the lowell Ger issue 47

wednesday • september • 9 • 2015

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gary's celebrates 50 years



page 16

swisslane farms celebrates 100 years

page 2



Ihs sports



pages 11 & 15

pink arrow activities

pages 8 & 9



Students head back to school Tuesday

by Kathryn Atwood

contributing reporter Gray skies and drizzling rain did not dampen the spirits of nearly four thousand Lowell Area School students who were welcomed back to class Tuesday morning. The district's seven buildings, which house students from preschool to high school, opened their doors to eager and slightly wet students for the first official day of the 2015-2016 school year. Cherry Creek Elementary principal Shelli Otten said the busy morning was fun despite the glum weather. "We are excited to be here," said Otten.



Top: Buses trickled into Cherry Creek Elementary School Tuesday morning for the first day of the 2015-2016 school year.

Left: Cherry Creek principal Shelli Otten greets her second- through fifth-grade students as they kick off the new school year.

Investigation into "bicycle man" remains ongoing

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

The story about the possible discovery of human remains in the backyard of a Lowell house blew up local media last week. After the Ledger broke the story in the Aug. 24 edition, it was picked up by TV stations outlets except for Channel 8 seemed to get the facts right.

"That Joe LaFurgey with Channel 8, he must have checked with the

lieutenant that was never at the scene who said their dog never sat, even though the other trooper there saw it sit twice," said the investigator hired by the Dietz family Vic Weeks. "I don't quite get that one."

The Bowes Rd. home was formerly owned by the 8, 13 and 17, as well as alleged murderer of "bicycle" mlive.com. All media man" Donald Dietz. Local private detective Vic Weeks, owner of Quick Results Investigations, brought ground-penetrating radar and a cadaver dog to the

site on Saturday, Aug. 22. The search turned up some buried metal grates with burned material on and near them and then two different cadaver dogs indicated the presence of human remains. Weeks said that the Michigan State Police are not releasing any information about the case.

"I'm probably not going to find out anything about the tests from the state lab," Weeks said. "I took Marv Dietz down there the other day thinking that maybe they'd tell a family member the status of what was going on and they wouldn't even let us in the door."

Weeks said that he isn't going to stop his own investigation.

"I went over and drove some pipes that I bought into the ground in the garden area," Weeks said. "I had ten samples here and the dog hit on one of them. That was a good thing. I guess I'm just going to have to wait until that detective gets back from vacation."

The state detective in charge of the investigation, Jacquelyn Stasiak, is on her summer vacation. Phone calls to her by the Ledger have not been returned.

"Right now it's just a wait for Stasiak to get back from vacation, then I'll try to find out about the tests and then they're going to have to check that spot in the garden that the other dog already responded to," Weeks stated. "That's where it's at right now."

The Ledger is pink this week to celebrate **Pink Arrow!**

It's Pink Arrow Week **Events held** this Friday. September 11 **Buy your shirt and support Pink Arrow Pride** Look for the schedule of events on pages 8 & 9

SwissLane Farms celebrates centennial

SwissLane welcomed approximately 600 visitors to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the farm and receiving the Historical Society of Michigan's Centennial Farm designation. Guests enjoyed meals made with gourmet cheese, hot dogs from Jerry's Tire Weiner Wagon, ice cream from Forman's Legendairy Ice Cream

and the Ice Cream Cabus, hayrides and fireworks. State Representative Posthumus Lyons Lisa presented the family with Centennial Farm plaque and also a State of Michigan Special Tribute signed by her, Senator Dave Hildenbrand and Governor Snyder. There were several fundraising activities to benefit Flat River Outreach Ministries

campaign. **Participants** gave \$3 (1 gallon of milk) and got a ticket to enter the raffle or \$6 (2 gallons of milk) and got to pick a baby calf to name. Over 350 gallons of milk were donated at the event. United Dairy Industry of Michigan has agreed to match donations for the campaign through November 2, 2015. The family also took the

opportunity to celebrate the 89th birthday of the farm patriarch, Joe Oesch. They sang "Happy Birthday" and invited his childhood friend, Verle Stahl, to come and yodel a Swiss song to him and the crowd.

SwissLane Dairy Farms was established in 1915 by a Swiss immigrant Fredrick Oesch. As the family has grown so has the farm. Currently, there are

48 hardworking employees (19 are family members). The family expanded the milking herd in 2011 by adding 500 more cows that are milked by eight robotic milking machines bringing the herd total to 2,000 cows. They grow corn and hay as feed for the cattle and sell wheat and soybeans. The farm offers tours to the community through the Dairy Discovery program. They are selling specialty

Red Cross blood

drives planned in

remembrance of

The American Red

Cross is partnering with

9/11 Day to offer individuals

a chance to help others and

commemorate the events

of Sept. 11 by giving blood

or platelets or volunteering

their time with the Red

in 2002 as an annual day of

service to honor the victims

and heroes of Sept. 11.

Since then, it has evolved

into the largest annual day

of charitable engagement in

the U.S. and was designated

as a National Day of Service

and Remembrance by the

U.S. Congress in 2009.

Each year tens of millions

of people observe the day by

in need, and that's surely

gratifying," said Jay S.

9/11 Day was launched

Sept. 11 – 9/11 Day

cheese and farm-made maple syrup.

"There have been many people who have shaped this farm's core values of God honoring conduct, turning a nickel into a dime, thinking light-years ahead, focusing on the cows and making hay while the sun shines," says Tom Oesch. "We are very thankful for the people who sacrifice everyday [to] help us carry on these values toward the next 100 years."



along street

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Chit Chat Book Club - Tues., Sept. 15, 4-5 pm. Join other members of Gilda's Club in discussing the book "Mary Coin" by Maris A Silver. Stop by the clubhouse to borrow a book.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/ pinkarrow

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thurs., Sept. 17 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

EXHIBITION

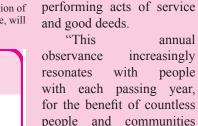
Things That Go Bump in the Night is a group show of dark and mysterious themed artwork that was submitted through an open call for artists displayed at LowellArts! King Gallery. The show was juried to ensure that artwork fit the theme and is appropriate for all viewing audiences. Meet-the-Artists reception will be Thurs., Oct. 15 from 6-8 pm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am - 6 pm and Sat. 1-4

DINNER THEATER PRODUCTION

The LowellArts! Players presents Play Bytes by Playwrights, a collection of 10-minute plays written by emerging playwrights. Either drama or comedy, all the plays fit the theme: Things That Go Bump in the Night. Dinner Theater productions are held at Larkin's Other Place, 301 W. Main St. on Fri. and Sat. evenings at 6:30 pm, Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31 with a Sun. matinee at 1:30 pm on Oct. 25. Show only tickets are available, play begins at 7:30 pm on Fri. and Sat. and 2:30 pm on Sun. Advanced tickets are required for Dinner Theater. For ticket information call 897-8545.

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

pm. LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson St., 897-8545.



Winuk, co-founder of 9/11 Day. "Those who participate are making a real difference. The Red Cross is an ideal partner to engage people to step forward and we're confident that blood donors. volunteers and organizations will answer this call for help while honoring the heroes of

Winuk lost his brother Glenn in the 9/11 attacks. Glenn J. Winuk, an attorney with Holland & Knight in downtown Manhattan, served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for almost 20 years. After helping evacuate the Holland & Knight law offices where he was a partner, he raced to the nearby World Trade Center's south tower to help with rescue efforts. He died when that tower collapsed - a borrowed first-response medical kit was found by his

> Blood drive, continued, page 6



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New principal welcomed at Alto Elementary this year

by Kathryn Atwood contributing reporter

Newaygo native Paul Papes joined the ranks of Lowell Area Schools' principals beginning the 2015-16 school year by replacing Randy Fleenor as leader of the district's southernmost elementary school in Alto.

Born to parents who were both educators, Papes said he knew at an early age that he intended to follow in their footsteps. "I knew I wanted to go into education when I was still in high school. My parents both had a huge impact on this decision as well as my teachers and coaches. Ultimately I saw teaching as a way to dramatically impact the lives of others like my teachers had positively influenced my life," stated Papes.

Papes, now a married father of three young boys, began pursuing that goal with his attendance

Western Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. He followed that up with his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University.

Now entering fourteenth year in the field, Papes has spent much of his career with Rockford Public Schools where he served as a fifth-grade teacher at Cannonsburg Elementary and as a seventh-grade English teacher at East Rockford Middle School. Prior to that he served as both a teacher and coach for Tri County Area Schools. "I coached boys' junior varsity baseball, basketball, and football. I also coached seventh-grade basketball and girl's eighth grade basketball while I was there," added Papes.

Recently celebrating ten years of marriage to wife Anna, Papes had long aspired to become an elementary principal. After hearing about the opening at Alto Elementary he quickly determined it would be a good fit. "I was aware of the strong reputation Lowell Area Schools has as a district. As I learned more about Alto, I was impressed with the commitment shared by the entire community to offer an exceptional educational opportunity at Alto Elementary," said

Since being selected for the position, Papes said his reception from the district and the Alto community has been positive. "I have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome I've received here in Lowell. The people here are friendly, hard-working and have a lot of pride in this community. Furthermore, there is a strong culture collaboration teamwork."

Papes said he was formally introduced to Alto parents and students at their "Meet the Teacher" event where his impression of the community was further heightened. "I was very impressed with the people I met and could feel the positive energy that flows

throughout the school community. Furthermore, as I have started working with our staff, I am very impressed with their dedication and professionalism. They're a caring group of educators who are dedicated to the success of every child. It is

such an honor to have the opportunity to lead Alto Elementary to continue this tradition of academic excellence," concluded Papes.



Local residents encouraged to contact LPD for stolen items

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

The Lowell police are still looking for the owners of a large amount of stolen property. The items, including tools, electronics, sunglasses, a purse and various other things, were stolen out of cars over the past several months. Police are waiting for the victims to come forward and identify their property so they can charge the suspects.

"Without a victim you don't have a crime," said Lowell police chief Steve Bukala. "As more victims come forward and we identify them with the property, then we move forward with additional charges and any restitution."

"We currently have close to a dozen GPS units that are unclaimed; we have two iPods that are unclaimed [and] a Philips car DVD player; we've got a 250-watt car amplifier; we've got a couple car stereos; we've got assorted tools, different knives; we've got a handful of sunglasses; we've got some car audio subwoofers, and I think that's about it," said detective Gordy Lauren. "There's a whole mess of stuff."

Two teens have already been charged, and there are two other suspects.

"Technically charged three, but they only authorized on two," Bukala said. "One of the juveniles

was lodged at detention last week, but because we didn't have the victim identified they released him without charges. They said that as soon as we identify the victim they'll reissue charges. There are four [suspects] in total, three juveniles and one 17-yearold. They're not very smart when they're that young and they're committing crimes."

The thefts weren't just in Lowell. The four teens were stealing from cars all over the area.

"Some were in town, some were out of town," Bukala said. "We traced one of the GPS units that was stolen all the way up to Belding. Another was [from] as far north as Smyrna."

Chief Bukala said that local residents should not leave their cars unlocked at night.

"I'm amazed at the amount of people that leave their cars unlocked," Bukala said. "They just make it easy for these kids to open it up and take whatever they want."

Another way to help police is to report crimes.

"Some were reported

JENNIFER BYRD, D.D.S. I ANN WILSON, D.D.S.

and some were not," Bukala said. "We're finding out that a lot of people didn't report [the thefts]. Some were aware [of the thefts], some were unaware."

If you think some of the items might belong to you, call the Lowell Police Department at 897-7123, or go to city hall.

"People can come on in, say what their missing and describe it," Bukala said. "I've got three boxes of stuff that we're going through, and I'll bring it out to them. We'll hold onto [the stolen items], and if we can't ever identify anybody then we hold onto it for the amount of time that the law requires us to, and then we auction it off," concluded Bukala







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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Best response to volatile markets? Stay calm

In recent months, stocks have fallen sharply from their record highs, with oneday drops that can rightfully be called "dizzying." As an investor, what are you to make of this volatility?

For one thing, you'll find it useful to know the probable causes of the market gyrations. Most experts cite global fears about China's economic slowdown, falling oil prices and anticipation of a move by the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates as the key factors behind the stock market's decline.

On the other hand, the U.S. economy is still doing fairly well. Employers are adding jobs at a pretty good clip, wages are rising, home prices are up and overall economic growth has been reasonably solid. In other words, we are in a vastly better place than in the period before the Great Recession of 2008 and early 2009, when the financial markets bottomed out.

Nonetheless, it's only natural that you might feel some trepidation over what's been happening in the financial markets over the past few weeks. So, what should you do? Here are a few suggestions:

• Expect more of the same. Be prepared for more volatility, potentially including big drops one day followed by big gains

the next. Until the factors considered responsible for the current volatility - that is, China's slowing economy, low oil prices and the Federal Reserve's decision on rates – have been fully absorbed into the market's pricing mechanisms, big price swings, one way or another, are to be expected.

- Don't panic. The headlines may look grim, but today's newspapers are tomorrow's recycling pile. Volatility is nothing new, and the financial markets are more resilient than you may think.
- Look opportunities. By definition, a downturn occurs when investors sell massive amounts of stocks, but it actually may be a good time to buy them, while their price is down. Look at the most successful businesses and their products and services. If you can envision these companies still being around and thriving in ten years, why wouldn't you want to buy their stocks at potentially lower prices?
- Diversify. During the downturn, just about everyone's portfolio was affected. But if yours took a particularly large hit, it might be because your holdings over-concentrated stocks, especially the types of stocks that fared the worst. You may need to further diversify

your portfolio through a mixture of domestic and international stocks, bonds, government securities, real estate, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other vehicles. Diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or prevent against all losses, but it can help blunt the harshest effects of volatility.

• Review investment strategy. Unless your goals have changed, there's no reason to revise your long-term investment strategy, even in the face of wild fluctuations in the financial markets. Still. it's always a good idea to review your strategy at least once a year, possibly in consultation with a financial professional. You may need to make smaller-scale adjustments in response to changes in the economy, interest rates, and so on, but don't abandon your core principles, such as maintaining a portfolio that reflects your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Investing will never be either risk-free or predictable. But by taking the steps described above, you can relieve some of the stress associated with volatility and help yourself stay on track toward your financial objectives.

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investors should understand the risks involved of owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal. Special risks are inherent to international investing, including those related to currency fluctuations and foreign political and economic events.



view Doint

to the editor

Negative behavior needs to be questioned

Dear Editor,

I grew up in a family and culture where we were taught to not ask questions and especially to not question authority. It took me a very long time to work through such false concepts. This may be a valid survival belief system if a person lives in a dictator-run society. But guess what, this is the United States of America where we have "Freedom of Speech." We have the freedom to disagree and even the obligation to challenge our leaders when we see wrongdoing or errors in judgment.

This country was literally built on the premise of challenging authority and the status quo. Perhaps the fact that so many have become complacent and unwilling to take off the rose-colored glasses is the reason this country is in such dire straits. Let's not let that continue to happen to this wonderful community of Lowell.

It really angers me that every time someone in Lowell speaks up about concerns for this community and its leaders there are others who try to guilt trip us and shut us up by telling us we "shouldn't be negative."

Don't they realize that the things that are being pointed out that are considered negative are actually behaviors and actions of the leaders? These behaviors and actions are simply being questioned and challenged, which is our right and responsibility.

Maybe the people who don't like these comments should get upset with those creating the negative situations rather than those asking for change and improvement.

This IS a wonderful great with community people, incredible volunteers and lots of super programs. I've never heard anyone deny that. There are many letters, articles and much publicity which certainly emphasize all the wonderful aspects of Lowell. Unfortunately all of the positive in the world won't stop the negative behavior if it isn't questioned or challenged.

We see that all the time in this country of entitlement and corruption.

Let's embrace the positive but also be willing to look at the challenges in order to find solutions and make Lowell even greater.

We are not being negative but simply speaking the truth that so many seem unwilling to face. Even Mayberry had its problems. Let's truly be the "Next Place to Be" by acknowledging both our positives and negatives so that we can create solutions and become even better.

Thank you, Peggy Covert returned to Lowell with Jim in 2006. So, I am familiar with many of you in the city and in Lowell Township and with the many changes that have taken place over the past years, as my sister and father also live in Lowell to this day. My sister is Laurie Wernet and my father is Herb Swan.

Recently, Jim and I were made aware of the fact that an open forum meeting is to be held at Schneider Manor on September 16 at 11 am, which is where my father lives. We are glad that Jim will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting, as we are told it is a "Meet the Candidates" meeting. After all, Jim was the first new candidate to return his signed petition and he collected well over the needed amount of signatures and collected them all himself, looking forward to introducing himself along the way.

Jim has worked for Midstate Security for 26 years now and was with ADT prior to that for 15 years, totaling 41 years in the security business. He is well-respected and wellknown in that industry. He has been at the helm of many fundraisers for Midstate Security, always willing to help others whenever possible. Somehow, he also found a way to be the high school bowling coach for Kelloggsville (girls and boys) and in 2012 was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Bowling Hall of Fame.

A few years ago, Jim decided to become more involved in the activities of the city of Lowell and volunteered for an open position and was appointed to the Lowell Planning Commission and was recently re-appointed to that commission. His interest in the city has continued to expand and he is now running for a position on the Lowell City Council. He

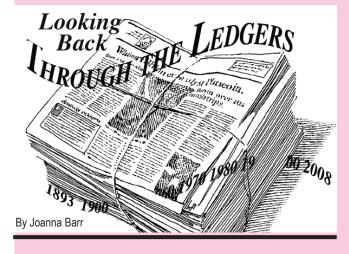
To The Editor, continued, page 7

New candidate for city council

Letter to the Editor,

Recently, I have noticed several articles in the Ledger announcing three new candidates running for city council. Well, I'm writing this article to announce a fourth new candidate, Jim Salzwedel, my husband.

Before I continue, please let me introduce myself to you. I am Jim's wife, Lynette Salzwedel. Some of you may know me by my maiden name, Lynette Swan. I was raised in Lowell, where I lived the first 22 years of my life and



125 years ago Lowell Journal September 10, 1890

Strike in Alto! The most kitling affair that has ever happened in our little village was the strike in Grant Warner's potato patch, Thursday. He had several little boys picking up potatoes for 1 cent per bushel, which they thought was not enough and they struck for higher wages. The riot was settled by one constable (who was Mr. Warner himself), by telling them all to leave the field that would not work for 1½ cents per bushel, but only one remained, which was Pearl Denice, who stayed to reap the reward, where the others lost.

Saturday the corner of Main and W. Water Sts. was graced by a fellow with a striking machine, a mouth, and a rasping voice and by combining the latter two he made the day hideous. "Two strikes for five cents. Come up and try your muscle," and up they would come. Men who were so tender hearted at home that they could hardly split wood enough to last the day would almost burst a suspender in their frantic efforts to swing the heavy mauls he had. It will be here again, at the fair, for we don't believe that he has found so many suckers on an off day before this year.

There was a rail road meeting held at Music Hall last Monday eve., in the interest of the extension

of the L & H R'y, at which a written proposition was presented, agreeing to build their road from the round house across Gd. River to the foot of Washington St., and side tracks from there to the rear of Wisner's mill, if a contribution of \$5,000 is made by the citizens, one-half of said amount to be used to build a depot. The papers were started, yesterday noon, by a committee appointed for that purpose, but we understand they are not meeting with the success that they think they should. By our next issue the thing will be settled, one way or the other, and if it is not a go it will put a most effectual quietus on the rail road talk.

Are you coming to the Fair? It is expected to be the greatest Fair in Kent County this year. The grounds are rapidly being put in first class shape and the enquiries about entries are pouring in. Everything portends a most successful Fair.

Lost.—A pocket book, dark colored leather coin book. Somewhere between Fred Austin's, on the Vergennes road, and Copper's barber shop or Althen's store, contained two \$2 bills and one \$1 bill. Leave at this office

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 9, 1915

Headline: Large enrollment – Lowell schools open with good prospects. Six new teachers. Superintendent Frazee reports enrollment in Lowell schools up September 8 as follows: total enrollment in all departments, 507; seniors, 16 boys and 16 girls, 32; total high school enrollment, 165; total non-resident enrollment, 90. Four seniors yet to be enrolled. With the best of prospects attending, the public schools of Lowell are opening for the year's work. Although the classification of the students has not yet been completed indications would point to the largest enrollment in the history of the local institution. This is due to the fact that Lowell will soon have its new school building ready for occupancy and the pupils are anxious to have the advantage of the

additional facilities consequent upon the completion of the structure.

Headline: A narrow escape – Peter Fineis and party in overturned automobile. What might have been a fatal accident occurred Saturday evening when Peter Fineis' car, containing Mr. and Mrs. Fineis and their brother and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Rice of Portland plunged over into a ditch. As it was, Mrs. Rice is at a farm house and cannot be moved for several days; Mr. Rice was cut on the head by a piece of the broken windshield so several stitches had to be taken; Mr. Fineis was slightly hurt in the stomach and on one of his shins, and Mrs. Fineis received a bad nervous shock and had her shoulder bruised. They were returning to Portland from Houghton lake and when near Elwell met a rig with two women in it who refused to give a share of the road. Mr. Fineis kept blowing his horn and slackening up, but as they paid no attention, rather than hit a buggy with two women in, he turned farther out and because of a dense growth of shrubbery and weeds did not see the ditch until the machine was thrown over. The two men and Mrs. Fineis let go their hold and were thrown into the mud and water but Mrs. Rice hung to the machine which landed on top of her, crushing her chest. The others began to look around for her and when they discovered her she was black in the face and could not speak and in three minutes more would have been crushed to death. The three, by lifting and shoving, succeeded in getting it loose and helped her out. No bones were broken but she was terribly bruised across the chest where the machine rested, her face was badly swollen and she was scarcely breathing. She was taken to a nearby farmhouse and two doctors and two trained nurses were soon on the spot. The fenders of the machine were badly bent and the windshield and side lights broken. The women in the buggy hurried away. No one seemed to know them.

health

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



pancreatitis

The pancreas is a gland that makes enzymes which help digestion. It sits behind the stomach in the upper abdomen. This gland can become inflamed. This is called pancreatitis and it can be a very dangerous condition.

Symptoms include severe upper abdominal pain that radiates through to the back, nausea and vomiting, and pain when touching the area over the pancreas.

Pancreatitis several causes. The most common causes are alcohol abuse and gallstones which obstruct the pancreatic duct. Other causes include abdominal trauma, high triglycerides, high calcium fibrosis, cystic

certain medications, and smoking.

There are many possible complications of pancreatitis - including internal bleeding, infection, breathing problems, kidney failure, and malnutrition.

It is generally diagnosed with blood tests, CT scans and ultrasound.

typically Treatment includes hospitalization. Affected individuals will not be allowed to eat for several days. Pain medications and IV fluids are used until the inflammation resides. Then the search for underlying causes may necessitate surgery to clear duct obstructing fluid from the pancreas or to remove the gallbladder.

college news

Davenport University has announced that several local students have been named to the dean's list the spring/summer 2015 semester. To achieve the dean's list, a student must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average while enrolled in at least

nine credits of regular coursework. Local students that have been named to the dean's list at Davenport University from Alto: Angela Beson, Matthew Botsford, Christopher Carswell, and Matthew Kahle; Lowell: Lisa Belson and Kristine Bowen.

happy birthday

SEPTEMBER 9

Sarah Schalow, Amy Cook, Allison Maholic, Linda Morrison, Charles Gee, Todd Lenneman.

SEPTEMBER 10

Brecken Hendrick, Chris Gerard.

SEPTEMBER 11

Ellis, Justin Sean VanDyke, Susan Barry, Diane Johnson.

SEPTEMBER 12

Deborah Claypool, Nathan Propst, Jim Smith, Tyler Bitterman, Bob Lind.

SEPTEMBER 13

Randy McIntyre, Gloria Ossewaarde, Haley Briggs.

SEPTEMBER 14

Christian Barnes, Dan VanDyke, Michael Timmers, Missy Ossewaarde, Megan

SEPTEMBER 15

Brandi Phillips, Mark Trierweiler, Nick Baker, Bryan Bitterman.

outdoors

hang in there

Dave Stegehuis

Old age has a way of creeping up on a person. Tasks and activities that were once addressed without a thought about the possibility of not being able to complete them are now evaluated in regards to physical requirements.

A recent example is when my wife Gwen and I got caught up in the unrelenting evolution of archery equipment. We just had to have the latest and greatest compound bows. Bows require a reasonable amount of strength to draw and hold to achieve effective accuracy. We were at a crossroads where we had to make a decision to continue shooting bows or transition to crossbows which can be mechanically drawn and cocked. We choose the bows because we enjoy shooting them and then adopted a special strength training regimen along with more frequent practice sessions to maintain the ability to use the bows for target shooting and hunting as we grow older.

Most outdoor activities involve some level of physical ability whether it be rock climbing or bird watching and may take extra effort for those affected by age, illness, or handicap. For folks who enjoy reasonably good health, maintaining a healthy diet and getting proper exercise will keep one in the game for a long time. Those with serious physical limitations might look to alternative techniques and equipment modifications to continue participating in favorite activities.

When people are out in the woods and fields and on the water and mountains they are able to keep an eye on what's happening out there. People directly engaged with nature tend to take action to preserve our natural heritage. Because there is strength in numbers, we need all the advocates we can enlist.

There will inevitably come a day when we all will have to slow down but we can still pass on our enthusiasm to a young person so they can enjoy the same experiences and carry on our outdoor legacy. Hang in there.

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.....Sunday School

...Worship

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There are two great days in a person's life - the day we are born and the day we discover why. -William Barclay

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CALVARY CHRISTIAN

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Pastor Rod Galindo

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Evening Worship......6:00 P.M.

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402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarylowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 10:30 AM Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 393, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

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2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Barrier Free

Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. Jon Pickens & Pastor Phil Severn Sun. Worship Service..... Sunday School, nursery - adult..... AWANA – K-5, during school year......Wed. 6:15 - 8 P.M. Youth Ministry – grades 6-12......Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

(Youth Ministry moves to Wed. during summer)

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897-5936 www.lowellumc.com Summer Worship (through Sept. 6) 9:30 a.m. only

Barrier-free entrance SUNDAY WORSHIP..... ..9 & 11 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL..... ...11:15 a.m

Pastor Brad Brillhart

Blood drive, continued Blood donors of all Those who would

types – especially those with types AB, O negative, A negative and B negative and platelet donors are encouraged to give. Type O negative is the universal blood type that can be transfused to patients of any blood type. It is often used to treat trauma patients and is always in demand by hospitals.

"The Red Cross is proud to partner with 9/11 Day and empower members of our communities to give blood and volunteer commemorate anniversary while making a profound contribution to community preparedness," said Donna M. Morrissey, director of national partnerships, Red Cross Biomedical Services. "Giving the gift of life to someone else is a way to continue the healing process in the face of tragic circumstances Americans couldn't imagine before that day."

National Day of Service Remembrance by donating blood or platelets are encouraged to make an appointment to give at one of the following locations: Barry County: Middleville 9/12/2015: 10 am - 3:45 pm, Yankee Springs Fire

like to observe the 9/11

Payne Lake Rd. How to donate blood

Department, 1425 South

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS 800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.



Alto Harvest Festival & car show, Sept. 19

If you have not enjoyed a real small-town festival lately, this will be a good family time that should not be missed. Saturday, September 19, 2015, the Alto Harvest Festival committee is once again hosting their 35th annual Alto Harvest Festival.

Begin your day with a pancake breakfast put on by the Alto/Bowne Township Fire Department at the Alto Fire Station at 6260 Bancroft beginning at 7 am and ending at 10 am. Opening

ceremonies begin at 10 am with the raising of the American flag by Alto's area Girl Scout Troop.

Arts and crafts vendors as well as independent consultants open at 9 am and run until 3 pm. The parade begins at 11:30 am. During the parade Tom and Connie Vaughn will be honored as this year's grand Marshalls.

The Classic Car Show keeps growing in popularity. Make plans to take a trip down memory lane to view street rods and hot rods along with classic and muscle cars that will line the streets.

Goodie bags and dash plaques will be awarded for the first 150 car show entries, top 50 awards with many quality door prizes handed out throughout the day. Registration is \$10 and starts at 7:30 am. Awards at 3 pm.

There is a contest for everyone including the Blue Ribbon Baking Contest that brings in tasty treats every year. One lucky entry will be chosen from the adult and the youth division. A grand champion will be chosen and awarded a cash prize of \$25. Categories include any and all desserts, cookies/bars, candies and yeast/quick breads.

Bingo will be hosted by the Alto American Legion, Post 528. The post will also be holding a membership drive, as well as serving a barbeque chicken dinner with all the fixings.

Baking Bingo, is a new twist on an old game. Instead of prize money you can win baked goods and baking essentials. This is a true Harvest Festival original. Other contests include a pie eating contest and a scavenger hunt. If you can figure out the clues you will find a sweet treat awaiting you when you turn in your hunt sheet. Other attractions include the Alto Library's gently used book sale and the annual Antique Tractor display.

Located on the "Green" will be the Free Kids

Area where there will be inflatables, Cheek to Cheek face painting, and Whispering Pines Petting Zoo. A returning kid's favorite, the Pedal Tractor Pull, will be awarding trophies, medals and participation ribbons for all participants. New this year will be horse drawn buggy rides for kids provided by Crystal Falls Horse & Carriage.

At Veterans Park the Lumberjack for Lemonade contest will be making a return visit. Everyone can be a lumberjack for this great cause and win great prizes. Proceeds going to Alex's Lemonade Stand for Spinal Cord Tumor research from 1 to 4 pm.

Food is always on one's mind and a variety of mouth-watering items will be on hand to choose from, including barbeque chicken dinner, brats, Kettle corn, walking tacos, Jets Pizza, hot dogs and more.

Alto is not hard to find; it is located just off I-96 at exit 52. After exiting I-96 go south on M-50 following it to 60th street. Turn west on 60th St. When you come to the stop sign at Bancroft you have arrived in Alto. Parking is available on the street and the Alto Baptist Church. Come have a wonderful day at the Alto Harvest Festival.

To the editor, continued

has no hidden or personal agenda in running for city council other than to be open and fair, entertaining the ideas of the citizens and answering their questions as honestly as possible. Jim will be happy to listen to his constituents and answer any questions they may have on issues as they arise.

So, as election day

approaches and the Salzwedel family begins campaigning, please remember: Jim Salzwedel for Lowell City Council. Hope to see you at the meeting on September 16 at Schneider Manor!

Thank you in advance, Lynette Swan Salzwedel

Excited about new restaurant

Dear Editor,

As a longtime residents of Lowell, many of us are looking for more choices in quality restaurants in the area, with less unhealthy fast food places and more community-friendly family restaurants.

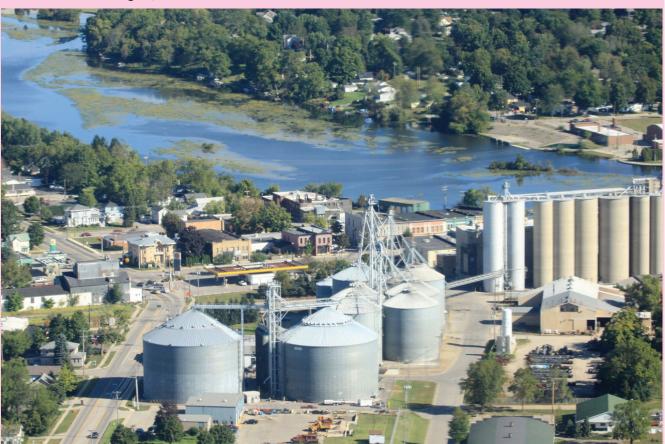
I am very excited to see one of those opening this Thursday, September 10, 2015, Main Street BBQ. This opens in the newly renovated building that was the former Moose Lodge. The renovations are gorgeous, with eight large TV screens for sports fans. With the owners being friends of ours, I have been fortunate enough to be in on the early tasting and the food is fantastic, with the beef brisket being my

personal favorite! They will also have 20 beers on tap focusing on Michigan micro brews.

As a member of the Lowell Rotary, we are very committed to "service above self" and helping better the community in any way we can. Main Street BBQ has a nacho item on their menu where they will donate \$1.00 to the Pink Arrow Pride for every order purchased and giving back to the community as well.

This grand opening on Thursday is great for Lowell and will provide something that nobody from Lowell has specialized in... barbecue!

> Sincerely, Dave Abel Lowell



GET A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON OUR COMMUNITY

From community developments to a look at rising stars on the local business, dining, sports and entertainment scenes, The Lowell Ledger has it all!



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The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions.

-Leonardo da Vinci

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With your ability to lift up to 35 lbs. and commute to and from work each day, you could have an opportunity with a global company!

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PARKING

ALL HIGH SCHOOL EVENT PARKING MUST ENTER AT VERGENNES ENTRANCE.

Lower stadium lot is for Handicap and parking pass only. (must enter off of Alden Nash entrance)

SHUTTLE PARKING



is available starting at 4:30 p.m. from Cherry Creek Elementary (Foreman St.) AND Lowell Middle School (Foreman St.) pick-up and drop-off area front entrance, parking in rear off Suffolk St. entrance.

Buses will start return trips at the start of the 3rd quarter

RESTAURANT ROW

All concessions - Athletic Boosters and Restaurant Row vendors

will be accepting PINK TICKETS ONLY in \$1 increments.

All items will be clearly priced per number of tickets at each booth.

There will be many ticket booths available throughout the stadium.

This system will speed the process for fast service.

- Backwater Café
- Flat River Grill
- Heidi's Farm Market
- Ice Cream Cabus
- Keiser's Kitchen
- Larkin's
- Sneaker's
- Riverbend Bar & Grill
- Biggby Coffee
- The Grist Mill



AT THE GATE BE SURE AND PICK UP YOUR COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

- \$1 minimum donation

SCHEDULE FOR EVENT DAY



SEPTEMBER 11

* Approximate times

2:30 pm ···· GATES OPEN

3:00 pm •••• Boosters Concessions Pink Ticket and Restaurant Row Open

3:30 pm National Anthem presented

.... Elsye Veldman

Note new time for Soccer & Volleyball

3:30 pm · · · · Soccer introduction and match -

Lowell vs. Jenison Wildcats

3:30 pm ···· Volleyball introduction

and match - Sponsored by **Enwork**

Lowell vs. Jenison Wildcats

6:00 pm Survivor and Honor Walk -Song by Brennan Prill

6:35 pm Football Player and

Honoree introduction on field

7:00 pm National Anthem presented

Brennan Prill

7:09 pm PINK ARROW GAME -

Lowell Pink Arrows vs. Jenison Wildcats

BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND QUARTER -

Presentation to T-Shirt Sponsors

STICK AROUND for a SPECIAL HALFTIME FUN EVENT!!!

Between 3rd and 4th Quarter -

Present Kathy Talus Scholarship and Dr. Donald Gerard Medical Scholarships CONCLUSION -

EVERYONE INVITED DOWN TO THE FIELD TO VIEW FIREWORKS!

FOR HONOREES - Pink Arrow Jersey presentations on SOUTH END of playing field

ARROW FORCE VIII SHIRTS

Purchase your Arrow Force VIII shirts at PEP TALK, 207 E. MAIN • 897-7200 & SPRINGROVE VARIETY, 123 W. MAIN • 897-9918

YOUR \$15 SHIRT:

LONG SLEEVE \$20 • (3XL and 4XL extra charge)
• Helps support those traveling a cancer journey through Lowell
Community Wellness/Family Support and Gilda's Club of Lowell

• Supports Kathy Talus scholarship

• Supports Dr. Donald Gerard medical scholarships
YOUR SHIRT IS YOUR TICKET TO THE DAY'S EVENTS

Donation stays local and there is no administration cost.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS

Buist Electric

for the additional electric service

hanks! Sysco and Gordon Food Service

- for the additional refrigeration

Brennan Prill

- for singing the anthem & honor walk songs

Mark Johnson Agency
- for underwriting the Thundersticks

J&H Family Stores
- for the pink footballs

Pep Talk &

Springrove Variety

- for selling our T-Shirts

Modern Photographics
- for the photobooth & Perseverance photos

nks! Titan Equipment

River Valley Credit Union & Custom Components

- for underwriting the fireworks

Pave Powell Family & Ronald E. Palowski, Sr. Family
- for the pyrotechnics

Fence Consultants

Golf Cart Taxi Sponsors
Greenridge

- for the Pinknic

Luc James Music Studio

Elyse Veldman

hanka, for singing the anthem

Dad's Tent Rental

SEPTEMBER 11 • 2015 • BOB PERRY FIELD AT RED ARROW MEMORIAL STADIUM



BETTER BITES FOR BACK TO FAMILY FEATURES SCHOOL here's plenty of research that shows eating well and school performance are closely linked. Whether you're fueling up for a busy

day or grabbing a snack on the go, keeping nutrition in mind will help the whole family feel good about diving into an exciting new school year.



A Smooth Way to Add Fruits & Veggies

Today's nutritional guidelines recommend that children consume at least five servings per day of fresh fruits and vegetables. Yet the reality is many parents struggle with getting their kids to eat healthier, especially during the school year. The good news is, with very little preparation you can serve healthy, grab-and-go meals that are not only nutrient-rich, they're vegetarian friendly and delicious. With meals like this, your kids might actually want seconds. Try this quick, refreshing recipe for a breakfast or after school snack option. If you're feeling inspired, create your own butter lettuce recipe — it might be worth a \$1,000. Learn how at www.lettucerecipecontest.com.

Butter Lettuce Papaya Smoothie

- 1/2 papaya, peeled (plus slices from remaining half for garnish)
- teaspoon finely chopped fresh cilantro
- teaspoon grated fresh ginger root tablespoons honey
- head Live Gourmet® Living Butter Lettuce (chopped, cleaned and root removed)
- cup almond milk 1/4 cup water
- lime, peeled

Apple and/or pear slices for garnish (optional)

Using a traditional, compact or hand blender, mix all ingredients for 30 seconds or until smooth. Garnish with slices of papaya and apple or pear, if desired.



Protein Power for On-the-Go Parents

Here's a quick and healthy low-calorie snack that'll make parents' lives a little easier this back-to-school season. It's rich and tasty with body-fueling protein, fiber and carbs to give you the energy you need, but won't load you down with sugar. For more information, visit www.bowflexbody.com.

Chocolate Peanut Butter Truffles

Prep time: 12 minutes Total time: 50 minutes Servings: 10-12 truffles

Truffles:

- 1/2 cup plain rolled oats
- 1/4 cup ground flaxseed meal scoop Bowflex Body French Vanilla shake powder
- packet Bowflex Body Rich Chocolate Fat Burner+ shake boost
- cup unsweetened shredded coconut 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 cup all-natural chunky peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla 1/4 cup cold water
- teaspoon cinnamon Dash of salt

Coating:

Unsweetened cocoa powder (about 1/4 cup)

Combine all truffle ingredients in mixing bowl and stir well. Place bowl in refrigerator for 20-30 minutes so mixture can firm up. Remove bowl from refrigerator and form 10-12 small balls. Roll each ball in cocoa powder to lightly coat.

Notes: For easier mixing of peanut butter, warm in microwave for 30 seconds before use. Truffles can be stored in refrigerator for 1 week or in freezer for 1 month.

Nutrition information per serving (1 truffle): 105 calories; 3 g protein; 9 g carbohydrates; 4 g fiber.

A Sweet Way to Start the Day

Start each school day on a sweet note with all-natural sweetener instead of syrup on your pancakes, waffles and other breakfast favorites. Maguey Sap, carefully crafted and brought to you by Villa de Patos, is an unrefined and unprocessed alternative sweetener with unique flavor and tons of versatility in baked goods, marinades, dairy products, beverages and more. Buy a bottle of Maguey Sap, check out additional recipes and learn more at www.villadepatos-us.com.

Maguey Sap Glazed Bacon

Yield: 8 slices Prep time: 5 minutes Cook time: 25 minutes

> 8 slices hickory smoked bacon 4 tablespoons Maguey Sap

Heat oven to 400°F.

On foil-lined rimmed baking sheet, arrange bacon in single layer (use baking rack for crispier bacon). Bake until fat is rendered and bacon is beginning to brown, about 15-18 minutes.

Remove from oven and brush one side with Maguey Sap. Bake another 3-5 minutes, or until coated side of bacon is browned. Remove from oven and flip each piece using tongs. Brush second side with Maguey Sap. Bake another 3-5 minutes, or

until browned. Drain away grease and allow bacon to rest 5 minutes. Serve warm and enjoy with your favorite pancakes.



Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS

Arrows claim 44-0 shutout over Greyhounds

by Kathryn Atwood contributing reporter

After a somewhat devastating start to the season, the Red Arrows regrouped, reloaded, headed back onto the football field and decimated their last opponent in a 44-0 victory.

Suffering their third loss in as many years to Lowell, the Chicago Hubbard Greyhounds joined the Arrows on the field last Thursday evening. Lowell, now 1-1, dominated all aspects of play in the win, taking a big lead early and stopping all offensive Greyhound efforts.

Senior Max Dean opened scoring with a short three-yard run which was complemented by a successful extra point attempt from cousin Darby Dean. Darby, a sophomore, broke new ground when she, yes she, took to the field for the kick becoming the first female to score a point in Lowell varsity's 115 year history. She went on to ace her game debut

nailing all six of her field goal attempts.

Starting quarterback Ryan Stevens was the next score, keeping the ball for a quick three-yard score pushing the Arrow's lead to

Moments later senior Alex Anschutz earned the first of two consecutive scores when he intercepted the Greyhound's taking it in 20 yards for the touchdown. The second came with just less than a minute left in the first quarter when he rushed it in from two yards taking the score to 28-0.

With just seconds left on the clock, the Greyhounds snapped the ball and it soared over the quarterback's head and into the end zone where Danny Kruse earned Lowell the two-point safety to take their lead to an astounding 30-0 lead after only the first quarter.

Red Arrow domination continued in the second



Sophomore Darby Dean makes her mark as the first female to score for the varsity football team in their history which dates back to 1900.

quarter as Derek Massey and Kruse added two more touchdowns to the

Lowell total for a score of 44-0 at the half. The score remained the same for the duration of the game as the Arrows relented some of their starting positions in response to their massive

face their first OK White challenge of the season when they take on Jenison at the monumental Pink Arrow Pride game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium this Friday at 7 pm. Pink

The Arrows will next Arrow t-shirts, which serve as entry tickets to the fundraising game, will be available on site.



Red Arrow Hayden Barry maneuvers around a Greyhound defender during





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obituaries

ALEXANDER

Dolores Alexander, age 84, from Lowell, passed away Sunday, September 6, 2015. She was preceded in death by husband, Stanley Alexander; children, Peter

and Renee; brother, Tom Kutchey; sister, Summers; Rosemary and sister, Marian Schneider. **Dolores** loved gardening, music, reading, and being with her grandchildren. She was proud of her work ethic as a house cleaner and 22 years at the Amway print shop. She is survived by her children, Stephen; David (Kitty); Jennifer Gately; Jeanne Foster



(Steven); Marty (Sheree); daughter-in-law, Dawnice; grandchildren, Adrienne, Logan, Madelyn, Lisa, Amy, Sophia, and 9 great grandchildren; sister, Genevieve Baldwin; sister, Rita (Sid) Ammon. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Visitation Thursday 4-7:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities West Michigan, 360 N. Division, #3A, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Dolores has left the building – only her spirit remains.





Gravestone Services Inc.

www.thelowellledger.com

have begun work to clean and repair as many of the old weathered pioneer gravestones as they can.

Anyone interested in helping to beautify the cemetery & honor our early settlers can donate towards this project.

Donations need to be marked "Gravestones" and can be sent to: ALTON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION 2655 Lincoln Lake Ave. NE, Lowell, MI 49331.

An easy way to help this project is to donate your gently used items for our benefit sale. All donations and sales go towards the Gravestone Project!

Sale is September 17, 18 & 19 at the Historic Alton Church (Lincoln Lake and Three Mile).

Donations accepted NOW! Please call 616.717.2557 and leave a message.

KOEWERS

Helen Koewers, age 96, of Lowell, passed away Sunday, August 30, 2015, into the loving arms of her Savior and

many loved ones. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry, son, Tom Koewers and brother, Bud Frost. She will be greatly missed by her daughter, Marlene Koewers, her granddaughters Erin (James and great-grandson Mason) Lyons and Kelsey Koewers, sister-in-law Joyce Frost and many wonderful nieces and nephews, especially Dale, Jan, Ben, Jon Hanson, Joni, Charles, Lindsey Jilek, and Judy, Dave, Denise Kramer, and dear friends. Funeral services



will be Saturday, September 12th, 3:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Lowell, 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE. Rev. Richard Sherlock officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation Saturday, September 12th, 2-3:00 p.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell Pink Arrow Project, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331 or Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.), 11535 Fulton St E, Lowell, MI 49331.



VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Planning Commission Public Hearing Notice

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 6:00 PM through 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI to consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as summarized below:

Zoning amendments are proposed in Chapter 3, Zoning Districts, by adding a new district section 201.306B "Little Farms Plat Overlay District" that will overlay the Plat boundaries for the purpose of allowing a limited number of farm type of animals with setbacks, acreage and waste containment. These types of animals are currently not permitted in the Plat and this new district will regulate permitting them. Other typical uses are also permitted similar to other zoning districts such as homes, accessory buildings, occupations, day care and parks. Special uses include group child care home, bed and breakfast and accessory dwellings. Bulk regulations are also included.

The complete ordinance amendment 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 www.vergennestwp.org. Written and comments will be received from 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 Planning Commission zoning@vergennestwp.org

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

Looking Back, continued

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 12, 1940

Headline: Parents can aid in polio fight. With nearly 20 counties in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas fighting outbreaks of poliomyelitis, Dr. H. Allen Moyer, state health commissioner, this week called upon parents everywhere in Michigan to be on guard for the first signs of the disease in their children. Health and medical agencies throughout the state are prepared to handle all cases, the commissioner declared. At the first sign of polio a doctor should be called immediately and the patient isolated. The first stage of the disease, which may come on quickly, is usually indicated by fever, and often nausea and vomiting. Children may complain of stiffness or pain in the back and neck and of muscle tenderness. Early diagnosis followed by continued medical supervision and orthopedic care will greatly lessen the danger of paralysis. No serum or vaccine has been shown to be of value in preventing

Headline: This year's showboat cleared over \$1500. The annual banquet meeting of the Showboat Corporation was held Monday evening of this week at Richmond's Cafe. Directors of the Showboat were reelected for another year... H. J. Englehardt, auditor, reported a net profit of \$1,536 for the 1940 edition of the Showboat bringing the total cash balance on hand to \$3,942. The gross receipts for this year's production were \$6,008, while expenditures were \$4,472. The total paid attendance for the 1940 Showboat was 13,271.

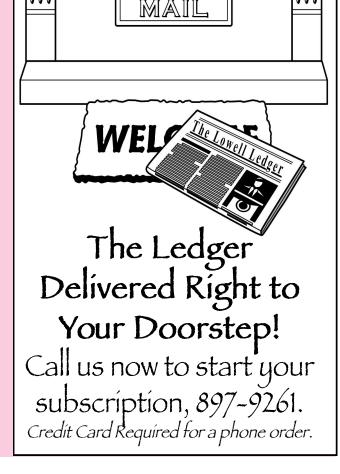
A woman transient who is said to have confessed several illegal marriages was picked up by state troopers last Friday afternoon on US-16 at the M-66 intersection as she was trying to get a ride with passing motorists. Her name is Gladys Shotwell and she is said to have revealed that she had left four undivorced husbands in various parts of the country and had planned to marry a fifth in Michigan.

A letter from Golden Greene to the Ledger states that his mother, Mrs. Emma Greene, arrived safely in New York City last Saturday afternoon after five hours' flying time between Grand Rapids and New York. "She is not a bit tired and I'm afraid we'll have a hard time keeping her on the ground in the future," says Mr. Greene in his letter.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger September 12, 1965

Headline: 10 year old robs church. Lowell Police solved a series of robberies at the Lowell Congregational Church, which have continued since July 26, with a photograph trap last week. Over the month, some \$50 has been stolen from the office; it was taken a little

Looking Back, continued, page 14



office hours:

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

classifieds

for sale

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

FRANKLIN LIFT CHAIR - medium size. Remote control brings chair to sitting, reclining & standing position. Beige color with fabric protection. Used 2 weeks. Paid \$800, will sell for \$500 obo. Call 616-676-2631 or 616-648-3278.

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.

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}

FIREWOOD - Oak & Hickory, unsplit, piled, ready to go. \$40 per pickup load. Generator - Kawasaki GE 2900. Perfect for RV or deer camp \$350. Call 581-4223.

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

TOYOTA TERCEL DE-LUXE - one owner, 55k miles, radio, tape, A/C. Good & clean. REDUCED price. Must see, 313 Bewell Ave. SE, Lowell.

HEAT YOUR ENTIRE HOME - Domestic water & more with the Classic or E-Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. Call today! SOS in Dutton, 616-554-8669.TEN

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.

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FREEAD!-Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555 or email to: classifieds@lowell buyersguide.com

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).

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.TEN

PRICELESS STOR-AGE - Indoor/out-door. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.

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CELL PHONE - you may qualify for a free phone or one month free service. Please call 897-8888 for details.

sales

AUCTION-every Saturday starting May 16 at 6 p.m. Antiques, collectibles & housewares. Always accepting consignments & estates. View partial list at auctionzip.com id#31095. Peddlers Market, 420 N. Lafayette, Greenville, 616-302-8963.TFN

huge, Huge HUGE SALE -11593 Foreman St., Lowell. Fri./Sat., Sept. 11 & 12, 9-5. Five families! Books, baby items, housewares, porch swing & more!

GARAGE SALE - Sept. 11, 9 a.m. 5675 Grand River Dr. NE, Ada. Air conditioner upright freezer, like new; large stapler, Toro 1800 snowblower, new walker w/seat, new walker & old household items. 676-2336.

ADA ESTATE SALE OF ROBERT MILLER - artist, ArtPrize participant & collector of many things. Sept. 11, 8:30 to 5 (numbers at 8 a.m.) & Sept. 12, 9 to 3. 9300 Conservation St. Pictures & details at estatesales.net. Sale by Dovetail.

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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. TEN

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LOOKING FOR A CARING PERSON - CNA preferred but not necessary, will train, to care for my disabled son. 616-682-5177. Please call between noon & 9 p.m.

ANIMAL CAREGIVER - Looking for that special person who wants permanent work. Must be conscientious, ambitious and physically fit to care for many small dogs in a large, impeccably clean facility. Part or full time. Alto area. E-mail resumes/inquiries to: animalcaregivers@outlook.com or 616-868-7382.

OPERATIONS SUPERVI-SOR - 3RD SHIFT - Litehouse, manufacturer of quality salad dressings and dips, is seeking an Operations Supervisor for 3rd shift. This role will manage all aspects of manufacturing operations on this shift by controlling processes and procedures to ensure that key performance indicators are achieved. On the assigned shift one will oversee health & safety, food safety compliance, productivity of staff, yield, schedule attainment and people management in a 100% employee owned company. To submit resume and apply please visit our website at www. litehousefoods.com/careers. EEO

wanted

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

WANTED - lot or land on lake for mobile/manufactured home. Call 269-209-7535.TFN

misc.

SHINE LIKE SHELBY - 2nd Annual Golf Outing. Sat., Sept. 26, 2015, Arrowhead Golf Course at 1pm. Call 616-897-7264 to register.

<u>services</u>

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ATRUSTING CAREGIVER - looking for a full-time job. Highly dependable & reliable caregiver who loves taking care of people. I provide comprehensive care that enriches patient's lives as well as home care to individuals, shopping, errands, household duties, doctor appointments & companionship. Please call 616-897-6767 to set up an interview. References available upon request.

STUMP GRINDING - No stump too big. Call Dan at 970-3832.

<u>services</u>

J&M CONCRETE - Concrete work wanted. All flat work, garages, basements, patios, sidewalks & driveways, etc. Free bids. Call Marcus at 616-216-7912 or email markymarc1982@gmail.com

GEE'S ROLLING DUMPSTERS - 15 yard.\$180 for household trash or \$250 for shingles/drywall, 616-205-6871.

PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER NEEDS WORK - Fully insured. Removals, trims, chipping, stump grinding. Call Dan for free estimate at 616-970-3832.

memorials

IN MEMORY OF Kenneth R. Kropf

Out through the fields and the woods,

And over the walls I have wended;

I have climbed the hills of view,

And looked the world, and descended; I have come by the highway

home, An lo, it is ended.

Robert Frost Remembering you and missing you on your birthday, September 10.

Your brother & his family

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 on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED. 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 accept 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@lowellbuyersquide. com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/ infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

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

NEW CLASSES FOR EVERY-ONE - 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/adult

programs available, Call Shawna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://mi222.miwg-cap.org

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

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

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

TECH HELP - Thursdays by appointment from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m, Help with ereaders, computers, email, Facebook, etc. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

MOMS IN TOUCH GROUP
- forming for Alto Elementary.
Call Suzanne for more info, 8687337

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

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICEOFMORTGAGE Court for the County FORECLOSURE SALE

AS Α **DEBT** COLLECTOR, ARE ATTEMPTING TO **COLLECT A DEBT AND** ANY **INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE** USED **FOR** THAT **NOTIFY** PURPOSE. US AT THE NUMBER **BELOW IF YOU ARE** IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE -Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made WESLEY & VELTING, LLC, Mortgagor, Mercantile **Bank** Michigan, Mortgagee, dated June 8, 2007 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, Kent County, Michigan, on August 1, 2007 as Instrument No. 20070801-0076219 assigned and said Mortgagee Bosco Construction, LLC as Mortgagee/ Assignee, documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated July 16, 2015 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, Kent County, Michigan on July 16, 2015 as Instrument No. 20150716-0061664, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, the sum of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred and Nineteen & 00/100 (\$336,619.00), and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any par thereof. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice hereby given that on October 7, 2015 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. Local Time, said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder at public venue, at the Kent **County Courthouse in** Grand Rapids, Michigan (that being the building where the Circuit

of Kent is held), of the premises described in said mortgage, or much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due, as aforesaid on said mortgage, with interest thereon at 8.25% per annum and all legal costs, charges, and including expenses, attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises.

premises Said situated in the City of Kentwood, Kent County, Michigan and described as follows: Lot 11, Wildflower Creek, part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 26, T6N, R11W, City of Kentwood, Kent County, Michigan, as recorded in Instrument No. 20050823-0099674.

During the six (6) months immediately following the sale, the property may be redeemed, except that in the event that the property is determined be abandoned to **MCLA** pursuant 600.3241a, the property may be redeemed 30 days during immediately following the sale. Pursuant to MCLA 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will held responsible the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee/ Assignee or Mortgagee/ Assignee's attorney. Dated: 9/3/2015 Bosco Construction, LLC by Law Office of Steven A. Cook, Attorney for Construction, LLC, 1015 Parchment Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Ph: (616) 940-

Looking Back, continued

at a time. At first only a dollar was taken then in a few days 65 cents was missing. The police spent over 50 man hours in stake-outs of the office and checking the church. A ten-year-old and his seven-year-old brother confessed to the police after the older boy was identified through a secret camera set up in the office, which took his picture as he opened the desk drawer. The boys confessed and police recovered \$7 which was hidden in the Showboat stands. Police Chief Avery Block said that no matter when they seemed to be watching the church, right after they left the church money would be missing. Only the camera trap set by Ken Pletcher finally caught the thieves. The boys at first just stole from the church secretaries' desk small amounts of stamp money. Then they found the key to the office and made regular trips to pick up cash. One week, they entered when the Sunday collection was still waiting to be checked and accounted for and got \$13. There was over a hundred dollars in the envelopes, but the boys took money from only two. The boys were turned over to juvenile authorities.

Headline: William S. Doyle named to seek help to build river recreation site. The Lowell City Council on Tuesday night named William S. Doyle, President of Showboat, to act as a committee of one, or to name additional members to assist him in working to secure federal aid to construct a river fill recreation area. Included in the plans would be a stadium which would be used by showboat and other community entertainment programs. Investigation into federal programs has not uncovered any definite funds that apply to just this type of development but further studies will be undertaken by Doyle to secure help from outside sources.

A. Wittenbach was stopped by Lowell Police at 2 a.m. Saturday while walking along Main Street carrying a ladder. He failed to answer questions about his activities with a ladder at the early hour and he was held in Kent County Jail until morning when he paid \$15 fine and costs for disorderly conduct. Never did find out what he was doing with the ladder!

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger **September 12, 1990**

Headline: George and Dolores Dey honored for their 33-year commitment to Lowell. When asked what it was about Lowell that makes them smile? George and Dolores "Dode" Dey responded, "It's home. It's family." The response was somewhat ironic, for it was the couple's family type contribution to the community of Lowell over the past 33 years that helped earn them the Fifth Annual Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year" award. "This award is given to the person(s) who have helped the growth and development of the community to become a better place. It's for those who give to the community whether through business, service clubs or volunteerism," said the initial recipient of the award, Chris VanAntwerp. "No matter what it was, George and Delores Dey have always said 'yes' to the Lowell community." Deys are charter members of various Lowell organizations, and last Thursday night, they became charter members of an elite list of winners - Chris VanAntwerp, King Doyle, Ivan Blough, Orval McKay and now, George and Dolores Dey. George Dey said, after the presentation made by VanAntwerp, he was surprised and wasn't sure what to say. After a moment's thought though he quipped to the 140-plus business dignitaries, "Ho! Ho! Ho!" For the past 30 years Dey has been Santa Claus for community events sometimes for children of parents who sat on his knee when they were children. The Deys came to Lowell in 1966 and have played an active and leading role in the community since their

The Red Arrow boys handed in an impressive performance in running all over Wyoming Park 15-46. Lowell ran home with the top five spots. "For our first conference race of the season, our times were really good," [Lowell coach Tom] Harper explained. "As the season progresses and the temperature cools down the times will become even faster." Clay VanderWarf posted the fastest O-K White time of the afternoon at Johnson Park in Grandville. He stopped the clock at 17:44.



SEPTEMBER 2 - SEPTEMBER 8

- City of Baltimore settles with Freddie Gray's family for 6.4 million.
- Dentist who killed Cecil the lion returned back to work this week.
- A Carnival cruise ship carrying 3,000 people is stuck in St. Thomas after an engine fire. It is unknown how long before ship is seaworthy.
- Pope Francis announced reforms Tuesday aimed at simplifying and speeding up the Roman Catholic church's procedure for marriage annulments. The new law involves a fast-track process that will be handled directly by bishops.
- New data from college factual has Yale University as the best college in the U.S.
- German chancellor, Angela Merkel, calls for mandatory quotas for each European country to house the flood of migrants pouring into Europe. Germany states it can take 500,000 people a year for the next five years.





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Red Arrow SPORTS

Arrows record fourth shutout and first loss of the season

by Kathryn Atwood contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity soccer recorded their fourth shutout of the season over the Greenville Yellow Jackets at home on Wednesday but fell to Forest Hills Northern (FHN) on the road Thursday in another busy week of nonconference competition.

powerful Lowell's defense, led by Elijah

Dixon and Jonah Epema, dominated the Greenville offense in the opening game of the week at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium. Keeping their opponent to only three unsuccessful shots on goal, the team's 2-0 victory propelled the team along with goalkeeper



Lowell varsity soccer celebrated their fourth shutout victory of the season when they topped Greenville High School 2-0.

Trevor Sherman, to their fourth shutout of the season.

The Jackets' goalkeeper kept Lowell scoring low, despite numerous shots toward the net, with a solid performance in the box. The first of two hard fought Arrow goals scored was credited to Collin Bowers who excelled in the middle controlling much of the flow of the game. The second was scored in the second half of play when sophomore Johnny Draigh picked up a solid cross from Logan Landman and punched it to the back of the net.

At Thursday's away game against FHN the Arrow's suffered their first loss of the season outside of tournament play when the Huskies topped them 5-1. A strong FHN team grabbed the reins early scoring three goals in the first half while Lowell netted zero.

The Arrows regained a bit of momentum in the second after struggling with form and timing in the first. An early Lowell goal cut FHN's lead to 3-1 but Lowell was unable to stage a comeback as FHN



Jonny Draigh sends a cross from Logan Landman into the net for the second Arrow goal in the team's win over Greenville.

struck twice more before the time as our players looked buzzer for the 5-1 victory.

Head coach Rick O'Keefe attributed the loss partially to the team's rigorous early season schedule. "The holiday weekend came at the right

tired; this was the sixth game in the last seven days," stated O'Keefe.

After the Labor Day break, the team will take on the Northview Wildcats

on Tuesday at home and then their first OK White conference competitor of the season, Jenison, as part of Pink Arrow Pride on Friday at 3:30.

Accepting

New

Weekly sports wrap-up

by Kathryn Atwood contributing reporter

Girls cross country

Short three of their top runners, the Lowell girls varsity cross country team suffered a poor finish during their recent visit to Holland West Ottawa. The team only managed a tenth-place finish with 261 points. Leading the way for the Arrows was senior Victoria Hewitt who placed eleventh with a time of 20:32. Other scorers at the event were Breanna VanLaan, Dawn Kondor, Megan Khodl, and Katrina Droski.

Volleyball

Lowell varsity volleyball hit the road last Tuesday to participate in the Coopersville Quad and came up with a second-place finish. The girls started off against Hudsonville Unity Christian whom they bested twice with scores of 25-23 and 25-13. Round two of the tournament was played against Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills whom they beat 25-23 and 25-18. The team fell to host Coopersville in the final after dropping their second and last match, 25-23, 14-25 and 13-15.

Boys cross country

Lowell's varsity boys cross country team ended with a disappointing twelfth-place finish at the Holland West Ottawa Invitational last weekend. The team accumulated 287 points at the event landing them at the bottom of the pack of thirteen area competitors. The event was won by future OK White competitor Forest Hills Northern who scored 76 points.

Boys tennis

Red Arrow varsity boys tennis trumped competitor Lakewood 8-0 in the first of two consecutive home matches last Tuesday. Lakewood went down easily with every Lowell singles player and doubles team winning in straight sets. West Catholic trumped Lowell the following day 4-3 with Lowell's victories earned in first, second and third singles.

Cheer

Lowell's varsity cheer team named their second "Arrow Fan of the Week" at last Thursday's football game against visitor Chicago Hubbard High School. Thanking her for her enthusiastic support of Red Arrow athletics, the squad selected junior Bridget Garter for the honor.

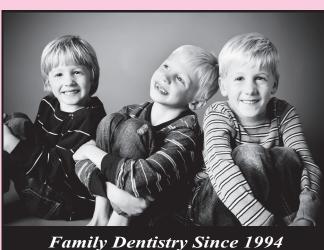
Girls golf

McKenzie Uhen carded a 54 to lead the Lowell varsity girls golf team in scoring at the season's first OK White Jamboree held last Tuesday. Teammates Paige Fosburg and Isabelle Dial both earned a 56 in what ended as a less than stellar performance for the Arrows. They placed sixth, nearly eighty strokes behind jamboree winner Caledonia, with a score of 277.

Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.

-Michael Jordan





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Gary's Country Meats celebrates 50 years of local business

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

Gary's Country Meats, 205 E. Main, celebrates its 50th anniversary this month.

"Butch Thompson started it as a meat market in the 1940s," said Aaron Laux, son of owner Gary Laux. "My father worked there for a while; then he bought the store in 1965. He was 24 years old. The story goes... a few of the townsfolk at the time said he'd never make it; there had been meat markets there before, but here we are 50 years later and he's still there. It was called 'Lowell Cut Rate' then; dad eventually changed the name."

When asked, "What is the secret of his longevity"? Owner Gary Laux joked, "Just live long enough!"

"I always tried to treat people the way I would want to be treated," Gary said. "I've gone out of my way to try and make things happen right. I've always tried to be really honest and I think that's the main thing. There's probably a little luck involved too. A lot of luck. What can I say? I think I'm probably the oldest person in business [in Lowell] now."

Gary grew up on a farm near Belding and graduated from Belding High School in 1959. "He worked at a neighbor's slaughterhouse when he was about 15 years old, so he's been butchering since he was 15 years of age," son Aaron said. "From there he moved to Grand Rapids and worked at a couple places there; then he found this little gem close to his hometown."

A true family business, Gary, his wife and their five children have all spent time working at the store over the years.

"I remember running around the store when I was three, four years old," Aaron said. "I started doing dishes there when I was ten. I got paid a dollar an hour and I thought I was rich. I started hopping on the counter when I was 14, in eighth grade. Over the years my sister and brothers have also worked there. My mother [Donna Laux] still does all the bookkeeping."

It hasn't all been fun and games for Gary. He's spent over a decade battling cancer.

"He has non-Hodgkins lymphoma," Aaron said. "He was diagnosed in 2002. He's never missed a day of work. He's gone through about four or five rounds of chemo. He's a strong-willed old man with a big heart."

Despite that, he still comes into work every single day.

"He works every day at the store still, full-time," Aaron said. "He loves what he does. He's there every morning. He cuts and fills



The current employees of Gary's Country Meats: Aaron Laux, Jared Laux, Gary Laux and Doug Carney.

the whole meat case every day. He's done it his whole life and that's what he does. If I'm busy with something else, he'll wait on people. He's very passionate and very driven."

Over his 50 years in Lowell, Gary Laux has been involved in a lot of community projects.

"He's always given back to the Moose Club, the schools and he's sponsored a lot of stuff over the years," Aaron said. "He sponsored softball teams back when softball was huge. He's a very humble man. He's straight, to the point, giving, gracious, caring and firm, but Gary's got a heart of gold. He wants no appreciation, but he deserves it."

The Laux family has a deep appreciation for the city of Lowell and they attribute most of their success to the loyalty of long-time customers.

"We've built up a pretty good clientele and they're all pretty faithful," Gary said.

"John and Phyllis Jones are some of our oldest customers right now," Aaron said. "One of their kids worked for dad back in high school. They're down at Schneider Manor now, and they still make it in."

Of course, the delicious, flawless products they sell also had something to do with the way they've thrived.

"Everything is made inhouse and fresh, all of our brats and everything," Aaron said. "We grind hamburger two or three times a day. We make a multitude of smoked meats. Our bacon is homemade from scratch. It's a lot of work, but it's enjoyable. It's what we do."

"We always were pretty fussy about what we sold," Gary said. "Things have changed a lot as far as prices and stuff. There are a lot more big corporations now."

Aaron plans to buy the business from his father at some point in the future.

"Aaron might be here another 50 years, but I won't," Gary said. "I'm 74 now, I don't think I'll make another 50. If I make another ten I might be lucky. Aaron plans on taking it over. It should be all right."

"We've got some history in this town," Aaron said. "I think my dad's part of that and I'm proud of him. Times change, a lot of businesses come and go, but he's still there. We've stayed in the heart of downtown for a reason."



Gary's Country Meats, 205 E. Main, celebrates its 50th anniversary this month.

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