

Downtown Lowell Gallery HOP
 Thursday March 19 5-8pm

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Icy river takes a toll on Lowell troll

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

The Lowell troll is dead.

“Old man winter played a major role in [our] the

Lowell troll’s demise,” said Liz Baker, director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

“The ice pushed the piling that our sculpture was mounted on up and over. The Lowell troll went for a

swim and ended up on the south side of Main Street. It did not go through the dam but it was damaged at large. Greg Canfield rescued it from the water on Sunday morning [March 15]. After taking a look it was decided that the troll was too damaged to salvage and thus its life has come to an end.”

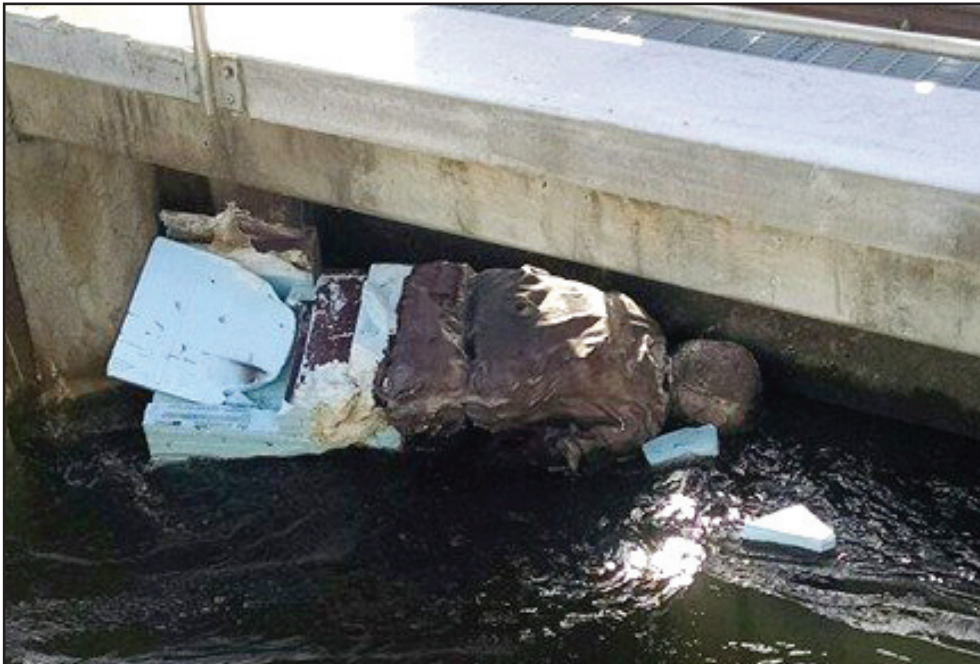
The Lowell troll was put in the river in October 2010. It was designed and built by artist Nate Galusha to commemorate the downtown bridge replacement project. The Lowell troll was seven and a half feet tall. It was made from styrofoam and fiberglass covered with burlap and painted bronze.

“It played a major role in the Main Street Bridge project, a time when merchants rallied and came up with the troll idea to

create a buzz and continued shopping during a long bridge project,” Baker said. “MDOT gave kudos to us for using creativity and communication to keep commerce going.”

At this point it looks like the Lowell troll will remain dead.

“Currently the chamber or LowellArts! have no plans for replacing it,” Baker said.



The Lowell troll, above, after falling off its base and becoming trapped under the bridge and, at right, in better days, pictured at the unveiling with the artist that created it.



Chamber names Seese 2014 Person of the Year

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

Rick Seese is the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce 2014 Person of the Year.

Seese is the manager of Greenridge Realty, 1160 W. Main St. His years of volunteering got him the award, but Seese is modest about his work in the community.

“I would guess my involvement in the community is what is the reason,” Seese said. “I’ve done lots of things. I probably can’t name them all. I’m thankful for it and I feel very honored, I just don’t like being in the limelight. I think there are a lot of deserving people in Lowell.”

Over the years Seese has been involved in just about every charity in town.

“I was on the FROM board, but term limits have me off at the moment,” Seese said. “I intend to go back if they want me. I invented FROM’s ‘Food Fight’ about seven years ago and I’m still involved with that. If you want to see some of the unsung heroes, go down to FROM



Rick Seese

on a Monday morning and watch those volunteers sorting clothes, sorting items that got donated over the weekend. They’re part of the FROM family. They do that because they believe in the mission and they want to help. You don’t find that kind of operation in this size community.”

He’s also been involved in the arts and sports.

“I’ve been on the LowellArts! board,” Seese said. “Long ago I was on the YMCA board. I headed up their ‘Invest in Youth’ campaign for many years.

Person of the Year, continued, page 7

City council talks balancing funds and planting trees

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

The city council got their meeting at city hall on Monday, March 16, finished in less than half an hour.

The council passed a “Fund Balance Policy.” The Fund Balance Policy says, “The budget shall be prepared and activities managed to result in an ending unassigned fund balance of at least the greater of \$500,000 or 15 percent of general fund expenses.”

“What agreement agencies like to see is, they like to see that you have a lot of liquid cash available,” said city manager Mark Howe. “So that, when you’re going out for a bond, if you have a certain amount of cash available, then that helps bondholders feel better about the fact that you have not only the capacity

to pay the bonds, but if something bad happens financially that you’ve got some capacity to make those bonds payments as well. You’ve got the cash to back it up.”

The council passed the Fund Balance Policy unanimously.

One of the 14 residents in attendance spoke during public comment. Laura Brower complained to the council about a burned-out house on Lincoln Lake Ave.

“I am here on behalf of my parents,” Brower said. “They are sitting next to that burnt house going on a year and I’d just like to know what the city plans on doing about the situation.”

“We received some information over the

City council, continued, page 8

Gallery Hop slated for Thursday night

Check out the Downtown Lowell Gallery Hop March 19 from 5-8 pm. LowellArts! and 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.

Several galleries are having special events and promotions during the Downtown Lowell Gallery Hop on Thursday, March 19,

from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Main Street will be open with special evening hours at several galleries, including Chimera Design and Flat River Gallery and Framing. The Flat River Gallery will also feature live music and

a reception for guest artist Barbara Groat. In addition, LowellArts! will host a meet-the-artists reception and awards presentation for the 29th Annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition participants.

Flat River Cottage & Night Forest Jewelry and Toadworks Gallery will also be part of the event.

Area restaurants will participate with a special one-night-only offer of 10 percent off the total

food bill for event-goers. Participating restaurants include Keiser's Kitchen, Larkin's Restaurant and Mynt Fusion Bistro. Patrons must present a coupon which is available at www.lowellartsmi.org

Lowell High School March Students of the Month

LHS Academic Boosters and Lowell High School has announced that Callie Ford-Weber, 10th grade; and Cody McGee, 9th grade; are the Lowell High

School March Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Callie and Cody. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Laurie Summerfield nominated Ford-Weber and she writes, "Callie is an exemplary student who

works hard each day in class. She is self-motivated and leads by example. Although she seems shy at first, Callie is assertive and helps others in group

situations. I witnessed her being encouraging to a classmate in presenting a class project. She is truly a kind, caring individual with a strong work ethic."

McGee was nominated by Chaye Klomprens

and she writes, "Cody has worked very hard to improve his grade and maintain it. He always had a solid grade but set his sights on an A. Cody will often come in during lunch

or after school for help. It isn't often you see someone at his age take the extra time needed to improve their learning. He is respectful to my student teacher, the students and me."



Cody McGee



Callie Ford-Weber



along main street

A CALL FOR ACTORS

Seeking four male and three female adult actors for the LowellArts! Players' spring dinner theater production of "The Tropical Pickle" on May 1-17. Auditions will be held Thursday, March 12, 6:30 pm and Saturday, March 14, 12 pm at LowellArts!. Go to www.lowellartsmi.org for more details.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Lowell Area Fire Department's Pancake Breakfast is Sat., March 28, 7 to 11 am at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson. Proceeds to go toward fire equipment.

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

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City assesses light impact on Main Street

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The city has unscrewed every other lightbulb in the light fixtures downtown.

The city released a memo recently stating, "The city will be unscrewing light bulbs in every other fixture to actually see the impact of this change."

The Downtown Development Authority had a Placemaking Plan prepared. The plan, available for download on the city's website, does not have an author listed. It is credited to the planning and design

team. The document does not say who is on the planning and design team.

One of the Placemaking Plan's recommendations was for there to be fewer light fixtures in the downtown area.

"This has some asking if this will maintain visibility and security. So the city of Lowell is going to test this idea," the memo says. It also says that, "Any fixtures removed as part of the upgrade would be

repurposed on other blocks." Love it or hate it, at some point you'll get your say.

"The city and the DDA ask residents and businesses for feedback on the results," the memo says. It does not say

when and how this feedback will be solicited. Due to illness, city manager Mark Howe was unable to respond to an email requesting further information about the lightbulb project.



How do you feel about the missing bulbs?

From time to time our Ledger reporters will pose a question while out on the streets of Lowell. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK OUT.

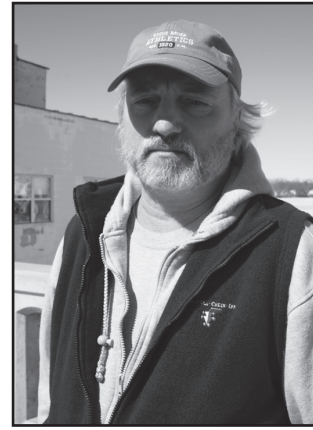
If you have a question you think would be an excellent conversation starter—feel free to suggest one.

Send your Street Smart questions to:
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subject line - "Street Smarts"



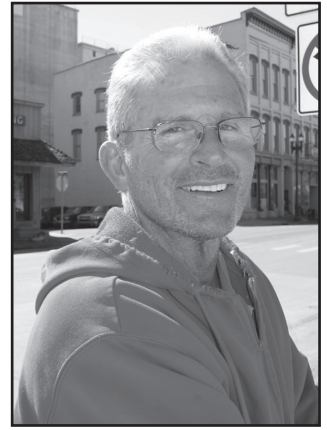
Dan

"What is the rationale behind doing that? I can imagine it's going to be a little less bright after sunset, but how bad that is and what sort of safety issue it creates, I wouldn't be the right person to comment about it."



Jim

"I just walked around the city here quite a bit and there are sidewalks that you can't even get through. Whoever plowed the city lot over here [by city hall], they plowed snow up so you can't even walk on the sidewalk. That's more my concern, not these lights."



John

"Why would they do that? Unless it's a money-saving thing it doesn't make much sense. I would just leave them the way they are. It's dark and dingy enough."

LPD reports February incidents

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell police made 15 arrests in February. Six of those arrests were for outstanding warrants, four were classified as other, two were for driving on a suspended license, two were for unspecified alcohol violations and one was for drunk driving.

They wrote 19 traffic tickets and let 86 drivers off with a warning.

There were six assaults in Lowell in February, 25 ordinance violations, two disorderly conduct complaints, two dog complaints, one case of malicious destruction and four incidents of larceny.

The police also responded to 13 automobile accidents, three of which involved injuries.

Lowell police assisted other agencies on 16 further incidents, including occasions such as man pinned under a tree, injured deer, open door and suspicious subject.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Look Memorial Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2015. Grant applications are available at Lowell City Hall.

Grant applications should be submitted to Sue Ullery, Deputy City Clerk, 301 East Street, Lowell, MI 49331. The deadline for submitting 2015 applications is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2015.




MONDAY: Yogurt parfait w/granola & cheese stick, strawberries; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, blueberries, peaches.

TUESDAY: Beef & cheese nacho, refried beans; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, banana, pears.

WEDNESDAY: Pancakes & sausage, hashbrowns; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, grapes, apple.

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

FRIDAY: Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, side salad; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, carrots, mixed fruit, juice.

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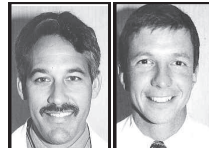
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health



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

acute pericarditis

Acute pericarditis is an inflammation of the sac around the heart, which is called the pericardium. It most commonly happens in men 20 to 50 years of age, but it can happen to anyone. Usually pericarditis is caused by a virus. It can also be caused by a heart attack, a tear in the heart or another disease. Other possible causes are cancer or a reaction to a medicine you have taken. Many times the cause is not known. There are several symptoms of pericarditis. Most patients have chest pain. The pain can spread

to the jaw and arm, which may feel like a heart attack. This pain may get worse when lying on your back, coughing or taking a deep breath. It usually gets better with sitting and leaning forward. Some people never have chest pain. The doctor will ask about the pain, listen to your heart and check for signs of fluid around the heart. He or she may order a test called an electrocardiogram, which shows the electrical activity of the heart. More testing may be needed, including a chest x-ray, an ultrasound of the heart and blood tests.

Pericarditis is treated with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as aspirin or ibuprofen, or with another medicine called colchicine. Colchicine can help if you have already been diagnosed with acute pericarditis or if symptoms do not get better with NSAIDs. This medicine should be taken until symptoms go away.

Most patients get better in two to six weeks. Hospitalization may be required if you have a high fever, a high white blood cell count or a lot of fluid in the sac around the heart. You may also be at risk of getting very sick if you take blood thinner medicine, have a weak immune system, have hurt your chest before or do not get better with NSAIDs. Acute pericarditis cannot be prevented. There is nothing you can do to lower your risk of getting it.

Archives of Michigan makes 1921-1939 death certificates available online

The Archives of Michigan today made available images of Michigan death certificates from 1921 to 1939 for free on its website www.seekingmichigan.org.

The certificates join others from 1897 to 1920 that were previously made available. The Michigan collection now contains 2.6 million death certificates for researchers. Genealogy researchers, in particular, find death certificates useful while tracing family history.

State Archivist Mark Harvey said that the index of death certificates from 1940 to 1952 will be made available in about a month, with certificates from that period becoming available as privacy restrictions are lifted. For example, images of the certificates from 1940 will be made available online in January 2016. The death records represent a partnership

between the Archives, the Vital Records Section of the Michigan Department of Community Health and FamilySearch.org.

"This collection of death certificates covers a period in Michigan history of significant growth and development," Harvey said. "In these records, researchers will find evidence of the influx of Eastern European immigrants, the emergence of Detroit as the automotive capital of the world and the impact of the Great Depression."

Researchers can search four different data fields. The certificates are indexed and searchable by an individual's last name, first name, county and township/village/city of death, birth year, age and parents' names. Additional information that can be found in death certificates includes the person's occupation, cause

of death, burial location and birthplace.

Among the death certificates in this group is that of illusionist and stunt performer Harry Houdini, who died in Detroit Oct. 31, 1926, of internal injuries after being punched multiple times in the abdomen by a fan at a show in Montreal several days earlier.

The Archives of Michigan is responsible for preserving the records of Michigan government and other public institutions. With documents dating back to 1792, the Archives of Michigan houses much of Michigan's record heritage. More than 80 million state and local government records and private papers, 300,000 photographs and 500,000 maps, plus films and audio tapes are available for research. A growing number of materials in the Archives are available on its website at www.seekingmichigan.org.

The Michigan Historical Center is part of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its museums and archival programs help people discover, enjoy and find inspiration in their heritage. It includes the Michigan Historical Museum, 10 regional museums, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve and the Archives of Michigan. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/michiganhistory.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr

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viewpoint

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Time for some financial "spring cleaning"

We've just about arrived at spring, the time when many people spruce up their homes, yards and other parts of their surroundings. This year, why not extend that practice a little further and give your financial and investment environment a good "spring cleaning"?

Here are a few suggestions for doing just that:

- **Reduce duplication.** If you've ever worked to "de-clutter" your home, you may have discovered a lot of extraneous items. Did you really need three blenders? Did you have more remote control devices than you did televisions? As you look through your investment portfolio, you might also find some duplication, perhaps in the form of multiple stocks

of companies in the same industry. You might want to consider whether you'd be better off by reducing this concentration and using the proceeds to broaden your investment mix to create new potential for growth, income or a combination of both.

- **Repair your roof.** As part of your exterior spring-cleaning efforts, you might examine your roof to determine if you need to repair or replace any torn or missing shingles. After all, a strong roof is essential to protecting your home. And your financial foundation needs protection, too — so, review your life and disability insurance to ensure they are still adequate to meet your family's needs. You also might want to consult

with a financial professional for ways of dealing with the potentially devastating costs of an extended nursing home stay or another type of long-term care.

- **Plant some "seeds."** Spring is a good time for re-seeding parts of your lawn that may be bare. Once you've planted the seeds, of course, you'll need to water and fertilize them to encourage growth. As you look over your financial landscape, you may also find areas that are somewhat barren. For example, you might be adequately funding your own retirement goals through your employer-sponsored retirement plan and other investments, but are you putting away enough money for your children's college education? If not, you might need to "plant some seeds" for potential growth by investing in a college savings account, such as a 529 plan. And you may need to continually "nourish" your plan by contributing money each year.

- **Update your "furnishings."** When you bought and arranged your

home's furnishings, they might have been perfectly suited for your needs. But now, many years later, your situation may be quite different. Perhaps you've said goodbye to grown children who have struck out on their own, so you might want to make new uses for old rooms. And maybe your old "stuff" just isn't as comfortable as it was before, or the layout of your furniture isn't as efficient. Whatever the case, it may well be time to update your environment. And the same thing can happen with your financial "house." To reflect changes in your family situation, employment, economic circumstances, retirement goals and other factors, you will need to periodically review your financial strategy and your investment portfolio, and make adjustments as needed.

Tidying up your living space may help improve your overall outlook on life. The same might be said of a financial spring cleaning — and you won't even need a mop.

off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

A glimpse of spring this week. It officially begins this Friday, March 20. Thank goodness! From my perspective, people need to get outdoors and shake off the claustrophobic cold that had frozen their brains at a nit-picking, paranoid, generally crabby state. Once again we find out that "this too shall pass" and there might just be brighter days ahead.

For those of us who are born and raised Michiganders, you'd think we'd learn. But something about the long, dark days, paying skyrocketing heating bills and shoveling snow eventually gets to us all at some point. In fact, I'm sure there are a few who may need a little more solar experience to not criticize my use of the term Michigander and would prefer I use Michiganian.

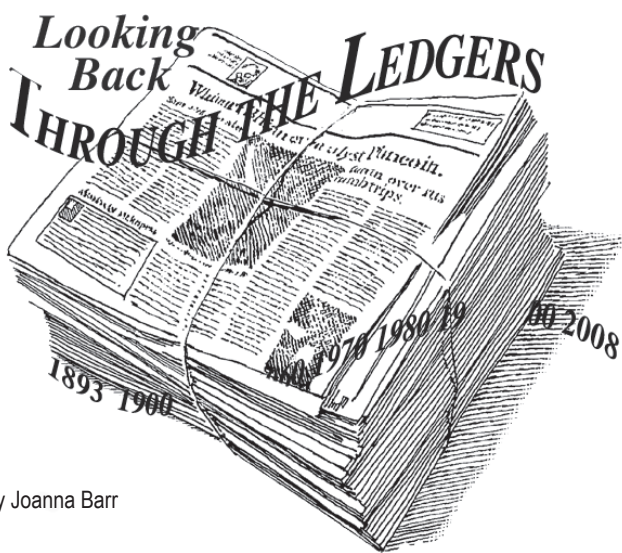
But give us a day or two of sunshine and warm breezes and the smiles return to our faces and kind words begin to fill our conversations. There are a few who were clearly near a breaking point, if the To The Editor letters and complaints and a general malaise were any indication. It was astonishing how a typo or misplaced comma could raise a person's blood pressure, not to mention an opinion that was expressed and not agreed with.

There have been some whose giving positive spirit has not been halted by cold. Generous souls whose benevolence has shone through the clouds. Local sports teams have competed and given us something to cheer about.

There are a few (thankfully, very few) sour personalities, that when presented with the sunshine, will grimace and complain that "it won't last" or "it's Michigan, it will change any minute." But as far as I'm concerned, I hope it will fulfill their curmudgeon needs to be right, especially in March when the weather can go bad at any minute. I do wish they wouldn't carry that attitude around all summer however.

I hope everyone did enjoy this past week of superb weather. We will undoubtedly be the recipients of a few more snow showers, but the weather will break. We'll be able to clean up our yards, take long bike rides and walks, mow the lawn and plant our gardens.

And for those diehards... we'll also be able to get the full experience of our crumbling roads now that the pesky snow and ice isn't filling the potholes anymore.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal March 19, 1890

The 26th Regiment of Mich. Volunteers will hold their annual reunion at Williamston, Wednesday, Apr. 9, 1890, it being the 25th anniversary of Lee's Surrender at Appomattox. This regiment contained a large number of Lowell boys and boys from this immediate vicinity and there will undoubtedly be a large attendance from here.

Do you want a fine new home? You can get one on the West Side, very cheap on any terms. Will take small cash payment down, or one or two good sound horses, about 1100 lbs., and buggy and harness, as first payment. See S. P. Hicks, Lowell, or J. D. Ellinwood, No. 1 Lafayette Ave., Detroit, Mich. (83w4)

There's trouble ahead at Carlton Centre, Barry county. A number of the best women of the township have organized a social club and will meet every night in the week at the postoffice and discuss questions that affect the nation. The children will be cared for

by their fathers or will go without care. The women's motive is to shame their husbands into staying at home occasionally after the chores are done. — Detroit Journal.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 18, 1915

The Board of Trade will not lease Recreation park this year. It cannot permit the use of the grounds for Sunday base ball without alienating much of its membership, which can not conscientiously endorse Sunday sport. It is expected the park can be rented by the day for such occasions as are desired...

The Pere Marquette R. R. received at Lowell during the first fifteen days of March forty-seven carloads of various commodities, including merchandise, coal, lumber, corn, hay, fertilizer, lime, spraying mixtures and grain, and during the same period they shipped out forty-five carloads of sprayers, grain, household goods and scrap iron.

Chicken ordinance to be enforced. See official notice. Citizens are also petitioning for abatement of the dog nuisance. What's that about "Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander?"

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 21, 1940

Spring entered officially on Wednesday at exactly 1:24 Lowell time. Old Man Winter made a final fling on Tuesday night by turning in the heaviest snowfall of the season.

Headline: Lowell is soon to be free from all indebtedness. Common Council votes to call all

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the lowell ledger

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

Six recycling myths debunked and explained

With Earth Day approaching Wednesday, April 22, it's time to trash some recycling misconceptions that may be holding you back from putting the most in your bin. Here, Kerrin O'Brien from the Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) helps shed light on the facts:

1. Everything I throw in my bin will be recycled.

False. Every recycling program has different guidelines as to what they collect, sort and send off for reprocessing, so it's important to understand the programs available to you. This can be a challenge because they vary widely across the state, but if you take the time to know what's supposed to go in the bin or cart that gets picked up at your curb, you can be assured that all your material will get recycled.

2. Michigan residents are already doing a good job of recycling.

False. While many Michigan communities offer recycling programs, estimates are that Michigan has just a 14.5 percent recycling rate. It's likely we're throwing away a lot of stuff that can be recycled. For example, products we use up in the bathroom don't always get to the recycling bin in the kitchen or garage. Also, programs are adding materials all the time... when's the last time you checked in?

3. I have to wash and sort everything I put into my bin.

False and true. Although many recycling programs expose materials to processes that remove waste and labels, rinsing out cans and containers is a public health issue. It's good to clean recyclables so while they're waiting to be

picked up from your home or processed at the facility they're not getting smelly or attracting rodents. Sorting depends on the type of recycling program available. Larger Michigan cities offer single-stream recycling and all material is collected from one container in one truck and sorted at the material recovery facility or MRF. Other programs still sort material at the curb. It all depends on the program you have available so, again, it's good to know your own program.



4. It costs more in resources and greenhouse gasses to collect, sort and manage recyclables than to take trash to a landfill.

False. Many studies have been done and recycling is a proven energy-efficiency tool. All in all, it takes less energy and resources to reuse materials that are already circulating in our economy than it does to extract virgin resources and create new products from them. For example, it takes about five percent of the energy to make steel and aluminum cans from recycled materials than raw materials.

5. The products I recycle don't really make it back into the product stream.

False. Recycled products are all around us. Steel and aluminum cans, glass containers and paper products of all kinds often contain significant amounts of recycled material and aren't necessarily labeled that way. Recyclables have value in the marketplace and will be taken back to a MRF for sorting, baling, marketing and shipping to an end use that will turn it into new products.

6. If my local Michigan municipality doesn't offer recycling, I'm out of luck.

False. You can be part of change. Call your local decision-makers and let them know you value recycling and would like to have that service. Maybe they can help you find a private sector service provider or hauler in your area. Visit michiganrecycles.org and check out our list of members to find recycling opportunities near you.



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Person of the Year, continued

They call it something else now. The Invest in Youth campaign collected donations from people and businesses to help with families who couldn't afford YMCA programs for their children."

He always tries to inspire others to get involved in the community.

"Gathering people in the community to volunteer their time to help doing something good for others,"

Seese said. "Sometimes it's tough to ask for people's time, but I tell you what, Lowell is very blessed with a lot of volunteers and that's what I love about the community, the people."

Seese said that events in his childhood made him want to help those in need.

"I grew up in a family that was not wealthy at all and we had moments in my growing up years that,

definitely we were in need," Seese said. "Probably part of my passion is because of what I went through as a child. My passion has always been for families in need and children. If people ask for me to help with something, I try to find the time."

Inspired by Seese, the employees at Greenridge Realty started their own event to raise money for Pink Arrow Pride.

"My agents came up with the idea of another function for the community called Pinknic," Seese said. "They came up with the

idea, they ran the show, they did a wonderful job. It is a community picnic that we throw right out here in the front yard. Last year was the first year. All the proceeds go to Pink Arrow Pride. We're starting to plan 2015's Pinknic now."

Seese said that Lowell is incredibly charitable for a town of its size.

"This is a small community," Seese said. "It's growing, but it's a small community and we need to help each other. That's what I think Lowell is great at doing. There's a ton of people that get involved."

Lowell Women's Club will receive Chamber's Non-Profit Spotlight award

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The Lowell Women's Club won this year's Non-profit Spotlight award, "Recognizing an outstanding nonprofit over the past year."

"We're obviously very excited, thrilled and honored," the club's president Jan Thompson said. "We are honored beyond belief."

Lowell Women's Club was established in 1928. Their goal is to raise funds for scholarships and community gifts and to mentor girls from Lowell High School.

"Most of our kids are from Lowell High School, but it can be anybody from within the Lowell school

district," Thompson said. "Our goal is to mentor our junior members and also to do volunteer work which provides money for the scholarships that we give our girls."

Lowell Womens' Club is a constant presence at local events.

"We do Expo, we have an annual flea market at the Lowell Farmers' Market, we have a booth at the fall festival, we have a luncheon at the chamber office during Christmas Through Lowell, and we sell crafts and homemade jams at the First Congregational Church during Christmas Through Lowell," Thompson said. "We're involved with

FROM, Gilda's Club of Lowell, Pink Arrow Pride, St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis, Schneider Manor, [and] we have two food drives each year within the club for FROM. We also bring in diapers for St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis and for the Alpha Women's Center. Our members are into all the various nonprofits in town. Our membership works at FROM, they work at Lowell Area Historical Museum [and] they work at the chamber. Anything that goes on in this town, I have members that are in that."

There are 68 women involved in Lowell Women's Club.

This year we have 59

members and nine junior members, which are [high school] seniors," Thompson said. "We have had as many as 14 [junior members]. Each girl has a sponsor and we see to it that they are involved not only in our volunteer work, but work in the community with other nonprofits."

Thompson said the club is thankful for the award.

"We appreciate the award very, very much," Thompson said. "We're extremely honored. We never have done anything looking for an award, we just want to work with our girls and help the community in every way we can."

Timpson Transport to receive one of this year's Brick awards

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

One of this year's Brick awards will go to Timpson Transport, 3175 Segwun Ave. SE.

Brick awards are given to businesses that meet four criteria. They must have "capital investment in their existing business, improving our economic base within the greater Lowell community, making an investment to grow and further develop their business, and creating vibrancy within the community."

"We're primarily a trucking company," said Colleen Timpson, the company's owner. "We do oversized loads on flatbeds. We haul primarily for two companies. Kerkstra Precast in Grand Rapids, we've been hauling for them for over 25 years. We have over 80 trailers there and 18 of our drivers are coming into Kerkstra. We have five or six drivers committed to King Milling right here in Lowell. We've been working with King Milling for over 25 years as well. If it wasn't for King Milling we would be half the size that we are. They've been wonderful. They're great people to work with. They do a lot to keep the economy in Lowell moving."

They have 33 full-time employees and Timpson said that the company is currently hiring.

"We need new employees," Timpson said. "We're looking to hire more people. We are looking for at least two drivers. We're constantly adding new equipment, new trucks."

Timpson said their company's biggest contribution to the local economy is giving people work.

"Commerce is driven by people working," Timpson said. "I give my guy a paycheck, he goes and buys gas, he buys groceries right there in the community. Our employees shop at Meijer, they shop at Gary's Country Meats, they buy gas at the Shell. It goes around and around and around. All 33 of our employees live within 20 miles of Lowell."

Their big project right now is hauling concrete walls from Kerkstra Precast to the construction site of a new Meijer store in Traverse City.

"That's an easy run," Timpson said. "That's one of the best runs we have. We did Fox Ford Lincoln in downtown Chicago last fall. We're working on housing for U of M in Ann Arbor,

we've been right downtown in Detroit building a huge parking lot, the addition to Mary Free Bed, [and] we did the Van Andel Arena. We do big jobs."

Because the business is so successful, they concentrate on financial support of local charities.

"We're pretty darn busy so we don't have a lot of spare time to be active, but

we do a lot of donating," Timpson said. "We donate \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year right into the local community, anything from Gilda's Club to FROM; YMCA is one of the big ones and just tons and tons of little ones. Today I sponsored a softball team. Stuff like that. This year we were actually the main donor for the YMCA."



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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council, sitting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, will hold a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331 to consider the following variance request:

1580 Carol Lynne Drive – Brian Darling wishes to construct an attached garage to the side of his home located at 1580 Carol Lynne Drive. The proposed attached garage would be 12 feet away from the principal front lot line. Within the R-2 District, there must be a 30 foot front yard setback, thus a variance of 18 feet was requested.

Information regarding this request and the Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan, during regular business hours. Written comments will be received until the time of the hearing.

Susan Ullery
Deputy City Clerk

City council, continued

weekend that Bank of America has been paid by the insurance company and we just don't know why they're not taking the house down," said Lowell police chief Steve Bukala.

Howe informed the council that flow monitors were installed at the wastewater treatment plant. Flow monitors are instruments used to measure the flow rate of a liquid. According to the Strategic Goals Report, the flow monitors will "collect data to evaluate and size the new lift station while giving us more information to assess areas for eliminating inflow and infiltration."

The council unani-

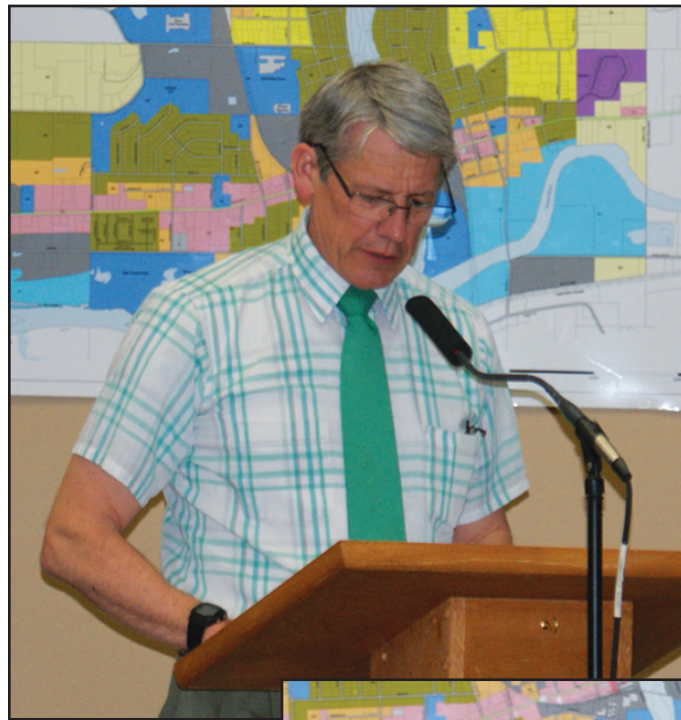
mously passed a "Comprehensive Tree Plan." Jim Reagan, chairperson of the Arbor board, spoke to the council about the Comprehensive Tree Plan.

"The planned Arbor Day observance will be this April 24," Reagan said. "Today the Arbor board has authorized the installation of approximately 501 trees along with 200 pine seedlings, so about 701 trees. [...] It will be about \$10,000 to carry out the projects that we have planned."

The meeting adjourned to a closed session after 28 minutes. There was one item listed for discussion during the closed session, "pending litigation - MCL 15.268(e)."

This is the part of the Open Meetings Act pertaining to the permissible purposes of closed sessions. MCL 15.268(e) reads, "To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, but only if an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the public body."

The city council will have their next regular meeting at city hall on Monday, April 6 at 7 pm. They also have a work session scheduled for 6 pm on March 23, also at city hall. The work session will be about the city budget.



Arbor board chairperson Jim Reagan said 701 trees will be planted downtown this spring.



Laura Brower spoke to the council about a burned-out house on Lincoln Lake Ave.

•••

He that plants trees loves others beside himself.

~ Dr. Thomas Fuller (1654 - 1734)



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LoWellness launches survey

The Lowell EXPO marks the official launch of a health initiative that is gaining recognition as the "first of its kind in Michigan." LoWellness is a unique project that will use local data taken from a

community survey to design health programs and identify services that are needed, but not currently available in the Lowell area. Everyone who lives or works in Lowell is encouraged to take the survey. Those who take it during EXPO can register to win a Fitbit fitness tracker or \$100 in Shop Lowell gift certificates.

Not only will the survey address medical and health issues, but it will give the community a platform to share ideas and opinions of items that would enhance wellness, such as things you would like to see or see more of in the community. "One item in particular that keeps coming up in conversations is a pool for Lowell," said Jodie Seese, program director for LoWellness. "Other topics we hear involve additional walking and hiking trails as well as more opportunities to use the beautiful, natural resources in this area. For example, one outcome of a survey like this could be

documenting interest for canoe and kayak rentals downtown."

The goal is to get 3,000 surveys completed by the end of summer. The survey asks questions about health and wellness, but also seeks to identify barriers to good health, such as access to healthcare, transportation issues and Internet availability. Surveys will be available in paper form at public events around Lowell and online by going to the Lowell Community Wellness website. Lowell Community Wellness (LCW) commissioned the survey using grant funding from the Lowell Area Community Fund. That grant allowed LCW to hire the data and research firm CRI, Community Research Institute, of Grand Valley State University to design the survey and analyze the data.

Because EXPO marks the public debut of LoWellness there will be a press conference held at 11 am to officially announce the project and how it has attracted regional interest from many health related organizations. Key note speaker Tom Haas, Grand Valley State University president, will talk about the uniqueness of the initiative and the collaboration it has sparked in West Michigan.



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BASKETBALL **Red Arrow**
SPORTS

Boys win opening round of districts - fall short in semifinals

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Red Arrow varsity boys basketball team earned an 82-75 win over Cedar Springs in the opening round of the Class A district competition last week before falling to Northview 65-61 in the semifinals to close out a record-breaking season.

Lowell's seven-point victory over Cedar Springs was the team's 14th win of the season, a feat not accomplished since the 1983-84 season.

"It was exciting for the Lowell basketball program to have some success this season," said coach Kyle Carhart. "Our players have put in a lot of time both in season and out. Watching the players generate some excitement and have some success as a reward, was great to witness."

Lowell started the game against Cedar Springs with careful aggression forcing turnovers, defending hard, managing their fouls and

outscored Cedar in both the first and second periods. The squad entered the last half of the game with a ten point advantage, 36-26 and the team's two guards, Ryan Stevens and Matt Beachler, leading the team on the scoreboard.

The Arrows continued to amp up their energy in the third earning an impressive 29 points to their opponent's 20 keeping them in front moving into the fourth. Cedar ran hard in the final eight minutes earning their own 29, but still fell short to give Lowell the 82-75 victory.

Sophomore Beachler had an outstanding offensive game earning 37 points while junior Stevens netted an impressive 22 accounting

for nearly 72 percent of the team's point total.

"Matt and Ryan were outstanding in our playoff win at Cedar. They made winning plays for us down the stretch of the game and great decisions all game long. It was exciting to see our veteran guards step up in a high pressure playoff game," said Carhart.

Basketball,
continued, page 10



Ryan Stevens earned a total 32 points in the team's two district play-off games last week. At right, Gabe Steed pops in a three pointer.



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Red Arrow SPORTS

Basketball, continued

The win sent the Arrows into the district semifinals where they met Grand Rapids Northview at Greenville High School.

A close game throughout, the two competing squads were never out of a basket's range of each other. Lowell held

just a two-point lead at the first buzzer and a one-point lead at the half which ended 30-29.

Northview gained ground in the second half getting eight points ahead of the Arrows at one point. Despite a late Lowell rally Northview was able to hold

their lead and knock Lowell out of a district final bid with a 65-61 win.

"We were a couple of shots or a couple of stops away from being successful against Northview," said Carhart of the close loss.

Beachler once again led

all Lowell scorers earning 19. Austin Branagan, back after sitting out several games due to injury, chipped in ten along with teammate Stevens. Carter Noskey and Josh Branagan, in his last appearance as a Red Arrow, both earned nine.

"The season was a lot of fun," said Carhart of the program's best finish in 31 years. "Anytime you start to talk about a team achieving success that has not been done in awhile it's exciting. I am proud and excited for the players.

It will be interesting to see what our players are willing to sacrifice for success next season. I hope this year gave them a taste and they are willing to work harder, together, to improve for next year."

Player Spotlight

Our Spotlight Athletes This Week:

Danny Kruse & Matt Beachler

Danny Kruse

Junior Danny Kruse has a shy and modest demeanor despite his many accolades on the mat as part of Lowell Red Arrow wrestling. The fine-tuned and dedicated state ranked grappler has helped to bring home two state titles for the squad and also adds his grit to the varsity football team. Kruse excels in the classroom as well maintaining a 3.8 GPA earning him a regular spot on the honor roll and an induction into the National Honors Society.

When did you begin wrestling?

In the 6th grade. My older brother wrestled and encouraged me to do it as well.

What has been your greatest wrestling moment?

Winning my first team state title in 2014.

What lesson learned through wrestling do you apply to your life?

Hard work pays off.

What is unique about representing Lowell?

It's not just wrestling for yourself but for your team and community.



What is the key to the success of the team?

The hard work up in the wrestling room throughout the year and our great coaching staff.

What awards and honors have you received?

Three conference titles, two team state titles and taking seventh in the state as an individual.

What are your post high school plans?

Going to college and pursuing a career in the medical field.

Who is your personal inspiration?

My mom Sue. She persuades me to always do the right thing, even when no one is looking. She taught me to always pick yourself up and work as hard as you can.

Matt Beachler

Lowell varsity basketball player Matt Beachler is averaging 21 points a game, has racked up an astounding 280 points on the season and has shattered several Red Arrows' records. In December he netted 44 points against Hastings to simultaneously set the school record for most points in a game and most successful three-point shots with nine.

The standout has also been receiving recruitment attention from Division I schools. Beachler is only a sophomore.

Poised with the time, talent and dedication to take his love of the sport to the next level, the athletic and academic standout is certainly one to watch and sure to claim more space in the LHS record books.

When did you begin playing basketball?

I have played basketball for as long as I can remember and always loved it.

What has been your greatest moment so far?

Playing against East Grand Rapids in honor of the Offrink family along with a record-breaking crowd. The community coming together to help the Offrinks and support our team was amazing.

Why do you think that athletic participation is important?

Being able to be part of a team and learning to work together to achieve goals makes athletics very important to every individual and team.

What lesson learned through athletics do you apply to your daily life? Having a strong work ethic and transferring it into everything that I do is the main lesson I have acquired through playing sports.

What is your relationship like with your coach?

Coach Carhart pushes me every day to be the best that I can be.

What do you think is the team's potential this season and in the coming years?

We will continue to work hard and fight for a conference title! The last boys' basketball conference championship was in 1978.

How do your teammates help to make you a stronger player?

Many of us have been playing together since we were young kids and it translates into good team chemistry today.

What element of the game challenges you?

I hope to increase my strength through a lot more conditioning.

Have any college recruiters contacted you?

Many coaches have come to see me play this year and I have taken numerous college visits.

In what extracurricular activities do you participate?

I have participated in the Interact Club and student council in the past and hope to get involved in some other activities my junior and senior years.

What is unique about competing as a Red Arrow?

There is nothing better than our Lowell community and special opportunities, such as last week against East Grand Rapids...playing for something more than basketball.

Who is your inspiration?

My dad. He loves the sport of basketball and always makes time to help work with me.



Red Arrow - GYMNASTICS SPORTS

Gymnasts exhibit real effort and skill at state meet

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Seven Lowell varsity gymnasts wrapped up a record-breaking season at the Division II Individuals State Finals last weekend and three earned medal finishes.

“It was a great day for Lowell gymnastics! For three girls to come home with state medals, that’s yet another milestone for our program,” said coach Michele DeHaan.

The day’s top performer was Lauren DeHaan. The only qualifying senior, DeHaan started the day off rough taking a fall on a tumbling pass during her floor exercise routine.

“She did a great job of putting that event behind her and focusing on the next three. Years of competition experience definitely helped with that.”

Her effort earned her dual sixth-place finishes on the vault (8.95) and on the beam (8.875). This was DeHaan’s third time qualifying for state competition but only her first time placing.

“Everyone could tell how much it meant to her. She cried happy tears both times she went up to get her medals,” reported DeHaan.

Lauren Browning also medaled earning a tenth-place finish on the vault with a score of 8.85.

“Lauren Browning has been so consistent this year for us on vault and she showed that at the finals,” said DeHaan. “A solid score for her and a tenth-place finish was a great way to finish her junior year.”

The day’s highest finisher was Corah Kaufman taking third place on the bars with a score of 8.875. Kaufman performed a highly difficult routine she has been perfecting throughout the season and nailed it when it mattered most.



Lowell’s seven state qualifiers, from left to right: Corah Kaufman, Lauren Browning, Sarena Wilterdink, Lauren DeHaan, Karmen Anderson, Alise Forward and Maura Fitzpatrick. In addition the gymnastics team earned Academic All-State team honors for their combined GPA of 3.774.

“She had an outstanding routine and placed third in the state! What an accomplishment for a sophomore,” said the coach.

Several gymnasts performed well during their debut appearances at the state competition. Alise Forward earned an 8.6 on the vault, Maura Fitzpatrick an 8.65 on the floor exercise and Sarena Wilterdink an 8.375 on the bars.

“Maura, Alise and Sarena had great routines for their first time at state. It is always a bit overwhelming the first time there. The level of competition and having four judges instead of two can be very intimidating,” said DeHaan.

Karmen Anderson qualified for the competition for the second time this year. Her finish of 7.55 on the beam was not enough to place, but enough to show

her coach that she has a bright future with the team.

“She nailed her routine last week at regionals and just couldn’t repeat that this week. She is only a sophomore so we expect big things from her the next two years.”

“Another amazing history making season for our program in the books,” said DeHaan. “Most ever 9.0s scored in a season by the team, first 9.0 on bars since the 1990s, school beam record tied, school team record broken with our first ever team score over 140, most girls qualified to state and most girls placed at state!”

Looking toward next season, the squad will feel the impact of losing four top performing seniors giving the team’s emerging talent some big shoes to fill.



Pictured are the three state medalists, from left to right: Lauren Browning, Lauren DeHaan and Corah Kaufman. Browning also earned Academic All-State gymnast for her individual GPA.

L
Go Red Arrows!



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell

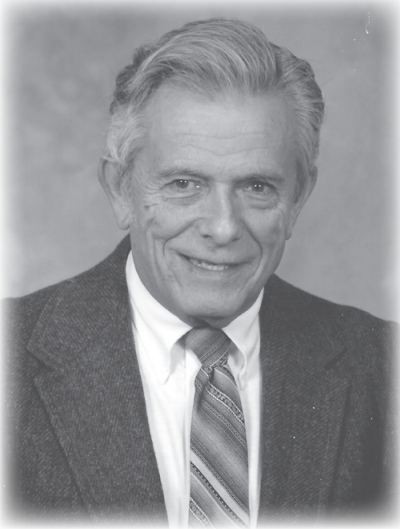
ledger



obituaries

LESTER

William "Bill" Lester Johnson, Jr., 91, son of William Lester Johnson, Sr. and Alta Wride Johnson, went home to his Lord and Savior on March 14, 2015. Bill passed away following a long illness in his home in Lowell surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, listening to favorite Bible verses and hymns. He leaves behind Vivian, his devoted wife of 66 years, his brother Fay, and his three children: Carol (Gary) Carpenter, Bill (Dolly) Johnson III, and Mark (Renée) Johnson; as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Teresa (Steve) Kiser, Christopher Carpenter, Bill (Emily) Johnson IV, Allie (Phil) Johnson-Giles, Abby Johnson, Andy Johnson, Alicia Johnson, Bryce Johnson, Anna Johnson, Graham Johnson, Audra Johnson, Adrienne Johnson, Elijah Kiser, and Eliana Kiser. In God's presence, Bill is reunited with his children William Lawrence and Cinda Lucille, both of whom passed away at an early age in 1957. Visitation will be at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI on Tuesday, March 17 from 5-7:00 p.m. A service celebrating Bill's life will be held at First Baptist Church of Lowell, 2275 West Main St., Wednesday, March 18, at 11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Lowell, MI.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

VAUGHAN

Irene Helen Vaughan, age 92 of Lowell, passed away Friday, March 13, 2015. She is survived by her husband Harry, with whom she shared her life for 70 years; daughters, Sharon VanderWarf, Judith (Henry) Wright; sisters, Rosella Maloney, Lucille Roth; grandchildren, Clay (Karen) VanderWarf, Jason (Amanda) VanderWarf, Renei (Rich) Hall; and numerous great grandchildren. Funeral service will be held Tuesday 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Interment St. Mary Cemetery, Lowell. Visitation Monday 5-7:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 15-196,923-DE

The Virginia Lee
Malmyga Trust

Re: Virginia Lee
Malmyga, decedent,
Date of Birth:
07-24-1932

Estate of
JESSIE M. TAWNEY.
Date of birth: 09/09/1938.

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS:
The decedent,
M. Tawney,
12/24/2014.

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS:
The decedent, Virginia Lee
Malmyga, who lived
at 1532 Lewison, N.E.,
Grand Rapids, MI 49505,
died 02-17-2015.

Creditors of the
decedent are notified
that all claims against
the estate will be
forever barred unless
presented to James
D. Meszaros, personal
representative, or
to both the probate
court at 939 Flat St.
NE, Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the personal
representative within 4
months after the date
of publication of this
notice.

Creditors of the
decedent are notified
that all claims against
the deceased or the
trust will be forever
barred unless
presented to Dolores
M. Malski, Trustee, 1602
Richmond, N.W., Grand
Rapids, MI 49504, within
4 months after the date
of publication of this
notice.

March 10, 2015

March 10, 2015

Thomas E. Lane (P36477)
688 Cascade West Pkwy SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-285-6050

John D. Mitus, Attorney
(P31244)
410 Bridge St., N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

James D. Meszaros
939 Flat St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-456-7728

Dolores M. Malski,
Trustee
1602 Richmond St., N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

FLAT RIVER ELECTRIC, LLC
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Email: Info@flatriverelectric.com
616.987-0596

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WRWW 92.3 & Internet Schedule

[SUNDAY]
[03-22-15]

9:00 pm 'Old-Time Radio'

[MONDAY]
[03-23-15]

2:30 'The Infinite Show' with Raiden Miller

4:15 Softball: Lowell vs Wyoming Park

[TUESDAY]
[03-24-15]

3:00 'The Lovely Beats Radio Show' with DJ Cupid & DJ Heartbeat
4:30 'Its Everything Show' with DJ Mickey & DJ Chapstick
7:00 Collage Concert

[WEDNESDAY]
[03-25-15]

2:30 'The Archer Pina Show'
4:30 'The After Hours Show' with Dakota Krzysik
7:00 National Honor Society Induction

[THURSDAY]
[03-26-15]

2:30 'The No Topic Show' with Dakota Krzysik & Devin Read

7:30 'The Night Shift' with Clayton Brown & Jerry Thompson

[FRIDAY]
[03-27-15]

2:30 'The Show' with Jeremy Kargl & Ryne Clarke
5:00 'The Old World Blues Show' with Riley Nethercott & Chase Miller

[SATURDAY]
[03-28-15]

9:00 We're (WRWW) at the Lowell Expo until 3:00

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.

office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
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.^{TFN}

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

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

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.

14 FT. JON BOAT - 20 hp motor & electric motor, \$800. Call 897-5728.

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

1998 FORD F150 - XLT truck good shape. Aluminum tool box in bed. Must sell, \$800. Call 350-4320.

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

2009 KIA RONDO LX - \$7,499. Automatic, 4 cyl., 73K miles. Call 810-845-0431 for more info. Vehicle maintenance kept regularly & car is in great shape!

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

1993 BUICK PARK AVENUE - great drive train, 115,000 actual miles, \$800. Call 897-5728.

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

DRY CHAPPED HANDS? - Try something different - homemade, all natural hand lotion. Lasts a long time & leaves your skin super soft! Check out my store at www.etsy.com, search for NanaHannahs. For local pickup, use coupon code LOCAL15 & we can arrange a pickup in Lowell.

for sale

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

help wanted

NOAH'S PET CEMETERY & PET CREMATORY INC. - is looking for an outgoing, compassionate & reliable person to work in the cemetery, crematory & driving for pick-up & deliveries. Must be able to lift heavy items. Must have an excellent driving record. Apply in person Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 2727 Orange Ave, Cascade, MI 49546.

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

INSTALLERS NEEDED - Replacement windows, vinyl siding, metal roofing. Must have own truck, tools, insurance, aluminum brake. Great work ethic & detail oriented. We supply all materials & year-round work. Email resume to: scott@awswest.com or call 616-648-7036.

BABYSITTER - Needed to watch 2 children on occasional weekday/weekend eve hours. Call 616-430-0219.

ACTIVITY ASSISTANT - P.T. 1:30 - 9. Must have high school diploma. Apply at The Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center, Lowell.

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

RN/LPN - Community Caregivers, a home health care agency, is seeking RN/LPN to help with a case in the Greenville area. Part-time 2nd shift. Fill out the online application at www.healthcareassociates.net. We would be happy to hear from you.

MAINTENANCE - An apartment complex in the Lowell area is seeking a 30-40 hour per week maintenance person. Candidate must possess basic mechanical abilities; i.e., general repair/maintenance of appliances, fixtures, and furnishings; painting as needed; maintaining supplies; & scheduling subcontractors. Hours are flexible. Send resume to Retirement Living Management, Attn: Green Acres Maintenance man, 1845 Birmingham, Lowell, MI 49331

wanted

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

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).

LOWELL - 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$650 a month plus utilities, \$350 deposit. No smoking and no pets. Call 897-4829.

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT - in Lowell. \$500/month + deposit. Call Don 616-890-2598.

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

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

misc.

ALL LOWELL AREA WOMEN - are invited to a prayer celebration featuring speaker Patsy Lewis Sat., March 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Evergreen Missionary Church. patsy.pottersclayministry.com to register 897-7185.

services

GO MELINDA! - She does it again! 3 houses SOLD in 1 week & still negotiating! If you are thinking about making a move in the next 6 months, do yourself a favor & call Melinda! She will be sure to give you VIP service! Call Melinda Robinson at 616-648-0151, visit www.GoMelinda.com or facebook.com/GoMelinda City2Shore Real Estate, 662-9664.

CARPET INSTALLATION - Residential & commercial, patches, restretch. Free estimates. Call Kevin at 616-813-4299.

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

services

GARAGE DOOR & OPENER REPAIR SPECIAL - \$30 off broken spring or opener repair. Free estimates. Call Global Discount Garage Doors, 616-334-3574.^{TFN}

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

CHALLENGED BY LIFE? - I can help. Your only local attorney offering legal services, mediation & coaching to help you move forward. We can do it together! Flexible hours & payment terms. Text or call Bonnie at 616-745-0406.

services

BASEMENT WATER-PROOFING - Professional Basement Services, waterproofing, crack repair, mold remediation. Local/licensed. Free estimates. 517-290-5556.

COUNSELING SERVICES IN LOWELL - Individuals, couples, families & groups. Age 13+ Life Transitions Therapy, 616-238-2116.

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

services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS - Wed. & Fri. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042.

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

"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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOWELL ROTARY CLUB - meets each Wednesday at noon at Lowell City Hall. New members welcome.

TECH SESSIONS - Thursdays by appointment only, 1-3 p.m. Help with internet, email, ereaders, basic computer skills. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

Looking Back, continued

bonds and engine notes. Good news for the taxpayers and all citizens of the village of Lowell—all bonded indebtedness and outstanding notes are soon to be paid in full and best of all the cash is available for the purpose. The village council voted Monday night to pay up the outstanding notes against the Fairbanks-Morse Diesel engine, mounting to \$5,817.20 to be paid this week to the Municipal Acceptance Corporation. The Common Council also voted to pay \$14,900 on June 1 on the water works bonds, although these bonds are not due until 1942, but paying same will stop interest charges. It was voted to pay the paving bonds of \$4,000 on September 1, although these bonds are not due until 1946. After the above payments are made, the village indebtedness will have been fully paid so far as bonded indebtedness and outstanding notes are concerned.

Poultry house and flock burn. Later the same forenoon the fire department was called to the Wilbur Burras farm in southwest Lowell where a 26x100 poultry house and a flock of about 400 laying hens were destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of several hundred dollars, covered by insurance in the state Mutual. The building burned with such rapidity that it was beyond saving by the time the fire department reached the scene.

The Common Council last Monday night granted a building permit to Clyde Newell for a new home to be erected at the corner of N. Hudson and Highway streets.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger March 18, 1965

Headline: Bill Jones new Showboat head set July 26-31 for 1965 dates. William Jones, former endman and interlocutor was elected as president of Lowell Showboat for 1965, on Monday night, by the newly named board of directors. Jones, who has

a background of working in orchestras and in the entertainment world, was also appointed to head the entertainment committee for this year's Showboat, which will be presented July 26 through 31...

Lowell High School is justly proud of its band's performance in winning a first division at the District No. 10 Band Festival last Saturday. Three of the four judges rating the bands placed Lowell in first division, including the judge for Sight Reading. This is the first time since 1957 that the Lowell Band has received this division. This entitled the band to enter the State Band Festival to be held in Grand Rapids April 10th. A trophy will be presented to the band, and each band member will receive a blue metal in recognition of this honor. The Junior Band also rated high and missed a first division by only one judge. This is a decided improvement over the last three years, but does not qualify them to enter the State Festival.

Police reported a break-in theft over the week end. Thurston Tidd told police that \$80 had been stolen from his home. Lowell Junior High School gym was entered by breaking the glass in the west door Saturday night or Sunday morning, but investigation had not revealed anything missing. Both reports are being investigated.

Ralph Fluger, Lowell baker, who usually arises at 4 am to start his days work, celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, by sleeping in. Arriving at 8 am slowed up production for the morning, but it sure sounds like a good way to celebrate!

A National Rifle Association record was set over the week end in competition at the Michigan State Gallery Pistol Championships. The Lowell Rifle and Pistol Club set a new record in the .2 caliber team match competition by scoring 1,100 points out of a possible 1,200. The previous record of 1,096 was set by the Presido Gun Club of California.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 21, 1990

Headline: Council votes to shift operation of the Lowell Medical Rescue unit to Lowell Fire. Lowell Chief of Police Barry Emmons approached the Lowell City Council at its regular meeting held Monday, March 19 with a proposal to transfer operation of the Lowell Medical Rescue unit from the Police Department to the Fire Department. According to Emmons, the proposed shift has been coming for some time. He cited several reasons for the change. Problems with dispatching from the Kent County Sheriff's Department headed the list. Emmons explained that Lowell Medical Rescue is the only such unit in the county, and one of very few in west Michigan, that is still operated by a police department. All others are under the jurisdiction of

area fire departments. According to Emmons, this scenario creates confusion at the dispatcher level, and often leads to improper dispatching of police, fire and rescue here in Lowell.

Lowell City residents with sidewalks that need to be replaced may find it economically wise to take advantage of the final year of a three-year sidewalk construction program. Lowell City Council members voted not to continue the program in 1991. The current program is contracted out to Richard Wheeler. Under the contract, the City and residents split the costs if a sidewalk is replaced. If a new sidewalk is put down, the City covers 25 percent of costs. Residents can spread their payments out over five years and have it added onto their property tax... After 1990, the program will be dropped, and the cost will fall strictly on the resident with no financial help from the City.

The Vergennes Township Board recently granted preliminary approval to two subdivision plats proposed by William Schruer. The recent action taken by the board is the first of many steps necessary to establish the properties as subdivisions under the Michigan Sub-Division Control Act. Both proposed subdivisions abutt the Lowell Airport. The idea is to have the developer come before controlling governmental bodies to discuss his intentions, so that any holes in the plans can be dealt with before going to the state. One of the plats would be at the north end of the east line of the Lowell Airport property and the other plat would be located at the east end of the north line. The preliminary plan for the scenic view plats have already been examined by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Planning Board member Gil Wise said the Commission had no objections. In a letter to Schreur, Robert Addy, Administrator from the Airport Development Division of the Bureau of Aeronautics, wrote that the Bureau is cautious about residential development being planned next to an airport.

The 1990 Miss Lowell Showboat Queen Pageant will take center stage this Saturday (March 24) at the Lowell Middle School. The pageant gala is scheduled to commence at 7 pm. The public is welcomed and there will be a \$1 admission. There will be 10 young ladies between the ages of 17 and 21 vying for the crown... The 1990 Lowell Showboat Queen will be asked to appear at all three Showboat performances, and be a Showboat representative in roughly nine parades and festivals throughout the summer.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held at a special meeting on **Monday, April 6, 2015 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to accept comment for the application as summarized below:

DAS Holdings LLC and DHS Holdings LLC have applied for a tentative preliminary plat home development approval for phase one of 24 home site platted lots and 3 land division lots on part of the property known as 910 Alden Nash Ave SE. Each plat phase (total of 5) will be reviewed separately timed as the lots are built on in each approved phase.

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

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m. Synopsis of Minutes March 9, 2015

Motions Approved:

Falicia Pelkey and John Rasch as new Fire Fighter Trainees

New insurance agent and policy

New Outlook Calendar

New iCompass

CDBG Resolution 2015-005A

North Kent Transit Fees

Budget for F/Y 2015/2016 Revenue and Expenditures 588,114.00 and 0.7226 mils

General Appropriations Act

Resolution 2015-012

**Our next Township Meeting
will be April 13, 2015
At 7:00 p.m.**

The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at **www.grattantownship.org**

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THEME:
Spring in the Air

- ACROSS**
- Hawaiian island
 - ___ opener
 - Actress ___ Perlman
 - Olympian Jesse _____
 - Fertility clinic stock
 - None of these good ones go unpunished?
 - Blood line
 - Grazing area
 - Expression of pirate's displeasure
 - *Vacation destination
 - *Blooming tree
 - *Before it becomes one, corn is planted in spring
 - Computer solicitation
 - Communications org.
 - *Greek goddess of spring
 - Recipients of funds or benefits
 - Diving bird
 - Kuwaiti, e.g.
 - Mother-of-pearl
 - Fairy tale opener
 - Overthrow by argument
 - Bygone days
 - Jasmine and Basmati
 - Extinct bird
 - Musher's transport
 - Like lemon
 - Inquires
 - Driver's license and passports, e.g.
 - Cooking fat
 - To this day
 - *Resurrection celebration
 - *"Spring _____, fall back"
 - Jamaican national fruit
 - Don't waste
 - New World bird
 - A peddler who shouts to advertise

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
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40					41				42		43			
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64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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- DOWN**
- Baker's unit
 - Military no-show
 - Agrippina's slayer
 - Cavern
 - Old Testament prophet
 - Soft drink
 - "___ Maria"
 - Civil rights org.
 - Back of military formation
 - German mister
 - Avant-garde
 - *___ Wednesday
 - Demigod
 - Doom and gloom
 - Consumed or experienced
 - Seaworthy vessel
 - *Roman goddess of spring
 - Like a cone
 - Spherical bacteria
 - Ill-___ or unrefined
 - Thumbs-down votes

- Food safety threat
- Made a mistake
- *Most need water
- Financial aid criterion
- *Signs of the season
- Ginza locale
- Kim to Kourtney, e.g.
- Stage signal
- Servomechanisms, for short
- Do like Vesuvius
- Unforeseen development
- Shade of beige
- Analogous
- Gets the picture
- Greek salad ingredient
- Prima donna's song
- Fishing rod attachment
- Mr. Uncool
- College readiness assessment
- Johnny Cash's "A Boy Named ___"

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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

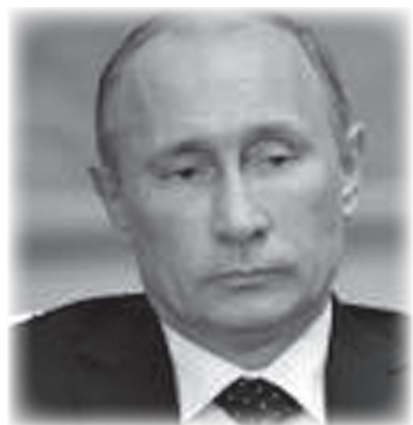
© StatePoint Media
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



March 11 - March 17

While a New York trooper was gassing up his marked patrol car, a 50-year-old man pulled in and parked next to it. Police say the man got out of his vehicle and walked directly into the trooper's car. It may have been the easiest driving while intoxicated arrest ever, as the man failed field sobriety tests and was arrested for DWI.

After 10 unexplained days out of public view, 62-year-old Russian President Vladimir Putin reappeared on Monday, laughing off the "gossip" over his health that had erupted during his absence. His absence had fueled rumors he was ill, had been overthrown by the army or had even flown abroad to attend the birth of a love child.



Tuesday, Britain's Captain Harry Wales, 30-year-old Prince Harry, announced he will leave the armed forces in June, after a decade of service that included two tours of duty in Afghanistan. Like his father and elder brother William, Harry has taken on more official duties as 88-year-old Queen Elizabeth scales back her workload.



Widespread destruction and a flattened landscape was left in the South Pacific nation of Port Vila, Vanuatu, after being hit by a fierce cyclone. Outer islands, particularly on Tanna Island, were hardest hit by Cyclone Pam where more than 80 percent of homes and other buildings appeared to be partially or completely destroyed.

The world's largest freshwater lake, in Russia's Siberian South, is shrinking. In the past four months the Lake Baikal's water level has dropped so low that experts are calling it a crisis – one they warn could lead to conflicts in Russia over water. The problem, scientists and environmentalists say, is a combination of climate change and growing use of hydropower.

the **ledger**

105 N. Broadway
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Lowell FFA has successful showing at state convention

The Lowell FFA completed a successful trip to the Michigan FFA Convention March 11-13. Twenty-five members from Lowell traveled to Michigan State University to receive awards or compete in state-level competitions.

Lowell senior Maria Blough was elected to serve as the 2015-2016 State FFA Region V vice president. Blough advanced through regional and state level interviews and gave a speech in front of the convention delegates. After counting the votes, Blough came out on top and will represent Michigan as one of twelve state officers. Maria is the 16th member from Lowell to serve as a state officer and joins a list that includes Sen. Dave Hildenbrand and Rep. Lisa Lyons.

Members from Lowell competed in three State FFA Leadership contests. The leadership contests are designed to help the students build teamwork and communication skills in order to make them better leaders and more prepared for the future. In order to qualify for the state contests, members first had to advance through district and regional contests, finishing in the top two at each level. Lowell had 38 members compete at the district level, 24 advanced to regionals and 19 competed at the state contests.

The team of Maria Blough, Emma Clouser, Paul Crosby, Mary Leasure and Richard Misak received a gold award in the Agricultural Issues contest. Their presentation showed the issues surrounding raising chickens in an urban setting.

In the Greenhand Conduct of Meetings contest, ninth grade members show their ability to run an efficient meeting using correct parliamentary procedure. Team members include Keana Fahrni, Autumn French, Casey French, Jenna Harper, Abigail Kastanek, Elizabeth Kuhns, Samuel Misak, and Connor Nugent. The team competed on the first day of contests and received a silver award.

In the Jr. High Conduct of Meetings contest, middle school members also are asked to run an efficient meeting using correct parliamentary procedure. Team members include Ashton Blum, Ella Dougherty, Kaitlyn Florian, Holden Guinn, Sierra Heintzelman, Ethan Kelley, and Haley Nieuwkoop. The team competed on the second day of contests and received a silver award.

In addition to the Leadership contests, individual members were recognized in other award areas.

In the State Proficiency awards, Nate Blattner was named the state winner in the area of fruit production. The proficiency awards recognize students that have outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE). Blattner completed the award application detailing the work he does on his family orchard, Twin Bee Orchards. As a state winner, Blattner will have the opportunity to submit his application to the National FFA for recognition at that level.

Six members from the Lowell chapter received

their State FFA degree. The State FFA degree is the highest award that the state association can bestow upon one of its members. Of the over 6,600 members in the Michigan FFA, only 384 were chosen to receive this award. The Lowell FFA members that received the award were Maria Blough, Emma Clouser, Paul Crosby, Mary Leasure, Anna Reynolds and Lexie Shaffer.

In order to be considered for the state degree, students have to show that they have worked on a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and have been active in the FFA. A student's SAE project combines the information learned in the agriscience classes with the leadership experiences in the FFA. The SAE is tailored to the student's interests in agriculture. These projects can range from fair animals to jobs to community service activities. In order to qualify for the state degree, the student has to document that they have either earned \$2000 from their project, spent at least 450 hours on the project or a combination of the two.

The Outstanding Junior award was given to one student from Lowell. The requirements for the Outstanding Junior award are similar to the state degree but with lower numbers. Receiving the award from Lowell was Richard Misak.

Serving as delegates for the Lowell FFA were Brad Depew and Brad Stoffers. In addition to electing the 2015-2016 state officers, the delegates had the opportunity to travel to the Capitol Building to meet

with legislators concerning issues facing the agriculture industry.

The Michigan FFA Association is a statewide youth organization of 6,643 student members as part of 103 local FFA chapters.

The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The

Michigan FFA Association operates as a state affiliate under the federally chartered National FFA Organization. The Lowell FFA chapter has nearly 70 members in grades 7-12.



Members of the silver award Greenhand Conduct of Meetings team from Lowell include (back row, left to right): Casey French, Connor Nugent, Samuel Misak; (middle row) Jenna Harper, Abigail Kastanek, Keana Fahrni, Elizabeth Kuhns; (front) Autumn French.



Lowell FFA members that received the State FFA Degree were, left to right: Lexie Shaffer, Maria Blough, Paul Crosby and Emma Clouser. Not pictured are Mary Leasure and Anna Reynolds.



Nate Blattner, was named the state winner in the fruit production proficiency area.



Maria Blough was elected to serve as the 2015-16 State FFA Region V vice president.

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