

celebrating
125 years



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CENTS



Festivals and exceptional weather bring lots of folks out to enjoy fall happenings

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Downtown was hopping last Saturday, October 10, when three festivals brought people to Lowell in droves. The Kent County Youth Fair's Autumn Marketplace, Lowell Light & Power's open house and Larkin's Chili Cook-off all took place in the morning and afternoon.

The events downtown attracted many out-of-town visitors.

"We've been coming here for a long time," said Ron McLynn of Detroit. "My sister lives here. I always have a good time here. If I could get the time off I'd come every year."

Lowell Light & Power's open house included a free lunch, bucket rides and they gave away a huge crate of free pumpkins.

"It's going fantastic," said Lowell Light & Power general manager Greg Pierce. "Lots of people, probably close to 350, 400 people. [We gave out] over 100 pumpkins, I'm sure. We have lunch too. You can get a hot dog, chips and a drink."

The crowd was less dense at the Autumn

Marketplace out at the fairgrounds. There was a pet expo, several live, amateur bands playing music of several different genres; food, crafts, antiques and the opportunity to create your own scarecrow.

"I think it's great," said Karen DeRuischer who was selling homemade jams, sauces, scarves, hats and dishcloths. "[Autumn Marketplace] has a lot of selection of items and a lot of people attended it and it's just a good craft sale."

There was even a local author peddling a book she co-wrote. Lynn Reed collaborated with her husband Norman Reed on "The Black Angel of the Lord," an account of ancient, biblical-era wars presented as historical fiction.

"In 701 B.C. King Sennacherib of Assyria had put Jerusalem under siege and his intent was to destroy Jerusalem," Reed said. "My husband loves archaeology and sciences. It's his hobby. He was watching the History Channel and heard about an archaeological dig going on in Jerusalem where they discovered some artifacts that support the fact that the



There was a huge crowd on Broadway by late afternoon.

siege really did happen."

The novel is available on Amazon or from the authors' website, normanandlynnreed.com

Larkin's Chili Cook-off took up an entire block of Broadway St., which was roped off for the duration of the contest. The crowds

were slow to show up, but by late afternoon Broadway was packed with people

Festivals,
continued, page 8

Schools "Pink It Forward"

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Inspired by the theme of the 2015 Pink Arrow Pride event "Pink It Forward," a brand new, year-round initiative in support of Gilda's Club has been enacted within the Lowell Area Schools district. Each month students are asked to

don their favorite pink shirts for a day of donation to the charity.

At the high school, principal Amy Pallo said the response to the first collection date last Thursday was extremely positive.

"Thursday was a pink-filled day at LHS. Almost

all staff members and the student body had some element of pink on," said Pallo.

She reported that considerable donations were collected to fulfill the online Gilda's Club "Wish

Pink It Forward,
continued, page 16

Regional equestrian champs center on to state



Lowell's equestrian team recently earned the MIHA's Division C regional championship and the right to compete for the team's fifth state title.

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Despite injury and a host of talented competitors, the Lowell equestrian team claimed top honors at the MIHA's Division C region C championships in Midland on October 4 and the opportunity to compete for the team's fifth state title this coming weekend.

Calling the weekend competition "very interesting," head coach Jessica Bouman detailed the formidable opponents the team faced to get to the championship. "They had to compete against Freeland who was the 2014 Division C State Champion last year, Forest Hills Central who won the district championship in Division C against them, as well as Beaverton and Houghton Lake," said Bouman.

The team started off

strong on day one with senior captain Henneh McMillian and freshman Aili Fisher garnering wins and top four placing in saddle seat pattern. Junior Olivia Hock earned two wins in the trail class pushing the team into first place just prior to the next event, the flag race.

That is when the "interesting" part came in as it was no surprise that the team was excelling, having won a regional title every year since 2008. At the completion of a strong flag race performance something entirely unexpected happened forcing the removal of one team member. "Freshman Ally Pawloski competed in flag on Friday night when her horse went down at the end of her run landing

Equestrians,
continued, page 11

LowellArts! begins transformation of soon-to-be home

Construction is beginning at the soon-to-be home of LowellArts! at 223 West Main Street in Lowell.

Roofing materials await their application in the back lot of the building as the organization prepares for the impending cold Michigan months.

“We are getting the roof replaced before winter and the brick repair and painting will now happen in the spring,” explained LowellArts! project director Janet Teunis.

Plans to move from their current address at 149 South Hudson, by the end of 2016 or early 2017, to the larger and more central location are still on schedule according to Teunis. She added there is still fundraising left to do in order to complete the proposed project. “We are in campaign mode but in what is called the ‘quiet phase.’ [This is when] larger gift fundraising happens in early 2016,” said Teunis.



Annual “Chili-Dawg Challenge” downtown Ionia

It was in October of 1965 when Ionia area resident Bill Lynch was matched to his “Big Brother” Lee Stauffer. This year these old friends are expecting up to 10,000 people to help them celebrate their 50th anniversary of being involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Michigan Capital Region; on Thursday, October 22 from 4-8 pm in downtown Ionia.

Seventeen years ago, Lynch started an event called “The Chili-Dawg Challenge” as an awareness and fundraiser for the mentoring program that meant so much to him

growing up without a father figure in his household. While his match to his “Big” Lee took place just after his 9th birthday, the two remain friends to this day.

Several years ago, the Ionia Chamber of Commerce asked BBBS to join forces with their annual fall event and “The Autumn Celebration - Chili-Dawg Challenge” was born. This collaboration added downtown trick or treating, costume contests for children and pets, live music and carnival games to the already busy crowds who gather to enjoy chili dogs prepared by a dozen or more booths and the highlight of the event, the annual “Chili-Dawg Eating Contest.”

The event has grown into downtown Ionia’s largest, with three blocks of Main

Ionia Chili-Dawg Challenge, continued, page 12



along main street

MAKE & TAKE HERB GARDEN

The Lowell Showboat Garden Club is hosting a make and take herb garden at Englehardt Library Mon., Oct. 19 at 6:30 pm.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

A Meet the Candidate forum will be held at the Lowell Area Schools administration building on Thursday, Oct. 22. All of the candidates on the ballot are invited to attend. Introductions start at 7 pm and closing statements will finish by 8:30 pm.

SCRAP METAL DRIVE

Boy Scout Troop 102 is holding a scrap metal drive at the Lowell fairgrounds on Sat., Oct. 24 from 8 am to 12 pm.

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

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is looking to add to their terrific group of volunteers. All volunteers will be fully trained and enriched with the knowledge needed (looking for people who are willing to volunteer three hours every four to six weeks, with flexibility to fit any schedule). Please contact Pat Allchin at the museum, 897-7688.

PLAYWRIGHT COMPETITION

The LowellArts! Players present *Play Bytes* by Playwrights, a production and competition of a collection of eight 10-minute plays written by playwrights and performed by emerging and established actors. Either drama or comedy, all the plays fit the theme: Things That Go Bump in the Night. A panel of judges will select one of the competing playwrights to win a \$500 cash prize. The Dinner Theater productions are held at Larkin’s Other Place, 301 W. Main Street on Friday and Saturday evenings at 6:30pm--October 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 & 31 with a Sunday matinee at 1:30pm--October 25. Show only tickets are available. For ticket information, call 897-8545. More info at www.lowellartsmi.org

LAS
Elementary
Lunch Menus
week of 10/19/15

MONDAY: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, applesauce, raisins. (paid served at Bushnell).

TUESDAY: Popcorn chicken whorl (served at Bushnell); Sweet & sour popcorn chicken w/ brown rice (served at Alo, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake); seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, apple, grapes.

WEDNESDAY: Cinnamon glazed French loaf w/ legs (sausage served at Bushnell), hashbrowns, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, orange slices.

THURSDAY: Hot dog on bun, mashed potatoes & gravy (seasoned broccoli served at Bushnell); fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, blueberries (cherry tomatoes served at Bushnell), pineapple, apple.

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

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Retirement estimator will help your future

In 1985, after making it back to the future from 1955, Marty joined Doc for a drive 30 years into the future. That future is now.

If the alternate 2015 of the Back to the Future film series were accurate, we would be easing along on hover boards, navigating skyways in flying cars, and enjoying the luxuries of self-lacing sneakers and self-fitting jackets.

In that imagined 2015, we conduct business by fax and watch multiple channels of entertainment on the wall.

In some ways, the real

2015 is far more advanced than the imagined one of the movies. You do not see any computers or online services in the movie — let alone the computers most of us carry around with us in the form of smart phones and tablets.

In the real 2015, you can do a far better job of predicting your own future. Just visit the Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. With the Retirement Estimator, you can plug in some basic information to get an instant, personalized

estimate of your future benefits. Different choices in life can alter the course of your future, so try out different scenarios such as higher and lower future earnings amounts and various retirement dates to get a good prediction of how such things can change your future benefit amounts.

As Doc said in the final moments of the film series, no one’s future has been written yet. “Your future is what you make it. So make it a good one.”

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Student behavior main focus of discussion at LAS board of education meeting

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education held their regular meeting at the Runciman building on Monday, October 12. Seven people attended the 45 minute meeting. Most of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion of ways to track and improve student behavior.

Lowell High School senior Brianna Massey delivered the student council's report. Massey updated the board on recent events and activities at the high school, including the powderpuff football game (the seniors won), homecoming, parent/teacher conferences, and she reminded the board of some upcoming events.

"Coming up this Wednesday the band and the orchestra will give a concert in the Lowell Performing Arts Center at 7 pm," Massey said. "This Friday is the last rivalry game against



School board members Gary Blough, Jim Turner, Greg Pratt, Brian Krajewski and Laurie Luna during their meeting on Monday.

East [Grand Rapids] and there's also a choir concert on the 21st. There is a blood drive on the 30th."

Cherry Creek principal Shelli Otten, Lowell Middle School dean of students Erin Walters and Murray Lake teacher Brooke Culver delivered a 25

minute presentation about PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) and MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports). These are rewards-based systems of behavior control recently instituted in Lowell schools. Each school has a different

way of charting and monitoring student behavior in the classroom and on school buses.

"Some staff have also tweaked it into an electronic format," Otten said. "For example, in fifth grade in our building they're using an app [for smartphones] called 'ClassDojo.' With a click of their phone they can recognize students in either a positive way or a 'needs

work' way. That information is sent to parents."

Superintendent Greg Pratt updated the board about some potentially interesting artistic activities that will be coming to Cherry Creek.

"I just want to congratulate Mrs. Otten and her staff for receiving the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grant for a little over \$10,000,"

Pratt said. "This grant will fund a professional artist to work with our students on a mural project. We are very fortunate to have this kind of 'artist in residence' project here in Lowell and we're excited."

The school board's next regular meeting will be at the Runciman building on Monday, November 9 at 7 pm.

KCTC Student of the Month



Dean Briggs

Lowell High School announced that Dean Briggs has been named Student of the Month at Kent Career

Technical Center. Briggs is in 12th grade and enrolled in the auto technology program.

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Christopher C. Godbold

Will you be ready for retirement?

National Save for Retirement Week is observed Oct. 18 – 24 this year. And this week has some weight behind it, as it is recognized by the U.S. Senate for its importance in encouraging Americans to prepare themselves financially for retirement. Are you doing all you can? Many of your peers aren't. About a third of working adults have no retirement savings or pension, according to a survey by the Federal Reserve. And more than half of workers report that the total value of their household's savings and investments, excluding the value of their primary home and any defined benefit plan (such as a traditional pension), is less than \$25,000, according to the

Employee Benefit Research Institute's 2015 Retirement Confidence Survey. Such figures help explain why many people are unsure if they'll ever be able to retire. Nearly 40 percent of the respondents in the Federal Reserve's study either have no intention to retire or plan to keep working for as long as possible. Of course, if you enjoy your career, or just simply like to work, you may be in no hurry to retire. But you may want to put yourself in a position someday when work is optional – not mandatory. To reach that point, consider taking these steps:

- *Estimate your cost of retirement.* At what age do you plan to retire? When you do retire, will

you stay home and pursue your hobbies, or will you travel the world? Will you do some consulting or other part-time paid work, or will you volunteer? By answering these and other questions, you can at least estimate your costs during your retirement years.

- *Contribute to your 401(k).* Contribute as much as you can afford each year to your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k). At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. A 401(k) or similar plan is a great way to put money away for retirement, because your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis. And you may have a dozen or more investment vehicles within your 401(k), so you can build a portfolio that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. In 2015, you can contribute up to \$18,000 to your 401(k), or \$24,000 if you're 50 or older.

Financial Focus,
continued, page 7

kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

The Halloween season is upon us and that means quite a few things, First off, the costumes. Have you ever noticed that the first four letters of costume is COST? That is because in order to get a good quality costume that won't fall apart or suffocate you costs a fortune. Even then you look at the package and five

of the accessories in the picture aren't included in the bag. I suggest making your own costumes. It is easier to look around your house and be creative than to use other people's ideas. Another suggestion is to look at Goodwill or another used clothing store. They have a huge costume selection for almost half

the cost of a department store costume. Second, the scaring is endless. I hate that every time I go around a corner I have to watch my back because my brother Dillon or another fear-causing boy will jump out and scare me. I prefer to be scared by reading a book in the middle of a brightly lit room in view of the door. Finally, it is Halloween, not Christmas. So, why is it that I see a shelf full of Christmas wreaths right next to the costume display? I want this year to last as long as it can, so here is a message to all retailers...no Christmas yet please!

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viewpoint

to the editor

make voting meaningful

Dear Editor,
I'm writing to express my opinion about two separate articles about the same subject that were printed in the Lowell Ledger. A letter written by pro tem Sharon Ellison in the Sept. 23 Lowell Ledger stated – I recently attended the "Meet the Council Candidate."

The article said that the main organizers were Peggy Covert and Barb Barber, noting that they were not city residents. Sharon's letter continued saying that she was told that she could not speak; that the meeting was for new candidates. Sharon's letter also said they allowed another candidate who attended but did not pay for the event to speak, just not me. But a Sept. 30 article in the Lowell Ledger by Peggy Covert that helped organize the meeting said that Sharon

was not silenced. She was never told she could not speak, only that the meeting was meant specifically to give the new candidates their time. Peggy's article said that Sharon did speak and she handed out her own flyers.

Who and what should I believe? My first concern is what can be proved as fact. A Sept. 23 article by the Lowell Ledger said incumbent city councilor Ellison responded to questions from the seniors and four candidates at the Schneider Manor meeting. After reading the whole article I have come to the conclusion that Sharon was given way more latitude at the meeting than any constituent would get at a city council meeting. She spoke at the meeting and in doing so contradicted her own article. The Lowell

Ledger noted in the Sept. 23 article that Ellison felt the three new candidates said things that were incorrect but I have yet to see any such evidence.

Sharon's article declared that the main organizers, Peggy Covert and Barb Barber, were not city residents. I don't know the reasoning behind that statement, but the last time I knew you didn't have to be a city resident to contribute to Lowell's well-being, something Peggy and Barb have been doing for years.

I recommend that the people that read this article go back and read the articles that were mentioned and make up their own minds. With that being said Nov. 3 is Election Day. If you're really concerned about the well-being of the community, get out and vote. Make voting meaningful.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

in the park

It was Sunday afternoon at the Fallsburg Park Festival. The Lowell Rotary Club was in the process of taking down its food booth. We were putting away the drinks, chips, hot dogs and Rotary Dogs. As I was cleaning off one of the food tables a middle-aged woman approached me and asked, "What is Rotary?" My reply was, "We are a service club." After she left I began thinking of things our club does.

The food booth is one of the many projects the Rotary Club gets involved in. Also, the sale of Litehouse Gift Pack Dressings is a favorite during the Christmas holidays. A spring auction held at the Grand Volute is made up of community businesses both attending and donating items up for auctioning. All the proceeds generate funds to the club to help our Lowell community.

The club's money is spent both locally and internationally. Some of the local projects we have sponsored are the rebuilding of Richards Park and the community skate park. Granite benches have been placed along Main Street, the Englehardt Library and the community trails. Hands on projects are maintenance of the Showboat and helping the outreach ministry with the home winterization program. Literacy is important to the Rotary club as we donate books to the Lowell Area Schools and the Englehardt Library. An interact club is mentored in

the elementary, middle and high school. Scholarships are awarded to college students to help further their education.

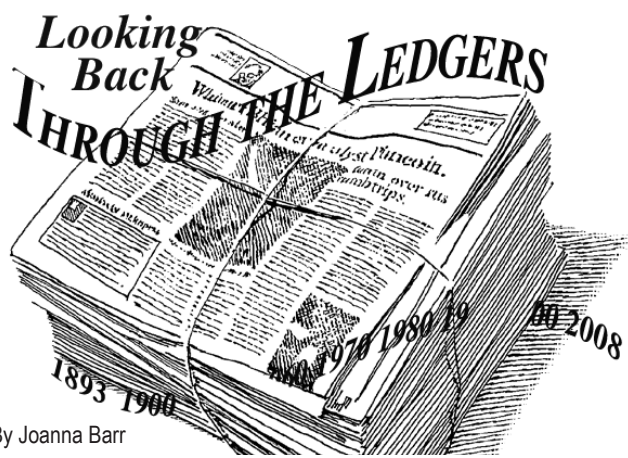
On the international side, money is granted to purchase water filters for third world countries. Each year Rotarians volunteer to install the filters in Haiti.

Our service club meets every Wednesday at noon in the Lowell City Hall building. Our motto is "Service above self." Members, guests and visitors are always welcome.

John Sterly
Lowell Rotarian



ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal October 15, 1890

Peter Doran contributed the only enlivening element to the Ford fiasco last Friday evening, by trying to lean back in his chair against the drop curtain. The curtain was true to its name and Peter took a drop, the crowd heard it but Nov. 4th he will take a drop that will be heard all over the state.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 14, 1915

A good job done – big undertaking at Municipal L. & P. Plant successfully completed. Through the courtesy of Superintendent F. J. McMahon last Friday we were privileged to inspect the new fire proof building, housing the Lowell Municipal Light & Power plant. The job just completed is a remarkable achievement, successfully accomplished in spite of great difficulties and dangers, increased by the inclement weather attending the undertaking. To erect a new fire proof building on the site of an old wooden one, housing expensive and dangerous electrical machinery, without loss or damage and with no perceptible detriment to the service, is no fool's job, as one will readily understand by an inspection of the plant.

During the long continued wet and windy weather it was necessary in razing the old building to build temporary shelters over each piece of machinery and the work was done in dangerous proximity to deadly wires. That all has been accomplished without loss of life or noteworthy vexation to patrons of the plant is a praiseworthy accomplishment and a credit to all concerned.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 17, 1940

A Grand Rapids hunter was picked up on October 5 in the King Milling wild life sanctuary by Deputy Frank Stephens and Fred Gramer. The hunter had shot a large Osprey in the sanctuary. This bird is of dark brown color above and white below. The Osprey is protected as it is of a rare species. Its natural haunts are in the vicinity of Flat River. The man was tried by Judge DeWitt of Wyoming Tp., found guilty and was charged a \$10 fine and \$13.40 costs. The Osprey shot by the hunter is said to be twice as large as the one which is on display in the Grand Rapids museum.

Lots of activity going on these days in the vicinity of Main St. where the new bridges are to be built. Workmen have been setting up a big steam boiler, pneumatic drilling operations have begun and a huge crane will soon be scooping great gobs of sand and gravel from the bottom of Flat river for the Coffey dam. A fully equipped trailer office for the use of the superintendent and engineers has been set up in front of the east King Mill with electric lights, telephone and other conveniences.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger October 14, 1965

To receive centennial farm marker. The farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Condon has recently been designated as a centennial farm by the Michigan Historical Commission. This farm, located in Vergennes township, on Fallsburg Park Drive, has been in the

possession of the family since 1859. Thomas Condon. C.O.'s grandfather purchased the farm in that year from Bryan Hill. The 161 acre farm lays in the valley along the river in a very scenic site. In fact, the river forms one of the land boundaries on the eastern side of the farm. C. O. has 25 acres of apple orchard on the farm. 10 acres in the "Old Orchard" which his father planted and fifteen acres that he planted himself. This year their apple crop has been smaller than usual, due to the late spring freezes, so C. O. and Laura have very nearly finished harvesting their apples. Many years ago, they raised raspberries, back along the creek, which they used to irrigate the berries during dry weather.

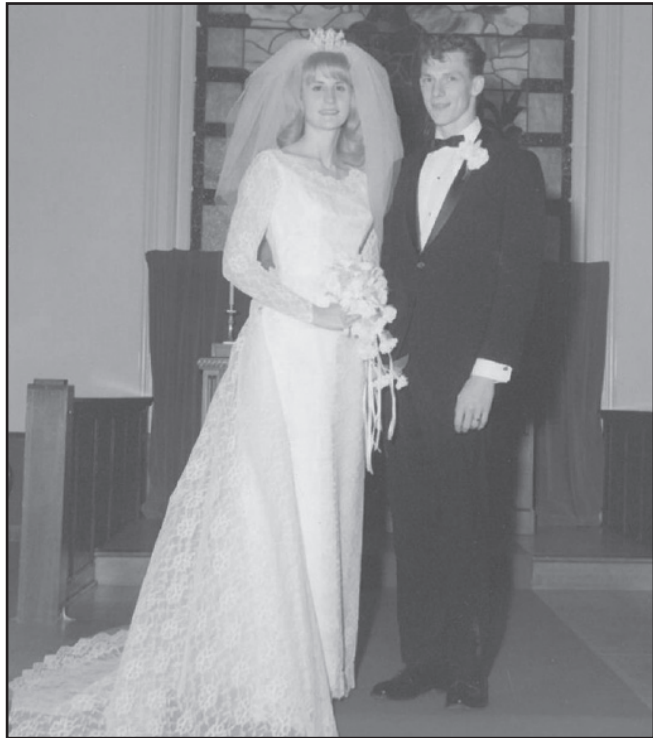
Don't smile when you throw trash out your car window, at least not at a passing police officer. Gerald J. Smith, 19, of Grand Rapids, tried this on Sunday afternoon and was given a summons for littering. The Lowell Officer relented a little when he came into court and Smith just got a warning.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 17, 1990

Lowell schools and township could win on a leasing deal. Lowell Township board officials put the renovation of the Township Hall on hold, as it waits for a decision from Lowell School officials as to whether the School will commit to a five-year lease of 5,000 square feet of the new hall edition. "The continuation of the new hall edition hinges on whether the school is interested in leasing the space for five years," Lowell Township Supervisor John Timpson said. The situation seems to make the municipality and the school a perfect match. The school is in need of room for its business office operation and Lowell Township is in need of funds to help subsidize the cost of the new hall addition. Both Timpson and Lowell Schools Superintendent Fritz Esch like the idea of keeping the money in Lowell. "I'm leaning toward leasing the space from the Township, but I can't speak for the Lowell School Board. It seems to me an agreement would help both sides - making it a win-win situation," Esch said.

anniversaries

- Nelson



Dan and Mary Kay Nelson of Lowell will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on October 23, 2015. They have two beautiful daughters and five wonderful grandchildren. They will be celebrating with family and friends.



Dan and Mary Kay Nelson

college news

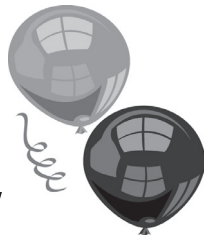
Olivet College senior men's golfer Ben Hart (Rockford/Lowell) received the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association's Sportsmanship award. The award was presented at the conclusion of the league's final jamboree Tuesday at the Wuskowhan Players Club in West Olive.

Hart averaged a team-

low 79.8 strokes over the eight MIAA jamborees this fall. His best 18-hole score was a career-best 72 on the Comets' home course, the Bedford Valley Country Club in Battle Creek.

Hart is the second Olivet golfer to receive this honor in the last three years. Nick Julian was the recipient in 2013.

happy birthday



- OCTOBER 14**
Ericka Onan, Barb Erickson, Debra Duiven, Court Duiven, Kyle Hildenbrand, Stacey Kinyon, Jim Watrous, Kelsey Callihan, Caleb Baker.
- OCTOBER 15**
Jamie Roth, Jason Roth, Elizabeth Raab, Mark Russell, Jan Lippert, Annie Oesch, Kevin Clouser, Frank Grudzinskas, Doug Felling.
- OCTOBER 16**
Paula Blough.
- OCTOBER 17**
Collin Kaeb, Kurt Telman, Jason Nearing.
- OCTOBER 18**
Mary Ellen Rivers Barber, Brian Willmarth, Brian Scott Kunard, Hayden Andrews Snyder.
- OCTOBER 19**
Lydia Brenk, Nancy Brenk, Zachary Lee, Ty Stanford.
- OCTOBER 20**
Bob Hildenbrand, Michael V. Johnson.

business matters



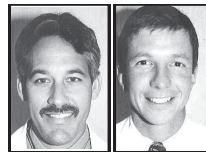
Greenridge Realty announced that Amy Reedy received Realtor of the Month in September.

This award recognizes Reedy for her outstanding success and achievements.



Amy Reedy

health



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

male infertility

Infertility has been defined as occurring when a couple cannot become pregnant after one year of trying. In about one half of couples with infertility, a problem with male infertility affects the couple's ability to conceive a pregnancy.

To be fertile, men must have enough sperm in their semen and their sperm must be healthy. Hormones from the brain and the testicles affect sperm production.

Some men have low amounts of sperm or no sperm, in their semen. This can be caused by either a blockage of sperm delivery or problems with sperm production.

When treating a couple with infertility, both the man and the woman should be evaluated. The man should be seen by a male infertility specialist who will examine the man and perform blood and semen analysis to try to clarify the source of infertility.

Sometimes men can be treated with medications to improve their hormone levels and increase sperm production. If no sperm is present in the semen, sperm can sometimes be obtained from the testicle with surgery. Then transferred directly into the egg through a process called in vitro fertilization.

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10:30 A.M. Fellowship
11:00 A.M. Worship

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Sunday School, nursery - adult.....11:00 A.M.
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 West. during summer)

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the lowell ledger

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LWC announces junior members



Lowell Women's Club has introduced its 2015-16 Lowell High School junior members. They will be volunteering in many community projects in Lowell. Pictured, from left to right: Rachel Fox, Bridget Lally, Haley Engels, Anna Barnes, Marilla Marks and Brianna Massey.

Financial Focus, continued

• *Fully fund your IRA.* Even if you participate in a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, you're probably still eligible to contribute to an IRA as well. In 2015, you can contribute up to \$5,500 – or \$6,500, if you're 50 or older – to an IRA. A traditional IRA offers tax-deferred earnings, while Roth IRA earnings can grow tax free, provided you don't start taking withdrawals until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years. Plus, you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of investment you choose. Try to "max out" your IRA every year.

• *Control your debts.* Control your debts as much as possible. Every dollar that doesn't go into a debt payment could be invested for your retirement.

These aren't the only steps that can help you move toward a comfortable retirement – but they can certainly help get you on the right path.

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- Trailer needs power washing and painting
- Windows, insulation, flooring, bathtub surround and deck need replacing.
- Our roof needs to be fixed. Multiple leaks and damage inside due to leaks. There are two holes in our ceiling due to the leaks. We have buckets when it rains.
- Single, disabled woman in need of front walkway replacement.
- Kitchen faucet needs replacing and new parts installed in toilet.
- Needs a wheelchair ramp.
- Needs furnace cleaned.

If you'd like to help call FROM at 897-8260

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR Wish Application for Home Repairs

Anyone may submit an application to have work done on their residence or a home of someone in need. There are no guarantees that the work listed below will be done. If your application is selected by a group of volunteers, you will be notified through Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM). All contact information will be kept in confidence until you give permission to release it to a group wishing to work on your home.

A brief description of the work needed:

(This description is for publication in the Lowell Ledger - be clear and brief)

(For Private use by FROM - not to be published)

Contact Person for Project: _____ Phone () _____

Application Submitted by: _____ Phone () _____

Submit this application now through October 9, 2015 - later applications have less chance of being chosen by volunteer groups. Submit them to **The Lowell Ledger** (105 North Broadway, Lowell) or to **Flat River Outreach Ministries** (11535 Fulton Street East, Lowell). Applications may be submitted electronically to diane@flatrivermi.org

Permission to Conduct Work Neighbor to Neighbor

I, _____ agree to allow the undersigned crew from _____ to perform the above noted work on my home at _____ in _____, Michigan. In addition, my signature on this form acknowledges that I hold harmless The Lowell Ledger and Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. and give permission for my photo to be used as outlined on page two of this document (sign & date on page two).

Permissions:

1. I know and forever release and/or discharge Flat River Outreach Ministries and The Lowell Ledger, its agents, officers, employees, volunteers or any other entity from any and all causes of action that otherwise might come about as a result of work performed in conjunction with the Neighbor to Neighbor Program.
2. I give permission to The Lowell Ledger and/or Flat River Outreach Ministries, its agents, employees or officers to obtain and use photographs of myself, home and family in relation to the Neighbor to Neighbor program for promotional purposes only, including News articles, Facebook postings, Newsletters, Annual Reports, FROM brochures, and any other print or electronic medium to promote the continued ministry of FROM and the Neighbor to Neighbor Program.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE
Home Owner: _____	
Volunteer Group: _____ Contact: _____	
Phone: _____ Email: _____	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
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Festivals, continued

tasting chili, drinking, partying and dancing to live music by Homebrewed, who played bluegrass covers of artists like Michael Jackson and AC/DC. There were 19 contestants; each made about five gallons of chili. The beer and wine flowed as teams tried to boil their way to the grand prize, which was cash. Other prizes included a wine basket and an Adirondack chair. All proceeds from the cook-off went to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor, FROM's charitable home improvement program.

"It's a lot of fun," said Nancy Stroosnyder, chili contestant and owner of Fry Daddy's, 608 W. Main. "It's always for a good cause local to Lowell. We like to help out."

"The chili cook-off brings people to town," said Larkin's owner Mike Larkin. "It gets good exposure for everybody's business. Chili is just chili."

The "Dragon Spit" team from the Holiday Bar, 801 5th St. NW, Grand Rapids, has won the contest four times, including last year.

"It's a good batch," said Dragon Spit's Ralph Kendall. "Three different kinds of meat: ground beef, sirloin tip and chorizo, so you get a bite of meat in almost every bite of the chili."

Judging a chili contest might not be as easy as it might seem. The judges

took over an hour to decide on a winner.

"Everybody has their own personal tastes," said first-time chili judge Keith Bennett. "A lot of them had no beans in it. What's chili



Pickles the mule, left, and the Autumn Marketplace.

without beans? That was crazy. When I make chili I put two or three different kinds of beans. That's what chili is supposed to be."

Tony Dommer and his team "Boiler-Up! Chili" won first place in the cook-off for the third time in the event's history.

"We made a red chili," Dommer said. "It's not too spicy, but it has a little flavor, a little bite. We used ground beef, pork sausage, chorizo, onions, green pepper, some spices and that's it."

Second place went to the "Fat Kids" team. Third place was the team from the Laurels of Kent. The "Fat Kids" team took first place in the white chili category.



Many brave souls got bucket rides at the Lowell Light & Power open house.



"Boiler-Up! Chili," the winners of Larkin's 2015 chili cook-off, Matt Davidson, Tony Dommer and Bill Dommer.



The judges took over an hour to pick the winner.



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CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN TABULATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the November 3, 2015 General Election will be conducted on Thursday October 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Lowell City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Susan Ullery
City Clerk

A staple in Lowell

King Milling observes 125 years of business

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

One of Lowell's most famous and historic companies turned 125 this year. King Milling, 115 S. Broadway, started making flour on the Flat River in 1890 and they've loomed large over Lowell ever since. The towering silos dominate the downtown skyline and the giant red "KING" sign is eye-catching as well as iconic.

The King Milling Company started in 1890 when Francis King, Frank T. King, Charles McCarty and Reuben Quick bought the Superior Mill for \$20,000. In 1896 they absorbed another local company, Forrest Mills. The guys immediately started improving their milling facilities, converting to the new steel roller mill process. This vastly improved efficiency.

Francis King was president of the company until he died in 1900. His

son Frank T. King then took over as president. In 1911 Thomas Doyle bought Charles McCarty's shares in the company. King Milling purchased the Peckham Furniture Company in 1927 and converted it to a poultry and livestock feed manufacturing facility. They put Frank's son William Doyle in charge of this venture.

When Frank T. King died in 1934, Charles Doyle took over as company president. Unfortunately, Charles was paralyzed by a severe stroke in 1936. While Charles retained the title until his death in 1943, his brother William Doyle began acting as company president at that time.

King Milling enormously increased the volume of their business during William Doyle's time in charge. They were able to make many large improvements to their facilities. They built new

flumes, new water turbines and two concrete dams across the Flat River. These still exist today.

The biggest setback in company history occurred on March 7, 1943, when the mill burned to the ground. Described on the front page of the Ledger at the time as, "The greatest loss by fire in Lowell's industrial history," the blaze caused \$200,000 in damage, equivalent to over \$2.7 million today. The mill and thousands of bushels of wheat were a total loss. Below-zero temperatures made it difficult to fight the fire because the water from the hoses would freeze before it could reach the flames. King Milling rebuilt putting in an even bigger and more advanced facility. In April 1945, ten days after the mill reopened, company president William Doyle died of a heart attack while on a business trip to Chicago. His son King Doyle became



King Milling Company in 1908.



The mill burned to the ground in 1943, destroying it completely.



After the fire, the completed mill circa 1945.



Aerial view of the King Milling Company in 2014.

the new president of King Milling.

King Doyle was 23 years old at the time of his father's death and was over in the Pacific fighting in World War II. King remained president of the company for 50 years. During King's tenure the company expanded their storage capacity and installed many technological advancements.

Assistant vice president of King Milling Patrick Doyle remembers spending a lot of time with his grandfather.

"I just remember my grandpa King [Doyle], I guess," Doyle said. "He was my grandpa, I've got lots of memories of him. He was just a very personable, honest, hard-working guy, very generous with his

time and with his success. I knew him mostly when I was young. We took art classes together, he'd take us on trips, different things like that; stuff that grandpas do with their grandkids. He lived in Florida most of his retired life, so I'd visit him down there. He was an avid golfer. [He] taught my brother and I to golf. He enjoyed doing it with his friend Bob Reagan in town here. Those guys would go golfing at least once a week during the summertime. I was 23 in 1995 when King Doyle died."

Brian Doyle is the current company president. He took over when King Doyle died in 1995. Jim Doyle is senior vice president, Stephen Doyle is vice president,

Regan Doyle and Patrick Doyle are both assistant vice presidents.

These days King Milling produces 1,300,000 pounds of flour and 500,000 pounds of whole wheat products each day. King Milling was one of the first mills to be fully automated and they have been at the forefront of electronic wheat sorting, food technology, specialty coatings, baking and many other concerns for decades. Patrick Doyle said King Milling plans to sell so much flour that the company will be able to grow indefinitely.

"We plan to keep providing our customers with high quality flour and keep growing as the business grows," Doyle said.

Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS

Extra-point kicker says soccer is her main game

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Football fans might be surprised to hear that the top-ranked Lowell Red Arrows varsity football team has entrusted its season's extra-point kicks to a fifteen-year-old girl.

Sophomore Darby Dean is the daughter of coach Noel Dean who has

led the team since 1996. She is the sister of Kanon (2014 graduate) and Zeth (senior, currently on the team). Her cousins are linebacker Max and state title-holding quarterback Gabe.

To state it simply, Darby comes from a local football dynasty. But it is not her name that propelled

her to the varsity squad this season, but rather her ability and consistency.

As a freshman the standout athlete served the same role for the Arrows freshman squad earning an impressive 30/34 attempts for an 88 percent accuracy rate.

"It was a very neat thing to be able to compete with a lot of my friends and classmates last fall. I had fun and learned a lot," said Darby, calling the season "an experience of a lifetime."

Since her bump to varsity this season her stats have only improved. Currently 26/29 for an accuracy rate of 89.7 percent, Darby has faced the pressure of varsity size crowds and expectations without pause. "It is nerve racking, but it was such an unreal and awesome experience. After the first kick, the nerves went away and it's just like when's the next one," said Darby.

Darby's tenacity has been preceded by an ever growing population of young girls looking to tackle football. Theresa Dion from Key West, Florida, is noted as the first woman to play high school football in the United States. Her groundbreaking effort occurred at Immaculate High School in 1972 where she served as a placekicker. Since then the number of females participating in the male dominated sport has continued to rise with most kicking their way onto the field.

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, during the 2008-2009 season there were 759 female players from 170 schools nationwide. This season there are currently 1,565 female football players representing 467 high schools. 65 of those

ladies represent Michigan high schools.

One of the area's most notable female kickers garnered the nickname the "kicking queen" back in 2011 after she scored a game-winning field goal on the same evening she was elected by her peers as homecoming queen. Brianna Amat garnered national attention for her success playing for Pinckney Community High School in Ann Arbor.

Not all female players are kickers though. In recent years, Monique Howard played right tackle for Pershing High School near Detroit, fourteen-year-old Brooke Liebtch was named quarterback as a freshman in Liberty, Missouri, and Maya Ochoa from Creekview High School in Carrollton, Texas, played as both wide receiver and safety, proving that the role of girls in high school football is still evolving.

When asked if she would consider another position on the team Darby said she might, but only if she was well equipped. "If I thought it was capable I would try, but we are talking about one [of] the best football programs in the state of Michigan," answered Darby.

Instead, Darby will

continue to split her time between kicking for the football team and her favorite sport soccer which she has played since the age of four. She debuted last season on the Arrows' varsity team as a freshman and currently plays with the club team Midwest United as a defender. She says her experience on the soccer field translates well, though a different part of the foot is used for each. "Aside from learning to kick in the right form, I have taken some very important penalty kicks for my team in past years. I equate that with every extra point I kick," Darby explained.

Darby said that she hopes to continue playing on the team but will keep soccer in her forefront as she intends to pursue the sport at the collegiate level. In the meantime she intends to enjoy the rest of the season playing among her storied football family and hopes to double as a role model for any girl who wants to step outside of the boundaries of what is expected. "My dad always told me to compete in a 'man's world' as an equal. I hope that all the little girls see that is possible in this small part of me and that they can take away the same mind set," concluded Darby.



Sophomore Darby Dean on the field at Red Arrow Stadium where she has broken athletic ground as the first female football player in the school's history.

WRWW WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WRWW continues to 'air' student-produced on-air shows. They can be heard almost every week day, Monday through Friday, from 2:45 p.m. to, on some days, 9:00 p.m. Our event schedule can be viewed at www.lowellradio.org Make sure you tune us in this Friday night, October 16th, at 7:00 pm for the Lowell varsity football game with East Grand Rapids. Next week Friday, October 23rd, we will bring you the Lowell/Grand Rapids Christian Football game. It is that time of year when LHS & LMS concerts are being held in the Performing Arts Center. We record those and place them on our website the day after the concert. WRWW would like to thank the Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide for their support.

Sports Summaries

TENNIS

LHS boys varsity tennis wrapped up their season last week with a hard fought loss to Unity Christian on Tuesday and an appearance in the Division II regional competition Thursday. Seniors Kyle Bell, Blake Posthumus and Carter Noskey produced wins for Lowell in the 5-3 loss versus Unity Christian. The team finished fourth with nine points in regional competition falling behind Jenison, host Forest Hills Northern and 24-point sweep winner Forest Hills Central.

SOCCER

Lowell's varsity kickers fell short last Tuesday when they hit the road to face OK White competitor Caledonia in their lone competition of the week. Red Arrow Elijah Dixon scored the only goal earned by the team in the 3-1 loss.

Sports Summaries, continued, page 11

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Arrows rise in state rankings, go on to beat FHC 47-19

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

After rising three positions in the Division III state rankings last week, the Red Arrow varsity football team tallied another win last Friday when they hit the road to face OK White nemesis Forest Hills Central.

The Arrows' commanding 47-19 win put the reigning conference champs back on top of the OK White with a 3-0 conference record and a

6-1 record overall. The win also secured the team's 17th straight play-off appearance, having done so every year since 1999.

In a deceptively close first half, senior quarterback Ryan Stevens kicked off scoring for the Arrows finishing off the final four yards of a 44-yard drive into the end zone. Darby Dean added the extra point and went on to complete five out of six attempts on the

night. FHC answered with 56 seconds left on the clock when Tyler Collins made a quick six-yard jaunt tying the game at seven at the first buzzer.

Senior Alex Anschutz picked up the first of three touchdown catches on a 47-yard pass from Stevens for the Arrows' only score of the second quarter. D. Dean missed the extra point leaving Lowell ahead by only six. FHC's Collins

made a five-yard carry for a Ranger score and his second of the night, before Lowell successfully blocked their extra point attempt leaving the two squads tied at 13 as the teams headed to the locker rooms.

The second half had a whole different tone. After the back-and-forth battle that comprised the first half, the Arrows dominated in the second making huge scoring runs and catching perfectly

delivered passes that added up to 34 points.

In the third, Stevens went 77 yards for a score in the second play of the half and Gabe Steed made an interception that set up an Anschutz score and then caught his own 39-yard pass for six.

In the fourth, Anschutz picked up his third score of the evening on a 25-yard catch while senior Derek Massey ran 25 yards for

his. The score marked a milestone for Massey as it helped him to log his first 100-yard rushing game as a varsity team member and also finalized the 47-19 win.

This Friday the team will host the East Grand Rapids Pioneers who are currently ranked second in the OK White with a record of 2-1. This game will mark the end of the storied rivalry as the conference realigns next fall. Kickoff is at 7 pm.

Sports Summaries, continued

GIRLS GOLF

Red Arrow varsity golf placed fifth at the Division II regional competition at Thornapple Pointe Golf Club last Wednesday carding a combined 410 strokes. Lowell pack leader Kenzie Uhen recorded a 90 falling just one shot short of a bid into the state competition. The talented freshman was followed by Paige Fosburg (92), Taylor Furtaw (110) and Morgan Allison (118).

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Varsity boys cross country placed sixth at last week Wednesday's OK White jamboree hosted by Caledonia. Lowell's top five finishers were Eric Judd (18:06), Kyle Cater (18:43), Kenny Stump (19:34), Caleb Sobie (19:42) and Reece Karns (20:12). Saturday at the Allegan XC jamboree the team landed in the ninth position led once again by Judd who ran a 17:31. He was followed by Cater (17:56), Stump (19:17), Sobie (20:02) and Conner Meyers (20:35).

VOLLEYBALL

Senior Bailey Reitsma had a stellar night for Lowell varsity volleyball last Tuesday despite the team's 3-0 loss to OK White foe Jenison. Reitsma led her team in aces with two and offered up six kills and 16 digs during the match up. Sydney Powell tallied 19 assists for the lady Arrows who lost 25-15, 25-10 and 25-15.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

In a busy week of long distance action the girls varsity cross country team placed sixth at the OK White jamboree on Wednesday and and fourth at the Allegan XC jamboree on Saturday. Runner Tori Hewitt led Lowell in both races coming in at 20:35 and 20:14 respectively. Other top conference finishers were Lauren Aud (22:03), Mekare Elliott (22:09), Dawn Kondor (22:34) and Amber Clouse (22:39). Scoring for the Red Arrows in Allegan were Breanna VanLaan (21:04), Aud (21:20), Katrina Droski (21:43), Kondor (22:02) and Elliott (22:34).

	Lowell	FHC
Score	47	19
First Downs	16	18
Rushing Attempts	41	28
Yards Rushing	298	104
Yards Passing	173	190
Net Yards	471	294
Passes Attempted	16	28
Passes Completed	9	12
Interceptions	1	1
Offensive Plays	57	56
Average Gain	8.3	5.2
Fumbles: Number/Lost	0/0	0/0
Penalties: Number/Yards	7/63	3/13
Number of Punts/Yards	1/36	5/94
Average Per Punt	36.0	18.8
Punt Returns: Number/Yards	2/8	1/9
Number of Kickoffs/Yards	8/426	4/189
Average Per Kickoff	53.2	47.2
Kickoff Returns: Number/Yards	3/62	8/144
Int. Returns: Number/Yards	1/16	1/13
Fumble Returns: Yards/TD	0/0	0/0
Possession Time	25:35	22:25
Third-Down Conversions	1/10	3/10
Fourth-Down Conversions	2/2	0/0

Equestrians, continued

on top of her," explained Bouman, "She was taken to the hospital by ambulance to have chest and a leg x-ray done. She was fine thankfully, however, she had to be pulled from all her classes for the rest of the weekend and we had to re-strategize quickly."

Adding several slots to their Saturday competition schedule in an effort to recoup the points that would not be earned by Pawloski, the team moved forward into day two logging more top notch performances.

Andi Reynolds earned 52 points for the team in showmanship to start the day, followed by the team claiming first through fourth place in a sweep of the saddle seat equitation

competition tallying 68 points. They continued that winning pattern in saddle seat bareback and in the multiple Western competition categories totaling another 114 points.

Holding a slim 18-point lead over the defending state champ Freeland upon entering day three, the team headed into Western riding where Freeland excelled claiming a double win and narrowing Lowell's lead to nine. Freeland grabbed the lead by seven points in the next event, hunt seat equitation, earning 49 points to the Arrow's 33.

With just one event left to capture the win the Arrows persevered. Reynolds produced a first- and second-place finish


while junior Olivia Hock took two top-five finishes in the hunt seat bareback to top Freeland 29-19 cementing the win.

Bouman said the five person team, who she called "one of the most versatile groups I have coached in several years" in the pre-season, had no idea that they had earned the win prior to the announcement. "Going into the closing ceremonies the girls had no idea they had won. We had to work hard to keep them away from the scoreboards and


acting like we [were] pretty sure we had secured second place and the trip to State," said Bouman. "They were in total shock when they realized they had finished first. They rode their hearts out this weekend and it showed!"

Final scores reflected Lowell on top with a total of 379 points edging out Freeland by just three points. Forest Hills Central (318), Beaverton (248) and Houghton Lake (117) rounded out the top five.

The team hopes to improve on last year's fifth-place state finish when they head back to Midland County fairgrounds this weekend, October 15-18, to vie against Michigan's top equestrian teams for the title.



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Dr. Jim Reagan would like to thank the Reagan Family for their summer help and wish them well as they go back to school!



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell ledger



obituaries

KARGL

Joseph Andrew Kargl, age 19, of Lowell, passed away tragically on Friday, October 2, 2015. He was a student at GRCC. He graduated from Lowell High School in 2014. He is survived by his mother, Pamela Topolinski; father, Keith Kargl; siblings, Alyssa, Christi, Jeremy, and Patrick, all of Lowell; grandparents, Timothy and Ilene Topolinski, and Judith Pendergast. Joe enjoyed going to concerts, playing golf, Frisbee golf, and played hockey for many years in Grand Rapids and for Lowell High School. He was quiet, but had a great sense of wit and well liked by many. We will miss his lively spirit. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St. SE, Lowell. Visitation was held at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church.



KELLEY

Nelson (Peter) Kelley, born April 16, 1945, of Lowell, passed away peacefully October 10, 2015, after a short time in Hospice of Michigan at Metron of Belding. He was preceded in death by his parents, Nelson and Naomi Kelley; his sister, Judy Fuller; and his nephew, Patrick Norden. Surviving are his brothers, Pat Kelley of Colorado, Darryl Kelley of Michigan; sisters, Nancy (Rod) VanCamp and Joyce Grilley of Michigan; and nephews and nieces around the country, Lisa (Patrick) Kays, Shane Kelley, Kimberly (Freddie) Wirsley, Michael (Liz) Fuller, Joshua Fuller, Robin (David) Isman, Todd (Amanda) Ryder, Brian (Krystin) Ryder, Beth Grilley, Jon (Kylee) Grilley; 28 great- and 14 great great-nephews and nieces. Pete lived his entire life in the Ada/Lowell area where he has many friends. Pete was an army veteran serving in France 1963-1966. Per Pete's wishes no funeral service will be held. If anyone would like to make a donation in his name it can be made to: Hospice of Michigan, Donation Processing Center, 989 Spaulding Ave. SE, Ada, MI 49301-3701.



NAGY

William Thomas Nagy, age 83 of Lowell, passed away Monday, October 5, 2015. He was preceded in death by sons Mike and Brett. He is survived by his wife of 54 years Sandy; children Diane (Ron) Cumbie, Bill (Terry) Nagy, Tammy (Kerry) Fitzpatrick, Jamie (Daryl Danley) Nagy and Scott (Kelly) Nagy; brother Dick Nagy; sisters Beth Hamilton and Mary Lynn Mantofel; 17 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. William was an auctioneer for 55 years. He served in the Korean conflict. A funeral service was held. Memorial donations may be made to the Lowell Pink Arrow Project, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



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VOS

Barbara Jean Vos, age 84, a longtime resident of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, October 7, 2015, in her Florida home while surrounded by loving family. She was preceded in death by her son, Kenneth Vos; parents, Arvil and Thelma Heilman; and sisters, Alice Goodwin and Phillis Haybarker. Barbara is survived by her husband of 66 years, John K. Vos; daughter, Deborah (Jack) Young of Gulfport, Florida; daughter-in-law, Linda Vos of Lowell; daughter, Sandy (Andy) Schutt of Augusta; nine grandchildren, Tera (Michael) Brown, Colleen (Richard) Boyd, Heidi (Patrick) Guenther, Erin (Jeffrey) Massey, Bethany (Sid) Miner, Kristian Magro, Shannon (Chris) Goggins, Mary Beth Schutt, and Michael (Jodi) Wood; 21 great-grandchildren, Jaclyn Brown, Alexandra (Richard) Sheehan, Madeline Brown, Richard (Kamra) Boyd, Jacob Boyd, Destinee Boyd, Rik Guenther, Grace Guenther, Vincent Massey, Sidney Miner, John Miner, Barbara Miner, Lucas Miner, Austin Magro, Jackson Magro, Ryan Goggins, Halle Goggins, Caitie Marie Wood, Samantha Hewitt, Victoria Hewitt, Andrea Hewitt; and five great great-grandchildren, Danielle Sheehan, Makenzie Boyd, Aubrey Boyd, Richard Levi Boyd, and Lilly Hewitt. Barbara was born on March 29, 1931, in Ionia; she graduated from Lowell High School in 1948 and was married to her loving husband, John Vos, on January 16, 1949. She worked as a school bus driver for Lowell area schools and was an educator for special education transportation at both Eastern and Western Michigan University. Barbara dedicated her life to taking care of her family. She made every grandchild feel as if they were her number one. She was a national award-winning old world china painter and was known for her big heart, generous soul and amazing cooking. She was deeply loved by all that knew her. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday October 25, from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the Lowell VFW, 3124 Alden Nash Ave. SE.



Ionia Chili-Dawg Challenge, continued

Street being closed to traffic, thousands attending and nearly \$15,000 being raised for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Ionia County in 2014. This year's event hopes to top attendance records, but may run short due to not being able to produce enough chili dogs to sell! "We have run out early the last two years," says Lynch. "We sold out of almost 8,500 chili dogs in under three-and-a-half hours last year!" Seasoned eventgoers know to get there early for the best parking and to quickly get in line to the chili dog vendors who are trying to win prizes for "Best Decorated Booth," "Best Judged Dawg" and the coveted "People's Choice Award," for selling 400 chili dogs the quickest. Tickets for the chili dogs are \$1.50 each or four for \$5. Some

gourmet "dawgs" cost two tickets. Proceeds from the sale of "Chili-Dawgs" all go to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Many people have seen the famous televised hot dog eating contest held each year on the 4th of July in New Jersey, but Ionia boasts the only known timed "Chili-Dawg" eating contest in America. Contestants have just 10 minutes to eat as many drippy chili dogs as possible. The past few years, the average has been nine in the allowed time, but a few more serious competitive eaters have signed on for this year's event, so who knows how many might get eaten? The pet costume contest takes place on the main stage right after the eating contest. It's always funny to see them lapping up the spilled chili off the floor.

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THEME: NURSERY RHYMES

ACROSS

- 1. Covered with water
- 6. Fox competitor?
- 9. R&R spots
- 13. Port in Portugal
- 14. *Turtle dove's sound
- 15. Gorillalike
- 16. "Animal House" party wear
- 17. ____ of corn
- 18. Bank in Mexico
- 19. *He went to Gloucester
- 21. *He kissed the girls and made them cry
- 23. Witch's curse
- 24. Like Piper of Hamelin
- 25. School organization
- 28. Clare Booth ____
- 30. Bloodsucker
- 34. "____ is more"
- 36. Nevada city
- 38. Respectable and quiet
- 40. Military group
- 41. *Dog's name-o
- 43. Like nay-sayers
- 44. Jason the Argonaut's wife
- 46. "In ____ of"
- 47. 1/60 of mins
- 48. Dancer's beat
- 50. As opposed to gross
- 52. "Be quiet!"
- 53. Arrogant snob
- 55. Simon & Garfunkel, e.g.
- 57. *One of King Cole's three

CROSSWORD														
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OCTOBER 7 - OCTOBER 13

The city of Flint continues to have water problems. High amounts of lead were found in the water supply. ZeroWater, United Way of Genesee County and General Motors Foundation are donating 2,500 filters to Flint schools. Last week, state and local officials announced a plan to spend \$12 million to reconnect Flint to Detroit's water system - that is still in the process of being put into action.



- Zimbabwe will not be charging the American dentist, Walter Palmer, for killing Cecil. Cecil was a rare black-maned lion that Palmer killed for sport. Turns out all of Palmer's papers were in order. Another professional hunter is charged with breaching hunting rules and a game park owner is also charged with allowing an illegal hunt.
- More cities are recognizing Native Americans on Columbus Day and nine cities have changed the name of the holiday to Indigenous Peoples Day.

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- 71. Pigeon's perch
 - 72. Simon does what?
 - 73. Emergency helpers
 - 74. Clear, as in blackboard
- DOWN**
- 1. Quick on the uptake
 - 2. *Sound of Mother

- Hubbard's pet?
- 3. Mythological ship
- 4. Narc's find
- 5. Youth lodging option
- 6. Tree having winged fruit
- 7. Feathery neckwear
- 8. Welsh dog breed
- 9. Boxing action
- 10. Golf club maker
- 11. Ascus, plural

- 12. *My dame has lost her what?
- 15. "Humble ____," pl.
- 20. Beyond suburb
- 22. Unagi
- 24. Composing or writing
- 25. *Little Jack Horner's treat
- 26. Religious doctrine
- 27. To one side
- 29. To furnish with a ceiling
- 31. J.F.K. or Dulles postings
- 32. Short for University of Miami mascot
- 33. Unforeseen obstacle
- 35. Type of cell
- 37. Curved molding
- 39. *It ran away with the spoon
- 42. One up
- 45. Little application
- 49. Mining product
- 51. Dr. Seuss' Yertle
- 54. About to explode
- 56. Twig of willow tree
- 57. Come clean, with "up"
- 58. Cuzco valley empire
- 59. June 6, 1944
- 60. Data Universal Numbering System
- 61. Strikes with an axe
- 62. Cocoyam
- 63. Droops
- 66. *Tucker who sings for his supper
- 68. "Go Set a Watchman" author

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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Auction house closes after decades in Grattan

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Bill and Jill Landstra bought a vacant eight acre property at the corner of Seven Mile and Lincoln Lake back in 1977 and built an auction house they would run together for years. On Monday, after decades as the friendly fast-talking auctioneer, Bill closed the doors for good at the Grattan Auction House.

A crew of family and customers who came to be, gathered at the once jam packed auction house to clear the remaining items accumulated by the pair and ready them for donation to Flat River Outreach Ministries. Bill supervised, sharing stories and listening to the observations of those in attendance.

“Bill is one of the coolest people that I have ever known in my entire life,” said family friend Debi Andrews, who teared up when talking about her relationship with the Landstras. “I would like to call them my mom and dad. They were as close to me as my mom and dad. I have been coming to the auction house on Saturdays at four o’clock since 1987 when I moved out here to Grattan.”

Andrews was not alone as the favorite weekend destination was populated by a host of regular attendees who enjoyed the auction, but more so seemed to enjoy the auction’s proprietors Bill and Jill.

The pair, married for 51 years, met by happenstance when a teenage Jill became the babysitter next door to Bill’s home in Belding. Without really understanding why yet, Bill said he knew right away that Jill was the one for him. “I told my buddy you know what Dale, you see that girl over there. He said ‘yes’ and I said, I am going to marry her. Didn’t know her from Adam but I knew there was something there and I married her,” said Bill.



Friends and family gathered with Bill Landstra, seated, on October 12 to officially close the doors of the Grattan Auction House.

After their nuptials Bill was unexpectedly drafted into the United States Army. Serving primarily in Germany from 1963-65, he was not alone in the foreign land for long. His wife Jill boarded a plane and joined him five months after his deployment.

When the inseparable pair made their way back to the area, plans for an auction house began. The job was essentially in Bill’s roots having had successful auctioneers in his family in his father and uncle. He graduated from auctioneer school in 1973 and the duo began their first auction inside the Grattan gas station where they cooperatively used the space with the owners to jump start and determine interest in their business.

“What we would do is get a 4x8 sheet and put it on the hoist and lay the items out like a buffet,” explained Bill. “I would sit on one side and Jill on the other. We could only be in there the four hours on Saturday night and til noon on Sunday for pick up and that [is] how we started out.”

Through the years and the move to their own location, the couple defined their own unique roles at the auction. Bill gathered goods and handled the gavel during their busy sales nights and Jill handled the logistics. “She was the decorator, organizer, pricer and the executive bookkeeper. Bill’s partner in crime,” said Andrews. Bill describes the arrangement more precisely. “She would set up all the stuff and she wouldn’t let

me cross her line. My line was this way and her line was that way,” he said with a laugh motioning to the front and back of the pole barn style building.

Patrons of the auction house came to love Bill’s signature style and trademark quips, “Oh oh oh oh oh” to beautiful pieces and “Are you looking right” when bids weren’t moving along as he expected. They also came to enjoy the pair’s hospitality and their dynamic love and generosity.

“It has more or less been about helping people out,” said Bill referring to the business. “That’s what the whole deal is. A lady or a guy would call up with some needs and we would help. That was the big deal to us. We did it to help people.”

They did occasionally make a bit of money though. Sometime back according to Bill, a gentleman named Floyd brought a lure collection to auction. “We figured we would make \$100, maybe \$150. We ended up selling an empty lure box for \$2,900 and we sold the other lures for like \$1,600 or \$1,900. My heart went boom, boom, boom,” Bill said.

But Andrews said that the Landstras never counted their success with dollar signs. “I don’t think it was ever about the money as much as it’s been about the experience and the story and history of the objects. Bill is more than a collector though; I would go one step further and call him a historian. He could tell you the history of or at least a story about

nearly everything here,” said Andrews.

Now 75 years old, Bill decided to make the transition from the auction house to the easy chair after losing his beloved Jill to a heart attack last fall. The sudden loss occurred as the couple prepared their venue for the Saturday night auction. He has not hosted a single auction without her.

Bill said he will miss the people the most as he settles into his retirement. Andrews said that the community will most certainly miss him back. “Generation after generation have had so much fun here. I don’t care if they were five or 85. We didn’t smoke, we didn’t drink, we didn’t swear. We stayed clean and had a lot of fun inside this auction house,” Andrews concluded.

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Pink It Forward, continued

List,” which includes items varying from household goods to gift cards. The scene was the same throughout the district as teachers and students worked to fill a sea of plastic grocery bags with supplies.

“The fact the schools here in Lowell both embrace and go above and beyond to support Pink Arrow and Gilda’s Club never ceases to amaze,” said Lindsay Jousma, program manager at Gilda’s Club of

Lowell. “What a gift we as a community are teaching our children - both the importance of emotional health and giving back in support of community. All of us here at Gilda’s Club Lowell remain moved



Students Holly and Hannah Fontaine and paraprofessional, mom Sarah, were among those who donned their pink shirts.



Students at Cherry Creek Elementary and all other district schools, filled plastic grocery bags with donations to help fulfill Gilda’s Club “Wish List.”

by the generosity of Pink Arrow and the Lowell community in support of members living with cancer and grief.”

Jousma said that the grief and support programs at the facility would likely not be possible without the community’s continued commitment.

Monetary donations were also encouraged and collected in unique handmade wooden boxes placed in the office of each school building. The Pink It Forward boxes were designed and created by the high school’s wood shop students under the direction of instructor Tony Ellis.

This month all cash donations were given directly to a former LHS student who is battling cancer.

“This month our team decided to have the monetary donations collected go to Andrea Koster and her family. Koster is a 2006

LHS graduate fighting stage 4 melanoma. She was 23 weeks pregnant when diagnosed and the baby [Tristan] was delivered at 26 weeks,” according to Pallo.

More information on Koster’s battle can be found on their Facebook page “Andrea and Tristan’s Fight” or at the same named Go Fund Me site set up in the family’s name.

The community’s donations to the grad remind Pallo that the ongoing effort is very much needed.

“Our students and this community are dedicated to helping families who are enduring a fight with cancer. Keeping Pink Arrow alive all year helps bring awareness and more support for the people who need it most.”

At Gilda’s Club, Jousma agreed with the sentiment, “Pink It Forward is a great way of reminding each of us that the needs for individuals on a cancer and grief support journey are ongoing.”

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LHS graduate Andrea Akins (Koster), pictured with husband Phil, was the recipient of this month’s Pink It Forward monetary donations.

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