural line customers to take urban line service without mileage charges.

The common council last Monday evening rejected the application of Theron Richmond for a license to sell hard liquors by the glass. The council's rejection was by unanimous vote.

### 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 4, 1965

The snow storm of last Thursday, which closed all the schools and kept many Lowell area citizens home from work, had nearly disappeared by Wednesday, with temperatures in the 40's. Drizzling rains on Wednesday morning, helped melt away the remainder of the 6 inches of snow.

Women's Week—a week set aside to pay tribute to the women in business and the professions, and the



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal March 5, 1890

March came in like a lion and is holding its grip pretty well.

About twenty members of Lowell Lodge No. 90 F. & A. M. go to Lake Odessa, to-day, to institute a Lodge there.

Rev. J. T. Hustad is suffering from quite a severe attack of the grippe, and was unable to attend the Board of Education meeting Saturday night or fill his pulpit Sunday. — Telegram-Herald.

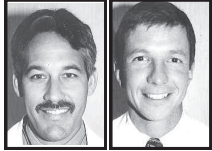
Caledonia people are intoxicated with the excitement of that fascinating game "Snap and Catch'em."

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 4, 1915

March came in like a lamb. Will she go out like a lion?

The Ladies of the Relief Corps held a Washington's birthday party at the home of Mrs. David Flanagan

# health



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

## chronic daily headaches

Most people have headaches at some point in their lives. A chronic daily headache is a headache that lasts a long time, usually at least 15 days each month or more for three months or more. Chronic daily headaches are more common in whites and women. Other risk factors are obesity, taking too much medicine, stress, snoring, drinking too much caffeine and other causes of chronic pain.

Chronic daily headaches are usually not life-threatening. Sometimes they are caused by pressure or bleeding in the brain, but this is rare. Your doctor will order tests if he or she thinks there may have been an infection or problems in the bone, muscle or tissue. Usually tests are not needed to find out the type of headache.

Headaches often last longer when people take too much medicine to treat them. This can happen with over-the-counter medicine, such as acetaminophen or with prescription medicine. Your doctor may suggest taking less medicine, stopping a medicine completely or trying a medicine that keeps the headaches from coming back. This may include taking medicines such as antidepressants, anticonvulsants or muscle relaxants. Other treatments include cognitive behavior therapy, relaxation techniques, and acupuncture. It is rare that any single medicine or therapy will completely stop chronic daily headaches. Often a combination of therapies and medicines are needed and this can vary from person to person.

# Murray Lake Staff member of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary para educator Kris Rickert was named Staff Member of the Month for the month of January. "Kris is a dedicated, hardworking and loyal employee," said fellow Murray Lake employee Julie Simmons. "She's willing to help in any area at any time and she truly cares. She is just a great person and we are very lucky to have her at Murray Lake," adds Simmons.

Rickert spent a few years as a lunch time para educator, but has worked with a visually impaired student for the past couple of years. She is currently enrolled in her second braille class through Hadley School for the Blind.

Rickert and husband Jay (owner of Rickert Electric) have two boys: Steven, a sixth grader at Lowell Middle School and Jack, a fourth grader at Murray Lake.

"I love working at Murray Lake because of the friendly staff and students. The opportunity to help and see a student's smiling face is truly heartwarming," says Rickert.

When she is not working or volunteering at Murray Lake, Rickert enjoys reading, camping and spending time with family and friends.



Rickert, pictured with Murray Lake student Joey Rapelje.

## college news

Davenport University has announced that several local students officially completed degrees in business, technology or health professions at the end of the fall 2014 semester. Davenport will host a commencement ceremony on April 26, 2015, where nearly 1,200 students will participate in graduation ceremonies in downtown Grand Rapids. The following are local students: Donald Aversano,

of Alto; Kevin Brechbiel, Brian Langlois, and Ryan Malcolm, all of Lowell.

Katie Jo Jousma, of Lowell, has received her Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude, from Bradley University during commencement ceremonies on December 20, 2014. To achieve cum laude honors, a student must achieve a 3.4 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale.



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# LHS to present the Broadway musical "Hairspray"

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell High School will present the musical "Hairspray" in a couple weeks.

"Hairspray" is the story of Tracy Turnblad, a young lady who attempts to integrate the fictional "Corny Collins Show," an "American Bandstand" style TV show in 1962 Baltimore. The musical is based on a 1988 movie that was written and directed by John Waters.

"Hairspray" is a really big, important, fun musical the kids are super excited about doing," said Heidi Kolp, the musical's director and an English teacher at Lowell High. "Everybody loved that movie so much that they took it and made it into a musical. It's not the same music as what was in the movie. They wrote a score for it and did a lot of things to try and pay homage to the movie. It's very well done. I really like it. It's a really popular show. We've done a lot of real traditional shows the last few years and thought it was nice to do

something a little bit more modern. It's a much more modern musical [than] some of the ones that we've done lately."

The main idea behind the story is "social justice" and creating positive change in the world.

"One of the cool things about it is that it talks a lot about social justice issues and the whole idea of civil rights," Kolp said. "It's set in 1962 so it's a good time period to talk about what was going on. Not only just race, but identity in general. One of the songs in the show is 'I Know Where I've Been' and it talks a lot about knowing where you've been in terms of social issues, but then also looking forward to where we're going to go because of this. It's about growing up and becoming who you want to be. It doesn't matter what gets in your way, if you really want something and you want to make the world a better place you just have to figure out how to do it. What can you do as a person

to make the world the place you would like it to be. People should come see the show because it is a very fun show. Everything I've talked about so far sounds pretty heavy, but the whole point is that you can make a change, you can make a difference and you can have fun doing it."

The production has reached out to the community for their involvement.

"We've partnered with our student council and we've tried to involve a couple different community members to try to open up a greater dialogue and make a point about social justice and about people working together toward solutions to problems," Kolp said. "What we have done with the community members is, we have interviewed them and we're going to show them on a video that we will play before the show starts every day, an informational video about where we've been and what we're going to do, what we can do about

moving forward in terms of race and relationships and social justice."

There will also be an art competition during the show's run.

"LHS student council is doing an 'LHS Cares Art Prize' competition," Kolp said. "There will be an art prize competition during the intermission and before the musical that goes along with the same themes so that we can celebrate all of the artists here at the school. The competition will take place the whole run of the show."

Kolp said the show will be challenging for the kids, but she said they're up to the challenge.

"It is full of songs and dances, you won't even be able to believe the number of dances that we've got these kids doing," Kolp said. "It blows my mind that they are memorizing lines and dancing and singing at the same time. We've never done a show that is this intense in terms of song and dance, and the physical

demands of being able to do the show are crazy. It's very colorful and very, very fast-paced."

"Hairspray" has a huge cast, plus a lot of behind-the-scenes workers.

"We have 60 kids in the cast this year and another 30 either in the pit or on crew," Kolp said. "That's the largest cast I've ever worked with and they sound the best I've ever heard. The chorus is amazing. They are so strong and so talented. It was a very, very hard process casting the show, picking who was in it and who wasn't. So many of them could have played so many parts. They are just a really talented, amazing group of people."

Most of the cast members are seniors.

"This year our lead character, Tracy Turnblad, is played by sophomore Tiana Petrececic and I am so proud of how mature and talented she is," Kolp said. "Many of our seniors have truly earned their roles. Tim Bem shines as heartthrob Link Larkin,

Anna Reynolds is hilarious as plus-size housewife Edna Turnblad and John Bigham channels Ryan Seacrest as Corny Collins. Victoria Russell as Velma VonTussle and Hannah Briggs as Amber VonTussle are the most beautiful and cut-throat villains ever. Senior Jaylene Milton's vocals will blow you away as she plays Queen Latifah's [movie] role of Motormouth Maybelle. Junior Keara Anderson is the comic relief as Penny Pingleton."

The kids will perform the show over two weekends in March.

"There are five shows," Kolp said. "We open on Friday, March 13. There are performances on the 13th, 14th and 20th. All of those shows are at 7 pm. On Sunday the 15th we have a matinee at 2 pm."

Tickets are available online now at [seatyourself.biz/lowellhs](http://seatyourself.biz/lowellhs) for \$8 or at the door for \$10.

"Come and support our kids. They're amazing," Kolp said.

## LHS Cares Art Prize an extension of Be Nice Week

Lowell High School student council and members of the upcoming musical production of "Hairspray" have collaborated to create a brand new event, "LHS Cares Art Prize," which will serve as an extension of their annual "Be Nice Week."

The event, which kicks off next Monday, March 9, invites students to submit artistic 2D, 3D and written works created around the theme LHS Cares.

The theme is fitting of the focus of Be Nice Week as well as the musical which discusses social issues such as kindness and equality. Students were asked to match that theme in their art by discussing or

portraying topics such as positivity, friendship, anti-bullying, civil rights and social justice.

In true "ArtPrize" fashion the works will be voted on by both a panel of staff and student judges, as well as the community by popular vote. Judges will base their decisions on use of theme, originality and overall appearance.

The public will have the opportunity to view the collection and cast their votes during the school's musical performances of "Hairspray" which are scheduled for March 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7 pm and March 15 at 2 pm.

•••

How little a thing can make us happy when we feel that we have earned it.

~ Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

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## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

### NOTICE OF MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

**MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015 - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING At 9:00 am.**

The March board of review of Vergennes Township Will meet at the Vergennes Township Hall to hear appeals on:

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015**  
Hours from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015**  
Hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

You may appeal assessed valuation one of two ways:

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

OR

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

**\*MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO MARCH 6, 2015**

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

# On Display

LowellArts! has announced the opening of the 29th annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition. The exhibit features artwork highlight by 103 Lower West Michigan artists. Artwork will be on display in the LowellArts! King Gallery through April 15.

Approximately 300 pieces were entered into the competition and all visual art media was accepted. To be eligible for the competition, artists must have been 18 yrs. and older and reside in the 15-county region, including Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Cass, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Mecosta, Muskegon, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, Saint Joseph, and Van Buren. Artwork must have been completed within the past two years and not have previously been exhibited at LowellArts!

This year's competition was juried by Jon McDonald, accomplished painter and professor at Kendall

College of Art and Design at Ferris State University, who also selected award winners. A total of \$2,000 in cash prizes were awarded to first through fifth place and six honorable mentions were selected.

#### Award winners include:

1st place - Larry Blovits, *Trickle Down Effect*, pastel, Grand Rapids; 2nd place - Jason Quigno, *Stone Coil*, limestone, Jenison; 3rd place - David Kuecherer, *Working the Edge*, acrylic, Rockford; 4th place - Richard Deming Jr., *Streetwise*, photography, Grand Rapids; and 5th place - Sean Lancaster, *Homeless; not Hopeless*, photography, Grand Rapids.

#### Honorable Mentions:

Jan Lucking, *Time Will Tell the Story*, pastel pencil & acrylic, Kalamazoo; Judi Luptak, *Gjallerhorn*, photography, Whitehall; Robert Miller, *Dancer*, mixed media, Ada; Robert Miller, *Bye Gone Days*,

mixed media, Ada; Jeanne Rockett, *Morning Has Broken*, acrylic, Lowell; and Ronald Zawistowski, *Untitled*, welded steel, Grand Rapids.

The King Gallery is located at 149 S. Hudson St, Lowell, MI 49331. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 1-4pm.

The public is invited to a meet-the-artists reception and presentation of awards on March 19 from 5-8 pm. The event is part of a Downtown Lowell Gallery Hop where other galleries on nearby Main Street will be open with special evening hours, including Flat River Cottage & Night Forest Jewelry, Chimera Design, Toadworks, and Flat River Gallery and Framing. Area restaurants will also participate by offering special one-night-only discounts for event-goers.



Jeanne Rockett's acrylic work, *Morning Has Broken*, received an honorable mention at the 29th annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition.

## To The Editor, continued

2. Be ASSERTIVE. Say "stop it" in a loud voice if you are being disrespected.

3. Use HUMOR. Sometimes, changing the mood with a joke or game stops a problem.

4. AVOID students and situations that may be a problem.

5. SELF-TALK: Don't believe mean comments. Tell yourself how cool you are and that you don't deserve to be disrespected!

6. OWN IT. Like humor, 'agreeing' with a comment can surprise and change a situation. Example: "You're right, this shirt's ugly, but my mom made me wear it."

We challenge our students to try these peaceful ways to solve problems, instead of being mean or physical.

Thank you for your time,

Nicole Williams  
Lowell

### history repeats

Dear Editor:

Back in 2007, the citizens of Lowell were fighting to save what is known as the "Boy Scout property." For some time, the city council had been quietly moving toward developing that land despite passionate public outcry.

Clearly, the mayor and mayor pro tem at the time had to be removed from office to save our precious resource. Sharon Ellison and Jeff Altoft were voted in, mayor Charles Myers and mayor pro tem Alan Mathews were voted out. After the dramatic election, Sharon was quoted in the Press: "Ellison said the

vote is a sign that 'People have just had it. I think the voters agreed it is time for a change and they're ready for different ideas and people who are willing to listen,' she said."

Here we are, eight years later with history repeating itself. Mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison and councilman Jim Hall are up for re-election this year. We'll see if the voters agree it is time for a change.

I think it's plain to see that again, "People have just had it." It was chilling to hear Sharon laughing at the February 17th city council meeting as she recounted a citizen who attended the

February "Coffee with the Council" gathering. This citizen asked why the city manager was still employed by Lowell and not in jail. Sharon found this funny?

So on it goes with three members of the present council and city manager. Let me leave you with a couple fun facts about Mark Howe that some folks are surprised by. Not only does he not live in the city of Lowell, he doesn't even live in Kent County. He makes his home in Boston Township, Ionia County.

### what's the urgency?

To The Editor:

The Downtown Development Authority [DDA] has spent on one project after another for better than twenty years. Now it plans to build a new parking lot this year while some of their roads are still twice the age of replacement.

At the February 17 council meeting they showed a map of proposed roads to be done this year and they were in the DDA area. The general fund has around \$200,000 allocated for street renovation this year and it shouldn't be used in the DDA's jurisdiction.

Our union busting city manager's wife is a Saranac teacher and a member of the Michigan Education Association, commonly called the Teacher's Union.

There isn't a chance in the world Lowell is going to be able to move forward without a change in city leadership. As Sharon said, we are ready for different people, different ideas and people who are willing to listen.

Gail Roderick  
Lowell

parking lot on the north side of the police station across from the library is seldom utilized. I'm not questioning the future need of a new parking lot, I'm questioning the urgency. A proposed new business has yet to show that urgency.

Now I would like to take a moment and talk about

### work session transparency

To The Editor:

Did I hear councilmember Ellison correctly? Did she really claim that "work sessions" are the place for the councilmembers to "discuss" topics of importance to the city? Does that mean she really believes the council meetings are only for voting on topics of the city manager's choosing and according to his recommendations with no discussion open to the public? Yes, the work sessions are open but there is never any agenda available; the public has no idea of the topic for discussion; the meetings are not recorded nor usually even reported on by the paper and even fewer people attend these sessions than the council meetings.

I have noticed that there have been numerous

the city's administration. The city council and city manager are public servants and are accountable to the public. Not until they stand accountable to allegations of wrong doing, will a word or judgment from them have any meaning.

Jim Howard  
Lowell

"work sessions" recently. Is this really encouraging the people to come to council meetings as councilmember Ellison has often said is her desire? Why would anyone attend a meeting where there is no discussion or even reasons given for votes being made the way they are? Is this really openness and transparency in government?

No wonder councilmembers Altoft and Mayer are not allowed to put items on the agenda for discussion. Obviously the city manager and the three other councilmembers don't want the public to know what is discussed and certainly don't want any community input. Lots to think about.

Peggy Covert  
Lowell



# Red Arrow **SPORTS**

## Wrestling champs, continued

Lowell faced Eaton Rapids in the state finals. This is the first time in four years that Lowell has not faced powerhouse St. Johns at this level. St. Johns lost their berth to the state finals against Eaton in the regional finals with a 34-27 loss making them a seemingly formidable foe for the Arrows.

Lowell started out strong taking an early 15-0 lead after L. Hall (119) earned a pin in just 14 seconds, Ward (125) tallied up a 6-4 decision and Dean (130) pinned at 1:38.

J. Hall (140) was the next Arrow to log a win by pin as Eaton Rapids began to rally earning wins over

Pratt, Boulton and Dan and David Kruse.

Freshman George Gonzales put a stop to Eatons' momentum at 171 pounds when he earned a 7-5 decision over his junior opponent to give Lowell the lead 24-13.

After a one-point loss by decision for Blough at 189, undefeated and number one ranked Colegrove pinned his competitor in 39 seconds giving the Arrows a 30-16 lead heading into the 285 bout where Wilcox mathematically sealed the win for Lowell with a 5-1 decision.

Lowell earned two more wins before the night was over with Sam Russell logging a 13-3 major decision and Kyle Washburn an 8-7 decision leading to a final winning score of 40-16 for the historically and currently successful grapplers. With the state title firmly under their belts it is clear that this so called "transitional year" has gone extremely well and that the culture of sacrifice and dedication continues.



Aaron Ward (125) earned a 6-4 decision in the finals over Eaton Rapids competitor Austin Eldred.



Number one ranked Zeth Dean (130) pinned opponent Eric Anderson at 1:38 in the finals against Eaton Rapids.

Logan Wilcox (285) mathematically sealed the Red Arrow win with a 5-1 decision over Eaton's Triston Warner.



Coach RJ Boudro accepts the MHSAA Division II Wrestling State Champion trophy.



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[www.laughfestgr.org/event/costaki-economopoulos](http://www.laughfestgr.org/event/costaki-economopoulos)  
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# Red Arrow SPORTS

- BASKETBALL

## Girls split the week of competition, celebrate senior night

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

A 52-27 loss to Caledonia and a down to the wire 58-55 victory over Forest Hills Central were the results of the Lowell varsity girls basketball team's OK conference match-ups last week.

On the road on Tuesday Lowell was outworked both defensively and offensively by rival Caledonia in a devastating 52-27 loss.

The Scots' Alexis Bush led nine Caledonia scorers with 14 points in the dominating performance which all but shut down the Arrows top scorers

Katie Holzhueter and Kate Montgomery in the second half of play.

Lowell trailed by five after the first and second periods of play which ended 11-7 and 23-17, respectively. Holzhueter landed two successful three-point baskets to tie the score at 23 early in the third, but her effort was followed by a 15-0 tear from Caledonia that lasted the rest of the quarter.

After shooting only 33 percent from the line on Tuesday, ironically it was successful free throws that propelled the Arrows to their 58-55 at home win

over FHC on Friday.

Senior Night began with a special ceremony honoring the five seniors who will be leaving the team as they graduate this spring. Holzhueter, Montgomery, Coxon, Tara McQueen and Catherine Stump were called to the middle of the gymnasium floor along with their parents as the crowd, team and coaches celebrated their contributions to the Lowell basketball program.

Lowell started out strong after the ceremony earning 13 points to FHC's four in the first to grab the early game lead. Both squads put up 15 points in a hard fought second, which kept the Arrows on top 28-19 at the half.

FHC rallied in the third to outscore Lowell 17-13 and slice their deficit down to five and the period ended 41-36. In the final stanza of the game with the victory still up in the air, Lowell's Montgomery stood firm under the pressure at the free throw line going 5-8 in the fourth quarter and securing the 58-55 win for Lowell.

The seniors combined for 35 points, an outstanding offensive effort for their final regular season game at home. Montgomery earned 17, Coxon six, McQueen five, Stump four and Holzhueter three.

Garter led all scorers with 19 and juniors Ally Frederickson and Bailey Reitsma chipped in one and three respectively.

Defensively the Arrows were led by Holzhueter who picked up seven rebounds and Montgomery who matched that and added three steals.



**Kate Montgomery went 7-10 from the free throw line overall and 5-8 in the fourth to secure the Arrow's victory over FHC.**



**Katie Holzhueter breaks through a crowd of FHC defenders during the team's last regular season game.**

**The Arrows (12-8, 4-6) will host Cedar Springs this week in the first round of district competition and hit the road Wednesday and Friday for FHC should they advance.**

### GYMNASTICS

## Lowell gymnasts host annual Dawn Fisher Meet

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics squared off against the combined team of Kenowa Hills/Grandville/West Catholic last Saturday when they hosted their annual Dawn Fisher meet which honors the former Lowell bus driver and avid gymnastics' supporter who passed away in 2008.

Fisher, whose daughter Skye was a former member of the Lowell gymnastics team, was a great supporter of the program cheering

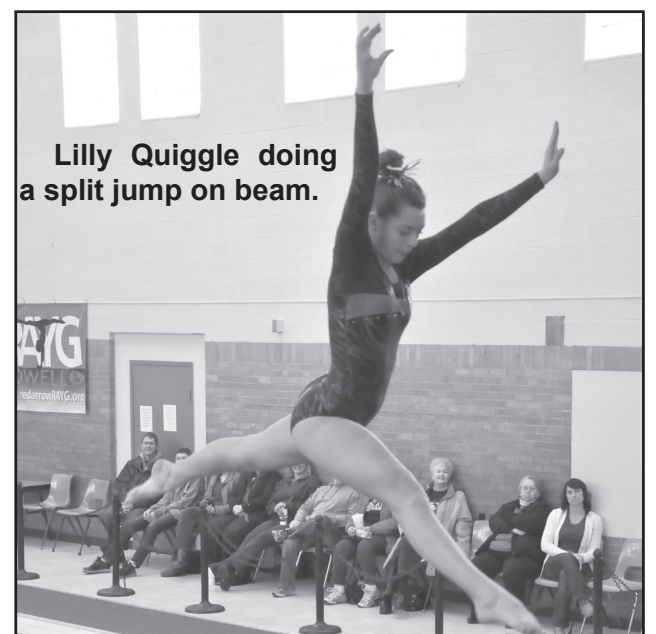


**Colleen Cater starting her routine with a kip.**

from the sidelines no matter the meet results.

"Every year, we honor Dawn and remember how she unconditionally supported Lowell gymnastics," said Lowell head coach Michele DeHaan. "When her daughter was on the team, we never qualified for regionals; we would barely score 100 for a team score, but Dawn was always there cheering all the girls on. I

Gymnastics,  
continued, page 16



**Lilly Quiggle doing a split jump on beam.**

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Arrows dominate Caledonia, leave FHC undefeated

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity boys basketball earned a commanding 69-45 win over Caledonia and fell to undefeated Forest Hills Central (FHC) 60-41 in a busy week of at-home OK White conference action.

Sophomore Matt Beachler earned 21 points to lead the Lowell team to victory Tuesday against Caledonia. Lowell outscored their opponent in every quarter of the game,

holding a five-point lead after the first and an eight-point lead at the half which ended 29-21.

“Beachler really got going in the third quarter with his offense and defense, and Ryan Stevens did a great job dictating the pace of the game,” said Lowell coach Kyle Carhart.

Caledonia put up 14 points in the final period, but their effort was not enough to put the stop on the Arrows whose domination continued until the buzzer when they earned their 69-45 victory.

Stevens was the game’s second-best offensive player earning 12 points for the squad. Mitchell Davis and Gabe Steed each contributed eight points. Alex Anschutz, Josh Branagan and Joe Giesan also contributed to the game-winning points total.

Friday Lowell faced undefeated FHC who completed their perfect season with a 60-41 win over the Arrows on “Senior Night.”

The team’s lone senior Josh Branagan was honored, alongside his parents, for his dedication to the sport and his many contributions to the team.

“The program will miss Josh’s toughness and

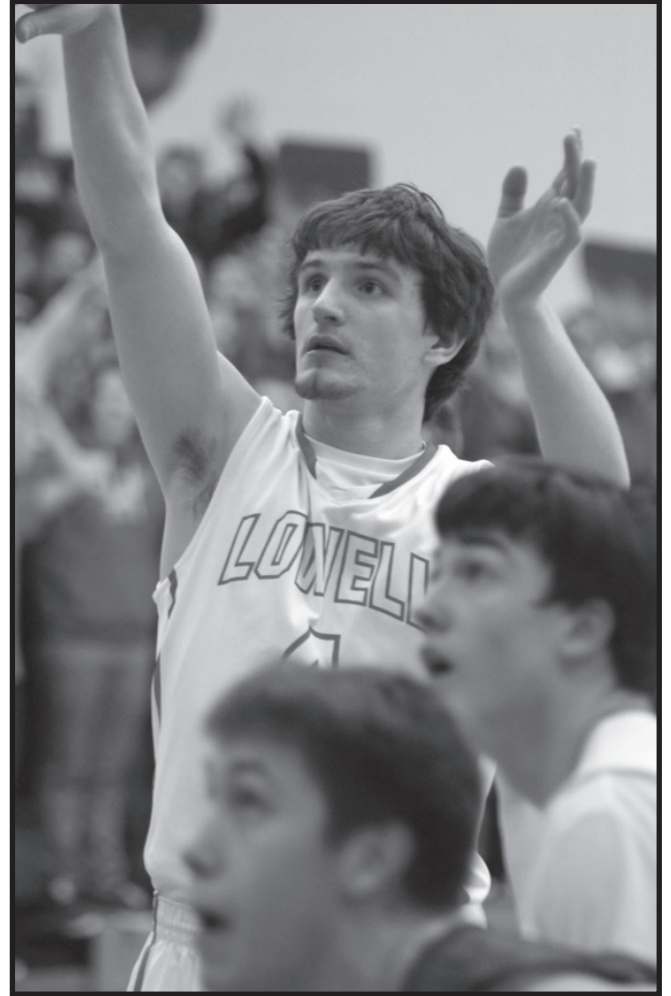
consistent effort. He plays extremely hard everyday and that has set a great example for our younger players on what it takes to be a varsity basketball player,” said Carhart.

Following the ceremony FHC took charge early on the court putting up 18 points in the first, 12 of which were earned by Alex Dykema, to claim an 18-10 lead at the first buzzer. The second period mirrored the first as the two teams put up 18-10 again to give FHC a 36-20 lead at the half.

Stevens led scoring for the Arrows earning thirteen points followed by Beachler who came in with eleven, Steed who chipped in five and Anschutz who put up four. Marcus Malling, J. Branagan, Geisan and Davis were the night’s other scorers.

“We were very pleased with our effort in both the Caledonia and FHC games,” said Carhart. “If we can consistently play with that energy in these next two weeks, we will be able to compete with anyone we may face.”

The team will face Cedar Springs High School in the first level of district competition on March 9 at Greenville High School and will have to be at their best



Senior Josh Branagan, at the line, was honored during the “Senior Night” ceremony for his dedication and service to the team.

to advance. According to Carhart, “We will have to play very well to beat Cedar Springs. They are a good veteran group with one of the best players in the area in Brad Brechting. Having to play in their gym will only make it tougher to be successful.”

**The Arrows (12-6, 6-3) will wrap up their regular season this week when they face both East Grand Rapids and Ionia on the road.**

### BOWLING

## Boys place third at regionals

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity bowlers continued to see success this past weekend when they competed in the team and individual regional tournaments at Sherman Lanes in Muskegon.

In boys action, Lowell put up a total team score of 3,702 which was enough to earn them a third-place finish and a bid to the MHSAA state finals.

“I’m really proud of all eight of our players,” Lowell coach Chris Clark said. “They really bowled together and supported each other.”

The team came in behind second-place finisher Cedar Springs by 133 pins. Top finisher Wyoming earned 3,848 pins and their first ever trip to the state finals.

Justin Everitt led Lowell on the lanes rolling a high game of 246.

Carson Clark scored

second best for Lowell with a 242. Landon Smith came in with a 214, Jason Price a 193 and Adam Korzen a 178 to round out the team. No individual players qualified to advance to the state tournament in the corresponding competition.

In ladies action, the

team did not fair well at the competition placing twelfth place tying Kenowa Hills with a total of 2,703 pins. Though the team will not be moving on they did qualify one bowler, Ally Stockreef, for the Division II individual state finals.

**Stockreef and the boys team will next appear March 6 and 7 at Century Lanes in Waterford as they take aim at earning the top spot in Michigan.**

*Go Arrows!*

**Thornapple-Kellogg to host 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

The TK Athletic Boosters will host their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015**

*All proceeds directly support TK Athletic Programs.*

**Open to ALL interested students in grades 3-12**

Registration cost \$100 per team, due no later than March 13

Separate divisions for boys and girls (11th and 12th grade will be co-ed maximum one varsity male, minimum one female) 4-person teams. Exact age/grade divisions will be finalized once registration is complete. Teams with mixed ages will be placed according to the oldest team member.

**All teams are guaranteed a minimum of two games.**

**For more details and registration forms, go to:**  
**www.tkathletics.com**  
**and navigate to the link for the athletic boosters**

# obituaries

## FP - MEYERS



Robert 'Bob' L. Meyers Sr., age 71, of Lowell, passed away Thursday, February 26, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents Marvin & Clara Meyers and his brother and sister-in-law Terry (Barbara) Meyers. He is survived by his wife of 49 years Barb; children Heather (Timothy) VanTimmeren and Robert L. Meyers, Jr.; brothers Dr. Ronald (Garnett) Meyers and Gordy Meyers; brothers-in-law Jerry (Sue) Adams and Randy (Julie) Adams; sister-in-law Cindy (Dale) Kropf; grandson Garrett Bishop and many nieces and nephews. Bob served in the Navy Reserves from 1961-1963, active duty from 1963-1966 aboard the USS Kearsarge and completed 2 tours during the Vietnam War. He retired from the Midland Police Department after 25 years. He was a Crime Prevention Officer in which he received a National Award for Excellence in Crime Prevention. A funeral service will be held Tuesday 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Reverend Robert Linstrom officiating. Interment Libson Cemetery. Visitation Monday 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI, as well as 1 hour prior to the service at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 or FROM, Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton St., Lowell, MI 49331.



# A new way to get your replacement SSA-1099 online

Soon, you may be joining the millions of taxpayers who will be gathering the forms they need to file their federal, state, and local tax returns. If you receive Social Security benefits, one of the forms you may need is your Social Security Benefit Statement, SSA-1099/1042S.

Social Security mails these forms to all beneficiaries on or before January 31. When February 2 arrives, if you have not received yours—or if you cannot find the one that was mailed to you—there's a new way to get instant access to a printable SSA-1099/1042S to help you complete your tax return: with an online *mySocialSecurity* account.

You will need to pay federal taxes on some of your benefits if your total income, including Social Security and all of your other taxable income, is \$25,000 or more, and you file federal taxes as an individual. Married couples filing joint returns

need to pay federal taxes on income of \$32,000 or more.

If you didn't receive the SSA-1099/1042S for tax year 2014 by January 31, 2015, or if you misplaced yours, don't fret. You can get an instant replacement SSA-1099/1042S by going online to *mySocialSecurity* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) and selecting "Replacement Documents." You can view, print, and save the forms immediately!

If you don't already have a *mySocialSecurity* account, opening one is quick, safe and easy. It only takes a few minutes. In addition to getting an instant replacement SSA-1099/1042S, you can get a benefit verification letter, change your address, telephone number, start or change direct deposit information, and get your Social Security earnings record from the convenience of your home. Simply go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

## Prepare yourself for the tax season

As you prepare to meet the April 15 deadline to file your taxes, here are some Social Security tax tips to help you.

If you changed your name due to marriage or divorce, or made another legal name change, make sure you change your name on your Social Security records and with your employer. Changing your name on all of your records will avoid a "mismatch" with our records (which could delay your tax return) and improper recording of your earnings. To learn more about your Social Security number and changing your name, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

You will need Social Security numbers for your children if you want to claim them as dependents on your tax return. In most cases, parents request a Social Security number for their newborn child at the hospital when applying for a birth certificate. If you didn't apply for a number for your child

then, you can apply at your local Social Security office or by mail. Claiming your dependents will maximize your tax refund or minimize any amount you owe. To learn more, read our online publication, *Social Security Numbers For Children*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

If you receive Social Security benefits, you need to pay federal taxes on some of your benefits if your total income, including Social Security and all of your other taxable income, is \$25,000 or more, and you file federal taxes as an individual. Married couples filing joint returns need to pay federal taxes on income of \$32,000 or more. To learn more about taxes and your Social Security benefits, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/taxes.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/taxes.htm).

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

**ROTH GERST**  
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

## POTTER

Sharon Kay (Brugel) Potter, age 73 of Lowell, passed away Saturday, February 28, 2015, with her family at her side. She was preceded in death by her parents Bernard Brugel & Vivian Hilebrant. She is survived by her children Paula Balzeski and Craig (Rachel) Potter; grandchildren Ryan Potter, Danielle Balzeski, Victoria Balzeski, Shanon Cole, Seth Potter, Faith Andree, Cody Andree and Lexie Andree; great-grandchildren Sophia and Raine; sister Diane Davis; brothers Ron (Sandi) Brugel, Larry (Sandy) Brugel and Kevin Hildebrant. Sharon graduated from Grandville High School in 1959, retired from Amway after 25 years. The family will meet with friends and relatives Saturday, March 7 from 4-7 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.



**ROTH GERST**  
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

## For life insurance, call a good neighbor.

Deborah Wilks, Agent  
11827 Fulton St E  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Bus: 616-897-9237  
[dwilks@deborahwilks.com](mailto:dwilks@deborahwilks.com)

Call me and I'll help you choose the right life insurance for you and your family.  
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State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI),  
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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

3	2	8	4	1	7	5	6	9
7	9	4	5	6	8	3	2	1
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# Rudd's

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**Fri. 8 a.m. - noon**  
**closed Sat. & Sun.**

# classifieds

## for sale

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

SCHWINN (windrigger) ROWING MACHINE - like new, \$400. 616-897-9562.

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

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

MOVING SALE - Ladies' matched set of golf clubs, bag & cart \$150.; One oriental rug in soft beige/yellow/rose colors, 8x10 \$450.; Power Pet Door \$75.; Electric fence for pet control \$50. Call for an appointment. 897-4309.

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.<sup>TFN</sup>

WOODSTOVE - Hearthstone Soapstone with gas assist start and 14 feet of black pipe. \$1,000. 485-3494.

SLEEP NUMBER BED - Why pay for name, advertising & mall rent. Queen P-5 Harmony, \$1,499; king, \$1,899; M-7 air cell queen \$2,299; king \$2,799; I-10 Medalion: queen \$2,599; king, \$3,299. Air & Waterbed Store, 616-682-4767. Can deliver.

SCHWINNAIRDYNE - with reading stand, like new. \$475. 616-897-9562.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - Plush & thick, new, \$245 & up. Twin, full & king also available. Grand Mattress Co., 616-682-4767. Can deliver.

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.<sup>TFN</sup>

2001 GOOSENECK TRAILER - 24 ft. with 2 ft. beaver tail drop with full mesh gate. \$4,300. 616-897-9562.

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.<sup>TFN</sup>

## for sale

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

WEDDING INVITATIONS - We offer Carlson Craft wedding invitations! Stop by & check out a book today! Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. 897-9261.

## help wanted

SUBWAY IN LOWELL - is now hiring Sandwich Artists for various shifts. Apply in person at the Lowell Subway.

LITEHOUSE FOODS NOW HIRING - Full time positions at Litehouse Foods in Lowell. Career opportunities in maintenance, sanitation, material handling, production; machinists and attendants multiple shifts available. Great benefits including: health and dental insurance, 401k, paid time off & much more. To apply for a position, please complete an online application on our website at [www.litehousefoods.com/careers](http://www.litehousefoods.com/careers)

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

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

DRIVERS CDL-A - Regional flatbed 46-49cpm! Get home weekly, some weekdays! Paid holidays, vacation & ins. Sign-on bonus for recent flatbed exp! Flatbed training available 855-995-7177 x160.

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

MERCANTILE BANK OF MICHIGAN - is looking for a high performing, team oriented individual to fill a full-time customer service representative position at our Lowell Branch. Responsibilities include processing transactions & referrals. Cash handling & customer service is required. Position does include some Saturdays. Interested & qualified applicants can apply at [www.mercbank.com](http://www.mercbank.com). EEO Minorities, women, disable, veterans, sexual orientation, gender identity.

## for rent

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

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

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! [www.VFW8303.org](http://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.<sup>TFN</sup>

## wanted

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

## card of thanks

**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended the memorial service to celebrate Vic's life. Also for the many cards of condolence. A special thanks to the staff of Fountain View Memory Care for the excellent care he received there.

Judy Heim & family

## services

**HELP US DELIVER YOUR PAPER...please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.**

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

**C & S DRYWALL** - Over 20 years experience. Complete drywall service, licensed & insured, free estimates. Call 868-6140.

**STICKNEY ROOFING** - Licensed & insured, free estimates. 10% senior discount. Call Jamie at 897-4369.

## services

**GARAGE DOOR & OPENER REPAIR SPECIAL** - \$30 off broken spring or opener repair. Free estimates. Call Global Discount Garage Doors, 616-334-3574.<sup>TFN</sup>

**BUSINESS CARDS** - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

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

**LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - Counseling for individuals, couples, families & groups. Life Transitions Therapy, 616-238-2116.**

## services

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

**TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE** - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.<sup>TFN</sup>

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

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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](mailto:classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com), by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, 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 OF THE MOOSE** - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

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

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

**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.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.lowellartsmi.org) or call 897-8545.

**KNITTING GROUP** - Wednesdays 10 a.m. - noon. Beginning to advanced knitters welcome. Meeting at the Village Hall. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

**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.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE NIGHT** - March 20, 6 p.m. showing the 80's movie "Princess Brides." Preregistration required. Popcorn provided. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

**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.

**"STEALING HOME" DOCUMENTARY SERIES** - Sat., March 28, 1 p.m. History of Tiger Stadium & importance of this abandoned field. Director Jason Roche will answer questions & talk about the film. Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

**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.

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

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

**COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL** - Come meet & have a cup of coffee with your city council members. First Saturday of each month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, Lowell. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

# financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

## How should you respond to higher interest rates?

If the Federal Reserve (Fed) raises short-term interest rates this year, as many financial professionals predict, what will it mean to you? As a consumer, you might experience the "ripple" effects if long-term interest rates eventually follow suit, affecting mortgages and other loans. But as an investor, you might quickly feel the impact of a move by

the Fed — especially if you own bonds.

In fact, the value of your existing bonds might drop noticeably if interest rates were to rise. That's because no one will give you full price for your lower-paying bonds when new bonds are being issued at a higher interest rate. So if you want to sell your bonds, you might have to take a loss on them.

Of course, if you were always planning to hold your bonds until maturity, you might not be overly concerned with falling prices. Assuming your bond issuers don't default — and defaults are rare among "investment grade" bonds — you will continue collecting regular interest payments until your bonds mature, at which point they will be redeemed at full face value. Furthermore, just owning bonds can help you diversify your portfolio, which might otherwise be dominated by stocks and therefore be susceptible to big swings in value. (While diversification can help reduce the effects of volatility, it can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss.)

However, it's still useful to be aware of the effects of rising interest rates on bonds of different maturities. Typically, when rates rise, long-term bonds will fall in value more than short-term bonds. So if you only owned long-term bonds, your portfolio could take a bigger hit than if you owned both short- and long-term bonds. Again, this might not be a big issue if you intend to hold bonds until they mature — but if your plans change, a drop in value in your bond holdings could be cause for concern. Furthermore, if you just owned long-term bonds, your money would be tied up, thereby not allowing you to take advantage of

newly issued, higher-paying bonds.

You can help protect yourself against the potential negative effects of rising interest rates by incorporating a "fixed-income ladder" in your portfolio. You can build this ladder by purchasing fixed-income securities — such as corporate or municipal bonds — in various maturities. With your ladder in place, a portion of your portfolio matures at regular intervals. Consequently, you can benefit from any increase in interest rates by reinvesting your maturing bonds at the higher rate. And if interest rates should fall, you still have your longer-term bonds working for you. (Generally, longer-term

vehicles pay higher rates than shorter-term ones.)

Even if the Fed does raise short-term rates in 2015, it doesn't necessarily signal the start of a trend. Interest rate movements are notoriously hard to predict — and you probably won't help yourself by trying to "time" your investment decisions based on where rates may be heading. But techniques such as a fixed-income ladder can work for you in all interest rate environments. So as you think about how you'll invest in bonds in the years ahead, keep this type of "all-weather" strategy in mind. It may be able to help you keep the "guesswork" to a minimum.

## Looking Back, continued

the contributions they make to the nation. The theme for 1965 is "Springtime Salute to Working Women," announced Elva Topp, president of the Lowell Business and Professional Women's Club. Among the working women along Main Street, Hazel Hoag could top all honors. Hazel started working for R. D. Stocking in his store on East Main Street in 1907, when she was 16. She worked the first year in the millinery store for nothing, to get the experience. Hazel has operated her own dress and hat shop at its present location on West Main Street since 1955. Before that, she operated a shop on East Main Street. Still active at the age of 74, Hazel is looking forward to many more years on Main Street, and is one who should surely be honored as a working woman.

New lights, keeping the school bus parking area brightly lighted, paid off Saturday night. Lowell police patrolling on Riverside Drive, could see a car stopped by the school busses, and the officers observed the car as it pulled away. They stopped the car on West Main Street, and found fire extinguishers, flares and first aid kits, stolen from the bus fleet. One boy, a juvenile, has been ordered into Juvenile Court, while the other, who is 17, paid a fine of \$25 in Justice Rittenger's Court, and was placed on probation.

Suzi Thaler, a senior at LHS, will have an article published in the spring issue of Datebook Magazine, which will go on sale March 18. Datebook is a

publication for aware teenagers and publishes material written by young people from all over the nation.

Ray Barber, operator of the B&O Grocery on West Main Street, is in Butterworth Hospital awaiting the results of observatory tests. The store has been closed.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 7, 1990

Headline: Lowell School District to conduct phone survey, seeking thoughts on overcrowded 1990 school building issues. In two weeks, the 400 registered Lowell School District voters who have been randomly selected to participate in a 50-question phone survey, will be asked to address the overcrowded school building issues. The results from the survey along with the citizens strategic planning committee, administrative and teacher input, and the ability to pay for the improvements will all be components used to lend the Lowell Board of Education direction on how to handle the overcrowded issue that currently confronts it...

Headline: Historical Society celebrates 25 yrs. of growth. The Vergennes Cooperative Club, which led to the West Michigan Historical Society, was organized to help save Fallasburg Village. It will celebrate its 25

years of preservation, acquisition and restoration on March 10 at 6 pm with a pot luck dinner at Schneider Manor. Following the dinner, the musical group "Music of the Heart" will perform at 7:30 pm. "Everybody from everywhere is invited and it's all free," said Judy Baird, Secretary of the Fallasburg Historical Society and Chairman of the Vergennes Township Historical Committee. The anniversary also celebrates the incorporation of the West Michigan Historical Society. When the papers are renewed on March 25, the Society's name will be changed to the Fallasburg Historical Society...

Something sweet is just around the corner at Lowell High School. Starting Monday, March 19 Easter baskets will go on sale. The project will be sponsored by Lowell High School's Third-Hour Business Math Class. The baskets will be filled with a 5 inch hollow chocolate bunny, jelly beans, Easter candy bars, a marshmallow rabbit and chick, assorted Easter sweet tarts, milk chocolate eggs, a chocolate covered marshmallow bunny, a chocolate sucker and marshmallow crème pets.

The Lowell Fire Department is sponsoring their Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 31. This year in conjunction with the Open House of the new Look Memorial Fire Station, the firemen will sponsor a Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 11 am and a Pancake Supper from 4 to 8 pm at the Fire Station.

## WRWW 92.3 & Internet Schedule

### [SUNDAY] [03-08-15]

9:00 pm Old-Time Radio

### [MONDAY] [03-09-15]

2:45 'The Infinite Show' with Raiden Miller  
4:30 'Kids These Days' w/Roman the Showman  
7:00 Lowell Varsity Boys Basketball vs Cedar Springs (Play-Off Game)

### [TUESDAY] [03-10-15]

3:00 'The Lovely Beats Radio Show' with DJ Cupid & DJ Heartbeat  
4:30 'Its Everything Show' with DJ Mickey & DJ Chapstick

### [WEDNESDAY] [03-11-15]

2:30 'The Music Locker' with Connor Smith  
4:30 Devon & Kelsie Show  
5:30 'The After Hours Show' with Dakota Krzysik  
7:00 Boys Basketball Playoff Game (If Applicable)

### [THURSDAY] [03-12-15]

2:30 'The No Topic Show' with Dakota Krzysik & Devin Read  
4:30 'The Classic Music Show' w/Clayton Brown  
8:00 'The Night Shift' with Clayton Brown & Jerry Thompson

### [FRIDAY] [03-13-15]

2:30 'The Show' with Jeremy Kargl & Ryne Clarke  
4:30 'The Old World Blues Show' with Riley Nethercott & Chase Miller  
7:00 Boys Basketball Playoff Game (If Applicable)

### [SATURDAY] [03-14-15]

3:00 'The Random Explosion Show' with Joe Ryder

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.

## City, LLP reach agreement

Joint press release submitted by Greg Pierce LL&P general manager

The city of Lowell, Lowell Light & Power (L&P) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical

Workers (IBEW) have reached a collective bargaining agreement. The contract was ratified by the city DPW employees and Lowell Light & Power

employee bargaining units. The Lowell City Council and the Lowell Light & Power board have both approved the contracts.

The contracts culminate over two-and-a-half years of first time contract negotiations. The contracts were the result of compromise by all parties. They represent a willingness by L&P, city and IBEW to work together in a manner beneficial to the interests of Lowell. The contracts ensure that the past will not interfere with the opportunity to work toward a future based on a good faith working relationship.

Contact: IBEW Local 876 Hank Matulewicz at 616-784-1133; city of Lowell: Mark Howe at 616-897-8457; Lowell L&P: Greg Pierce at 616-897-8402.

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**THEME:  
MARCH MADNESS**

**ACROSS**

1. Tire pattern
6. Small lump
9. Confidence trick
13. Blood line
14. Hockey legend
15. With ample space
16. Full of vigor
17. Bearded antelope
18. Deserving of respect?
19. "Frozen" song
21. \*Final Four destination
23. Bird word
24. Result of tying
25. Gastrointestinal tract
28. Type of word
30. Overthrow
35. All over again
37. Harry Potter's mark
39. Plural of pileus
40. \_\_\_ Sorvino
41. North Pole workers
43. Precedes "pong"
44. Our mother?
46. \_\_\_-de-camp
47. \*ESPN analyst and former coach Greenberg
48. As opposed to federal
50. Chronic drinkers
52. Movie theater candy
53. Do this upon a star
55. Also
57. \*Do you fill this out?
61. \*16, e.g.
65. Dough or cabbage
66. American Nurses Association
68. Critically
69. Early anesthetic
70. Tolstoy's given name in Russian
71. Tsar's edict
72. Sound of relief
73. Pilot's deadline
74. Avatar's creator

**CROSSWORD**

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72						73				74				



- Decorated war veteran and former CIA director David Petraeus has entered into an agreement with federal prosecutors in which he would plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge for mishandling classified information.



- Michael Jordan, 52, has joined the ranks of the billionaires after increasing his stake in the Charlotte Hornets — the franchise in which he purchased a majority interest for \$275 million in March of 2010, back when they were the Bobcats — from 80 percent to 89.5 percent. On Monday, Forbes magazine listed Jordan's status as one of the world's 290 new billionaires.

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke before a joint meeting of Congress on Tuesday.

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**DOWN**

1. \*Profile of most NCAA March stars
2. Profligate
3. At a previous time, archaic

4. V.C. Andrews' "Flowers in the \_\_\_"
5. \*Host of 2015 First Four play-in games
6. Canceled
7. Mantel piece
8. \*Mascot of #29 Down
9. Musical compositions for one
10. Musical finale
11. End of grace
12. Gore Vidal's "\_\_\_ Breckinridge"
15. High quality hay for cattle
20. "If it's good for the \_\_\_, it's good for the gander"
22. 1990s catchword
24. Puck, "that shrewd and \_\_\_ sprite"
25. \*8 of these in Sweet 16
26. Uniate, alternative spelling
27. It can be firma or incognita
29. \*School with most titles
31. Hearts and diamonds, e.g.
32. Applied, as in one's trade
33. Slow, musically
34. \*Elite number
36. W on a bulb
38. Do over
42. Brief fight
45. Street salesman
49. Tall tale
51. Woodlouse
54. Like old cracker
56. Japanese port
57. \*What the ref did to his whistle
58. Babe
59. Advil target
60. Captain and his party
61. Mount Vesuvius output
62. Dutch cheese
63. "Or \_\_\_!"
64. Textile worker
67. \*Winners' memento

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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**LAST WEEK'S  
ONLINE  
POLL  
RESULTS**

**Which did you find more disappointing?**

- Brian Williams being taken off the air .....20%
- Jon Stewart leaving his show .....40%
- Don't care about either one .....40%

**TO VOTE IN  
THIS WEEK'S  
ONLINE POLL**  
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thelowellledger.com

# Gymnastics, continued

wish she was still around, she would be so happy with the progress we have made with the program.”

The special meet provides the opportunity for gymnasts to compete in individual events that they did not qualify for during regional competition. A similar event is also held on the east side of the state at Canton High School.

“Besides honoring Dawn, my favorite thing about this meet is that the girls that compete all the time have to sit the bench and cheer for their teammates that don’t get to compete that much,” said DeHaan. “Everyone on the team is important and this is the meet that gets to showcase different girls that do not get a lot of recognition.”

This year the competing gymnasts were joined by two of Fisher’s family

members: son-in-law Sean Nichols and granddaughter Aili Fisher, who handed out medals at the conclusion of the competition.

Receiving medals for Lowell were Lilly Quiggle who placed fifth, Colleen Cater who took third and Paige DeHaan who claimed second on the bars.

Lowell also claimed the two top spots on the beam with Alise Forward landing in second and Quiggle once again medaling with a first-place finish.

Lowell did not place on the floor and no gymnasts chose to compete on the vault at this year’s meet.

**This week the girls will focus on their upcoming regional meet which will take place Saturday, beginning at 10 am, at Kenowa Hills High School.**



The team with Dawn’s family members, Sean Nichols and Aili Fisher.

# LHS senior Capstone students volunteer at wildlife center

Lowell High School seniors, Mackenzie Stiles, Parker Reed and Kelliann Jacobs, have been working with Sjana Gordon, the owner of the Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center, located on Vergennes St. between Lincoln Lake and Alden Nash.

As part of their Senior Capstone service learning project, these students have been volunteering for the past few weeks by feeding, watering and caring for the animals currently at the rescue center.

Gordon has been rehabilitating animals for 22 years with the DNR. She takes in over 2,000 animals every year. When asked why she runs the wildlife center, Gordon replied, “I do it for the love of the animals.”

Though they service most of West Michigan, the Wildlife Center is mainly funded through donations

from the local community. This is another example of the great community Lowell has proven to be.

For more information about the Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center, please visit [farmwildlife.org](http://farmwildlife.org)



Capstone students, pictured, left to right: Parker Reed, Mackenzie Stiles and Kelliann Jacobs.

Lowell High School Presents...

# hairspray

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Hairspray The Broadway Musical Book by Mark O'Donoghue and Thomas Meehan Music by Marvin Hamlisch Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shainerman Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters. Original story by Howard Wheeler. Arrangements by Marc Shainerman

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