



From
Everyone
at the
Ledger

L
Lhs sports



pages 10,
11, & 14

Sugar maple that once shaded Lowell's library finds new life thanks to LHS students

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Several students at Lowell High School, who crafted a table out of wood from the sugar maple tree that stood in front of the Englehardt Library, were honored by the city of Lowell. The students, Garrett Nauta, Lakota Tidd, Mason Misiak, Noah Worsley and Jacob Hanson, worked on the table as part of an industrial arts class taught by Tony Ellis. Lowell city manager Mark Howe presented principal Amy Pallo with a letter naming LHS a 'Tree City USA Collaborative Partner.' Lowell is a Tree City USA city, a designation given out by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The 130-year-old sugar maple tree was cut down

in 2014 because an arborist said that it was going to die within five years no matter what steps the city took to preserve it.

"One side had almost completely died while the other looked pretty healthy," Howe said. "When it was coming down, we found that ants had infested most of the tree and the limbs were already hollow. I asked that we save a portion of the main trunk hoping that we could turn it into something memorable since we are a Tree City USA."

About a year after the tree was cut down, retired Grand Rapids Public Schools teacher and Lowell resident Jeff Lende

Sugar maple,
continued, page 9



Lowell city manager Mark Howe presents principal Amy Pallo with a letter proclaiming LHS a 'Tree City USA Collaborative Partner.'

Students present "Christmas in the Land of Oz" at performing arts center

Lowell High School presented the unique holiday production "Christmas in the Land of Oz" last weekend at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. The cast wove a tale of Dorothy, played by Jillian Riney and her return to Oz in search of Christmas spirit for Aunt Em and Uncle Henry, portrayed

by Eden Nethercott and Kenny Stump. During her journey she encountered her famous trio of old friends, the scarecrow (Kohl Goldsmith), tin man (Kevin Williams) and lion Brady Schaefer) and took on the quest of restoring Christmas to Oz. Oz had been stolen

by the wicked witch of the North West. The play also featured the good witch of the South Wanda June (Keara Anderson) and her cowgirl roadies, a slew of high school and elementary age munchkins and five uproariously funny flying monkeys.



Pictured reuniting in Oz are lion Brady Schaefer, scarecrow Kohl Goldsmith, tin man Kevin Williams, Dorothy, Jillian Riney; and Toto, Abbie Gerig.

City council continues discussion on LL&P budget amendment

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

This week's Lowell city council meeting, held at city hall on Monday, Dec. 21, was the final one with Jim Hodges as mayor. Hodges announced two weeks ago that he would not seek another term as Lowell's mayor but will remain on the city council.

The largest part of the meeting was a long discussion of a \$935,000 amendment to the Light & Power budget that the council tabled at their last meeting on Dec. 7. The councilors tabled the issue because they wanted to do more research and they all wanted to take tours of the Light & Power facilities, including the biodigester. Light & Power general manager Greg Pierce and chief accountant Steve Donkersloot were on hand to explain issues to the council and answer their questions. A long time was spent discussing a Smart Meters project that Light & Power wanted to start but couldn't until the budget amendment was passed.

"The actual meters that we have now, is there really anything wrong with them,?" asked councilor Jeff Phillips.

"Well, a lot of them are mechanical, so they slow down over time," Donkersloot said. "They're less accurate."

"A lot of the meters out there are 20, 25 years old," Pierce said.

"If not older," Donkersloot added.

"Can the citizens expect, with a new meter, a higher rate because of this,?" councilor Alan Teelander asked.

"There is a chance that bills could go up," Donkersloot said. "That's just a reflection of, now they're just being billed what they should have been billed in the past."

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Bipartisan bill to keep plastic beads out of Great Lakes

Legislation will go to president's desk for signature

U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Gary Peters (D-MI) applauded the U.S. Senate's unanimous passage of the bipartisan Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015, which will protect the Great Lakes from pollution caused by small, plastic microbeads that are ingredients in certain soaps and personal care products. The legislation, which was sponsored by Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), passed the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month. It will phase out the manufacturing of products with microbeads, which get through water treatment facilities and are harmful to fish and wildlife. This bill is similar to

companion legislation that Senators Stabenow and Peters introduced earlier this year.

"Today's vote is great news for our Great Lakes, which are critical to our economy and Michigan way of life," said Senator Stabenow, co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force. "Microbeads pose a very real danger to our Great Lakes and threaten our fish and wildlife populations. This bipartisan bill is an important step in keeping our wildlife protected and our waters safe."

"This commonsense, bipartisan effort to phase out microbeads in consumer products like face wash and toothpaste is an important step toward protecting our Great Lakes," said Senator Peters, a member of the Senate Great

Lakes Task Force. "Synthetic plastic microbeads amplify the effects of pollution and threaten wildlife in the Great Lakes ecosystem. I'm pleased that my Senate colleagues are sending this vital measure to the President's desk to ensure our Great Lakes continue to thrive."

Microbeads from products like face washes and toothpaste often end up floating in the Great Lakes, where they can build up as plastic pollution and are often mistaken for food by fish. A report by the State University of New York in Fredonia found anywhere from 1,500 to 1.1 million microbeads per square mile in the Great Lakes, the world's largest source of freshwater.

Veterans back on their feet financially through MVAA

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund has assisted veterans since 1946

From utility bills to home repairs to medical costs, the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund offers combat-era veterans and their families a way to overcome unexpected expenses and get back on their feet financially.

Take the 31-year-old Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran who needed assistance covering household expenses for example. He was preparing to attend necessary in-patient mental health treatment with the VA – but would not attend if it meant falling behind in his bills. The army veteran reached out to the MVTF and received a grant to cover rent, auto insurance and heat and electric bills.

Now, the veteran has successfully completed his treatment and is back at work. He credits the MVTF with helping him stay debt free while getting the help he needed.

Administered by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, the MVTF awarded more than \$1.6 million in grants during fiscal year 2015, alleviating short-term financial emergencies for 1,489 veterans and their families.

"The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency exists to help our state's veterans overcome obstacles and succeed in their civilian lives," MVAA director Jeff Barnes said. "The trust fund has a long history of helping veterans weather temporary setbacks and get back on their feet and this year's grants have continued that tradition of positively impacting the lives of Michigan veterans."

Since 1946, the MVTF has been available to veterans

who have served 180 days of active duty in a wartime era. Emergency grants are awarded when an unforeseen situation creates a temporary financial hardship. Applicants must be able to show they will be able to meet future expenses after the grant is approved.

Total grants of \$6.5 million were distributed to more than 5,500 veterans between FY 2013 and FY 2015.

MVAA also administers the Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program, which provides financial assistance to military service members and honorably discharged veterans affected by the housing crisis. MiVHAP was created in May 2013 when the Michigan attorney general set aside \$5 million in funds specifically for service members and veterans.

Since the program began, MiVHAP has helped 773 veterans stay in their homes, make needed repairs or restore a home ownership opportunity lost to foreclosure. In 2015, 207 families were assisted by one-time grants.

With funds depleted, MiVHAP is no longer accepting applications, but veterans in need of financial assistance are encouraged to call 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) or visit MichiganVeterans.com to learn more about the benefits and services they've earned.

About the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency: MVAA serves as the central coordinating point for Michigan veterans, connecting those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and their families, to services and benefits throughout the state. Learn more at MichiganVeterans.com or call 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838).

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power office will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, 2015 for the Christmas holidays and Friday, January 1, 2016 for New Year's Day.

Susan Ulery
City Clerk

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

HOLIDAY HOURS

2015 Holiday hours for Lowell Charter Township:

Monday, December 21 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 22 - Closed
Thursday, December 24 - Closed

Monday, December 28 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 29 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 31 - Closed

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Lowell company celebrates 20 years in business

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Purforms, Inc., a polyurethane molding company at 615 Chatham, celebrated their 20th anniversary in business on Friday, Dec. 18, by throwing a party and inviting their customers, suppliers and vendors from all over the United States. The open house was held at the St. Mary's school building, 321 Amity, which is owned by Purforms. Dozens of guests enjoyed food from Main Street BBQ and piles of desserts.

"This is to show appreciation to our customers," said company owner Rick Raimer. "You

don't have a company without customers. Right behind that come the suppliers. If you don't have good suppliers to allow us to support our customers, that relationship goes south in a hurry. Vendors are very critical to us and our success. In fact, we have more vendors here than we have customers. A lot of our customers are a greater distance away than 400 miles. We sent out invitations, but it's unlikely that a lot of them could make it."

According to their website, Purforms is "a premier molder of polyurethane products utilizing reaction injection molding

technology." They have over 50 employees. The company started in Grand Rapids in 1995 but moved to Lowell in 2003 when a suitable building became available. Raimer grew up in Saranac and still lives there. He said moving the company from Grand Rapids to Lowell improved his family's life.

"We could be anywhere and manufacture parts and ship them," Raimer said. "I was traveling 40 minutes a day, one way. By moving to Lowell I've picked up an hour and a half a day to spend with the family or work. [My] quality of life is different because of that."



Guests enjoyed good food and conversation at Purforms' 20th anniversary party.

City council meeting, continued

"We are a nonprofit," Pierce said. "We're here to serve our customers, and so our thinking is always how we can best do that and save our customers money, or at least keep from having to increase expenses to our customers."

The budget amendment passed 3-2, with councilors Michael DeVore and Jeff Altoft the two "no" votes.

The council then approved a \$7,500 bid from Scenic Expressions, LLC,

a Lowell company, who will plow the runways at the airport this winter, until April 30, 2016 if necessary. The bid was already approved by the Lowell Airport Board, the council just had to approve it, which they did unanimously.

Lowell city council's next meeting will be at city hall on Monday, Jan., 4, 2016 at 7 pm. They will pick a new mayor and mayor pro tem at that meeting.



Steve Donkersloot and Greg Pierce from Lowell Light & Power answering the council's questions.

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DNR conservation officers to enhance snowmobile noise enforcement this winter

Noncompliance could damage Michigan's nationally recognized trail system

Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers will be enhancing statewide efforts to enforce snowmobile decibel level rules this winter. Noncompliance of the rules could damage Michigan's nationally recognized trail system because 50 percent of trails pass through private land.

Enhanced efforts will focus on the DNR-managed trail systems, high-use areas and areas where complaints are received. While on routine patrol, conservation officers also will conduct decibel-level testing of snowmobiles.

The penalty for violating the sound levels for snowmobiles is a civil infraction, with fines up to \$250.

"Conservation officers are stepping up decibel-level enforcement to ensure snowmobilers are in compliance with state law and acceptable noise levels," said Cpl. John Morey, who oversees the snowmobile safety and education program within the DNR Law Enforcement Division. "In addition to the operator's legal ramifications of operating a loud snowmobile, this excessive noise has

consequences that can affect other snowmobilers, including the loss of popular snowmobile trails."

Morey noted that Michigan's vast snowmobile trail system is the result of partnerships with private landowners who, through annual permits between the landowners and snowmobile clubs, open portions of their land for snowmobile trails.

"Without this partnership, the expansive, interconnected trail system enjoyed by thousands of snowmobilers each year wouldn't exist," Morey said. "When snowmobilers behave unethically or illegally, private land owners can and have opted out of signing another annual agreement, and the trail is closed. A reason for this includes excessive noise."

When a snowmobile leaves the factory, it is in compliance with legal decibel levels. If a snowmobile's exhaust or muffler requires service, the DNR recommends that the repair be done with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts for that specific snowmobile. Deviation from this repair recommendation, or modifying the exhaust or muffler, could result in the operator being in violation of state law.

Under Michigan law, the muffler on a snowmobile must be in good working order and, when in constant operation, noise emission cannot exceed the following levels:

- For snowmobiles manufactured after July 1, 1977, and sold or offered for sale in Michigan, 78

decibels at 50 feet, as measured using the 2003 Society of Automotive Engineers standard J192.

- For a stationary snowmobile manufactured after July 1, 1980, and sold or offered for sale in Michigan, 88 decibels at 13.1 feet, as measured using the 2004 Society of Automotive Engineers standard J2567.

More than 6,200 miles of designated snowmobile trails are located throughout state-managed forests, national forests and privately owned lands. Michigan is one of only three states that offer a large system of interconnected snowmobile trails

For more information on snowmobiling in Michigan, including current laws and regulations, go to www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling

Michigan conservation officers are fully commissioned state peace officers who provide natural resources protection, ensure recreational safety and protect citizens by providing general law enforcement duties and lifesaving operations in the communities they serve. Learn more about Michigan conservation officers at www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers

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

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viewpoint

off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

With all the political back-and-forth and violence in the headlines, not to mention the lack of snow, here we are at Christmas time again. Religious tolerance is once again on the front burner as we listen to jokers like Donald Trump spout hateful rhetoric as though you can see into a person's heart and tell if they are good or evil by what religion they adhere to. Not many would agree, at least to your face, that this is an appropriate method

of sorting. Only the power hungry and the powerless can generate that kind of illogical hatred conducive to mob rule.

It's a Christian holiday but many people of different faiths enjoy the time with friends and family with traditions passed on from generation to generation.

Whatever you believe, the season surrounds us, envelops us, with the feeling of charity and giving, lights and music, baked goods and parties. Even if you just

enjoy the commercial aspect of the holiday - the presents - it is a festive, fun time of year.

We live in a country where we don't have to be Christians to enjoy a Christian holiday. We can all experience this time of year for very different reasons. And it wouldn't hurt at all to understand that a joyous time celebrated should be embraced. Whether it is our tradition or another's it never ceases to amaze me how some refuse to accept that we all do not have to agree on what constitutes faith or fun.

There are bigger fish to fry out there, people. Life is too precious and too short to spend it, especially in this century, not understanding that hate brings more hate, intolerance breeds intolerance, and violence begets violence.

To that end, the following poem by Mother Theresa (tis the season) - has always hit the nail on the head for me.

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish,

ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

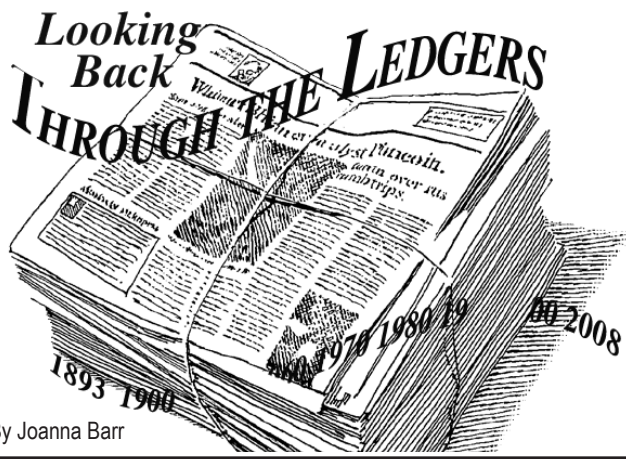
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God; It was never between you and them anyway.

And for my environmental friends I will add that when we think of that lack of snow I mentioned earlier - reduce, reuse and recycle. Even if you don't believe in climate change; it can't hurt. You may never see the difference but your grandchildren may. Happy Holidays!



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal December 24, 1890

Be sure and see the Sackett Kinzie Co. at the Opera House, week of Dec. 28. They cheerfully refund your money if you are not satisfied with their performances.

One of Lowell's young lady Sunday School teachers was in a toy store, looking over the toys that make the child's heart glad. In going through a Noah's Ark and endeavoring to identify the different animals she ran on father Noah himself and with a cry of triumph she exclaimed "Here's Moses."

All the foreign students of the Lowell schools have gone home to spend the vacation and the streets are quite deserted by the young folks.

Mrs. Klumpp will not permit the L. & H. Ry. to lay their ties across her premises until she receives the amount agreed upon as payment for her property, and that is right.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers gave a very pleasant entertainment at the Opera House Monday eve. The programme was varied and universal satisfaction was given. Manager Eddy barely cleared the guarantee.

From tables made by the use of synoptic charts, eliminating local disturbances, Dr. G. Meyer believes he has accomplished what other investigators have sought to do without success—shown an influence of the moon on the weather. The height of the barometer, in the months of September to January, is lowered at the time of full moon and raised during the first quarter. No effect can be traced for other months.

Fred Slotter, a Grand Rapids butcher, got on a loot Monday and tried to call on several persons who did not wish to see him. He was arrested by Geo. P. Taylor and after spending the night in the jug, Justice Hunter fined him \$8 or 15 days. He paid. He thought the amount extortionate, as it would have cost but \$5.85 in Grand Rapids, but then you know, Grand Rapids is a city and all sorts of luxuries come cheaper there than in the smaller places.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 23, 1915

A GOOD Lowell citizen just after paying his taxes was greeted by Neighbor Cheer with: "Isn't it good to be alive?" and responded: "Oh, yes; but it costs like the d-ickens."

Abusing the President for denouncing those hyphenates, spies and foreign scoundrels who are blowing up our powder mills, may be a good way of capturing his job; but it doesn't seem so to us, for the voting must be done in this country - don't you know.

A year and a half ago the United States had but a dozen ocean-going mercantile ships. Today there are 150 and there are now in process of building: at Newport News, 15; in Philadelphia, 40; at Quincy, Mass., 15 and upon the Pacific coast, 20. This is unmistakable evidence that the American merchant marine is "coming back."

Theo Bank says that the report that he was drowned by breaking through the ice was greatly exaggerated.

The "Melting Pot," Israel Zangwell's great drama, at the Idle Hour theatre Wednesday evening, Dec. 22, a production in five parts, requiring thousands of people and hundreds of horses. This is a high priced production, placed here by request and the prices are only 10c and 15c.

Attention! School teachers. Send us your name, address, school district and number and we will mail you a beautiful 1916 school calendar. City State Bank, Lowell, Mich.

Our respected old resident and teacher of half a century past, Mrs. M. M. Perry, is in feeble health at her home in this village. Her host of long-time friends will join with The Ledger in Christmas greetings and a wish for renewed health and strength.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McConnell have moved to the Emery farm for the winter and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Yeiter and family have moved from their South Lowell farm and are occupying the rooms vacated by the McConnells.

A fountain pen is an ideal gift if it is a Parker lucky curve, the kind sold at Henry's. adv.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 26, 1940

A home town thought: A good number of new residents have come into Lowell during 1940. Have their neighbors and all who have met them done everything possible to make them feel at home?

The streets of Lowell have been a pretty sight during the holiday shopping season. In the picture created by

decorated stores and homes, it has been a pleasure to see the enthusiastic and happy people, who have found satisfaction in buying at the good stores of our community.

Looks as though Staal's Lunch was going modern, the long counter which has seen 22 years of service there having been replaced by a handsome new piece of furniture with a shiny top. The old lunch counter had quite a history. For nearly 30 years before coming into Mr. Staal's possession, it was used in various local saloons. It was called a bar then and had a genuine mahogany top and a brass foot rail adorned the front. That was back in the days when Carrie Nation was wrecking saloon furniture. Wonder how many hamburgers and wedges of pie have been eaten at that counter during the past 22 years?

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Helpful Social Security questions and answers

Question:
I prefer reading by audio book. Does Social Security have audio publications?

Answer: Yes, we have many helpful publications you can listen to. You can find them at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs. Some of the publications available include What You Can Do Online, How Social Security Can Help You When a Family Member Dies, Apply Online for Social Security Benefits, and Your Social Security Card and Number. You can listen now at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Question:
I am receiving Social Security retirement benefits and I recently went back to work. Do I have to pay Social Security (FICA) taxes on my income?

Answer: Yes. By law, your employer must withhold FICA taxes from your paycheck. Although you are retired, you do receive credit for those new earnings. Each year Social Security automatically credits the new earnings and, if your new earnings are higher than in any earlier year used to calculate your current benefit, your monthly

benefit could increase. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question:
How are my retirement benefits calculated?

Answer: Your Social Security benefits are based on earnings averaged over your lifetime. Your actual earnings are first adjusted or "indexed" to account for changes in average wages since the year the earnings were received. Then we calculate your average monthly indexed earnings during the 35 years in which you earned the most. We apply a formula to these earnings and arrive at your basic benefit. This is the amount you would receive at your full retirement age. You may be able to estimate your benefit by using our Retirement Estimator, which offers estimates based on your Social Security earnings. You can find the Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Question:
I know that Social Security's full retirement age is gradually rising to 67. But does this mean the "early" retirement age will also be going up by two years, from age 62 to 64?

Answer: No. While it is true that under current law the full retirement age is gradually rising from 65 to 67, the "early" retirement age remains at 62. Keep in mind, however, that taking early retirement reduces your benefit amount. For more information about Social Security benefits, visit the website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question:
I've heard there is a way for my daughter to get her disability application on the "fast-track." How does this work?

Answer: If your daughter has one of the more than 200 impairments on the Compassionate Allowances list at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances, her application might be "fast-tracked" for a decision. Compassionate Allowances make it possible for applicants to receive a decision on their disability applications within days instead of months or years as long as their medical conditions are so severe that they obviously meet Social Security's definition of disability. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Question:
Do I automatically get Medicare benefits if I'm eligible for disability benefits?

Answer: After you have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, we will automatically

enroll you in Medicare. We start counting the 24 months from the month you were entitled to receive disability, not the month when you received your first benefit payment. Sometimes you can get state Medicaid in the meantime.

Social Security, continued, page 9

health



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

appendicitis

The appendix is a structure in the lower right side of the abdomen attached to the colon. It has no known purpose. It may become inflamed and then infected. If the appendix ruptures, it can cause a serious infection inside the abdomen. Appendicitis is a condition that, although seen more frequently in children, is also common in adults.

Symptoms of appendicitis usually start with decreased appetite and then nausea. Some people even vomit. Pain can develop in the middle of the abdomen and then move to the lower right side. People with appendicitis also usually have a fever. If you think you have appendicitis, you should seek medical attention. The doctor will feel your abdomen and obtain blood tests. An

ultrasound and a CT scan may be done to look at the appendix.

Traditionally, when a diagnosis of appendicitis was made, a surgeon would remove the appendix as soon as possible to avoid rupture and infection. Not all patients with appendicitis experience a rupture, but it is impossible to know ahead of time who will or will not have this complication.

Recently, there have been studies done treating patients with antibiotics instead of surgery for appendicitis. Many of the patients treated with antibiotics did not need to have surgery. This does not apply to all patients with appendicitis, however, before all patients receive antibiotics instead of surgery, more studies need to be done.



DECEMBER 23
Marie Doyle.

DECEMBER 24
Jeffrey Pfaller.

DECEMBER 25
Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.

DECEMBER 26
Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.

DECEMBER 27
Mark Nyp, Jay Clark, Foster Skoog.

DECEMBER 28
Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.

DECEMBER 29
Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.



area churches

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell
Pastor Tony Brumback
9:45 A.M. Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Fellowship
11:00 A.M. Worship
897-9863
Nursery & Children
Worship Programs Provided
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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-27
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
Worship Service.....Sunday -10:30 A.M.
(Nursery available)
Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Pastor Rod Galindo
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
402 Amity St. • 897-9820
www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 10:30 AM
Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM
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2275 West Main Street • 897-7188
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Internet: <http://www.fbc Lowell.org>
Rev. Jan Pickens & Pastor Phil Severn
Sun. Worship Service.....8:30 A.M.
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 Wed. during summer)

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SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9 & 11 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....11:15 a.m.
Pastor Brad Brillhart

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Looking Back, continued

The first steps in connection with the establishment of a Lowell municipal plant were taken just 45 years ago this month. The story of the plant's inception as taken from the files of the Ledger is reprinted in this issue and makes interesting reading today. Be sure to read the hot arguments and some of the dire predictions as to what would happen to the town if it voted for the \$23,000 bonding issue.

Member when—The ambition of the average small boy had just about reached its height when he was permitted to march in a parade and help the drummer carry his drum? Spruce chewing gum could be bought at the store in little sticks? At first it was not wrapped but later was wrapped in red, white and blue paper.

Headline: Christmas bonus checks for all Kroger employees. Distribution of Christmas bonus checks to approximately 800 employees of the Grand Rapids branch of the Kroger Grocery and Baking Co., which operates Kroger food markets in this area, has been made by L. O. Griffin, branch manager. Similar progress was made. Accompanying the checks was a personal Christmas greeting from Albert H. Morrill, Kroger president. In his message Morrill also informed employees that \$500 had been added to their group life insurance policies for the year starting Dec. 2, 1940, without any additional premium cost.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger December 23, 1965

Headline: Announce three winners. After much deliberation and discussion the judges finally arrived at a decision in the Christmas home decorating contest, sponsored jointly by the Lion's Club and the Chamber of Commerce. First place was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bryan for the lovely creche scene painted in the windows of their home. Second place to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Novak and third place was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burch. Byrne McMahan had an especially lovely effect as he does every year and honorable mention should also be given the lovely lamp post at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McMahan. The elves peeking out the door at Harold Ball's are also very intriguing. Monroe Streets homes were almost all lighted in some manner making it a delightful Christmas street. The committee heartily recommends that everyone in Lowell take a drive through the city and look at the beautiful lighting effects achieved, particularly in the new section of town.

This has been a real jolly season for workers at the Post Office with record volumes of mail being handled. On Tuesday cancellation through the post office passed the 8,000 mark for the second day in a row. All mail is being delivered the day it arrives, but there has been night and Sunday work to keep up with it.

Keiser's Kitchen will celebrate their 20th anniversary on Thursday, December 23, with a treat of coffee and doughnuts for everyone who stops in. Keiser's Kitchen was opened on December 23, 1945, by the late Frank Keiser. After his death the business was continued by Mrs. Frank (Leatha) Keiser. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cahoon, son-in-law and daughter of Mrs. Keiser, are now the proprietors of the restaurant.

Headline: Truck tips, spills flour. Thursday night's and Friday morning's snowfall, light as it was, produced slippery driving conditions which resulted in an accident on M-21 east of Pettis Avenue, near Ada. Mrs. Pearl A. Baker, 45, of Ionia, a nurse en route to work at Blodgett Memorial Hospital tried to pass a King Milling Co. truck driven by Vernon L. Strouse, 47, of Lowell. Deputies said that Mrs. Baker lost control of her car on the ice and snow and the auto collided with the truck. The truck tipped over and slid 25 to 30 feet after the collision. Fortunately, neither driver suffered serious injury: Mrs. Baker sustaining lip lacerations and minor knee bumps, and Strouse had a minor skin injury to his head. A wrecker righted the truck, after seven tons of flour in sacks was removed to lighten the task.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 26, 1990

Headline: Bleacher agreement: Resolution states recognition of ownership rather than forgiveness.

Bleacher balance erased from city books. A long-standing historical problem was cleared last Monday night from the minds of the city auditor. Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson and Dickinson, P. C.; the Lowell City Council; and the Board of Showboat Corporation II Inc. The council acknowledged that Showboat Corporation II Inc. owes nothing further to the City of Lowell for the Showboat amphitheatre bleachers. Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale presented a prepared agreement between the city and the Showboat to the Council for its approval. The agreement was in regards to which portable bleachers at the amphitheatre are the city's. The balance owed by the Showboat, which was taken off the books, was \$13,303. The agreement hinged on resolving which section of the bleachers are the city's.

Headline: Erickson celebrates Christmas with the children of Lowell. For 22 nights in December, Santa Claus has sat in front of the Christmas kaleidoscope of lights at 517 Avery, listening to the wishes of the Lowell and outlying area children. John Erickson has displayed his multitudinous of colors for the past 21 years in Lowell. This year he added a few new wrinkles. More lights. Santa Claus and a couple of games. Erickson held a guess-the-number-of-lights contest for adults, and for all the children that stopped and sat on his lap, they were allowed to fill out entries

qualifying them for a variety of gifts. The gifts varied from a sled to crayons. In those 22 days, children filled out 7,063 entries. "They were allowed to fill out more than one entry per person," Erickson said. For stopping and talking to Santa, all the children received a candy cane. Last Sunday alone, Erickson handed out 360 candy canes in a two-hour time frame. "The response I received was overwhelming," Erickson said. "No way did I expect this."

Headline: Lowell's FFA Chapter adopts a family for Christmas holiday. Lowell's Future Farmers of America Chapter under the direction of Pete Siler helped to define the true meaning of this holiday season as it provided a local family with a gift of care and happiness. Together with the Salvation Army, the Lowell FFA participated in a new program of giving and caring called "Adopt-a-family." The program is sponsored by the Salvation Army. The program is designed to help a needy family in the area who may not, without the help of others, be able to enjoy a merry and joyful holiday season. The program is open to all groups, clubs or organizations. The Lowell FFA adopted a family of three, collecting gifts and food. In a little more than a week it was able to collect gifts for two little girls, canned goods, a 20 pound turkey, 10-pounds of ground beef, and \$50 in cash.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LOWELL CHARTER
TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following amendment to the Township Zoning Ordinance:

An amendment to allow temporary housing facilities in the General Commercial Zoning District as a Special Land Use. The amendment would define a temporary housing facility as "An establishment operated by a non-profit charitable or religious group authorized under Section 501(c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code or by a government organization or agency which provides housing and appropriate supportive services for a period of time not to exceed 12 months to persons displaced from their home in order to facilitate movement to independent living." The amendment would also set forth regulations regarding the operation of the facility including employee supervision, number and composition of residents and number of dwelling units in the facility.

The hearing will be held as follows:

**WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331**

Any person is welcome to attend this meeting and to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

The amendments may also be viewed on the Township web site at www.twp.lowellmi.us

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LOWELL CHARTER
TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following requests from Advanced Homes of West Michigan:

- To rezone Parcel 41-20-11-351-005 containing 19.19 acres from R-1, Rural Low Density Residential to the Open Space Planned Unit Development (OS-PUD) Zoning District;
- To rezone Parcel 41-20-14-100-074 containing 11.42 acres from AG-2, Rural Agricultural to the Open Space Planned Unit Development (OS-PUD) Zoning District.
- Approval of a site condominium development containing 15 single family lots served by a private road with on-site well and septic systems.

ADDRESS AND GENERAL LOCATION: 2909 Alden Nash Avenue. The property is located on the west side of Alden Nash Avenue opposite Ryan Ridge Drive and is the site of the former DenHouter sand mine. The site consists of 30.61 acres.

The hearing will be held as follows:

**WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331**

Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI. 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

Murray Lake holds successful blood drive

The Murray Lake student council held their eighth annual blood drive on Monday, Dec. 14. The student councilmembers promoted the blood drive by speaking to each class at Murray Lake. They shared how each pint of blood can save up to three people. The councilmembers also worked during the blood drive. They signed in the adult donors, walked them to the gym and served snacks and water to the donors when they finished donating.

“It was a lot of fun. I was able to work with one of my friends and we had fun together while we were helping out. It’s good to know that we were helping to save lives,” said fifth grader Caleb Yomtoob.

About 50 adults showed up for the blood drive. Fifth grader Brenden Wittenbach signed up five adults to give blood. All five participated and this earned Wittenbach and his fifth-grade classmates a pizza party sponsored by Michigan Blood.



Student councilmember Isabel German alongside her mother, Mandy, at the Murray Lake Blood Drive.



Student councilmembers offering treats and water to donors.

...

Christmas is a tonic for our souls. It moves us to think of others rather than of ourselves. It directs our thoughts to giving.

~B. C. Forbes



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., Jan. 6 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

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LowellArts! Youth Theater presentation opens in January

The LowellArts! Players Youth Theater presents a comedy by Ric Averill - The Bremen Town Musicians: Nothing is Worthless in January. Casting includes approximately 13 youth and teen actors ages eight and up from Lowell, Saranac, Kentwood, and Clarksville. Directed by Brent Alles, the play will be presented on stage at Lowell Performing Arts Center. Two public performances are scheduled for Friday, Jan. 15 at 7 pm and Saturday, Jan. 16 at 2:30 pm. General admission is \$5; kids two and under are free. To purchase tickets call: 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

The play will also be presented to Lowell

Elementary third- through fifth-grade students on Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 10 am and 2 pm.

A classic fairy tale that then turns the same story into an urban fairy tale. In the classic fairy tale, four farm animals (a donkey, dog, cat, and rooster) are kicked out of their homes as worthless. The animals band together becoming musicians with their bray, bark, meow, and cock-a-doodle-doo. Although far better in their minds, they present an impromptu concert that frightens a robber so much that he leaves behind his gold and the animal musicians retire happily.

The urban fairy tale takes the same story but makes the characters human and sets them on the streets of a big city, where the decrepit old junkyard of Jake is being condemned. Junkyard Jake meets a homeless woman, a deaf girl, and a street kid who band together playing junkyard instruments and fend off a series of city bureaucrats determined to turn them out as worthless. The four almost give up when belief in their own worth and music allows them to convince the mayor that their junkyard is really an art park.



Robbers in rehearsal, from left to right: Jenna Perry, Kyla Sanders, Destiny Schmidt and Lanie Schmidt.

Sugar maple, continued

contacted the city to find out what happened to the wood.

"I asked a week after it was cut down and the answer was, 'It's firewood,'" Lende said. "I asked again the next year and the answer was different. I asked what was going to be done with it; were there designs for it; and the answer was, 'No.' Then it was easy. I connected with Mr. Ellis and the city and collaborated on a project that benefits the community."

"Through connections [Ellis] and [Lende] had they were able to convert the log to boards and now high school students have built a table out of the wood," Howe said.

The students were

deeply involved in every stage of the project and learned skills such as design, welding, sanding and planing.

"We spent a lot of time teaching them the different tools," Ellis said. "There was a lot of hand work, accentuating a lot of the internal characteristics of the wood, the fungus in the wood and the different knots. Wood scratches very easily, so you have to learn to smooth it out. They learned patience. Woodworking is not a quick process. They also learned how something that looks like a piece of junk to start with can end up looking amazing and have genuine value."



A closeup of the wood grain. In the background are Jeff Lende, Ron Woods and Ralph Brecken.

LHS student Mason Misiak did the welding on the table's base and was also involved in its design.

"We came up with a design that would show off sort of an industrial look," Misiak said. "It took

a while. There are a lot of hours into it, but it came out really nice. I did my best. If it's going to be displayed, you don't want something that looks bad, but it came out really good."

"My hope when I asked that we save the log for a future community project was that this very type of collaboration would occur," Howe said. "We are fortunate to have dedicated

students and staff at the high school and community members like Jeff Lende who take an interest in working together for the common good."

The table will most likely end up at the Englehardt Library. There is still some wood left, so future industrial arts classes might make some chairs to go with the table.

There is still some wood left over from the Englehardt sugar maple.



Social Security, continued

There are exceptions to this rule. People with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease) and chronic renal disease may be able to get Medicare earlier, for example. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question:

I am expecting a child and will be out of work for six months. Can I qualify for short-term disability?

Answer: No. Social Security pays only for total disability — conditions that render you unable to work

and are expected to last for at least a year or end in death. No benefits are payable for partial disability or short-term disability, including benefits while on maternity leave. If you think your short-term disability might develop into a long-term one, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/apply.html for more information.

Question:

Next month I'll turn 65 and, because of my financial situation, I thought I'd be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). But my neighbor told me I'd probably be turned

down because I have a friend who said he might help support me. Is this true?

Answer: If your friend helps support you, it could have an effect on whether you get SSI and on the amount you receive. Whether you can get SSI depends on your income and resources (the things you own). If you have low income and few resources, you may be able to get SSI. However, if you are receiving support from your friend or from anyone else, that income will be considered when making a decision on your SSI eligibility and amount. Support includes any food or shelter given to you or received by you because someone else pays for it. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

"The surgery was very quick and easy. I can see 100% better while watching TV, looking at my magazines, and riding in a car. It has improved my life."
- D.F.

"I enjoy helping people see better. A lot of their quality of life is related to their vision. New techniques developed over the past decade including small incision and state of the art care have made cataract surgery one of the safest and most successful procedures available."
- Dr. Michael Flohr, M.D.

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We want to say thank you to all in the community that have given to the Alpha Women's Center in 2015. A special thank you to Rotary for serving here the week of Thanksgiving. Thank you to the many church groups and individuals that have blessed families at Thanksgiving and Christmas by Adopt-A-Family. We love being a part of this community.

Alpha Women's Center of Lowell

Red Arrow SPORTS

- WRESTLING

Outstanding weekend for Red Arrow grapplers

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell wrestling had an outstanding weekend going 2-1 at Grand Haven and topping 16 area schools to win the Kent County wrestling championship in simultaneous action on the road last Saturday.

Red Arrow team B took part in the Grand Haven Invitational at Grand Haven High School where they earned a winning record of 2-1, with wins over both Mendon High School and Reeths Puffer High School.

At Davenport University Red Arrow A team took to the mat for

the Kent County wrestling championship. The squad had a top notch performance shooting straight to the top of the tournament scoreboard and finishing with a total of 275.5 points. Lowell's finish was more than 100 points in front of their nearest competitor Forest Hills Central (156.5), who just barely edged out third-place finisher Rockford (154.5) in the finals round. Cedar Springs (133.0) and Byron Center (115.0) rounded out the top five teams.

Individually the Arrows sent nine grapplers into the championship round with

six prevailing as county titleholders. Jeff Leach was declared the winner at 103 pounds and was also awarded the honor of "Most Outstanding Wrestler" by the tournament after defeating the number one and two seeds by technical fall.

Tyler Lynch grabbed a title at 112 pounds, Zeth Dean at 145, Austin Engle at 160 and in two of the most anticipated finals matches of the day, both Lucas Hall and Max Dean also topped their weight classes for a championship.

Senior Hall, who will wrestle at Michigan State University next season, already has a pair of state championships under his belt. He earned the first his sophomore year competing at 112 pounds and then again last winter at 119. Competing this season at 125, he is expected by most to make it three titles by season's end. Hall did not disappoint taking his opponent down for the championship at the slightly higher weight class of 130.

Top ranked 189-pound Arrow Max Dean took to the mat to take on Byron Center's Ryan Vasbinder who is currently ranked number two in the state. Looking for a championship, after missing last season due



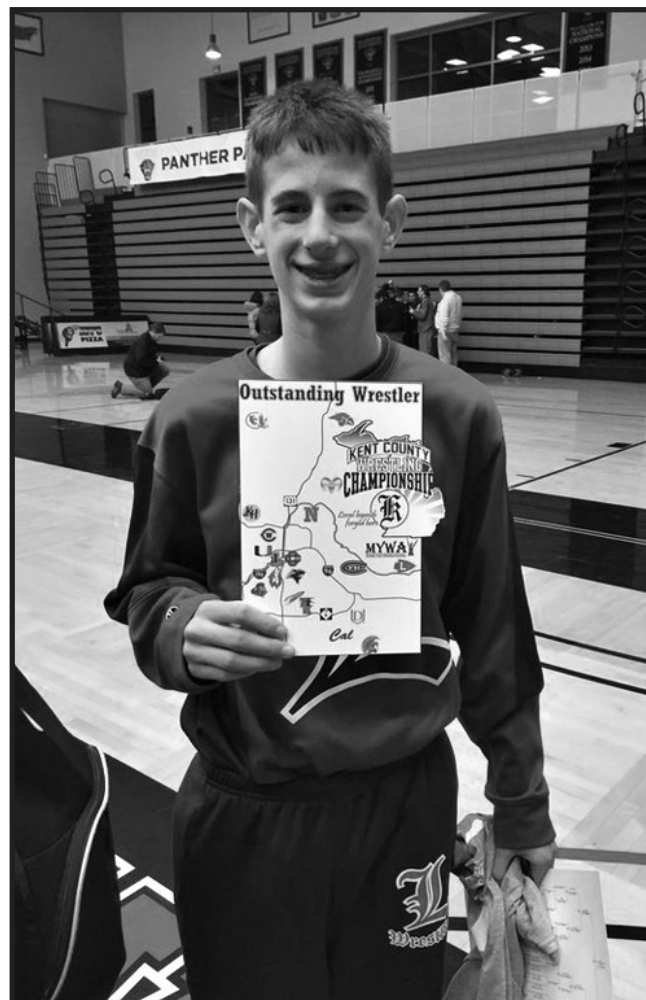
Lowell wrestling earned the team championship with a dominating performance at last weekend's Kent County wrestling championship.

to injury, Dean dominated the match earning the decision by a margin of 10-4.

Placing second were Eli Boulton at 215; Keigan Yuhas, who was edged out by FHC's Matt Mills 7-4; and freshman Avry Mutschler, who nearly pulled off a huge upset against three-time defending state champion Devin Schroder from Grand Rapids Catholic Central. Mutschler pushed the senior hard forcing a down to the

wire 3-2 battle that left the Arrow wrestler without a title, but with a huge victory nonetheless.

Rounding out the top individual competitors were Bryce Dempsey who placed third at 152; Kyle Washburn who placed fourth at 135; and Max Bishop who claimed the sixth place spot at 285.



Jeff Leach claimed a county title at 103 pounds and was also awarded the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" title.

CITY OF LOWELL

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The City of Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will conduct a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM concerning a proposed amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance. The following provides a summary of the proposed amendment and its regulatory effect:

The amendment will revise Section 2.03 "Definitions - B" and Section 2.14 "Definitions - R" of Chapter 2 "Definitions," Section 12.03 "Special Land Uses" of Chapter 12 "C-3 General Business District," Section 13.03 "Special Land Uses" of Chapter 13 "I-Industrial District," and Section 17.04 "Site design standards" of Chapter 17 "Special land uses" of "Appendix A-Zoning Ordinance" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell, to define "brewery/winery" and "restaurant", and to permit a brewery/winery as a special land use in the C-3 General Business District and the I-Industrial District, and describe the standards to be applied to such use.

At the above time and place, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written comments concerning the proposed amendment may be mailed or delivered to the Lowell City Clerk, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 up to the date of the public hearing. Copies of the proposed ordinance amendment may be viewed at City Hall at the address noted above during normal business hours.

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.

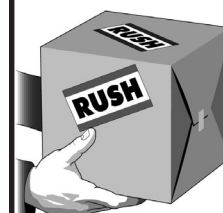
Susan Ulery
City Clerk



The Arrows will head back into action on the road January 2 when the team will split into two again to compete in both the DCC Invitational and the Grand Ledge Tournament with both events kicking off at 9 am.

 *Go Arrows!*

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Red Arrow - BASKETBALL SPORTS

At 3-0 Arrows drop first game of season last weekend

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity hoops moved to 3-0 with wins over Grand Rapids Northview and Greenville, before dropping their first game of the year to Detroit Henry Ford on Saturday in a busy week of non-conference action.

Tuesday at home the team welcomed Northview claiming a 69-57 win with three of their top players scoring in the double digits. Lowell led at every buzzer topping Northview in the first 17-13 and second 15-11 for a total lead of 32-24 at the half. The two teams tied at 12 points a piece in the third, allowing the Arrows to maintain their lead to earn the win.

Junior Matt Beachler led the team offensively racking up 29 points, followed by fellow junior Austin Branagan who

tallied 18 points and four-year starter senior Ryan Stevens who added 12 to the team's winning total. Avery Buckius, Gabe Steed and Alex Anschutz also put up points for the squad.

Friday on the road the team faced Greenville producing a 66-33 win thanks to widespread offensive and dominating defensive efforts. Twelve team members scored for the Arrow squad in the game, which started with a 22-3 run for the eventual victors. Lowell led 36-13 at the half as the two teams tested a possible new MHSAA rule that would create two sixteen-minute halves as opposed to four eight-minute quarters.

Stevens commanded the court at point guard directing Arrow traffic and netting 15 points. Marcus Malling had a stand-out

night adding 12 points to the board.

Others contributing points to the win included Beachler (8), Buckius (6), Steed (5), Anschutz and Branagan (4); Carter Noskey and Ethan Bates (3); and Zachary Petroelje, Andrew Poulton and Mitch Davis (2).

Saturday the team headed to the East v. West Battle of I-96 Holiday Classic inside the Ottawa Hills gym where the Red Arrows faced Detroit Henry Ford (DHF). Lowell struggled against DHF in the first half breaking even at 17 points after the first and trailing by 10 at the half.

Lowell played major catch up in the second half putting the game within four, 51-47 at the end of the third. They pushed harder in the final stanza of the game

creating a tie at 63 with under three minutes left on the clock. Despite that effort and an impressive 31 points from Beachler, DHF finished the game with some sharp shooting and grabbed the 72-66 win.

Stevens and Branagan were the day's other top scorers putting up 15 and 13 points respectively. Steed contributed six and Anschutz two.

According to head coach Kyle Carhart the tournament provided some key experience as they prepare to head into the difficult OK White conference. "We expected to compete and I was extremely proud of our entire team. You have to play really good non-conference teams to get ready for conference and for the playoffs down the road," said Carhart.



Matt Beachler had an exemplary week for the Arrows earning 29 points against Northview and 31 against Greenville.



Junior Austin Branagan goes airborne for the rebound against Northview.



Avery Buckius comes up with the rebound during the team's home game against Northview High School.

This week the team will tangle with defending state champs Godwin Heights as they hit the road for the last time this year on Tuesday. Tip off is scheduled for 7 pm.

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Sports Summaries

GIRLS BOWLING

After a Tuesday loss to Forest Hills Northern the Lowell girls varsity bowling team trumped opponent Godwin Heights on Wednesday by a commanding margin of 23-7. Team anchor Ally Stockreef led the team rolling a 189 and a 204 in the competition.

BOYS BOWLING

Boys varsity bowling had a tough week of competition falling to Forest Hills Northern on Tuesday 26-4 and Godwin Heights on Wednesday 22-8. The bowlers will have plenty of time to regroup before their next contest on January 6 against Belding High School at Eastbrook Lanes.

HOCKEY

Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian hockey broke even in competition last week. Friday on their home ice the team welcomed a large home crowd for student night. The team fought valiantly but was dominated by opponent Forest Hills Central who won the game 8-1. Saturday

against Hudsonville the players fared better seeing goals from Logan Propst, Nate Regan, Alex Osborn and Egan Simmons in the 5-1 win.



obituaries

BATES

Randy Allen Bates, age 49, of Lowell, unexpectedly joined his Lord and Savior from the peace of his home Sunday, December 13, 2015. He was preceded in death by his mother Penny Armstrong, father Randolph Bates, brother Bob Ginter, and step-son Thomas Jahnke II. He is survived by the love of his life and fiancé, Bonnie Jahnke; children, J.D. Bates and Greg (Dawn) McQueen; step-father, Ed Armstrong; siblings, James (Donna) Perdaris, and Brenda (Donel) Buckowing; step-sister Kim Armstrong; step-brothers, Kyle, Karl, and Kelly Armstrong; niece and nephews, Douglas and Samantha Winglar, Corey (Lisa) and Scott Perdaris; grandnieces and grandnephews, Alexis, Douglas Jr, Abygail, Parker, and Zailee; grandchildren, Elizabeth Bates, Grady and Payton McQueen; step-children, Robert, Kevin, Kayleigh, and Zachary Jahnke; step-grandchildren, Kaytlynn, Ayvah, and Thomas Jahnke III. Randy was a fun, loving, and caring person with a heart of gold. He could always light up your face with a smile. He enjoyed being outside, working on cars, going fishing, and spending time with his family and loved ones. Although Randy was a family man, he would do anything for just about anyone he knew.



WEEKS

Bruce Weeks, age 88 of Murray Lake, passed away Tuesday, December 15, 2015. He was preceded in death by his wife Inga of 63 years and son-in-law Ray Zandstra. He is survived by his daughter Barbara Zandstra; granddaughter Kimberly (Mike) Harding and grandson Ryan (Chayo) Gould; great-grandchildren Jacob, Jordan, Brayden and Gavin and brother Vic Weeks. Special thanks to Becky & Alyssa, for their patience and compassionate care. Bruce was a World War II veteran, a Mason for 50 years and an avid outdoorsman. He retired from Rowe/AMI. Cremation has taken place. The family will meet with friends and relatives for a luncheon on Sunday, December 27, 1 p.m. at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE, Ste. 300, Grand Rapids MI 49546.



LEDGER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm
 Friday: 8 am - Noon
 Closed Sat. & Sun.
 P.O. Box 128
 Lowell, MI 49331
 897-9261

**Our office will be closed
 December 24, 25 & 31 & January 1**



REA

Laurita J. Rea, known as Lauree, age 76 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Friday, December 18, 2015. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Lee; children, Christopher Rea, Lauralee Rea, Annemaree Rea, David (Gina) Rea; brothers, Ted Thibault, Joseph (Judy) Thibault; sisters, Donna Thibault, Terri Latronica; grandchildren, Milan, Ethan and Isabella Rea; also nieces and nephews. Lauree was a devoted wife, loving mother and grandmother, a truly selfless caretaker to all. Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Mary Catholic Church, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church.



SHASSBERGER

Betty Ray Shassberger, age 70 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord and Savior surrounded by her family on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. She was preceded in death by her mother Betty J. Colton; grandmother Leola Price; great uncle Ray Price; father and mother-in-law Fred and Ann Shassberger; sister-in-law Kris Shassberger and son-in-law Craig Davies. She is survived by her husband of 49 years Douglas; daughters Stacy Everett, Melissa (John) Wingett and Kim (Darren) Brown; brother Gary Colton; grandchildren Kayleigh Davies, Dakotah, Gib and Maizy Gleason, Sophia and Brennan Brown; great-granddaughter Karma Dae Gleason; brother-in-law Fred Shassberger; nieces Michele (Ken) Harwell, Becky (Ed) Kissinger, Scott (Tracy) Shassberger; great-nieces Katie (Mischa) Caddell, Allison Harwell; great-nephews Jason and Joshua Kissinger, Christian and Branden Shassberger. Betty's church family at First Congregational Church of Lowell, UCC, was very special to her. She was born December 3, 1945 in Silver City, New Mexico. Betty was a member of Rainbow Girls and the Pep Club while attending Silver City High School, from which she graduated in 1964. She attended Durham Business College in El Paso, Texas, where she met the love of her life, Doug. He was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso. She was a member of Eastern Star in Ada, Vesta Chapter. She worked at Grand Rapids Teachers Credit Union, Sears and most recently at Rite Aid in Lowell until her retirement. A few of the things Betty loved were owls, chocolate, Pinterest, her home state of New Mexico and her dog April. Time with her family, especially her grandchildren, was precious to her. A Memorial service has taken place. Interment Fort Custer National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Pink Arrow Project, PO Box 246, Lowell MI 49331 and Lacks Cancer Center, 250 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids MI 49503.



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
 PROBATE COURT
 COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
 CREDITORS
 Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 15-198300-DE

Estate of JOAN T.
 FRYDRYCH. Date of
 birth: Nov. 12, 1935.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Charles R. Frydrych, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500 Grand Rapids and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 14, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Joan T. Frydrych, died Oct. 16, 2015.

John D. Mitus (P31244)
 410 Bridge Street, NW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49504
 616-774-4001

Charles R. Frydrych
 2508 Oakgrove, NW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against

Like snowflakes, my
 christmas memories
 gather and dance -
 each beautiful, unique
 and too soon gone.

~ Deborah Whipp

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Red Arrow - BASKETBALL SPORTS

Girls dive into full schedule of competition

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Lowell varsity girls dove into a full schedule of non-conference competition over the past two weeks falling to Forest Hills Eastern (FHE) 57-50 on the road, trouncing Ottawa Hills (OH) at home 61-51, dropping a close 48-44 game to Grand Rapids Northview and falling 65-42 at Greenville.

Sophomore guard Cassie Dean and senior defender Ally Frederickson led the team against FHE combining for 36 points, 17 rebounds and four steals. The ladies trailed by only one at the end of the first period and by five at the half which ended 28-23.

Lowell continued to fight hard in the second but FHE ended the night on top 57-50. Despite the loss, the

team performed well on the defensive end grabbing 36 rebounds and 12 steals total.

At home against OH, the ladies displayed tough defense, producing block after ferocious block to keep the tough OH team to just 17 points in the first half while racking up an impressive 39 points.

OH outscored the Arrows in the third by a margin of 19-9 and also in the fourth 18-13, but the team's top-notch first half effort sealed the 61-51 win in front of an enthusiastic home crowd.

Regan Coxon had an excellent performance for the Arrows netting 18 points and grabbing five rebounds for the team. Senior Bailey Reitsma tallied 13 points and three steals; Riley Conlan seven points and

four assists; Dean put up six points and six rebounds; Bre VanLaan added seven points to the scoreboard; Frederickson added three points and excelled defensively with eight rebounds and nine blocks that were key to the Arrow win.

Lowell nearly staged a comeback against Northview producing a 20-point fourth quarter that put them just four points outside of a win, 48-44, against the currently undefeated Wildcats.

Northview held the lead 27-18 at the half and 37-24 after the third, but the Arrows broke through their defense in the fourth to stage the near win that was ultimately thwarted by successful Northview free throws.

Reitsma led Lowell offensively racking up 15 points and Frederickson added 14 points to the board while producing ten rebounds and six blocks. Conlan and Dean also contributed to the score total with five and eight points respectively. In total the team earned 17 rebounds, 16 assists and nine steals.

The Arrows faced Greenville on the road in their final game before the holiday break. Unfortunately for the Arrows, Greenville dominated on the court leading 36-19 at the half and topping Lowell 65-42 at the final buzzer. Lowell's current non-conference record stands at 2-3.



Sophomore standout Cassie Dean working around an Ottawa Hills defender.

LAS WINTER VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

* Denotes a game at Eastbrook Lanes

1/8 at 3:30 p.m. Belding*

1/8 at 9 a.m. Jenison Tournament at Hudsonville Lanes

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a meet at LHS in the auxiliary gym

1/2 at 10 a.m. Rockford Flip Flop Invite

1/8 at 8 p.m. at East Kentwood

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

* Denotes a game at the Kentwood Ice Arena

1/8 at 7:30 p.m. Grand Haven*

1/13 at 8 p.m. Wayland Unity*

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a game at LHS main gym

1/5 at 7 p.m. at Cedar Springs

1/8 at 8 p.m. Jenison*

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a game at LHS main gym

1/5 at 7 p.m. Cedar Springs*

1/8 at 7:30 p.m. Jenison*

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a meet at LHS main gym

1/2 at 9 a.m. DCC Invitational

1/2 at 9 a.m. Grand Ledge Tournament

1/8 at 7 p.m. Jenison*

The Arrows will next participate in the Hudsonville Holiday Tournament December 29-30 where their first-round opponent will be Hamilton High School.

...

The thing about Christmas is that it almost doesn't matter what mood you're in or what kind of a year you've had - it's a fresh start.

~ Kelly Clarkson

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**STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD
THEME:
FINISH THE LYRICS**

ACROSS

1. Southern cuisine pie
6. French lake
9. H or O in H₂O, e.g.
13. ****Tell ____ I love her"**
14. ****A long, long time ____ I can still remember how that music..."**
15. Cast somebody there
16. Misbehave
17. St. Louis player
18. First American-born saint, Elizabeth Ann
19. ****Blue jean baby, L.A. lady, seamstress for ____"**
21. ****On a dark desert highway, cool wind in ____"**
23. Draft pick
24. \$10,000, to a judge, e.g.
25. ****You ____ again"**
28. ****You ____ me what I am today"**
30. Inventor's right
35. Burden
37. Color of a bruise
39. ****____ is a sound salvation... cleaning up the nation"**
40. Bumpkin
41. "Get ____" (1965-1970)
43. ****Isn't it a _____. Isn't it a shame"**
44. What a taster does
46. 41st or 43rd president
47. 1970s hairdo
48. Fireplace
50. One-pot meal
52. ****I wanna be loved by you, just ____"**
53. ****May the road ____**

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DECEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 22



Comedian, talk show and game show host and moderator of the Miss Universe Pageant, Steve Harvey, slipped up in a big way when he announced the winner of the contest as Miss Colombia. Sadly, the winner was Miss Philippines. Miss Colombia had to remove the crown and sash and give it to the real winner. Very uncomfortable.



South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham dropped out of the running for the Republican presidential nomination. Seriously, a show of hands, did anyone know he was still running? But he did have a parting shot for front runner Donald Trump, "frontrunner Donald Trump. "He's a race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot," Graham said on CNN following Trump's proposal to ban all Muslims from entering the United States. "You know how you make America great again? You tell Donald Trump to go to hell."

A Boy Scout leader was injured when he and three scouts were attacked by a black bear while exploring a cave in New Jersey at Splitrock Reservoir in Rockaway Township. He was airlifted to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The three children were uninjured.



The new Star Wars movie, "The Force Awakens" opened last weekend and was the biggest North American premier ever.

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with you"
55. Use a Singer
57. ****Get this party started on a Saturday night, everybody's waiting for me to ____"**
60. ****Just a city boy born and raised in**

South ____"
64. Killed, as in dragon
65. Go a-courting
67. Dome-shaped dessert
68. ****I'm sitting here, doing nothing but ____"**
69. Another word for Tokyo
70. Did not go out to eat
71. Radio genre
72. "Losing My Religion" band
73. Tears violently

happy"
25. ****Cause, baby, you're a firework, come on, show'em what you're ____"**
26. Accustom
27. Historic region in northeastern Africa
29. ****Your lips are movin', tell me do you think I'm ____"**
31. Spanish snack
32. Enlighten
33. TV's "____ Circus"
34. ****Cause uptown funk gon' give it ____"**

DOWN

1. Surveyor's creation
2. Apiece
3. Pleasingly pretty
4. Dutch island in the Caribbean
5. "I love the smell of ____ in the morning"
6. Porcine fat
7. American Gas Association
8. Found in written series
9. Between ports
10. South American monkey
11. Carbon monoxide doesn't have this
12. ****It's raining ____, Hallelujah"**
15. Finely cut masonry block
20. Certain tides
22. Chihuahua's cry
24. ****Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth, ____ I'm**

36. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex", e.g.
38. Formerly, formerly
42. ****So take ____ broken wings"**
45. ****I've got the world on a ____"**
49. Charlie Sheen's diagnosis
51. Man cave's necessity
54. Waste water pipe
56. What did Jessica Fletcher do?
57. Aquarium organism
58. "Iron horse" track
59. Yamaguchi's court
60. Accompanied by "gloom"?
61. Bad sign
62. Used when citing a reference
63. Two equal a twenty
64. Scholastic aptitude test
66. " ____ to Joy"

SUDOKU

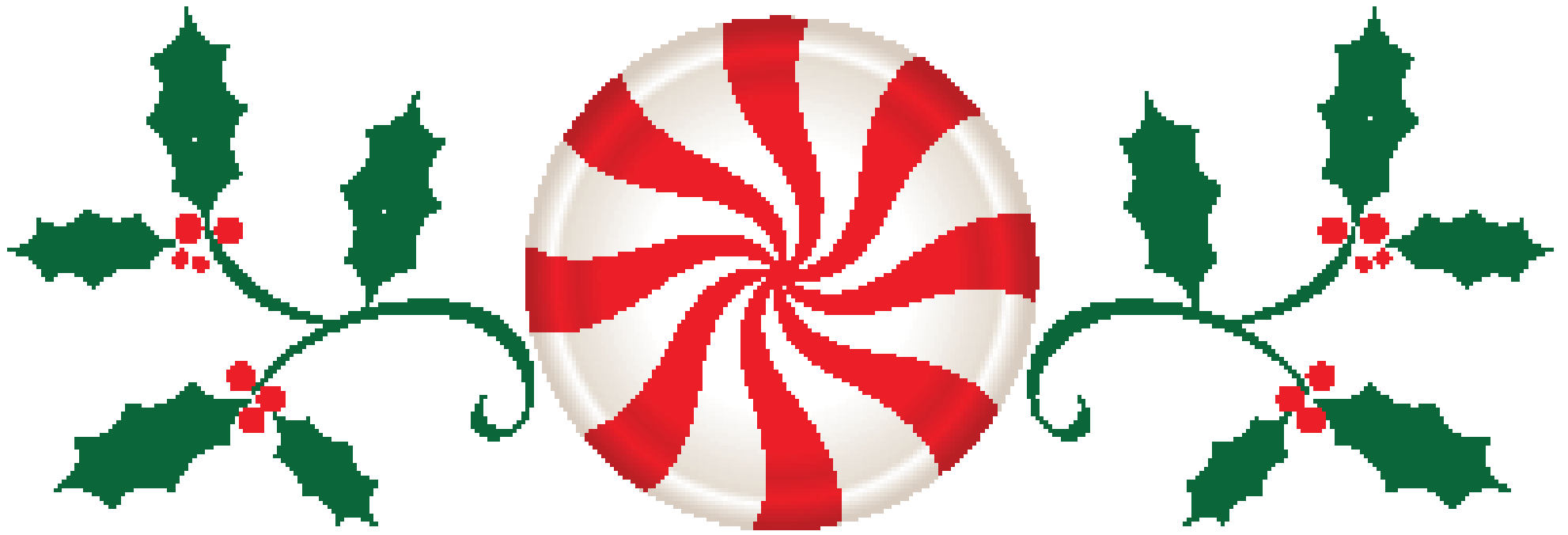
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

happy holidays

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