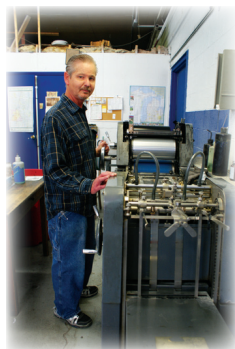


## vets fishing tourney



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## Behind the Scenes



page 8



## Lhs sports



pages 10 & 11

# Detour! Hudson Street bridge to close Thursday for resurfacing

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Hudson Street bridge will be closed for a resurfacing project from Thursday, May 21 until Thursday, July 2. According to a notice on the Kent County Road Commission website, "Traffic will be detoured approximately three quarters of a mile to the east and will cross the river at the Jackson Street bridge."

"The project is scheduled to be completed by July 2," said Tom Byle, assistant director of engineering for the Kent County Road Commission. "It is a multi-faceted project that includes milling the top bridge deck surface and removing underlying deteriorated concrete with

pressurized water, repairing and replacing any corroded steel reinforcement and then pouring the new concrete overlay. After the concrete surface is poured it will be covered and the surface water cured for seven days. Then new bridge expansion joints will be installed. The new concrete must reach full design strength prior to opening the bridge to traffic."

The new surface should hold up for a couple of decades.

"The bridge is being resurfaced with a silica fumed concrete overlay," Byle said. "Silica fumed concrete overlay has become an industry standard for bridge deck concrete overlays. We project the



The bridge on Hudson will be closed until July 2.

new surface to last between 15 and 20 years. A similar repair was done on the bridge in 1989. Expansion

joints will also be replaced during the project."

The work is being done by C.A. Hull Contractors, a company from Walled Lake, Mich. and nearly all of the financial cost will be taken care of with money from the federal government.

"The project's total cost is \$335,000," Byle said. "95 percent of the project is being funded by federal highway dollars allocated for bridges and five percent of the funding is from Kent County Road Commission."

## Annual Drive Your Tractor to School Day



Kent County Youth Fair board president Jon Bieneman and LHS agriscience instructor Kevin Nugent with students who drove their tractors to school.

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Several Lowell High School (LHS) students braved the rain last Friday morning to participate in the annual Drive your Tractor to School event in celebration of their agricultural roots.

This year, eight

students made their way through more traditional traffic to participate in the show and tell of farm equipment and related agricultural oriented activities.

Now organized by LHS agriscience instructor and FFA advisor, Kevin

Nugent, the annual event was originally began more than a decade ago by students. Now an official school event, the day aims to highlight a portion of some students' lives not often shared with fellow classmates.

# Council passes next year's budget

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell City Council passed next year's budget and saved some money on police dispatch at their meeting at city hall on Monday, May 18.

The meeting lasted 40 minutes and was attended by six residents, none of whom spoke during the opportunity for public comment. Councilor Matt Mayer was absent and new director of public works, Ron Woods, attended a city council meeting for the first time.

The council had a 23-second-long public hearing before passing the budget for the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year.

"We've been working since January on putting together a budget," said city manager Mark Howe. "It starts with staff putting together some estimates and working with me to review those estimates. We put together a recommendation.

That recommendation was presented to you [the council] and then you had a couple meetings and a workshop to go over the budget recommendations and now we're at the point where we're ready for approval of that budget. [...] This year I would say [the city budget is] stable again, maybe with hope for the future."

Councilor Jeff Altoft was the sole vote against passing the budget. Copies of the budget are available at city hall.

The council voted to approve a new dispatch agreement with the Kent County Sheriff Department.

"We rely 24/7 on Kent County to dispatch police and right now that costs us about \$40,000," Howe said. "In the new model our first year cost would be about

City council meeting, continued, page 2

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# City council meeting, continued

\$32,000, \$33,000, so we would see a slight decrease on the police side of things.”

The council discussed the HVAC system at the Englehardt Public Library.

“We’ve been having some issues with the heating and cooling system at the library for a couple years,” Howe said. “The main issue has been a, as I understand, I’m going to call it a coolant leak. [...] The system is kind of dying a slow death and at some point in time it’s going to need to be replaced.”

Howe said that he

applied for grants from the Look Memorial Fund and the Lowell Area Community Fund. Howe said he has gotten one quote to see how much it will cost and he is trying to get a second opinion.

“I am pretty confident that we can do the project for \$25,000 or less, but we just don’t have that second quote yet,” Howe said. “What I’m proposing, because of the time issue here, unless you want to schedule a special meeting, I guess that would be another option

if you wanted to schedule a special meeting, but as an alternative what I’m proposing is that you just give me the ability to accept a bid or a quote for less than \$25,000 on this project.”

“I think it’s a good idea to follow our bidding process on such a large thing,” said councilor Sharon Ellison.

Howe and the council decided to have the system inspected by a third party before agreeing on any contract to do the work.

“If you want us to go

back and reevaluate the system and really spec it out, we don’t have the expertise in-house to do that and so we would have to bring somebody in to help us spec that, so it truly would be an improvement, rather than just relying on the contractors to improve the system with their bids,” Howe said.

“We need to do it right, not just patch it,” Ellison said. “If there’s something wrong with the system, the whole thing, I think we need to look at it. We keep fixing

it every 15 years. That’s kind of expensive.”

“Let’s make sure the money is wisely spent,” said mayor Jim Hodges.

Hodges announced that Lowell Light & Power will hold a recycling event on

Saturday, May 30 from 9 am until noon.

The council’s next meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, June 1. They also have a work session scheduled for 6 pm on Tuesday, May 26.



## along main street

### PERENNIAL PLANT FUNDRAISER

Donations of your extra perennials are being accepted now at 520 N. Monroe St. and anytime during the event. Sat. 8-5, Sun. 10-5 and Mon. before and after the Memorial Day parade. All proceeds go to the LMS and LHS robotics club. If you need help digging, call Karen at 897-7808.

### LEGION REQUESTING VETERAN'S NAMES FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Each year during Lowell’s Memorial Day ceremony at the Oakwood Cemetery veterans who have passed away during the previous year are honored. If you have a family member who was a veteran and passed away in 2014 would you please contact the Legion Post commander, Dave Thompson, at 897-2533 or email rivercommander@aol.com with the name, branch of service and the approximate time of his or her service (if you know) so your family member may be honored in the Memorial Day ceremony.

### SUMMER ART SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

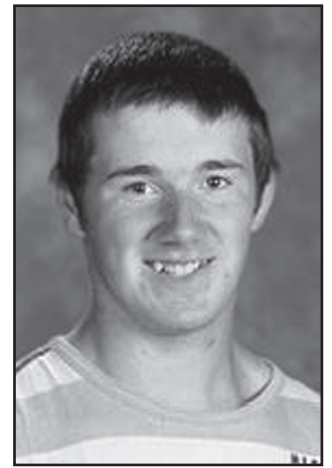
Are you a middle school or high school student interested in a summer arts learning experience? If so, LowellArts! may have a scholarship opportunity just for you. LowellArts! scholarships are available for any summer arts program. All middle school and high school students are eligible. Application available at www.lowellartsmi.org Applications are due May 31. For information, contact LowellArts! office at (616)897-8545.

### MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Dr. Donald Gerard Medical Scholarship fund is seeking new applicants for the school year 2015-2016. Must be a graduate of Lowell Area Schools High School and accepted into or attending a qualified medical school which grants either an M.D. or a D.O. degree. The deadline for applications is June 1, 2015. For further information contact Lisa Nauta at the Student Services office at Lowell High School, 987-2913.

## May Student of the Month

In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School has announced that Josh Idema, 10th grade, is the Lowell High School May Student 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 Josh. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.



Josh Idema

Chaye Klomprens nominated Idema and she writes, “Josh is a wonderful young man. He works very hard in Spanish. Josh always has his work completed

on time and regularly asks questions to ensure his understanding. Josh also shows great character. He is mature and polite to his classmates as well as myself. Josh consistently remains on task and works well with the other students in class. He always greets me with a ‘good morning’ and says ‘have a good day’ at the end of the day.”

## business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Lisa Brown-Gilbert received Realtor of the Month in April.

This award recognizes Brown-Gilbert for her outstanding success and achievements.



Lisa Brown-Gilbert

### WRWW (92.3) & Internet Schedule

#### [SUNDAY] [05-24-15]

2:30 'The Devon & Kelsie Show' with Devon Siciliano & Kelsie Jurmo (3)  
9:00 pm 'Old-Time Radio'

#### [MONDAY] [05-25-15]

Memorial Day: Remember the veterans.

#### [TUESDAY] [05-26-15]

3:00 The Lovely Beats Show with DJ Cupid & DJ Heartbeat (8)  
4:30 The 'It's Everything Show' with DJ's Mickey & Chapstick  
4:30 Varsity Baseball District Playoff Game with Forest Hills Northern

#### [WEDNESDAY] [05-27-15]

2:30 The Archer Pina Show (5)  
4:30 The After Hours Show with Dakota Krzyzile

#### [THURSDAY] [05-28-15]

2:30 The No Topic Show with Dakota (3)  
4:30 The Daily Life Show with Caleb Pickens & Geoff Fleenor (2 & 9)  
8:00 'The Night Shift' with Clayton Brown & Jerry Thompson (1)

#### [FRIDAY] [05-29-15]

2:30 'The Show' with Jeremy Kargl & Ryne Clarke (1)  
4:30 The Old World Blues Show w/ Riley Nethercott & Chase Miller (6)

#### [SATURDAY] [05-30-15]

10:00 Baseball vs Northview: If applicable  
3:00 Baseball vs (?) if applicable: District Finals

7:00 'The Music Locker' with Connor Smithee (2)

(1) = Classic Rock (2) = 2010 & Up Top Hits (3) = Heavy Metal (4) = Country (5) = Dubstep/Dance (6) = Jazz/Blues (7) = Glam Rock (70's) (8) = 2000 & Up Top Hits (9) = Talk Show  
We're (WRWW) recording the "All Strings" concert on 5/26, and the LMS Choir Concert on 5/27. These will be placed on our Podcast page the following day, ready to be downloaded anytime, anywhere.  
Baseball double-header this Friday (5-22) at 11 am & 1 pm. & baseball double-header this Saturday (5-23) at 10 am & 12 Noon.

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# How will the Hudson St. bridge resurfacing project affect Lowell?



**Bertha Erickson**  
 "There will probably be traffic jams because that's the only way out, but if it needs it, it needs it."



**Dian Thomas**  
 "Probably no effect on me, I don't go out that way often, but I have family that come up through there every day and I think it's going to be tough on the town. Hopefully the bridge will be done quickly. I think it's going to be tough. It's going to delay people. I don't think it will affect business that much, though. After all, Lowell is a destination for a lot of us. It's closer than Grand Rapids."



**Isaac Henderson**  
 "I think there will be a lot of congestion that you're going to get with traffic. People going from Alto to Lowell or places down south, or coming from the expressway. That's the main route people take from the expressway to get here, so there's going to be a lot of traffic that you're going to have to go around over there. I'll have to give myself a lot more time to get places. It will take a lot longer to do things."



**Melissa Patyi**  
 "That's going to mean a traumatic increase in traffic on Bowes Rd. and I feel sorry for the Bowes Rd. residents. It will hopefully bring some more business downtown. Maybe they'll put in some new businesses since there's so much construction. They say they'll be done in July, that's not too bad. It could be worse."



**Jessica Hamer**  
 "It will probably just make traffic slower. I don't have a vehicle, so it really doesn't affect me."



**Selena DeGrote**  
 "We live on 36th St. just outside of town and I have to take that street three or four times a day, every day. I will have to go all the way around every single day with all the traffic. That will affect me horribly."

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: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)  
 subject line - "Street Smarts"



## Sheriff's department issues scam warning

Kent County area residents are being contacted by phone by individuals claiming to be a representative of the sheriff department. The caller advises the victim(s) that they have failed to report for jury duty. The caller then instructs the victim(s) that they have to pay an amount of money or they will be arrested on a warrant.

The victim(s) are then instructed to obtain a prepaid credit card from a local store (i.e., CVS, Walmart, Rite Aid) for a specific amount. The victim(s) are told to call the caller back and then requested to provide the numbers on the back of the prepaid card. Once the numbers are given, the money is then taken off the card by the suspect(s) and the fraud is completed.

This scam, is again, taking place in the Kent County area. The Kent County Sheriff Department wants the public to know they do not conduct business in this manner.

If you receive the call, contact your local law enforcement agency.

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The offices of Lowell City Hall, Lowell Police, Light and Power and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2015 in observance of Memorial Day. The City of Lowell refuse and yard waste will be delayed one day. Thursday pickup will be on Friday due to the holiday.

**Betty R. Morlock**  
City Clerk

...  
 Thus the metric system did not really catch on in the States, unless you count the increasing popularity of the nine-millimeter bullet.

~ Dave Barry (1947 - )

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**LAS Elementary Lunch Menus**  
 week of 5/25/15

**MONDAY: Memorial Day.**

**TUESDAY:** Chicken taco on soft tortilla shell, refried beans; fruit & veggie bar; spinach & romaine side salad, celery, mixed fruit, peaches.

**WEDNESDAY:** Pancakes, served w/eggs, hashbrowns, fruit & veggie bar; spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, orange slices.

**THURSDAY:** Rib-B-Q sandwich, seasoned broccoli (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Munsy Lake), WG breaded chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes & gravy (served at Bushwell); fruit & veggie bar; spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, peaches, grapes.

**FRIDAY:** Tony's pepperoni pizza on WG crust, side salad; fruit & veggie bar; spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, applesauce, juice.



# business directory

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## health



### acne

Acne is the most common skin disorder in the United States. Most people with acne are teenagers and young adults, but the condition can persist into adulthood. Acne usually affects the face, chest and upper back. Untreated acne can cause temporary skin discoloration or permanent scarring. In some people,

acne can lead to lower self-esteem, avoidance of social situations and even depression.

Contrary to what people believe, acne is not influenced by diet; greasy foods and sweets do not cause acne. It is caused by bacteria and potential inflammation caused by the bacterial overgrowth.

Genetics is believed to also play a role, making some people more likely than others to develop acne. Drugs, including steroids and anti-seizure medicines, may play a role. Some cosmetics and hair products may make acne worse.

Treatment of acne depends on the severity and the types of lesions present and how much skin is affected. When medications are prescribed, it may take several months to see improvement. Either topical or oral medication will be tried first. If you have a more serious type of acne with a potential for scarring, you should be referred to a dermatologist for stronger medication.

## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### "Step-by-Step" approach can ease estate-planning process

Like many people, you may enjoy investing. After all, it can be invigorating to put away money for your future, follow the performance of your investments and track the progress you're making toward your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement. However, you might be less excited about doing estate planning, dreading the perceived time, effort and cost. Yet, you can make the entire process more manageable by breaking it up into specific tasks.

What are these tasks? Everyone's needs are different, but here are a few suggestions that may be applicable to your situation:

- *Purchase life insurance.* If something were to happen to you, would your family be able to stay in the house? Would your children be able to go to college? You

should have sufficient life insurance to take care of these and other essential needs. You might hear about various "formulas" for how much insurance you should purchase, but you may be better off by working with a financial professional — someone who can evaluate your assets, goals and family situation, and then recommend an appropriate level of coverage.

- *Draw up your will.* For most people, a will is probably the most essential estate-planning document. Regardless of the size of your estate, you need a will to ensure that your assets and personal belongings will be distributed according to your wishes. If you die intestate (without a will), your belongings will be distributed to your "heirs" as defined by state laws — and these distributions may not be at all what you had in mind.

- *Consider a living trust.* Depending on your situation, you may need to go beyond a will when drawing up your estate plans. For example, you might want to create a living trust, which can allow your assets to go directly to your heirs, avoiding the public, time-consuming and expensive process of probate. A living trust offers other benefits, too, so you may want to consult with a legal professional to learn more about this estate-planning tool.

- *Check beneficiary designations.* The beneficiary designations on your insurance policies and retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k), are powerful and can even supersede the instructions left in your will. So it's in your best interests to make sure you've got the right people listed as your beneficiaries. Over time, you may need to update these designations to reflect changes in your family situation.

- *Make final arrangements.* Whenever you pass away, it will be a stressful time for your loved ones. To ease their burden, consider establishing a "payable-on-death" account at your bank, and then funding this account to pay for your funeral and related expenses.

- *Share your plans.* The most comprehensive estate plan in the world may not be of much value if nobody knows of its existence. Share your plans with your loved ones and heirs. It's important that everyone knows their roles in carrying out your wishes.

When dealing with any estate-planning issues, you'll want to consult with your legal and tax professionals. And by taking a step-by-step approach, you can keep the process moving forward — without feeling that you're being overwhelmed.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### Monday is Memorial Day 2015

Dear Editor,  
This year, 2015, marks the final year of America's Great Civil War Sesquicentennial, now some 150 years removed. It was America's most costly war with over 630,000 lives lost in that five year conflict. To many, Memorial Day marks the time to open a summer cottage, to plan [a] family picnic gathering, or, maybe to hose-down a screened

porch in anticipation of summer. Actually, the original purpose behind Memorial Day was to celebrate the end of that terrible war in 1865. Much later, when it became a national holiday, it was specifically set aside to honor those brave individuals who [have] perished in all wars. It is a national holiday, one whose purpose should not go unrecognized.

Monday, May 25, 2015, is Memorial Day and in Lowell it will be observed with a simple parade of a color guard, a couple of school bands, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, a bag pipe band, many Veterans and perhaps a few others. Granted, you'll not find any funny clowns, merchant floats, candidates running for public office, candy throwers or other activities that generate fun and laughter. The Memorial Day parade tends to be a more somber parade because it is to honor the memories of men and women who have

stepped up to defend this great nation, some of whom paid the ultimate price. It is by virtue of that specific definition that Monday's parade is one with a serious mission.

We invite you, your family and friends to join Veterans from the greater Lowell area who will be pausing Monday morning to honor those thirty Veterans who have passed on since last Memorial Day. As is customary, these Veterans will be given [with] full military honors at the Oakwood Cemetery at the conclusion of our program.

Why don't you plan to join us on Monday for the parade at 10 am and at the cemetery ceremony about 10:30 as we offer our farewells to 32 brothers and to honor all Veterans who have made the sacrifices serving as members in America's military forces!

To our active duty troops we say, "God bless you wherever you are, along with our wishes for your safe return," and to everyone, "God bless America!"

David L. Thompson,  
commander  
Lowell American  
Legion Post # 152

## outdoors

fly rod fun Dave Stegehuis

Fly fishing has always held a certain mystique by the fishing fraternity. Catching wary trout by making a natural presentation of an entomologically correct insect tied to a spider web leader at the optimum time is the common impression of a fly fisherman.

Know that fly fishing has a following of dedicated anglers who pursue their sport with a passion. These folks seek out the best equipment available, research insect life cycles, and travel afar to fish storied waters like Michigan's fabled Au Sable River.

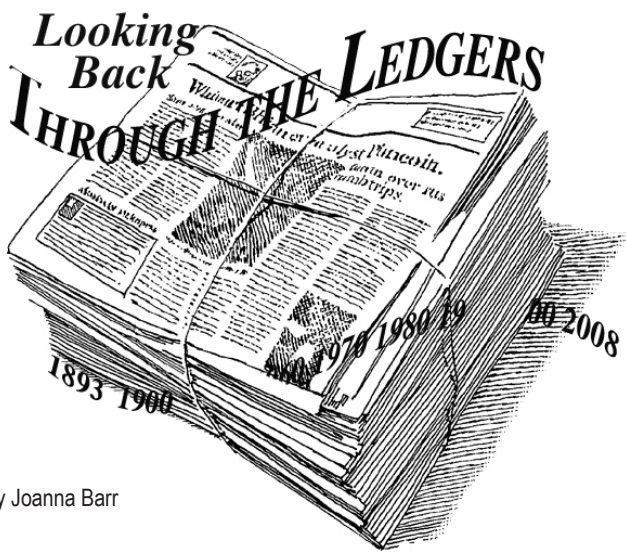
Well, the good news is that if you don't currently relate to this group, one doesn't have to alter his or her lifestyle to enjoy the fly fishing experience. Shallow water in inland lakes warms early in the spring which draws bluegills from deeper cold water to cruise these shallows in preparation for spawning. Male gills clean out circular beds which can be spotted from the deck of a fishing boat. These fish are protective of the bedding area and are aggressive toward anything that violates this space, which includes a foam spider with rubber-band legs. For that reason, the fish can be caught for fun or food from easy to access lakes on modest equipment by average anglers.

Casting can be quickly

learned. Using your forearm pick the line off the water by sharply lifting the rod tip to the 11:00 o'clock position. When the line completely straightens out on the back cast, bring the rod forward to the 3:00 o'clock position shooting the line forward and allowing it to drop to the surface. Make sure the line straightens out on the back cast by watching it, and wait for a tug on the rod tip before starting the forward cast. After the fly settles on the surface, start the retrieve by stripping the line in with your free hand. Loop the line and hold it to the rod handle with your index finger. Twitching the rod tip will add action to the lure.

A strike can be detected by a swirl on the surface, by feeling a tug on the line, or actually observing the fish take the fly. Lift the rod tip sharply to set the hook. If a successful hook-up is made, hold the rod tip high so the fish works against the bend in the rod and continue to retrieve the fish. Gills put up a good scrap on a fly rod and will almost always be hooked in the lip so can easily be unhooked and kept for dinner or released to fight another day.

This type of fishing can be productive and is always exciting and fun. Do some scouting and find some cruising bluegills and begin your fly fishing career.



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal May 21, 1890

We offer \$25 reward for evidence that will secure the conviction of the miscreants who shot the hole through the reservoir cover or who committed any of the numerous other depredations on the premises. Also a reasonable reward will be paid for evidence leading to the identification of the parties who open Yard Hydrants and Sill Cocks on the premises of our customers. Lowell Water Co. Per A. R. Hendrix, Superintendent.

Contributions of flowers are solicited for Decoration Day. Those who will contribute will please leave their flowers at the vacant store in Graham's Block Mount's old stand.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 20, 1915

An appeal for Memorial Day flowers...Bring flowers. Bring them to Kinyon's greenhouse on Saturday afternoon, May 29. Bring all you can. More than one hundred of our soldier dead are beneath the sod in Oakwood cemetery. We ask the boys and girls, the men and women, all, to contribute flowers. On Monday, May 31, at 10 o'clock a. m. the ceremony of decorating the graves of our soldier dead will be conducted at the cemetery. The Lowell band will furnish appropriate music. Mrs. Allen Bennett will give an appropriate reading. The Rev. I. T. Weldon will speak of the unknown dead. Come and be with us...

D. E. Rogers broke a leg in fall. D. E. Rogers fell from a second story window of the old Central School

building last Friday and broke his left leg below the hip. He was removed to his home, where it was believed his hip joint was broken, as the body was badly bruised. Monday morning he was taken to Butterworth hospital, where it was determined that the break was below the hip socket and assurances are given of his recovery in the natural length of time.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 23, 1940

Park benches will all be in place within a day or two for the convenience of visitors throughout the summer. Their return is always welcome.

The concrete curbing which is being placed on several residential streets looks like a good job. Blacktopping will soon be underway. Lowell will soon take first rank for its number of paved streets.

The request of the Board of Education for permission to dispose of the old East and West Ward school properties and use the proceeds therefrom for improvements in the high school auditorium, was carried unanimously at the special election held last Tuesday

### 50 years ago Lowell Ledger May 20, 1965

Headline: Poppies for sale – Each year, before Memorial Day, millions of Americans walk into their homes and offices wearing little red poppies. These small flowers are being offered to the public this week end, May 20, 21, and 22, by the auxiliaries of the Clark-Ellis American Legion Post and Flat River Veterans of Foreign Wars. Poppy Days are a memorial to the American war dead and a tribute to the disabled servicemen. The true significances of Poppy Days is to honor the war dead by assisting the living. When asked this week end to buy and wear a "poppy," remember the veterans in a hospital or work shop who made this memorial flower.

Two Ionia prison escapees tried to steal a car from Arie Leeman's front yard on East Main Street, early May 12, but the auto failed to start. A short time later the pair successfully drove away in a vehicle stolen from the driveway of Bill Jones on Reservoir Hill. Jones' car was recovered near Battle Creek, after the escapees had crashed into a road block.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Fluger announced this week that they have remodeled the upstairs over the Lowell Bakery. They intend to open a beauty salon upstairs at 216 East Main Street soon.

Looking Back,  
continued, page 12

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# area births

## Burnham



Mera Jade Burnham

Bryan and Shay Burnham of Grand Rapids are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Mera Jade Burnham. She was born on May 6, 2015, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz.

Proud grandparents are Mike and Karol Burnham and Jim and Sally Hacker, all of Lowell.

# LWC Woman of the Year

The Lowell Women's Club (LWC) has announced that their 2014-2015 Woman of the Year is Nancy Wood. Wood is a past LWC president, a sponsor of LWC junior members, as well as chairperson of the LWC Christmas Through Lowell's luncheon. She is an avid volunteer for FROM, LowellArts! and the Lowell High School drama department. She is also busy with the Lowell First Congregational Church and the Eastern Star.

Wood is the mother of Ron and Carrie, grandmother of two and great-grandmother of two. She and her husband, Bill, will be celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary this year.



Nancy Wood, the 2015 LWC Woman of the Year.



## At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

### Farm on the Go -

The Critter Barn of Zeeland brings a little of the farm to the city in a program featuring the cutest barnyard animals around for you to touch and pet. For families. Thursday, June 11, 10 am.

### Mr. Jim's Magic Camp -

Discover some of the best kept secrets of magic and mystify your friends and family with the tricks you learn at Mr. Jim's Magic Camp. For ages 6 and older. (This program is not recommended for children under age 6.) Tuesday, June 16, 6 pm.

### DIY Spa -

Make a variety of spa products from simple ingredients that you can take home, such as sugar and oatmeal scrubs, fizzy bath bombs and silky body lotion. Pre-registration is required. For ages 6 and older. Thursday, June 18, 10 am.

### Find your Inner Artist -

Corey's caricature workshop unleashes the hidden talent in all of us. Even if stick figures are the full extent of your artistic ability, Corey gets you drawing like a pro by showing you how to cartoon the human face in a few simple steps. Tuesday, June 23, 1 pm.

### The Village Puppeteers and the Damsel in Distress -

Join us for a puppet show featuring a comedy romp and a heroic mission to save Rapunzel. For families. Thursday, June 25, 10 am.

### Let's Hit the Road!

Think you've been everywhere in Michigan? Learn about the hidden treasures you may have missed, tucked away along Michigan's back roads. Monday, June 29, 6:30 pm.

### Giant Games -

Enjoy some open play time with giant-size games like Bananagrams, Jenga and Connect 4. For ages 6 and older. Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 pm.

## happy birthday!

### MAY 20

Christine Baird, Shanda Weed, Julie Beaton, Bryan Borton, Laura Brower.

### MAY 21

Pat Erickson, Eric Ellis, Kayla Mohr, Katelyn Bush.

### MAY 22

Tim Shurwood, Meghan Beachum Bradley, Mark Anderson.

### MAY 23

Wesley Patnode, Tory DeBolt, Patrick Ortiz, Anna Richmond, Glenn Wittenbach.

### MAY 24

Matt McClure, Josh Buechler, Summer Bevan, Dylan Bevan.

### MAY 25

Rick Wernet, Phyllis Bieri.

### MAY 26

Janet McIntyre, Guy Watrous, Joshua Bryant.

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Sunday School, nursery - adult.....11:00 A.M.  
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Youth Ministry - grades 6-12.....Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
(Youth Ministry moves to Wed. during summer)

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# Scott Kooistra

**Position:** Press operator  
**Residence:** Lowell  
**Education:** Lowell High School class of 1983, Kent Skills Center  
**Experience:** U.S. Army, Lowell Ledger  
**Family:** Wife, Rebecca; no kids  
**Hobbies:** Hunting, fishing, reading about U.S. history  
**Pets:** Two cats (Clover and Decker); one dog (Shamus)

## Behind The Scenes



## Printer enjoys the ups and downs of the job

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Scott Kooistra has been the Lowell Ledger's press operator for twenty years.

"I'm the press operator. I do all the press-room work," Kooistra said. "That includes the bindery stuff, with the folder and the cutting and the die-cutting and the secondary work. Basically letterhead, envelopes, instruction sheets, die-cutting, and we do a lot of tags. For die-cutting I use the old letter press."

The Lowell Ledger is part of J-Ad Graphics, a printing company based in Hastings that also owns several area newspapers and print shops.

"We don't print everything here," Kooistra said. "Some of the stuff that we do [offer] goes down to Hastings, because they have different machines than we have. The things that they don't have the capability of doing, I do up here. It's a symbiotic relationship."

The busiest part of his week is Tuesday night after the Ledger is printed.

"On Tuesday nights I go down to Hastings," Kooistra said. "I drop off the recyclables: the old Ledgers and old Buyers Guides. I pick up the new Ledgers and I bring them up here. Then I run my route, [so] I do all the drops. There are about ten

of them. You know, the gas stations, the stores, things like that. I drop off the new Ledgers, count how many [of last week's Ledger] they didn't sell, fill out all the paperwork, get back here, finish unloading the van into the back [room] here so when people come in first thing Wednesday morning, we have the Ledgers ready."

After all the printing is done, the machines have to be maintained.

"It's kind of 'feast or famine' around here," Kooistra said. "Sometimes you just get beat up because everybody's got their due dates, so you have to make sure you get everything out

on time and sometimes once you've gotten everything done you don't have any more jobs for a while. Then it's maintenance time. All the machines have to be maintained. You've got to oil them, you've got to clean them. There's always something to do. If there's not printing, there's always something to do."

His favorite way to relax is with a good book.

"I read a lot," Kooistra said. "I find history fascinating, especially American history. Right now I'm studying the political history of the Revolutionary era. I've always been interested in it. I don't have the time to read that I would like to, but I can find a little time to read. That's one of my favorite things to do, if I can catch the time. Grab a cup of coffee, sit outside in the summer and read."

He also likes to spend time hunting and fishing.

"I hunt," Kooistra said. "For the most part just deer. I go up to the Irons' area, up in the Manistee National Forest with some friends. A friend of mine owns a nice place up there so we go up there and hang out for a few days, usually a long weekend, and then go hunting in the public land. That's about all any of us, I think, can stand anymore the older we get. Staying up too late, getting up too early; when you're young you can

do that, but year after year I find that we spend less time up there. During the summer I like to fish. The same guys I hunt with, we also fish on Wednesday nights, weather permitting, then once in a while we have a big fish fry."

Kooistra graduated from Lowell High School in 1983. After high school he joined the army and was stationed in Germany. He also visited Italy and Austria during his stint in the military.

"I was in the army from 1984 to 1987," Kooistra said. "I was an E-4, an enlisted man. That's above a private, below a sergeant. I was a truckdriver all around Germany back in the Cold War days. For the most part what we did was move things from here to there. Moving ammo, moving missiles, things like that, just preparing for the Cold War. Always training, always training. We were told when we were there that we were just there to try and slow the Russians down when they came across the border and they didn't expect us to survive. We were just there to be a deterrent against an attack and most of the younger Germans resented us for being there. Only the older Germans understood why we were there, so there was a lot of animosity.

Somebody tried to fire-bomb our barracks one time. We had barbed wire fences, but they drove by with a Molotov cocktail and threw it and it hit the wall right by my bedroom. A big ball of fire, but it didn't do any damage. It was a Cold War, so it was just a lot of training, or as we called it, a lot of painting and cleaning. Germany was nice though, I did like Germany. I was there for a year and a half, but it seemed like a long time. It was nice to come back [to America]."

Kooistra has been a Ledger employee since 1995.

"It's a pretty good job considering I don't have a degree in anything, although I did learn to print at Kent Skills Center," Kooistra said. "It's a skilled trade. I tried other things, different factory jobs and things like that. I didn't want to do that because it beats you up pretty bad physically."

He enjoys the trust and autonomy that comes with two decades of expert work.

"The nice thing about doing something like this is it's not monotonous," Kooistra said. "I pretty much work with my own style. Nobody really micromanages me. I like to have that sense of responsibility. You're not going to find that anyplace."



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# The Showboat - a large part of Lowell's history

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

After 83 years, the "Showboat" is still the most well-known symbol of Lowell.

"The Showboat is an integral part of our city's identity, with the Showboat wheel as the highlight of our logo," said city manager Mark Howe. "When people think of Lowell, they think of the Showboat."

Showboat number two was the first to use the name "Robert E. Lee" and it was the first side-wheeler. It was built in 1938 and lasted ten years. It was 60 feet long, held 150 people and was built by C.J. Place.

The third showboat was built by Ed Laux. It was an 80 foot long side-wheeler. It cost \$8,000 and was kept

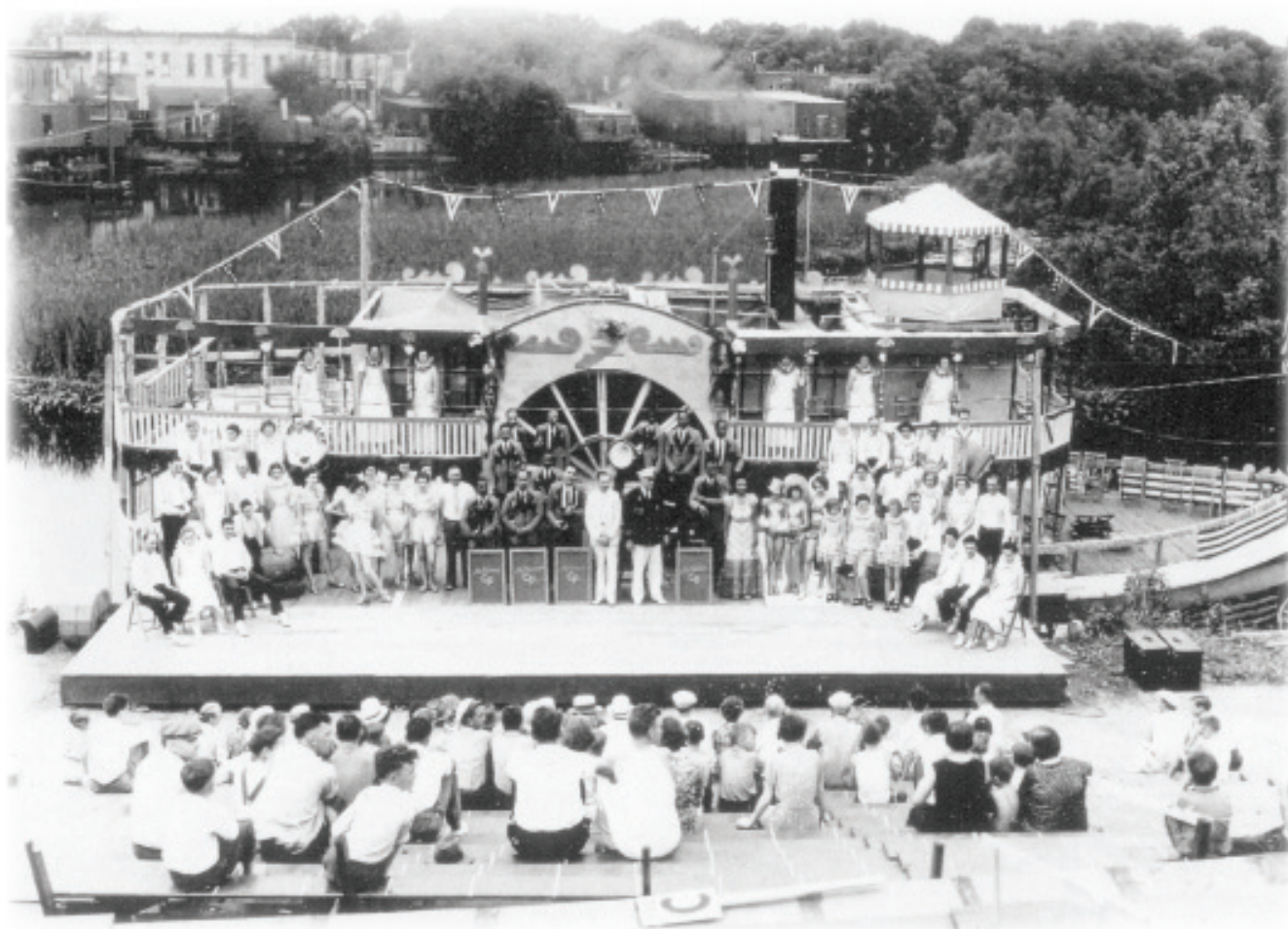
A "Re-Float the Lowell Showboat" campaign raised enough money to build a new showboat in 1979. This is the current Lowell Showboat. After 36 years it is, by far, the showboat that has been in use the longest. It is a sternwheeler like the original Lowell Showboat from 1932. Based on a showboat at Disneyland, it



One of the big stars of the day, Louis Armstrong, being interviewed by local media.



The Showboat in the early 1940s. Pictures supplied by Lowell Area Historical Museum.



Showboat number two.

There have actually been five showboats over the years. The first Lowell Showboat was a sternwheeler called the "George Washington." It was built in 1932 by Walter Kauffman and Dave Clark, Sr. It was 60 feet long and was capable of holding 75 people. Its very first passenger was the governor of Michigan at that time, Wilber M. Brucker.

afloat with 200 oil drums. It could handle 200 people and it was in use from 1948 until 1967.

The fourth showboat was used from 1967 until 1978. It cost \$11,000, was kept afloat with 180 oil drums, was 89 feet long and it was built by Walter Graham. On August 19, 1978, a tornado blew through town and smashed this showboat to pieces.

was designed by Jim Hall and built by Ivan K Blough. It's 89 feet long and is kept afloat by six barges supplied by the Army Corps of Engineers. It cost \$66,000 to build.

According to a Lowell Ledger article from July 4, 1935, Lowell postmaster Norman E. Borgerson was the person who had the original idea to build a showboat in Lowell.

"Borgerson was standing on the Lowell bridge on a day in May [1932], talking with [American Legion] post commander Charley Cook and a local newspaper man," the article said. "Waving his arm to indicate the sweep of the river, Borgerson finally exclaimed, 'Wouldn't a showboat look great sailing around the bend there, to anchor on the east bank and put on a minstrel show!'"

Lowell's American Legion and Board of Trade got together, raised the money and built the showboat, which was operational by August of 1932.

When Borgerson said "minstrel show" he meant it. From 1932 to 1997 the shows included a chorus, an interlocutor and end men.

Until 1967, when Louis Armstrong performed there, entertainment on the showboat included people in black face. There was also a talent contest every year and many amateur entertainers from the Lowell area were able to perform on the showboat. Of course the Lowell Showboat has also showcased top names in entertainment throughout its existence. Big stars who have performed on the showboat include Bob Newhart, Dinah Shore, Milton Berle, Steve Allen, Jayne Meadows, Ray Stevens, The Everly Brothers, Jerry Reed, Pearl Bailey, Tammy Wynette, Lawrence Welk, Emmylou Harris, the Smothers Brothers, Ricky Skaggs, the Oak Ridge Boys, and Loretta Lynn.

The showboat was also a favorite of President Gerald R. Ford, who attended every Lowell Showboat performance from 1948 until 1973, one year before he became president.

Besides the tornado in 1978, the most wild scene that ever took place on the showboat was the Blue Öyster Cult riot on August 2, 1975. After long rain delays the concert finally began at 6:30 pm with the Detroit band Salem Witchcraft. After more long rain delays, REO Speedwagon played a short set. The concert's headliner, Blue Öyster Cult, refused to take the stage, however. At that point, the approximately 5,000 concert attendees began to throw rocks, bottles and chairs and threatened to burn the Lowell Showboat down. Police from all over West Michigan were called to the scene. By morning there were 12 arrests for disorderly conduct and one person was arrested for attempting to break into a pharmacy. The driver of REO Speedwagon's equipment truck was also arrested for leaving the scene of a personal injury accident.

Over the next few weeks the Ledger will examine the ever-evolving showboat and its future in Lowell.



Circa 1932



Red Arrow

BASEBALL

## SPORTS

## Boys claim second consecutive conference title

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Three aces and a pair of sluggers stacked the deck for the Lowell Red Arrows varsity baseball team last week as they swept their final OK White series of the season against Forest Hills Central (FHC) and claimed their second consecutive conference title.

Excellent pitching from Jarrod Melle, Cooper Perry and senior Collin VanNoord, combined with peak plate performances from seniors Zach Gordon and Matt Milstead were crucial in earning the title, as well as in the team's overall winning season.

Melle, a sophomore, had his best performance of the season on the mound in game one, earning eleven strikeouts and allowing only two walks in a no hitter shutout. The 2-0 victory was also aided by an early RBI double from Gordon that kept the Arrows in the lead the duration of the game.

In game two the Arrows grabbed an early lead scoring in the second inning, after a double from Perry and a single from VanNoord plated Trevor Shurlow. Gordon provided an additional run in the third in the form of a sacrifice fly scoring Milstead, who doubled twice in the game,



The 2015 OK White champions celebrate their game victory and their second consecutive title midfield after game three with FHC.

giving the Arrows a 2-0 lead.

FHC put two runs on the board in the fifth to tie the game, but the Arrows answered in the sixth when Perry brought home the 3-2 game-winning run.

The team hit their home field once more on Friday and eased into a four-run lead by the sixth inning, plating a single run in the

second, third, fourth and fifth.

Their lead more than doubled in the bottom of the sixth as a flurry of activity allowed the Arrows to earn six additional runs on several FHC errors and wild pitches, as well as a two-run homer from Gordon and a two-run single from Nate Stephens. Gordon also earned two extra base hits

in the game, combining with Shurlow for five hits and three RBIs, to lead the Arrows.

VanNoord claimed the game win at the mound allowing three hits, three walks and striking out three as the Arrows skunked FHC 10-0 for the game win and the coveted OK White conference title.

**This week before heading into the district play-offs, the boys face a series of nonconference matches both at home and on the road. Wednesday, the team will welcome Kent City High School for a double-header and will compete Friday and Saturday in Lake Orion.**

SOFTBALL

## Arrows place second at Mandy Tichelaar Memorial tournament

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

A busy week for the Lowell varsity softball team added up to double

losses to conference foe Forest Hills Central (FHC), a win over Grand Rapids Catholic Central (GRCC)

and a second-place finish at the annual Mandy Tichelaar Memorial tournament.



Red Arrow teammates maintained their positive attitudes.

Tuesday at home the girls faced a doubleheader against the FHC. Tied at one run moving into the fourth, FHC surged ahead scoring four on a home run.

The Red Arrows rallied back thanks to back-to-back singles from Shelby Mutschler and Megan Summerfield, but FHC added two additional runs in the sixth and sealed the 6-3 win.

In the second game of the series, FHC eked out a one-run win after trading the lead back-and-forth with the Arrows for most of the ball game. Down by one run moving into the top of the seventh inning the Red Arrows looked to Mutschler and Summerfield again. With two outs already on

the board Mutschler turned a double into a triple thanks to an error from FHC and was plated by a single from Summerfield to tie the game at ten.

It looked like extra innings were in the cards but a single run from FHC in the bottom of the inning earned them their second victory of the day, 11-10.

Summerfield went 4-4 at the plate to lead the team, while Brooke Steffen and Breanna Oesch each added two hits.

The ladies next welcomed nonconference competitor GRCC to the field where they picked up a 2-1 win in eight innings. Oesch controlled the mound for the Arrows allowing only one run and seven hits

in the game, including the game winning RBI. She along with Summerfield were the game's offensive leaders, each tallying three hits for the team.

Friday the team hosted the annual Mandy Tichelaar Memorial tournament, placing second behind Zeeland West High School after the Dux produced a 14-0 shutout in the championship round.

Several underclassmen made their varsity debuts at the tournament as coach Kim Griffith looked to fill some empty positions due to scheduling conflicts. Freshman pitcher Paige Anes debuted on the hill showing poise despite the tough final round loss.

**The girls will hit the road twice this week as they face Zeeland West once again on Monday and Kent City High School on Wednesday in a pair of nonconference games.**



# Red Arrow SPORTS

LACROSSE

## Boys lacrosse advance to next round of play-offs

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

After losing the battle for third place in the OK conference 7-12 to Caledonia on Tuesday, the Red Arrows' boys varsity lacrosse team went on to advance through the first round of play off action on Saturday with a one-point victory over Comstock Park.

The Panthers opened the game with a hot first

quarter, scoring five goals that went unanswered by the Arrows. Gaining some life in the second, Lowell closed the gap to 8-3 by halftime.

Arrow defense ruled the third quarter keeping Comstock scoreless, while the offense offered up two goals to further narrow their opponent's advantage.

With Comstock Park

still leading the game 8-5 moving into the final stanza of the game, the Red Arrows stepped up to the challenge of a comeback win.

With just six minutes remaining in the game, the Arrows were inspired by a goal from sophomore attackman Brennan Battle and went on to score five additional goals in as many

minutes to take their first lead of the match up, 11-10. The Panthers answered to tie the score at 11, but the Arrows avoided overtime when a last minute goal from Blake Posthumus, assisted by fellow junior Sawyer Olesko, gave them the 12-11 victory and the right to move on to the next round of play-offs.

**Lowell will next compete when they travel to the lakeshore to face conference rival Holland Christian.**

SOCCER

## Girls break even in conference play

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Red Arrow girls varsity soccer team broke even in the OK White conference last week when they faced the Grand Rapids Christian (GRC) Rangers on Monday falling 2-0 and the Wildcats

of Jenison on Wednesday earning a 3-0 shut out victory.

Top OK competitor GRC put a stop to Lowell in the team's first game of the week, keeping them scoreless and getting two

by defensive sophomore Bridget Garter in the box to earn the 2-0 victory.

Fresh from the hard fought loss, the Arrows next dove back into conference play Wednesday at home against Jenison. Goals were

earned by Amy Carpenter, Tara McQueen and offensive leader Kate Montgomery, with assists by Hailey Hoevenaar, Darby Dean and Amber Curtis. Garter earned her seventh clean slate of the season in the goalie position shutting down the Wildcats' eight scoring attempts.

At home again on Friday, Lowell lost their final battle of the week against nonconference competitor Kenowa Hills High School. Garter made five saves while the Arrow offense remained silent dropping the game 1-0.

**The week's action improves Lowell's impressive season record to 12-5 overall and 6-3 in the OK White, with only two regular season games remaining.**



Senior captain Tara McQueen scored one of three goals in the Arrows' successful match-up with the Jenison Wildcats.



Sophomore forward Christy Lyon keeps OK rival Jenison at bay during Lowell's 3-0 win last Wednesday.

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### LOWELL VARSITY TRACK

OK White conference finals

#### BOYS-

- 110m hurdles.....Brennan Mason 2nd
- Josh Branagan 3rd
- 300m hurdles.....Reece Karns 3rd
- .....Brennan Mason 5th
- Discus.....Justin Everitt 4th
- Shot put.....Justin Everitt 4th
- Nick Kloosterman 6th
- Long jump.....Dawson Chapman 6th
- Pole vault.....Richard Misak 4th
- 200m.....Collin McGee 4th
- 1600m.....Zach Diamond 4th

#### GIRLS-

- High jump.....Lauren DeHaan 1st
- Long jump.....Alon Watson 4th
- 100m.....Alon Watson 3rd
- 200m.....Alon Watson 2nd
- 300 hurdles.....Emily Judd 3rd

### BOYS VARSITY GOLF SCORES

Lowell vs. Cedar Springs (W) 182-205

- Nate Kyburz.....40
- Alex Bohr.....44
- Ethan Bates.....48
- Cam Bonney.....50

OK White jamboree #3

- 5th place
- Nate Kyburz.....44
- Christian Rosenfeldt.....45
- Alex Bohr.....45
- Jake Hays.....46

OK White jamboree #5

- 5th place
- Nate Kyburz.....42
- Christian Rosenfeldt.....42
- Alex Bohr.....45
- Jake Hays.....47

OK White jamboree #6

- 5th place
- Alex Bohr.....37
- Josh Buechler.....41
- Christian Rosenfeldt.....43
- Jake Hays.....44

OK White conference tournament

- 5th place
- Nate Kyburz.....80
- Jake Hays.....84
- Christian Rosenfeldt.....90
- Ethan Bates.....93
- Alex Bohr.....93
- Zach Laux.....96





# obituaries

## BIGGS

Robert 'Bob' Biggs, age 96 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, May 17, 2015. He was preceded in death by his wife Jeanne (2002); brothers Chuck, Morris and Jesse; sister Ruth Sinington and son-in-law Joe Urkshus. He is survived by his daughter Shirley Biggs-Urkshus; grandchildren Andrew (Kimberly) Urkshus, Julie (John); great-grandchildren Justin, Maddie, Aidan and Ian; also many nieces, nephews and friends. Bob farmed all his life. He had a Centennial farm that was over 100 years old. He was an avid outdoor-sportsman, a die-hard Detroit Tigers' Fan and he loved watching his game shows. A funeral service will be Thursday 1:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI 49331. Reverend Richard Sherlock, of Lowell First Congregational Church, officiating. Interment Alton Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. at the Chapel. Memorial donations may be made to the Church or Spectrum Health Hospice, 4500 Breton Rd., Grand Rapids, MI 49508.



## LEHMAN

Donald Gene Lehman, age 79 of Lowell, formerly of Grand Rapids, passed away Saturday, May 16th, 2015. Don is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marcia; children Kevan Lehman (Louann), Steven Lehman, Michael (Linda) Lehman, Rich (Lori) Lehman and James (Holly) Lehman; sister Carol (Ron) Frasier; sister-in-law Liz Lehman of Yakima, WA; grandchildren Austin (Sarah), Andrew, Mallory (Trevor), Sydney, Wixie, Jess, Kari and great-granddaughter Samantha. Don retired from Meijer after 24 years. A funeral service will be Thursday, 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Church, 4351 Parnell Ave NE, Ada MI 49301. Father Mark Peacock presiding. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI and one hour prior to the service at the Church. Memorial donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, 1169 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48108.



## VANDER SCHUUR

Alvina Elizebeth Vander Schuur, age 85 of Lowell, went to be with the Lord Saturday, May 16, 2015. She is preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Vander Schuur and dear friend Erwin Cox. She is survived by her children, Dianne (Ed) Sund, Ken (Ruby) Decker; brother, Harold Yurk; grandchildren, Kekoa Grover, Matthew (Jessie), Erin, Hannah Decker, Beau Josue; and 4 great grandchildren. Alvina was a member of Lowell Calvary Christian Reformed Church, active with the Lowell Senior Center, and retired from Coca Cola. Funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main St., Lowell. Pastor Brad Brillhart officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Brenda Vander Schuur Missionary in Africa (envelopes available at the funeral home) or Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson Street, Lowell, MI 49331.



## WHITTEMORE-SARGEANT

Joyce Whittemore-Sargeant, formerly of Lowell, joined her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, May 6, 2015. She was met with open arms by her husband Dewey Sargeant, parents Raymond and Jeanne Johnson and brothers Ronald and Lee Johnson. She is survived by her daughter Liza Whittemore of Arizona; sisters Deanna (John) Corp of Sandusky, Linda (Ross) Scott of Sandusky, Jane (Russell) Logston of Bear Lake, Nancy (Doug) Murdoch of Dearborn, Janet Herzog of Frasier and brother Larry Johnson of Carsonville. Joy also had a hand in raising many Haitian boys, especially Jone Destine and Paul Valeory. And not to mention her very special friends Alice Bush, Darline Piere, Linda and Sonny Destine and the Ann Landy family. Joy was born and raised on a farm near Sandusky, MI. She was a graduate of Sandusky High School and Michigan State Univeristy, she were earned multiple degrees. Joy lived out her years serving the Lord with multiple missionary trips to Haiti and being an active member in many churches. She will be cremated and her ashes scatterd on Rodgers Pond of the Muskegon River, where she spent the better part of 30 years. There will be a Celebration of Life held later in the summer. Donations may be made to Haiti Missions of UMC, Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068, the Children's Hunger Fund, 13931 Balboa Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342, Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr NE, Lowell, MI 49331, Snow United Methodist Church, 3189 Snow Ave SE, Lowell, MI 49331, or the Grand Rapids West International Church of the Nazarene, 1313 Bristol Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.



# Looking Back, continued

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 23, 1990

A new picnic shelter was officially dedicated Saturday in Lowell's Creekside Park. Representatives from the city, the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Lowell Rotary were on hand for the brief ceremony. The picnic shelter was completed last fall by Tailored Building Systems of Nunica. Landscaping was completed this spring by Department of Public Works personnel. The shelter is equipped with several new picnic tables. The Lowell Rotary purchased ten barbeque grills at a cost of \$1,000.00. The shelter is available for use on a first come, first served basis. It is ideally suited for family reunions and other gatherings as the park offers nearby rest rooms, ample parking, soccer and softball fields as well as playground equipment.

Headline: Over \$10,000 raised in Cancer Society Lock-Up – Hoping to help put cancer behind bars, the American Cancer Society in cooperation with Lowell merchants raised \$10,707 through the three-day light-hearted Lock-Up campaign. The American Cancer Society's Great American Lock-Up allowed for anyone to be arrested. All a person had to do was give the Cancer Society the name and location of the person they wished to have "locked-up" and the Cancer Society came and arrested that individual and then took that person before a judge. The judge, a local resident, then set bail for the person. The person was then asked to solicit help from friends, family, etc. to raise bail. Such familiar Lowell faces as Lowell Superintendent, Fritz Esch; Postmaster, Charlie Doyle; Newell President, Russell Dunham; Lowell High School Principal, Jim DeWeerd; and Lowell Ledger Publisher and Owner, Roger Brown were all locked-up.

The Lowell Area Fishing Club is holding its Fourth Annual Kids FREE Fishing Days clinic and contest. The '90 event will again be held at the Lowell Middle School pond on Foreman Rd. This year's outing will be held on Saturday, June 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Boys and girls ages 5 to 13 are invited to participate. Capping the event will be a free hotdog and soft drink lunch.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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# First graders have fun learning during community walk

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

First-grade students from Bushnell Elementary hit the streets last week Friday, May 15, for the school's annual Lowell Community Walk.

Decked out with backpacks and armed with water bottles, the little learners took the all-day tour stopping at six local businesses and enjoying lunch in the park.

Teacher Becky DeVito said that the fun day is always a great experience for herself and her students. "I love the opportunity for our first graders to learn about their hometown and to meet our local businesses," said DeVito.

At each location the kids had the chance to hear about and see the inner

workings of business, from entering the vault at Huntington Bank to visiting the interrogation room at the Lowell Police Department.

This year's tour included a trip to LowellArts! where project director Jane Teunis introduced them to the gallery, now featuring a student art show and allowed them to select their favorite artworks.

The Lowell Post Office opened up their back room for students, showing and explaining the processes used in mail delivery.

At the Englehardt Public Library the kids went on a full tour of the available resources including everything from the latest online offerings to the process of obtaining their first library cards.

Lowell Police Department chief Steve Bukala welcomed the groups to the station and demonstrated a number of things, including the use of a bullet proof vest, how to apply handcuffs and even some cool "take down" maneuvers. The students were also allowed to visit the records, booking and interrogation rooms and sit inside a police vehicle.

At Huntington Bank the kids were able to tour the drive through portion of the facility, learn about withdrawing and depositing money along with a visit to the vault.

A tour of Keiser's Kitchen rounded out the day. Students were able to explore the back room of

the business before being offered a few special treats.

The community walk introduces the students to local merchants and

organizations and also to the idea of the many careers they could follow.

DeVito said she hopes the day serves as an

inspiration for the children. "I think it is great for them to imagine what jobs they may hold in the future," DeVito concluded.



Students explored the Riverwalk as they headed to the Englehardt Library to learn of the fun and education available with a library card.



LPD chief Steve Bukala demonstrates the use of a bullet proof vest with first-grade student Kayla Howell.



## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

### BID PROPOSAL

Sealed bids, in triplicate, for the Lowell Area Schools Running Track Improvements, will be received at Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 Ionia NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 until 9:00 am local time. Bids received after this time will neither be considered or accepted.

All proposals received by the time and date stated above will be opened and read publicly at 10:00 am local time on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 in Room B100, Lowell Area School Administration, 300 High St, Lowell, MI 49331.

Bids may be mailed to Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 Ionia NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Mailed bids must be received prior to the bid due time and date stated above. FAXED OR EMAILED BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

In accordance with Section 1267 of the Revised School Code each bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Familial Disclosure Statement completed by the bidder disclosing any familial relationship between the Owner or any employee of the Bidder and any member of the District's Board of Education or the Superintendent of the District.

### SITE INSPECTION

A construction pre-bid meeting will be held at Room B100, Lowell Area School Administration, 300 High St, Lowell, MI 49331 on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 starting at 10:00 am local time. All bidders are encouraged to attend.

### BID DOCUMENTS

The electronic copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained at [www.owen-ames-kimball.com/subcontractors/](http://www.owen-ames-kimball.com/subcontractors/)

Documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. website: [www.owen-ames-kimball.com/subcontractors/](http://www.owen-ames-kimball.com/subcontractors/)
- Builders Exchange plan rooms in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Traverse City.
- Dodge McGraw Hill plan rooms in Grand Rapids, Lansing & Southfield.
- Reed Construction Data and Construction Association of Michigan, Detroit.
- Construction News Corp, Cleveland

### BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS

Bidders submitting a Bid for this Project shall have qualifications as follows:

- a. Shall be a reputable, recognized organization, with at least five (5) years successful experience on work of this type and scope of this project.
- b. Shall have a license where required by public authorities having jurisdiction.
- c. Shall have ample financial resources for work of this magnitude.

### BID SECURITY - PERFORMANCE BONDS

Each bid shall be accompanied by good and sufficient bid security or bid bond in an amount not less than 5% of the Bid amount and shall secure the Owner from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid by a Bidder or by failure of the successful Bidder to enter into a Contract with the Owner if his Bid is accepted by the Owner.

The successful Bidder will be required to secure Performance, Labor and Material bonds for all contracts at or exceeding \$50,000, from a surety company having a rating of A- or better, for the full amount of the Contract.

Grand Rapids  
300 Ionia Ave NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616) 456-1521

[www.owen-ames-kimball.com](http://www.owen-ames-kimball.com)

Kalamazoo  
161 E. Michigan Ave, Ste. 102  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
(269) 276-9700

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- ACROSS**
- Lip \_\_\_\_
  - Military operations, for short
  - Breakfast raisin companion
  - Pizazz
  - \*Bruce Willis in " \_\_\_\_ Hard"
  - Constructed
  - \*Lon Chaney was the Phantom at it
  - " \_\_\_\_ the fields we go"
  - Discompose
  - \*Chris Kyle, "American \_\_\_\_"
  - \*Richard Gere role
  - Salon product
  - Move
  - \*Music genre in "8 Mile"
  - Stiff hair
  - Big \_\_\_\_ or V.I.P.
  - Jet black
  - Type of missile
  - "Homeland" actress Claire
  - Rugby team's dance
  - Motivate
  - Plural of lira
  - Tart
  - Below a marquess and above a viscount
  - Etna output
  - Woven container
  - Skier's transport
  - \*Heston starred in "The \_\_\_\_ Commandments"
  - Foot part
  - Clinton \_\_\_\_ Rodham
  - Bantu people of Kenya
  - \*American Werewolf's whereabouts
  - Calculus calculation

CROSSWORD														
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- Male friend, informal
- Tutor's student
- \*Setting of Clooney's "The American"
- Debt acknowledgement
- SAG member
- Audition tape
- It knows drama?
- \*"Once Upon a Time in America" director
- \*"Coming to America" star
- Uniate, alternative spelling
- Impulse transmitter
- Southeast Asia association
- Police informer
- Action word
- Grassy plain
- \*"American \_\_\_\_," starring Kevin Spacey
- "Give it a go!"
- \*John Candy in "Summer \_\_\_\_"
- Ancient measurement unit based on forearm length
- Derive
- Khaled Hosseini's "The \_\_\_\_ Runner"
- Mosque prayer leader
- 1,000 grams
- Stupid person
- \*Director of 1944's "Laura"
- Vegas lights
- Jack-in-the-Box restraint
- \*Howard of "American Graffiti"
- Old English for before

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12



**MAY 13 - MAY 19**

- A brawl-turned-shootout between rival biker gangs left nine people dead and 18 injured outside of a crowded sports bar in Waco, Texas. 170 bikers were charged with engaging in organized crime on Monday, a day after the melee. The crowd of suspects was so large that authorities opened a convention center to hold them all before they were arrested, police said.
- Drivers may have mistaken it for an ostrich, but an emu was at the heart of a highway traffic jam in metro Atlanta Tuesday morning. Deputies corralled and captured the flightless bird, who appeared to be scared but was not injured and was returned to its owner.
- Billionaire Li Jinyuan, chief executive of the Chinese conglomerate Tiens, has given 6,400 of his best salespeople a vacation that started in Paris and ended with a parade on France's Cote d'Azur to celebrate the company's 20th anniversary. French media estimated the trip's cost at 13-20 million euros (\$14.5-\$22.3 million).

**THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL**

**Did you watch David Letterman's last week of shows?**

- Yes I'm going to miss him
- No it's about time he's off the air
- Just the last show
- A few of them

**TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL**

**WWW.thelowellledger.com**



# Local veterans take part in Tight Lines for Troops fishing tournament in Manistee

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Last weekend three Lowell veterans attended the sixth annual Tight Lines for Troops fishing tournament in Manistee.

Tight Lines for Troops was started by Army veteran Bob Guenthardt in 2009. According to their website, Tight Lines for Troops exists “to show appreciation to members of the military for their dedication and sacrifice.” It takes over 500 volunteers to pull the annual two-day event together, which is free to all military veterans.

Duane McIver, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War and a resident of Lowell, attended the event with

The big event was on Saturday, May 16, when the veterans spent the day fishing on Lake Michigan.

“You’re supposed to be there by 5:30 in the morning on Saturday,” McIver said. “Everybody got organized and got on their boats, then they proceeded to the channel that runs through downtown Manistee into the lake. Some of the boats are big enough that they have to open up the drawbridges. Then we got out in the big lake and they shut the engines off in all the boats. They played the bagpipes and a guy in the Coast Guard boat gave a short speech. Then everybody started their boats up and



they had the deal where they weighed all the fish. Then they barbecued a pig and they had tables full of

them and the captain and his wife. They had giveaways and made speeches. It was a very great atmosphere, a

“Our boat got 11 fish, total and they were all king salmon,” McIver said. “We got the prize for most fish.

one of us got two and one guy got three. All the fish that got caught were cleaned and filleted and they divvied it up among everybody. I took home about three or four pounds. Everybody went home with that.”

To donate or volunteer for Tight Lines for Troops, check out the organization’s website [www.tightlinesfortroops.com](http://www.tightlinesfortroops.com) or look for them on Facebook.

“It’s just amazing how well they treat you, it really is,” McIver said. “I can’t even guesstimate how many volunteers they must have to do all this. The way they do this is just unbelievable. Everything is top notch and they’re so friendly. It’s just a really neat deal. I can’t say enough how well-organized and how well they run it. They don’t charge the veterans a dime, it’s all free.”



two fellow Vietnam War veterans from Lowell, Tony Myers and Fred Verspoor.

The festivities got underway on Friday night, May 15.

“It started Friday evening,” McIver said. “We went to Seng’s Marina, a huge marina in Manistee. You have to get registered and they hook you up with your captain and your boat so you know where to go in the morning. You meet the other vets that are going to be on the boat with you. There were 65 boats with four to five vets on each boat and then a captain and a first mate. All those boat guys were all donating their time, their boats, their equipment, their fuel, and they don’t get a thing for it. My captain’s name was Mark Chmura. I never called him by his last name, I called him ‘Captain Mark.’ The boat was called ‘Pier Pressure.’ His first mate’s name was Gage. He was this young kid, a senior, graduating from high school this year and he’d been with Captain Mark for 10 years. He was a good kid, they were great people. Anyway, then they treat you to supper. It was good as all get out.”

they all took off, which was really cool. It was quite a sound. We took off and our captain got us out to where we were going to fish. It was a beautiful day, just perfect. The lake was just as smooth as could be. It was gorgeous. We put out ten or twelve lines. Within ten or fifteen minutes we had six poles with fish on them. It was really fun. Everybody was going nuts and grabbing poles, trying to get the fish in and not tangle all the lines. It was just amazing. We really hit ‘em. Then we had a stretch of about an hour and a half where there was nothing. It was about ten to noon when we had to wrap it up.”

When they were done fishing, the boats paraded back to the marina.

“The Coast Guard led the way and we proceeded back down through the channel to Manistee,” McIver said. “There were all kinds of people lined up along the channel with flags, waving and cheering. You’d grab a fish and hold it up and they would cheer. It was amazingly cool. We got back to the marina and got docked and then

desserts. And they said, ‘Eat as much as you want.’ It was all-you-can-eat. You sat at a table with the people who were with you on the boat. It gave you a chance to meet other veterans and talk with

good afternoon. It wrapped up around 4 pm.”

McIver and his group caught the most fish out of all the boats. The fish are processed and split between the participants.

The biggest one was 16 pounds and the smallest one was eight or nine pounds. We got over 130 pounds worth of fish. There were five vets in the boat. Each



Supporters waved flags to greet the anglers as they came back through the channel at Manistee’s harbor and all the participants were treated to a barbecue afterwards to wrap up the annual event.