

Gilda awards



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hiker speaks at LHS



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lhs sports



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Holiday Market open for the season with unique gifts and entertainment

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

A unique, local holiday shopping venue has returned to the LowellArts! King Gallery just in time for the Christmas season as they present their annual Holiday Market.

Running through December 23, the market features the works of more than forty local artisans specializing in a variety of artistic mediums. All works are handmade and range in both price and variety.

Highlights include: natural soaps and toiletries from Joy Castonguay of Kinderhaven Farm in Freeport, unique repurposed metal sculptures from artist Lane Cooper,

tiny fairy furniture from A Whimsical Fairy and detailed leatherwork from artists Art and Marcia Perkins of Perkins Custom Leatherwork.

The Perkins work daily in their shop crafting their unique and intricate leather goods which include everything from trunks built from the lumber up to leather military key chains featuring all branches of the armed services. They are well known to many in the area from the Fallsburg Festival for the Arts which they have been hosting for the past fifteen years.

Holiday Market,
continued, page 8



Featured artist Maribeth Weadock is selling a wide variety of artwork including these decorated gourds at the annual market.

State road plan gets a somewhat bumpy local response

by Doug VanderLaan
contributing writer

The sighs of relief, following Gov. Rick Snyder's signing of a long-awaited road repair funding package, were audible throughout the community. They weren't all satisfied expressions, though.

"It's not enough and it's not soon enough,"

grouched Lowell interim Public Works Director Ron Wood. "My frustration with the State Legislature is that they should have done something four years ago. In the meantime, our roads are only going to get worse. They're just kicking the can down the road again. Why even bother?"

The \$1.2 billion road funding plan that won't kick in until 2017. Taxpayers will know it's a big can that's getting kicked when the taxes to support it go into effect in just over 13 months. Spread primarily over three areas, the package passed by the Legislature on Nov. 3 will raise fuel taxes

by 7.3 cents per gallon, then will increase them annually by five percent or by the then-current inflation rate, whichever is lower. Vehicle registration fees will go up by 20 percent and the remainder will come from an annual \$600 million expenditure from the state's General Fund.

Local auto body shop owner Chris Bieri may be especially impacted. He doesn't see a significant downturn in his business with improved highways because damage from poor roads tends to be more car

State road plan,
continued, page 7

Seated for their first meeting, new city council appoints new mayor pro-tem, reveals new city logo and listens to accounting presentation

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell city council's three new councilors attended their first meeting on Monday, Nov. 16. The council appointed a new mayor pro-tem, bought

some equipment, voted to clean up some gravel and sat through a long accounting presentation at the meeting, which lasted an hour and 26 minutes. About 30 members of the public attended, three

of whom spoke during public comment. Local business owner Perry Beachum invited the three new councilors to attend the next meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission

and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority.

"I invite all the new council members to attend one of them so you get to know the commission," Beachum said.

Recent losing city council candidate Jim Salzwedel gave the council some information about leadership.

"Within probably the next 40 days you guys have some tough decisions to make of who's going to be leading the council," Salzwedel said. "I have some information that I think is critical, that you guys understand what it takes to be a leader, and do you have those skills?"

Local resident Peggy Covert said that the Lowell city council should consider the needs of township



Lowell's new city council: Alan Teelander, Jeff Altoft, Jim Hodges, Jeff Phillips and Mike DeVore.

City council meeting,
continued, page 3

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CENTS



Another successful cookie drive for Veterans

The eighth annual Cookie Drive for Veterans, was held on Saturday morning, Nov. 7 and provided 5,091 homemade cookies to the Veterans. The cookies were baked by 96 Lowell area bakers who then delivered them to the Lowell American Legion Post #152. Then the cookies were bagged for delivery to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Thirty-one volunteers, some young and

some more senior, did the packing.

Many special cards, made by Girl Scout Troop #4588 and Troop #3642, were with all of the cookies and were delivered to the Veterans. Also included were a number of beautifully decorated, back pillows, to use with wheelchairs, made by the Helping Hands 4-H-ers. All of the kids involved were truly appreciated.



Carrie VonderHeide is pictured with her family of bakers, Daniel, Nora, Mia and Ben. The Vonderheides have been four-year participants in the annual cookie drive.

All-Service Military Retiree Appreciation Day scheduled

The Michigan National Guard, U.S. Navy Reserve, and the Michigan National Guard Retiree Association are hosting a Military Retiree Appreciation Day. This event is intended for service members who are retired or eligible for retirement (20 or more years of service including "Grey Area"). Military retirees, both active duty and reserve component, any branch, or their surviving spouses are welcome to attend.

The Michigan Military Retiree Appreciation Day will be held at the Naval

Operations Support Center (NOSC), Fort Custer Training Center (Bldg 2000), 2000 Vlug Street, Augusta, Michigan, 49012, on Dec. 12, 2015 from 9 am to 3 pm. Separate information booths for benefit issues, employment, and ID card issuance and renewal, and much more will be available. Reservations for the event are required. Please RVSP not later than Dec. 7, 2015 by calling Cassandra Stump at 517-395-0840 or by emailing stumpcassandra@gmail.com



along main street

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thurs., Nov. 19 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

SENIOR NEIGHBORS CRAFT SALE

The Senior Neighbors are holding a craft sale as part of Christmas through Lowell. This is a fundraiser with proceeds going to the center for activities and programs. Their own cookbook will be on sale, as well as handmade items, Pampered Chef, and a variety of other handmade items. The sale will be held Sat., Nov. 21 from 9-3 pm. Lowell Senior Neighbors is located at 314 S. Hudson.

HOLIDAY MARKET DEMONSTRATIONS

Composer and jazz musician, Roger MacNaughton. There will be two more opportunities to see Roger in action as he shares songs from his new CD – Christmas Dreams, Christmas Wishes. Nov. 21 and Dec. 5, from 11 am to 3 pm.

Artist Diann Bartnick Borton will demonstrate how paper clay is made and how she prepares it to make sculpted flowers, birds and leaves on Nov. 28 from 12-2 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.

Jewelry artist Skylar Brez will demonstrate the basics of needle felting, taking a small piece of felt and embellishing it with roving, yarn, silk thread and beads to make a brooch on Dec. 12 from 12-2 pm.

Jewelry artist Cindy Allen will be on-site demonstrating how she makes her one-of-a-kind vintage button rings, which will also be for sale. Bring in a special button or earring and she can make it into a ring on Dec. 19 from 12-2 pm.

The demonstrations will be held at LowellArts! located at 149 S. Hudson, 897-8545.

GILDA'S

CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Laughter Circle – Tues., Nov. 24, 4-5 pm. Join Lindsay Jousma, LMSW as she teaches us about the impact laughter can have on our emotional health and walks us through a fun time of laughter and learning.

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

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City council meeting, continued

residents more than they have in the past.

"I've never been able to understand the attitude

of the city council in so segregating themselves from the townships and treating the township residents as

second class citizens," Covert said. "In every other area of Lowell we celebrate our togetherness and unity. Both Lowell Light and Power and city water have township customers. We're all part of the Lowell area school district."

City manager Mark Howe unveiled the city's new logo, which is a variation on the old logo.

"Basically [it is] taking the logo that we have with the Showboat, but adding some swirls to it," Howe said.

Accountant Peter Haefner gave a 2014-2015 fiscal year audit presentation that gave a broad picture of the city's finances.

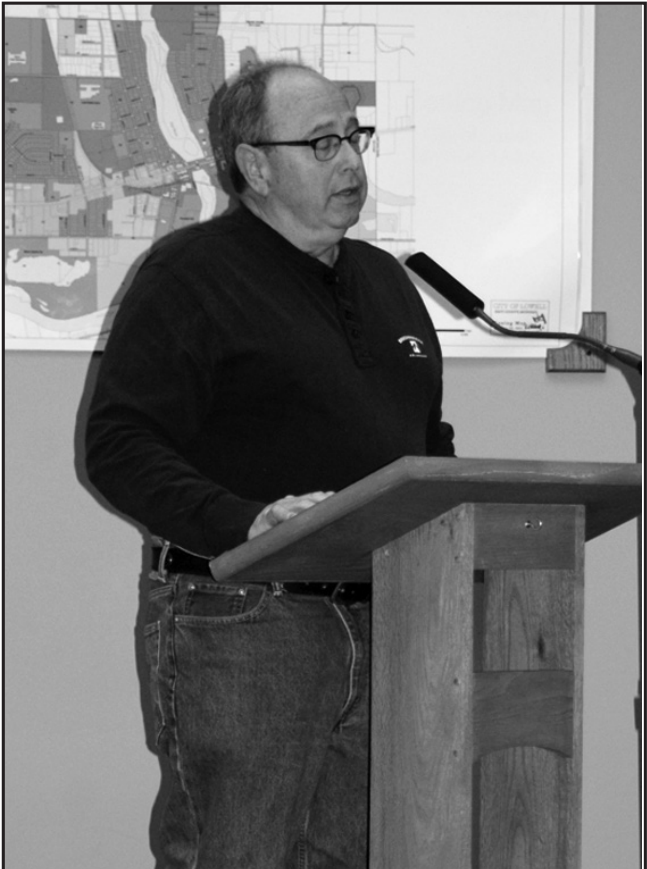
"Under the long-term liabilities for 2015, you will see that the long-term liabilities have increased from 2014 by approximately \$1.5 million for the government type activities and \$1.5 million for the business type activities," Haefner said. "That is the result of implementing a new accounting standard that requires you to report the extent to which your pension plan is underfunded. [...] You're not at an extreme level that's outside of the norm for Michigan communities that I work with."

The council accepted a bid of \$25,404 from United Water Environmental Services to clean the east oxidation ditch at the wastewater treatment plant. The ditch was built in the 1980s and has never been cleaned out. It is currently overflowing with sand and gravel.

"It's an inordinate amount of sand and gravel," said public works director Ron Woods. "I would not have ever expected to see the amount of sand and gravel in the bottom of that



Losing council candidate Jim Salzwedel gave the council some information about leadership.



Perry Beachum invited councilors to attend Parks and Recreation Commission and Lowell Area Recreation Authority meetings.



Accountant Peter Haefner gave an audit presentation to the council.

oxidation ditch. How it got in there is beyond me. [...] We suspect that it may have come in during the flood [in April, 2013]."

The council voted to accept a bid of \$9,437 from AIS Construction Equipment to buy a new utility trailer for the public works department. Woods said continuing to use the old trailer could be dangerous.

"It appears that it's a homemade trailer," Woods said. "It's not rated. I'm extremely nervous with the staff using the existing trailer."

At the very end of the meeting the council unanimously voted to appoint councilor Jeff Altoft to be the new mayor pro-tem. Altoft replaced Sharon Ellison, who recently lost her bid for reelection to the council. Altoft was also appointed to the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority. Further appointments will occur in January.

The council's next meeting will be at city hall on Monday, Dec. 7 at 7 pm. They also have a 'Coffee with Council' scheduled at Senior Neighbors from 8 to 10 am on Saturday, Dec. 5.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing to consider the following appeal:

Appeal: In accordance with Sections 24.03 (a) and (b) of the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance the Judy L. Pitsch Trust is appealing the denial by the Township Assessor of a lot split application. The Assessor has determined that the resulting parcel requested to be created by the Trust does not meet the applicable lot requirements of the R-1 Zoning District as set forth in Section 4.02 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Property Location: East and north of the intersection of Bewell Avenue and the private street called Firefly Woods Drive. The parcel has frontage on both Bewell Avenue and Firefly Woods Drive. PP# 41-20-09-401-013

The hearing will be held as follows:
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
 291D ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
 LOWELL, MI 49331

Any person is welcome to attend this meeting and to offer comments or ask questions regarding the appeal. The application materials are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 291D Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

Tim Clements, Chair
 Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals

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Cold Weather Warriors aim to make sure area kids are warm this year

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) will be working to help children keep warm this winter.

In coordination with the Lowell Area School District, the LPD recently launched their latest community effort Cold Weather Warriors. The winter clothing drive aims to ensure that each Lowell student has the winter gear necessary to keep warm this season.

According to Detective Gordy Lauren the effort has been on their radar for some time but came to fruition this year when the need for the collection became more apparent.

"The idea has crossed our minds in the past. This year a parent from the district approached us and said she noticed a lot of children with inadequate winter clothes so we started the process. We feel it is very important to make sure our children are wearing appropriate clothing for the weather."

In order to fill those needs, the department is asking the community for help. Citizens who are able, are being asked to become Cold Weather Warriors by donating new, with tag, winter weather clothing or Meijer gift cards toward their purchase. The items will then be divided up to meet the specific needs of students as reported by their schools and then promptly delivered in a wish list-style giveaway.

Detective Lauren said that the effort will continue until each child has all the gear they need to be comfortably warm this winter. "We will collect gift

cards and new winter gear through at least the month of November or until our list is complete," said Lauren.

LPD is well known for efforts that go far beyond the job description. Last season patrol officers shocked area drivers with a series of Christmas surprise traffic stops where they were gifted instead of ticketed. This year the Cold Weather Warrior effort is part of that same ongoing commitment to the betterment of Lowell and the residents who call it home.

"This is a great opportunity to give back to the community we love being a part of," said Lauren.



Items being collected include coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, socks, boots and scarves and can be dropped off at station at 301 East Main Street.

kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

Extra curricular activities are all the rage this season. Holiday concerts, sporting events, and book clubs are just a few that our school offers. To start, I just wrapped up my first volleyball season. I had lots of fun and learned some new things. My brother, Dillon, just started his basketball season, and is off to a good start with a 1-1 record so far.

Other than sports, there are other activities that kids can experience. I take part in an Academic Focus group called Fiddle Club. We meet in second hour, which is kind of like study hall, and play fiddle tunes

on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is a really fun way to challenge myself with more advanced music and I love to play our gigs. On the days I don't have Fiddle Club, I'm in silent AF. That is what it sounds like, a time for doing homework and reading. No talking, just the way I like it.

Our school offers so many extra activities, it is hard to experience them all. Every one adds some new experience and skill set to my middle school education. I would encourage all middle schoolers to take full advantage of all the activities middle school has to offer.

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL




viewpoint



Soo Locks critical to supporting Great Lakes economy, national security

U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters today applauded the Obama Administration for approving \$1.35 million to review critical upgrades to the aging locks at Sault Ste. Marie. In June, the Senators called on Office of Management and Budget Director Sean Donovan to approve the Army Corps of Engineers' request to help replace the Davis and Sabin Locks with a lock of similar size to the Poe Lock. Currently, 70 percent of cargo vessels, including all

of the large lake freighters, are forced to use the Poe Lock because they are too large to use others. The Davis and Sabin Locks, both of which are nearly 100 years old, are no longer in use.

"The Soo Locks are the gateway for Great Lakes freighters carrying staple foods like wheat and iron ore our manufacturers and military depend on," said Senator Stabenow, Co-Chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force. "This support will allow

the Army Corps to start the process of making upgrades and building a replacement lock. A failure of the aging locks causing even a temporary outage could cost our economy millions of dollars—a cost we cannot afford. I will continue work with the Administration to make sure this this vital gateway remains open."

"The Soo Locks are the busiest in the United States, transporting nearly 80 million tons of goods and raw materials every year that supply Michigan's agricultural, mining and manufacturing industries," said Senator Peters, a member of the Great Lakes Task Force. "This funding will help the Army Corps of Engineers take steps toward making critical



upgrades to the locks so we can continue to safely and efficiently transport cargo throughout the Great Lakes. I'm proud to work with Senator Stabenow and the administration to help ensure the Soo Locks can continue driving commerce in our state and our region."

The Soo Locks are critically important to Michigan's economy and our national security. Iron ore, a commodity vital to our nation's defense and manufacturing industry, is only able to travel from mine to mill via ship in the Great Lakes through the Soo Locks. In March, Senators Stabenow and Peters urged the Army Corps Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy to request support for this funding.

outdoors

changing times

Dave Stegehuis

Hunters are finding deer closer to home. Early in the last century the go-to destination for deer hunting was the Upper Peninsula. After loggers cleared vast forests from the Lower Peninsula, huge wildfires burned across the land. Soon, a new growth of trees and foliage emerged from the charred earth. The renewed landscape turned out to be welcoming habitat for whitetail deer and upland game like woodcock and grouse.

Deer moved south and thrived. Eventually, the deer did so well that in time over grazed the habitat and suffered significant losses due to starvation during hard winters. Aggressive management of the deer herd through revised game laws helped to stabilize the population. In more recent times, habitat management for the purpose of improving the number and wellbeing of all wildlife has resulted in a better balance between wildlife numbers and available resources.

As farming became more competitive, marginal cropland in southern Michigan was abandoned and natural cover took over. Now there are deer where previously there were few or none. This land was also attractive to developers and individuals

who were looking for places to build malls and homes to accommodate an expanding human population. Deer are very adaptable creatures and did not go far as their habitat shrunk into fragmented areas of cover. Today, deer are hunted in all counties around the state. Where legal, deer are hunted in suburbs and parks.

Another change in deer management as well as hunting methods is the popularity of establishing food plots for deer on private property. Some folks plant their own their land while others lease property with permission to establish food plots. For many who do it, managing habitat on private land has become as consuming as hunting.

Equipment has also changed the deer hunting experience. Clothing is warmer and portable blinds add comfort and mobility. Bows and guns available today would be unrecognizable to previous generations of hunters. Traditional equipment, however, is still preferred by many hunters.

Places where we hunt deer have changed, how we hunt has changed, but deer are still deer. Hunt how and where you like, but appreciate the opportunity and make some memories.

protected industries," let Belding sizzle, We'll all turn farmers and raise enough to eat any way. "The tariff is a fraud," but still we would like a few of those "Robber" manufactories in Lowell just the same.

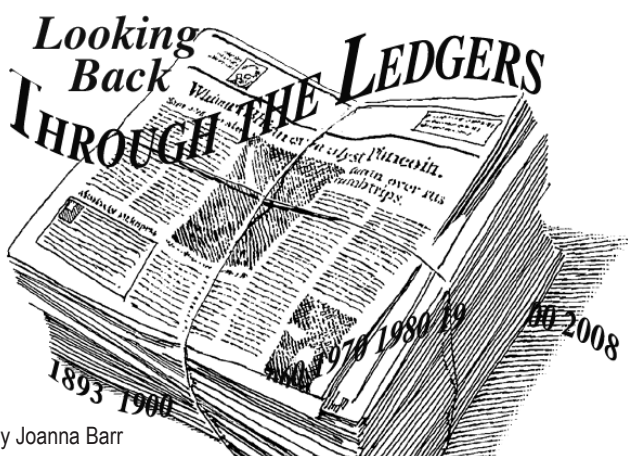
Messrs Forman, Aldrich & Talbot have started a Breeding and Stock Farm. Their stud will be headed by Embassy, by Ambassador, and Nutburr, by Nutmeg. Messrs Forman & Aldrich left, Monday, for Kentucky, to purchase another first class Stallion. Their stud, when completed, will be second to none in this vicinity in popular strains of blood.

Last year the internal revenue from cigarettes was over \$1,000,000. The increase over the year before was \$145,000. And this indicates the increase of the consumption of the deadly article. During the year boys and young men consumed 2,250,000,000 of these little paper rolls of poison. There are multitudes of boys, not yet grown, who smoke from twenty to sixty a day.

The last one of the burglars who burgled Blaisdell's hard ware was taken to Jackson, Monday. They received sentences ranging from 18 months to 2 years 9 months, and got them right quick too.

The gymnasium recently organized by the boys here is badly in need of a trainer.

John Randall is putting in new stringers in the west span of the Bridge street bridge.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal November 19, 1890

Something should be done with our Main street. It is a sea of mud and it is almost impossible to cross from one side to another. Our friends from the country tell us that it is the worst piece of road to be found in the township. Is there no way of improving it? If there is it should be fixed and at once.

Manufacturing has given Belding improvements to the extent of \$100,000 in the past year. "Down with

We love to hear from you!



The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. Opinions expressed in in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.

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

Your Hometown
News Source

area births

Miller



Sofia Rose Miller

Big brother, Gabriel Miller and his parents, Lisa and Josh Miller of Rockford are happy to announce the birth of Sofia Rose. Little Sofia was born June 2, 2015 weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 20 inches.

Sofia Rose is welcomed home with much love and joy by grandparents, Ed and Sally Wojciakowski of Lowell, Barry Miller of Rockford, and Teri Miller of Rockford; along with her aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Teens invited to submit entries for Kent County Teen Film Festival

Lights! Camera! Action! Kent County teens in grades 6–12 have a chance to make a movie, win a prize and see their film on the big screen. Kent District Library is pleased to present the Kent County Teen Film Festival. Applications and film submissions are due Friday, January 22, 2016. The Festival will take place from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Celebration! Cinema North and is free and open to the public.

A jury will review all submitted entries and select films to be screened at the Festival. Prizes will be awarded for the best films in various categories.

“We know that Kent County teens have amazing artistic skills, whether it be acting, directing, editing or composing original music,” said Monica Walen, Youth Specialist at the East Grand Rapids Branch of Kent District Library. “The Film Festival is a great way for them to show off

their talents to the entire community. Plus, they’ll be able to see their creations on the big screen!”

Festival rules and further information including a link to the entry form can be found at www.kdl.org/teens. Questions about the Festival can be emailed

to teenfilmfestival@kdl.org. Celebration! Cinema North is located at 2121 Celebration Dr. NE, Grand Rapids. The Kent County Teen Film Festival is sponsored by CompuCraft and Grand Valley State University Film and Video Production.

LCTC Students of the Month

Lowell High School has announced the Lowell High School students have been named Student of the Month for October and November at Kent Career Technical Center. Ellen Dilly, 12th grade, is enrolled in the Health Rehabilitation program is October's student.



Ellen Dilly

Student of the Month for November is Madison McCormack, 11th grade, is enrolled in the Early Childhood Careers program.



Madison McCormack

health

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



screening for cervical cancer

Most women are familiar with the Pap smear. This test is used to screen for cervical cancer and other abnormalities of the cervix that could lead to cervical cancer. During a Pap smear a small brush is used to collect cells from the cervix. Another test that is often done at the same time is a HPV test. This tests for Human Papilloma Virus that can lead to cervical cancer.

We used to recommend annual screening for cervical cancer in all women but the recommendation has changed over the past couple of years.

The current recommendation for cancer screening from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is detailed below:

- Begin Pap smears at age 21 even for women who are sexually active before age 21.

- If a Pap smear results are normal, a recheck Pap smear is recommended every three years until age 30.

- After age 30 women can continue having Pap smears every three years or they can have a Pap smear and HPV testing every five years.

- Women can stop having Pap smears after age 65 if their prior results have been normal.

- HPV testing is not recommended for women younger than 30 as a screening test.

- After age 30, women can have an HPV test along with a Pap smear every five years.

If cervical cancer or precancerous cells are found on screening, treatment at an early stage is generally curative.

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NOVEMBER 21
Michael Hewitt, Tammy Gildner.

NOVEMBER 19
Ken Mulder, Jamie Zoodsma, Marlene Nash, Lewis Powell, Betsy Maki.

NOVEMBER 22
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NOVEMBER 20
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Senior Neighbors Center provides Veterans Day luncheon

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell area veterans were invited to the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center last week for a special Veterans Day luncheon honoring those who have served.

This is the third year the center has hosted the event which is coordinated by fellow seniors and sponsored entirely by the center. More than a dozen servicemen representing nearly every branch of the military were in attendance and in a jovial spirit of camaraderie as they exchanged stories and

revealed hilariously whether or not their uniforms still fit.

The hero veterans, along with their spouses, were treated to a free lunch that featured Swiss steak and cornbread along with a rich Texas sheet cake and ice cream for dessert.

Prior to the lunch opening remarks were offered by Herm Weststrate Jr., Army veteran and Commander of the Lowell VFW, and the veterans proudly saluted the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance.



Above, more than a dozen former servicemen were in attendance at the Lowell Senior Neighbor Center luncheon.



At left, Veterans salute the flag.

State road plan, continued

suspension and not auto body related. Bieri is a custom car restorer and will certainly see a higher bill when he registers the numerous cars in his collection.

"I don't mind paying my part, as long as everybody else is paying their part," says Bieri. "You can't drive on these roads forever without taking money to fix them."

Lowell Public Schools Superintendent Greg Pratt can relate to that sentiment as, for the past four years, he's watched bigger and deeper potholes begin to jeopardize the life of his school bus fleet.

"It's been difficult to traverse some of these roads and it's getting worse," says Pratt of the 140 square miles that the district encompasses with its 31 transportation routes each day. "We figure 15 years for the life of a bus, but it's hard to get that when you're going up and down some of these roads the way they are. We could use some help."

Pratt isn't as concerned as others about having to wait until 2017 for reinforcements to arrive.

"It's like some of the bond work we do as a school system," he points out, "you're always a couple of years out from your planning before you see any major work. The question I have for the Legislature is where is it going to get the general fund money it's going to need every year?"

Like leaders of all entities dependent on state funding money, Pratt says public education must be vigilant that the state doesn't balance its new road funding package by raiding the School Aid Fund, as it has done in the past.

That's a big reason that State Sen. Dave Hildenbrand sees the wisdom of phasing in the plan over a five-year period beginning in 2017.

"From my standpoint, dropping \$1.2 billion in all at once would have been difficult," says Hildenbrand, "because you're probably not going to have plans and workers in place immediately anyway. I know it's not everything everybody wanted and I know some people wanted to see something immediately, but I feel very good about what we've been able to accomplish. It's a significant investment and, across the city and the county, people will see a revamped road system."

Hildenbrand adds lawmakers also had to take into account that the Michigan Department of Transportation's annual budget is \$3.7 billion. An immediate addition of \$1.2 billion would have increased the MDOT budget by more than 30 percent and would certainly have jeopardized careful and precise planning.

Hildenbrand could not be more exact, according to Steven Warren, Managing

Director of the Kent County Road Commission, especially since much of the heavy duty work will be privately contracted.

"The advantage (of the proposal's funding beginning in 2017) is that it allows time for the construction industry to build its resources of people and equipment," says Warren. "If this increase came all at once, we would be challenged to even get the projects out to bid. There's a lot of work involved in working with private contractors."

The planning time will also allow the county road commission to do its own analysis on how best and most effectively to allocate the financial resources once they start arriving. Though Warren concedes that county roads have experienced deterioration and will continue to be under duress in coming months, he's not in the camp that insists the Legislature's phased-in allocations beginning in 2017 just means the eventual repairs are going to be more costly.

"I don't totally buy into that perspective," maintains Warren. "Our roads have deteriorated, but not all roads – just more roads than we've been able to treat. The miles of deteriorating roads have just outpaced our ability to fix them. Beginning in 2017, you're going to see us outpace that rate of deterioration."

"That's the analysis we're doing right now. With this amount of money, when does the overall system begin to get us back to where we were? Will we get back to where we were in 2004? That's our objective."

"It [the road package] has long been overdue, but now we can get to work and not have to talk about the need."

Wood, the interim DPW director in Lowell, fears the talk may now only increase in municipalities that have already crossed the crisis line.

"We took North Washington, ground it up, and turned it into a dirt road because we just don't have the money to fix it," says Wood, who notes that some local units of government have even passed their own road millages to address the crisis, something he holds out as a possibility for even the city of Lowell. "Local units of government have been forced to swallow the big pill that the state wouldn't."

From wherever the medicine comes, Transportation Supervisor Carol Hamilton of the Lowell Public Schools will be thankful.

"I'm not a politician, I'm not an accountant, and, from a taxpayer's perspective, it's hard to get a handle on whether (the new road funding package) is good or bad," says Hamilton. "But we drive

2,400 miles every day and 490,000 every year. One day you see a road getting bad and then it gets worse. Now, it seems like we have a plan in place instead of the stop-gap plans. It's great to have dedicated funding so we can start repairing the roads and then continue to keep them repaired."

For businessman like Kirk Collins, the owner

of Showboat Automotive, where many car owners shop for items to repair road damage, the new plan is also welcome news. He just wonders why there even had to be one.

"They get enough tax money already," says Collins of state legislators. "If they allocated it where they should be allocating it, we wouldn't need more."



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Holiday Market, continued

The market will also feature entertainment from local jazz musician Roger MacNaughton on Nov. 21 and Dec. 5 from 11-3. The award-winning composer will play selections from his latest, CD Christmas Dreams, Christmas Wishes.

Several artists featured in the show will also host demonstrations including artist Diann Barnick Borton who will highlight the process she uses to create and sculpt with paper clay on November 28 from 12-2.

Skylar Brez will be the artist in residence on December 12 during the

same hours demonstrating the basics of needle felting by creating a fabric brooch using silk thread and beads. Jewelry maker Cindy Allen will round out the demonstrations on December 19 when she will highlight the technique she uses to create vintage button rings.

The market is open for shopping during the galleries regular business hours Tuesday through Saturday from 10-6 with special extended hours during the Christmas Through Lowell event November 20-22.



Framed artwork and unique paper bowls by Sandra Hansen are among the local shopping fare at the gallery.

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Lane Cooper's unique re-purposed metal sculptures.



The detail intensive pieces of Perkins Custom Leatherworks are among the artists on display and for sale.

Gilda's Night of Gratitude celebrates Pink Arrow Pride at annual awards banquet

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Pink Arrow Pride received the Community Partner award from Gilda's Club Grand Rapids at the Gilda's Night of Gratitude banquet at New Vintage Place in Grand Rapids on Thursday, Nov. 12.

According to a press release, the Community Partner award "is given to an individual or group that exemplifies what it

means to support Gilda's Club Grand Rapids and the West Michigan community through innovative fundraising concepts, promoting the mission of Gilda's Club in creative ways and being genuine ambassadors of our organization."

The gala event, which included cocktails, dinner and an improv comedy show by the Pop Scholars, was

attended by a large number of Pink Arrow volunteers and their spouses.

"I think it's a wonderful way for folks to realize that the whole Pink Arrow effort does so much to benefit Gilda's Club, and that Gilda's Club makes such a contribution to the Lowell community," said Pink Arrow volunteer Ethel Stears.

"It's just a great event, and Teresa [Beachum] is a great person to work with," said Pink Arrow volunteer Cindy Brenk. "What a nice honor for them."

"It's quite the honor," said Pink Arrow volunteer Dee Crowley. "It's exciting. There are so many other people in the community of Lowell that are part of Pink Arrow, so it's recognizing the Lowell community overall, and how we take care of each other."

The award was presented by Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids Vice Chairman of the Board Brian Murray and president Wendy Wigger accepted by Lowell High School football coach Noel Dean and Pink Arrow organizer Teresa Beachum.

"The Pink Arrow project has shown West Michigan and beyond that no one need travel a cancer journey alone," Wigger said. "From the youngest



Brian Murray, Noel Dean, Teresa Beachum and Wendy Wigger during the award presentation.



LHS football coach Noel Dean accepting the Community Partner award.

child to the oldest person in the Lowell community, nearly everyone takes part in this fun and awareness-raising event."

"I think that our town should be really

proud of what they've accomplished," Dean said. "I'm very grateful for the people that are involved in it. It makes Lowell such a special place."

Other honorees at Gilda's Night of Gratitude included Meijer, G.E. Aviation and Sister Sue Tracy.



The banquet was attended by a large number of Pink Arrow volunteers and their spouses.

LHS November Students of the Month

Lowell High School has announced that Kelsey Emmanuel, 12th grade; and Mansel Reed, 11th grade; are the Lowell High School November Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character,

and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Emmanuel and Reed. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Susan Langford nominated Emmanuel and she writes, "Kelsey is an exemplary student in every way possible and deserves to be recognized as student of the month for Lowell High School. She is a leader in the classroom and in the Lowell High School Community, as

she contributes positively in all she does. Her work, grades and achievements are outstanding. She models Lowell High School's core values – integrity, hard-working, honesty, perseverance, leadership, and intelligence – traits that we want all of our students to have."

Reed was nominated by Jeff Larsen and he writes, "As a member of this year's AP Literature class, Mansel has emerged as a go-to source for insightful literary



Kelsey Emmanuel



Mansel Reed

analysis. As a member of the LHS Robotics Team, he made the Homecoming Parade even more fun with their souvenir-shooting float. As a member of the Class of 2017, he made sure his Spirit Week contributions were counted, even though he didn't have a first hour class. Mansel Reed is a genuinely nice young man, and it's a pleasure to work with him in class."

Retired Lowell band director assists at FFA convention

Although Michigan is not one of the high-enrollment states in the National FFA Organization, those who direct and support the National FFA band and chorus are predominantly from Michigan. Dale Latva, a retired band director for Lowell schools, is an assistant director of the National FFA band; along with director Joe LaJoye and assistant director Spencer White, both of Hastings. The three were part of about 12 Michiganders who selected and worked with 84 vocalists and 90 band musicians last week

to provide music at the 88th National FFA Convention in Louisville. "FFA is all about good young people doing great things," Latva told the band students after the week long practice and performance schedule. The message of young people doing great things was reiterated throughout the four-day convention. Brad Montague, creator of the "Kid President" short videos, summed it up while speaking to nearly a third of the 65,000 attendees. "If the world was a Twinkie, this room would be the cream filling."



Looking Back, continued

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 18, 1915

Rural delivery – changes outlined by postmaster Hunter. Little trouble expected. The readjustment of rural routes from Lowell postoffice took effect on Tuesday. The office having had notice before hand, the carriers had their routes well in mind so that all got away with but little delay from schedule; and although the day was not conducive to making of good time, were not appreciably behind time on getting in from the trip and the service was but little impaired. Changes were numerous: Route 51 formerly carried by Ferris Taylor has been discontinued, and the route distributed principally between routes 1, 3 and 6; but in order to do this routes 1 and 5 had to be rearranged to assist in the absorbing. No. 5 is extended and now has a part of what was formerly route 67 of Cannonsburg. It seems almost incredible that the department could work this out to such a nicety, that present reports would indicate only six of whom of all the routes having had door delivery of mail heretofore, now have to go to a corner, none having to go over 80 rods however.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 21, 1940

Each issue of the Ledger usually consists of 8 to 10 pages, but this week's issue is cut to six pages because of the Thanksgiving holiday and the Editor and staff feel certain that our readers will say that is O. K. and will feel that they are getting a good 4 cents worth anyhow. Whenever a holiday falls in mid-week it seems to raise the dickens with our advertising columns but the paper must go on just the same. At any rate we are all thankful for our manifold blessings.

The Armistice Day wind failed to keep 80 leaders away from the first of the two local leaders meetings in 4-H Clothing and Handicraft projects. Mr. P. G. Lundin and Miss Beatrice Boyle, assistant state leader were

in attendance to discuss with leaders the details of the winter's work. Enrollments keep coming into the local extension office until it looks as if winter club work in Kent county will reach a new high. In a check up of older clubs in the county we find a number that needs leaders.

Lew Morse, who began working as a substitute city carrier in the Lowell postoffice about 13 years ago, was this week officially notified by the U. S. postoffice department of his appointment as a regular city carrier. Mr. Morse succeeds J. K. Moore, who has just been retired on a pension after 15 years of service. Congratulations to both gentlemen. Mr. and Mrs. Moore plan to spend their summers in their cottage at Charlevoix and the best wishes of many friends here go with them. J. K. and his cheering greetings will be missed.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger November 18, 1965

Headline: Look out deer, here they come! The trips have been in the planning stage for weeks, but now the time has come. The great exodus to the north woods in search of the wily buck begins this Saturday, November 20, in the lower peninsula. As time seems only to inch toward the start of Michigan's firearm deer season, visions of that trophy buck whirl through the minds of hunters. Those high hopes of tracking down the big one, or at least trying to, are all part of the excitement that will spring an estimated 575,000 or more deer hunters into action[A1]. Given good hunting conditions, close to 140,000 of these sportsmen are expected to return home with a deer. The state's herd is estimated this year at about 800,000, according to Conservation Department experts. These figures are not intended to discourage the other 460,000 hunters who will return from the hunt only dreaming of the one that got away. Many of the deer in this area are already preparing for their annual game of hide-and-seek, when the shooting starts this Saturday. Anyone in the

Lowell, Alto, Clarksville or Ada area shooting a buck or doe during the season are urged to report their catch to the Ledger office for publication.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 21, 1990

Bartholomew earns top prize in Ledger "First Buck Contest." The Lowell Ledger's "First Buck Contest" turnout was better than voter turnout on election day. Well, not quite, but 10 area hunters did walk through the Ledger door between 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The point sizes varied from four to eight-point. The weight of the bucks fluctuated from 145-200 pounds and the spreads on the rack were anywhere from eight to 15 inches.

Two weeks after he decided to step away from the Lowell Light and Power Board, Ray Quada followed the lead of the Lowell City Council and rescinded his motion to resign. "I had an opportunity to speak to Mayor Jim Maatman, who I have a great deal of respect for. He asked me to reconsider stepping down from the board, and after some thought I decided to," Quada said.

School nixes leasing agreement with Township; plans for new addition are put on hold by board. After learning that the construction schedule reduced the administrative relocation needs from the anticipated five years to two years, the Lowell Board of Education asked school administrators to consider other options rather than enter into a rental agreement with Lowell Township for such a shorter period of time. When talks originally commenced, the lease called for the school to commit to a five-year lease of 5,000 square feet of the new hall edition. The Board's decision to consider other options increased speculation for both sides rather than answering existing questions. The school is still confronted with a space crunch for its business office operation. Lowell Township, meanwhile, is back on hold with its plans for putting on an addition to the Township Hall.

Red Arrow **SPORTS**

- FOOTBALL

Coach gets 200th win and Red Arrows are on to semi-finals

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Championship dreams came true last Friday when Lowell Red Arrow football trounced all over the Muskegon Big Reds 36-7 to win the Division 2 Regional title.

The Arrows were relentless on both sides of the ball throughout the game. The offense scored five touchdowns on a 450 yard night and the defense kept the Reds to only 79 yards rushing, 98 passing

yards and off the board until midway through the fourth.

Capitalizing on some early Muskegon mistakes, the Arrows shot out to a 16-0 lead by the end of the first quarter. Senior Sawyer Olesko picked up an interception that led to a 12 yard touchdown from Derek Massey, the Reds botched a snap to surrender a safety and a huge 41 yard return from Zeth Dean quickly added up to a 16 yard touchdown pass between

quarterback Ryan Stevens and receiver Gabe Steed. And the tide never turned for the Reds.

Stevens went on to pass for 148 yards and three touchdowns in the game, all to favorite target Steed. Senior Steed picked up the Arrows only score in the second on a 16 yard spiral from Stevens giving the Arrows a 23-0 lead at the half. The struggling Reds ended the first half only having achieved two first downs thanks to a massive defensive effort from the Arrows that often times had them moving laterally and also trailing massively in offensive yards 251-3.

Steed picked his third touchdown on a 26 yard pass from Stevens to open and close scoring in the third. Muskegon picked up their only score of the night in the fourth when PP Copeland pushed a one yard run into the end zone.

Leading 29-7 the Arrows leading rusher for the night, Massey, broke through a hole with 6:41 left to go and ran 70 yards for his second score of the night. Massey carried the



Senior Alex Anschutz evades Muskegon during a 15 yard run in the regional playoff game last Friday.

The state semi-final game will be held this Saturday at Alma College in Alma with kickoff scheduled for 1 pm. The winner of the contest will go on to compete in the state finals against either Livonia Franklin or Detroit Martin Luther King at Ford Field in Detroit on Friday, November 27.



Senior Derek Massey was the Red Arrows leading rusher racking up 176 yards in eleven carries equaling a pair of touchdowns.

Football,
continued, page 15

Senior Ryan Stevens makes the hand off to fellow senior Max Dean.



	Muskegon	Lowell
Score	36	7
First Downs	11	15
Rushing Attempts	33	45
Net Yards Rushing	79	313
Net Yards Passing	98	148
Total Net Yards	177	461
Pass Attempts	28	15
Passes Completed	10	8
Interceptions	2	1
Total Offensive Plays	61	60
Average Gain Per Play	2.9	7.7
Fumbles: Number/Lost	0/0	0/0
Penalties: Number/Yards	6/43	5/41
Number of Punts/Yards	6/249	3/61
Average Per Punt	41.5	20.3
Punt Returns: Number/Yards	1/7	2/2
Number of Kickoffs/Yards	3/102	6/255
Average Per Kickoff	34.0	42.5
Kickoff Returns: Number/Yards	6/69	3/56
Int. Returns: Number/Yards	1/4	2/15
Fumble Returns: Yards/TD	0/0	0/0
Possession Time	19:21	28:39
Third-Down Conversions	2/16	4/12
Fourth-Down Conversions	2/4	0/4

obituaries

VIDEAN

Ruth Wilma Videan, age 77 of Ada, passed away Sunday, November 15, 2015. She was preceded in death by her daughter Ute Videan. She is survived by her husband of 50 years Bob; children, Gabriele (Kevin) Porter, Christine (Rick) Van Overbeek, Erika Vantil; sister, Ursula (Heinz) Hul; mother-in-law, Florence Videan; eleven grandchildren; six great grandchildren; several brothers and sisters-in-law; also nieces and nephews.



Visitation will be Friday 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. S.E., Grand Rapids. Funeral service will be held Saturday 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home chapel. Rev. Paul Gess of South Boston Bible Church officiating. Interment Graceland Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908 or American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



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As if the holidays weren't exciting enough, it's November and that means election month. Current and future election hopefuls are prepping speeches and rallying every resource available for the big win.

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Whichever way you choose to apply, be sure

to have your bank account information handy so we can set up your payments to be deposited directly into your account.

When you're ready to start receiving Social Security benefits, the age you choose to retire makes a difference in your benefit amount. The full retirement age (the age at which 100 percent of retirement benefits are payable) has been gradually rising from ages 65 to 67. You can retire as early as age 62, but if benefits start before you reach your full retirement age, your monthly payment is reduced. Find out what your full retirement age is by typing in your year of birth at www.socialsecurity.gov

You'll also want to join the more than 20 million other people who have set up a secure online *my Social Security* account. You can use *my Social Security* to get a copy of your *Social Security Statement*. Use the Statement to check

your earnings record and see estimates of the retirement, disability and survivor benefits you and your family may receive. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Opening day deer



John Joling is pictured with the 12-point buck that he bagged on opening day. He shot the deer [around] 7:40 am behind his home.

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THEME: MYTHICAL CREATURES

ACROSS

- 1. Gang
- 6. "Back To The Future" actress
- 9. Femme fatale
- 13. Bader Ginsberg and Babe
- 14. Like Mother Hubbard
- 15. Small, olive-gray bird
- 16. Abraham's sacrifice
- 17. E.T. transporter
- 18. It happens at a given place and time
- 19. *Mythic oceanic temptress
- 21. *Flying stallion
- 23. Heat unit
- 24. Doe's mate
- 25. *Number of heads on Ravana in Hindu mythology
- 28. Dripping faucet sound
- 30. Worn by train station porter
- 35. Done after you sow?
- 37. Curved molding
- 39. Voice of Lamb Chop
- 40. Face-to-face exam
- 41. Shamu and such
- 43. Highest point
- 44. Flax flower genus
- 46. Republic of Ireland
- 47. Laughing on the inside via text
- 48. Class action
- 50. ___ a coin
- 52. *A Cyclops does it out of only one eye
- 53. Like a gossipmonger
- 55. Last letter
- 57. *Much-hunted ungulate

CROSSWORD														
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NOVEMBER 12 - NOVEMBER 17

- 129 people were killed and over 300 were injured when a suicide bomber and several armed assassins attacked concert goers, diners and others out for the evening on the streets of Paris. ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attacks and threatened all countries who may seek retaliation that they will suffer the same fate. The president of France is calling the attack an act of war.



- Facebook users have shown support for the French people after the massacre with profile pictures and news feeds in blue, white and red - the colors of the French flag. Many buildings all over the world have also adopted this color scheme lighting the tops of buildings in blue, white and red.
- Saying, "I have to put a stop to this barrage of attacks and sub-truths and very harmful and mercurial stories that are about me that threaten the health of so many others," Charlie Sheen revealed that he has been HIV positive for four years.

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- 61. *Only half man
- 65. Green side
- 66. Hole puncher
- 68. *Witch's condemnation
- 69. Serpentine
- 70. Civilian aviation agency
- 71. Utopia, e.g.

- 72. One of three Rs
- 73. Funerary vase
- 74. Like kale and spinach greens

DOWN

- 1. "___ and proper"
- 2. British river
- 3. Night shooter
- 4. Emotional punishment
- 5. Protective embankment
- 6. *Like the voice of mythic Greek Stentor
- 7. *Pointy-eared creature
- 8. Choose and follow
- 9. ___ la Vida
- 10. *God of war, son of Zeus
- 11. Carte du jour
- 12. Chef's vessel
- 15. Chills on the couch
- 20. Inuit shelter
- 22. *A Hobbit's is slightly pointed
- 24. Point out
- 25. *Big-haired Scand-inavian
- 26. Like Halloween night
- 27. Indian breads
- 29. *Manlike man-eater
- 31. Lentil soup
- 32. Head of crime syndicate, pl.
- 33. Mountain ridge
- 34. *Dust-sprinkler
- 36. Positive sign
- 38. ___ of Sandwich
- 42. Carpe in "Carpe diem"
- 45. Poet's death lament
- 49. And not
- 51. Writing implement
- 54. Mix-up
- 56. Chopin's composition
- 57. Brezhnev's domain
- 58. Back of the neck
- 59. Pelvic bones
- 60. Joker, e.g.
- 61. Reunion group
- 62. A in A = b x h
- 63. Sky defender
- 64. Count on
- 67. *The son of Hera was the god of ___

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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

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- YES 33%
- NO 50%
- I'M DONE! 17%

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Football, continued

ball eleven times for a total of 176 yards. Also adding points to the board was sophomore kicker George Gonzales who went 4/5 on extra point kicks.

The 36-7 win is one of the more lopsided finishes between the two powerhouse teams. The loss spelled the end of Muskegon's chance for a fourth consecutive appearance in the state finals. They ended their season 9-3 and with some complaints about the condition of the field. Saying the muddy field conditions "neutralized the Big Red's offense and played right into Lowell's hands." Muskegon head coach Shane Fairfield claimed the field was mostly to blame for the teams loss. The Arrows, who excelled on all fronts under the same conditions, celebrated their dominant win with the presentation of the trophy.

The victory also marked head coach Noel Dean's 200th win with the Arrows since he began coaching here in 1996. Dean revived a struggling football program that had gone a dismal 1-6 the year before turning it around in his first season with a 7-2 record. The team has gone on to a long history of success that has led to five trips to the state finals, three state titles and a resoundingly winning record of 200-36 over his twenty years with the program.

Dean prefers to celebrate his team's achievement, giving much of the credit to those around him, "This is a great town that has the best schools in the state of Michigan and the best teachers and best families and best parents and I'll tell that to anybody

I talk to," he said. "And all of that is part of what makes these kids capable of playing football at such a high level."

The win is the Arrow's eleventh in a row with their only loss of the season coming to the team they will now face in the state semifinals: Walled Lake Western (WLW). The WLW Warriors topped the Arrows 42-40 earlier this season dealing them their first opening season loss since 1993.

The full-circle season showdown will be the Arrows opportunity to seek revenge for the early season loss and to earn the teams first trip to the state finals since 2011 where they fell to Birmingham Brother Rice after beating WLW in the semifinals 42-35.



Coach Noel Dean congratulates the team after the 36-7 victory over Muskegon.



The victorious Red Arrows head to the far end of the field after claiming their Division 2 Regional Championship Trophy.

Go Red Arrows!

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell **ledger**

Local record-breaking hiker inspires LHS students

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Gail Lowe, the first woman to ever hike the 4,600 mile North Country Trail in one season, spoke to students at Lowell High School on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Lowe, a resident of Lowell, spent nine months walking through seven states; New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. The North Country Trail is headquartered at 229 E. Main in downtown Lowell.

Lowe played a slide show and talked about her experiences hiking 12,500 miles on four of the country's longest trails, including the 2,181 mile Appalachian Trail, the 2,650 mile Pacific Crest Trail and the 3,100 mile Continental Divide Trail. She was the first woman in history to complete hikes on all of these trails, and told the students her stories of run-ins with obstacles such as deep mud, extreme weather, illness, poisonous snakes, hippies, mountains and bears along the way.

"As near as I can figure, I've spent about nine years of my life in a tent," Lowe said.

Lowe offered hiking, camping and backpacking tips to the students and showed them some of her gear. Lowe's advice included the use of a double-walled tent to keep dry while sleeping, lining your backpack with a heavy-duty trash compactor bag to keep moisture out of your gear and hiding your food up high to keep it from tempting bears and mice.

"A wet hiker is a dead hiker," Lowe said. "The most important thing you can do when you're hiking the back country is to keep your gear dry. When I have my backpack packed the way I carry it, I can survive temperatures from 20 degrees to over 100 degrees for five days or longer."

Her history-making hike along the North Country Trail was to honor her daughter Becca who died from breast cancer in 2013.

"She was 46 years old and her biggest fear was that she would be forgotten," Lowe said.

Lowe, a former ICU nurse, said she became interested in hiking 25 years ago as her work brought her daily reminders of her own mortality.

"I saw people my own age and younger dying or becoming permanently maimed," Lowe said. "One day a little voice went off in my head, and the voice said, 'If you were to die tomorrow, what do you wish you would have done?' Another voice went off, I can't tell you to this day why or how, but the voice said, 'I wish I had taken a nice, long walk. That was 18,000 miles ago.'"

Gail Lowe was the first woman to ever hike the 4,600 mile North Country Trail in one season.



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