

Behind The Scenes



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new retail on main street



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Keeping Lowell's roads clear during the winter months is a combination of timing and cooperation

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Everybody who's spent any time in a winter climate recognizes the distinctive, jarring sound of a snow plow scraping its way down the street in the middle of the night. Snow removal is a service we tend to take for granted and only really notice when it hasn't happened and we have somewhere important to go.

City of Lowell Public Works employee Ralph Brecken showed up to drive a snow plow for the city at around 3:30 on Sunday morning. After a safety inspection of the huge, yellow truck, Brecken was ready to hit the road. There wasn't much snow in Lowell on Sunday morning, but a lot was supposed to be on the way. Brecken decided to spread some salt around town, which would help drivers if it actually did end up snowing.

"We're hitting intersections, we're hitting the crowns of the roads and

we're letting traffic spread it around," Brecken said. "Removing ice and snow from the road surface is expensive. You don't want to waste the salt. You want to apply it at the right times and put down the right amounts. The old mentality was just to pour it on, but we've learned how much money and time you can save by pre-salting and applying it judiciously. Right now we know some snow is coming so we're going to go pre-salt a little bit."

The city owns three big plow trucks, one of which should probably be replaced before next winter.

"These trucks take a beating from hitting curbs, manhole lids, catch basins, railroad tracks, you name it," Brecken said. "One of these trucks will get 30,000 miles on it and it's shot. They're 30,000 of the hardest miles you've ever seen. Sometimes you're pushing it as hard as you can just to go 10 or 15 miles per

hour. Pushing snow is a lot of weight."

To their fellow "civilian" drivers, snow plows can seem like dangerous, unpredictable, hulking beasts that careen around town like a bunch of snow-spewing maniacs, uprooting mailboxes and denting fenders. Brecken said the best policy for drivers is simply to keep a

Lowell snow plowing, continued, page 3



A city snow plow starts in the wee hours of the weekend and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for whatever the weather brings.

Lowell School's Capstone and safety program benefits from State Farm grants

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Last week, local State Farm agent Deborah Wilks presented two checks that

will benefit the Lowell Area School district.

The first check pre-

sented totaled \$10,000 and was a grant to support the high school's service

learning and leadership development classes including the senior

Capstone projects. The Capstone program allows outgoing seniors to develop and implement a service learning project in the community. The student is responsible for all aspects of their individually chosen project from conception, through proper planning and into completion.

Under the direction of recently retired teacher Kim Keglovitz, former Capstone students have created service learning projects such as "Creating Smiles," a program designed to increase interaction between special needs students and the general population; and "The Pawsitive Walk," a canine friendly hike that raised money for the Kent County Humane Society.

The 2016 Capstone class will be held in the third trimester under new



Chaye Klomprens and her leadership students accept a \$10,000 grant.

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State Farm grants, continued

direction, but with the same mission. According to Wilks, "We are very excited to know that they are keeping the project going. They have made a really nice impact on the community on their own and working through other charitable organizations. Most of the Capstone projects are budgeted at about \$100 each so they will fund a lot of student learning projects."

Lowell High School principal Amy Pallo was on hand on behalf of the

school and expressed her gratefulness for the support provided by the Illinois born insurance agency. "Deborah and State Farm have been so good to us! I cannot thank them enough," said Pallo.

Wilks' second check was a \$5,000 State Farm grant presented to sheriff and LAS safety officer Todd Summerhays, who accepted it on behalf of the Kent County Sheriff Department (KCSO). Those funds will be used in an effort to promote safety messages

and increase a positive police presence. "The monies will be used by KCSO for their

youth outreach and safety programs which work to encourage reduction in

drug use and encourage safer driving habits among other things and to also help

support officer presence in youth settings," stated Wilks.



Sheriff deputy Todd Summerhays accepts a \$5,000 grant from State Farm agent Deborah Wilks.

CORRECTION

The next Lowell City Council meeting will be at city hall on TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 at 7 pm. NOT on Monday as previously reported, due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

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along main street

SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Free smoking cessation classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 20. Tobacco Free For Good class meets for six weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6-8:00 pm at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 East Main Street. Each participant receives an individual quit plan designed by a Mayo Clinic trained and certified facilitator. Registration encouraged. Call 616-446-7058.

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thurs., Jan. 21 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

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.



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Tap House Bo retail clothing opens on Main Street

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Top fashion trends, personalized one-on-one service and a barrel of peanuts are on tap at downtown Lowell's newest retail store Tap House Bo located at 100 W. Main Street.

Owner Martha Davis said the fashion boutique was born of the marriage of her personal and professional passions. "Two things inspired me. My husband Rob and I started traveling to breweries tasting and sampling. We loved trying the new flavors, but most of all meeting the people behind the bar. The owners were fun to meet and ask questions [of] and it became a hobby of ours. At the time I was working for a boutique and fell in love with the clothing and the atmosphere of helping women find exactly what they needed and be excited about their purchases. I loved the one-on-one attention that we could share

with women in choosing clothing accessories or gifts," said Davis.

The resulting store, Tap House Bo, opened just before the holidays sporting a unique name reflective of her combined interests. "The store has a unique name. I wanted a trendy name that helped support our local Beer City campaign in Grand Rapids. Even though we don't carry beer, we will eventually have barrels of peanuts and drinks to enjoy while you shop," Davis added.

The boutique's main features are on trend clothing and accessories, including a selection of Michigan made items such as scarves, hats and headbands as well as jewelry, personal care and home decor products.

Davis said her desire is to appeal to every shopper with the selection as well as the personal attention given. "I've been working hard to combine the trendy looks

that young women enjoy as well as [a] trendy tailored looks for more mature women. We also carry plus sizes. I want people to walk

into the store knowing they have our help and support and walk out feeling like a million bucks without the guilt. Our price point for the

clothing is kept at a level for women to keep up with trends and their budgets."

Since opening the doors the Ada native said that

the reaction to the store by customers has been warm. "I decided on Lowell because of the friendly and caring atmosphere. I live in Ada so Lowell feels so close to home it was a natural fit. The reception so far has been very positive and I can't wait to meet more of the community and help women near and far with their clothing needs," said Davis.

Tap House Bo also offers several other ways to shop including a soon to be introduced layaway plan, a hostess plan that earns 40 percent off purchases and online shopping at www.taphousebo.com where shoppers will experience an expanded collection with in-store pick up available.

Tap House Bo is currently open Monday through Friday from 4-8 pm, Saturday 10am-7pm and Sundays by appointment. All major credit cards accepted.



Unique boutique Tap House Bo recently opened their first retail store at 100 W. Main in historic downtown Lowell.

Lowell snow plowing, continued

safe distance from all plow trucks. The city's plow trucks have low-quality rear-view cameras installed, but really they only give the driver a vague idea of what's lurking behind them.

"We try to warn people to just give us distance," Brecken said. "We don't want to hit them, we don't want anybody to get hurt. Just kind of stay back and give us a little distance. We do a lot of backing up, turning around and that kind of stuff. It can get a little hectic. We're going out in some of the worst weather Mother Nature can throw at us. When they're saying

it's time to stay home, that's when we head out."

Plow drivers rely mostly on their mirrors to see what obstacles are around them. Using the mirrors and some clever steering, Brecken was able to precisely scrape clear curb after curb around the city. This trick was more difficult in some areas because cars and trailers were parked on the streets. Not only is this against the law, it makes plowing a challenge and sometimes parked cars are accidentally damaged.

"Like with the big semi trucks, you see on the back of them, 'If you can't

see my mirrors, I can't see you,'" Brecken said. "This is pretty much exactly it. We don't use the camera going down the road. You can't. We only use it when we're backing up. We use all the side mirrors, the concave mirrors. We're constantly watching the mirrors so we can see down the side of the truck, looking for the curb or how close we are to objects like cars. We do have a parking ordinance. Technically from 2 am until 6 am you're not supposed to park on any city streets so that we can remove snow. People forget, it happens, but we try to remind people to help us out so we can get the roads clear for everybody else. These trucks can do a lot of damage and the last thing we want to do is hit a parked car."

Brecken said that sometimes he feels a

twinge of guilt whenever his plowing moves snow onto somebody's freshly-shoveled driveway.

"Sometimes we see people out there clearing their driveways when we're coming through or they were out there before we started," Brecken said. "We feel bad about filling in peoples' driveways. We know it's a pain. Our priority is clearing the streets for every body and sometimes inadvertently we push the snow back into a driveway or onto a sidewalk and we do feel bad. It's inevitable, though."

Brecken said that it makes it a little easier on plow drivers and other municipal workers when homeowners are able to clear snow from areas around mailboxes, fire hydrants and catch basins.

"You've got to dig them

out and keep those hydrants clear," Brecken said. "It might be your house that's on fire, so the quicker they can find that hydrant and get hooked up to it, the better. Clearing out the catch basins is helpful. Snow will pack up and cover it, then that acts like kind of a dam or a blockage and as water starts to melt it can flood the streets."

The plows have to go out and deal with the weather no matter what time of day it is and every single street in the city must be cleared. Weekends and holidays are irrelevant if a blizzard dumps snow on the streets.

For example, Brecken said he has been called to action on Christmas more than once. It's just part of the job.

"That is what taxpayers are paying for and they're expecting us to keep it clean," Brecken said. "A lot of it depends on the weather. You don't want to come out too soon. We have a limited time to get this work done. Regardless of what Mother Nature throws at us, we have to do it and that's what we do. We don't have an exact, set route, but we do every street. We get to everybody's street as quickly as we can."

•••

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

~ Henry David Thoreau



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We'd like to extend a special thanks to Impact Church for power washing the house, All Weather Seal for the porch repair, and Pink Arrow and Lowell Community Schools for the monthly donations of clubhouse supplies.

We'd also like to thank the countless volunteers who have given their time and energy freely toward supporting both of these community programs. Your efforts and generosity of these two organizations significantly benefit both the seniors, and members on a cancer and grief journey, here in the Lowell Community.

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Special tax reform bills set in place to allow Switch to purchase Steelcase Pyramid

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Michigan's legislature recently pushed through some special tax reform bills so that Nevada tech company Switch would agree to purchase the Steelcase Pyramid.

The pyramid, which sits at 4100 60th Street SE in Gaines Township, was built in 1989 for \$100 million. It used to be called the Steelcase Corporate Development Center. It has been vacant since 2010. Switch plans to turn the 87-acre site into a "SuperNap" data processing center that will serve the eastern half of the US. However, before they would agree to buy the property and move in, Switch said they required some tax breaks from Michigan's government. This kicked off

a debate among Michigan's politicians. Justin Amash, Lowell's representative in the US house, came out against the bills with a series of Tweets that described the bills in terms such as "immoral" and "corporate welfare." Even the Koch Brothers got in on the act through their political action committee 'Americans for Prosperity,' with their Michigan director Pete Lund releasing a statement that concluded with, "I urge you to oppose these bills and instead choose to embrace free-market principles as the best mechanism for growing our economy stronger." Meanwhile, a series of bills were pushed through the state house and senate, and the legislation was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder on Dec. 23. The bills contain the same kind of tax breaks Michigan has given to manufacturing companies in the past, including the waiver of sales tax on equipment purchases. The bills also have a clause that will end the tax breaks if the data center industry collectively doesn't create 400 new jobs in Michigan by 2022 and 1,000 new jobs by 2026.

State senator Dave Hildenbrand, a Republican from Lowell, said the Switch deal wasn't the first time a company has tried that sort of thing with the state of Michigan.

"The state is often approached by businesses and industries looking to invest and locate here," Hildenbrand said. "While the Switch facility itself is certainly unique, it was not the first time something like this was presented to us as a state."

The senator said that legislators did their due

diligence to make sure the company wouldn't be getting away tax-free.

"Any proposed change in our tax structure has to be examined and debated carefully to ensure it is the best move for the state," Hildenbrand said. "We have come a long way from the days of issuing tax credits we couldn't afford and picking winners and losers. Instead we now incentivize growth through strategic investments and specific tax reforms. Data centers will still be required to pay relevant employer taxes, business taxes and local property taxes."

He also said the reality is that if Michigan hadn't caved on the tax breaks, Switch would've switched their millions of dollars to a more accommodating environment.

"It was clear that Michigan's sales and use tax was prohibitive for large scale investments like the one proposed by Switch. If we had not worked to address this, it would have lead them to look at other states that are more competitive with their tax policies. We could not allow an investment of this size and scope not to occur here so, yes it would have been bad for the state."

Hildenbrand said the Switch deal should bring more companies like that to West Michigan.

"We are very confident that the significant investment announced by Switch will certainly provide an environment for high-tech employers to also make West Michigan their home," Hildenbrand said. "The tax reform that was passed applies to both qualified existing and future data centers."

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

viewpoint

to the editor

the "next place to be?"

Dear Ledger Editor,
How did Lowell become the "Next Place to Be?" The Lowell Chamber of Commerce selected that slogan and continues to receive comments on it from time to time, like my letter. I grew up in Lowell, it truly is my hometown. I love trying to make it a better place than when I was growing up. Lowell is full of people who do make a positive impact on Lowell and make it a better place. I feel lucky and fortunate to be able to come back to my hometown to live, work and raise a family.

Lowell and my hometown? A few circumstances allowed me to return and practice dentistry with my dad. I am not sure I can ever give back to Lowell what I got out of it. There is a sense of obligation to give back and try to make Lowell a better place than when I grew up. What makes any community special are its people, its people who give back. Lowell has no shortage of those kind of people who are willing to volunteer or serve. Thanks to them for making Lowell the Only Place to Be!

Jim Reagan, D.D.S.
Lowell

What drew me back to

outdoors

habitat management

Dave Stegehuis

Developing habitat for the purpose of attracting deer to a particular location has become common practice for some Michigan hunters. The proper management of public and private land benefits all wildlife. The concept is simple - provide more desirable food and cover than surrounding property and they will come.

Information sources found on line, in print, and live seminars offer strategies for effective habitat management. Government agencies provide help with planning as well as funding or tax breaks in special circumstances for private projects. Demand for trees, seeds, fertilizers,

and specialized agricultural equipment supports an emerging industry.

The first step is to identify property with potential for habitat development. A fortunate few presently own property. Leasing land with permission to make changes, works for others. Folks committed for the long term purchase hunting land.

Clear cutting or logging off larger selected trees encourages new growth which provides accessible browse for whitetails. Hinge cutting smaller trees so they can be bent to the ground places sustainable growth within reach of deer. Saving

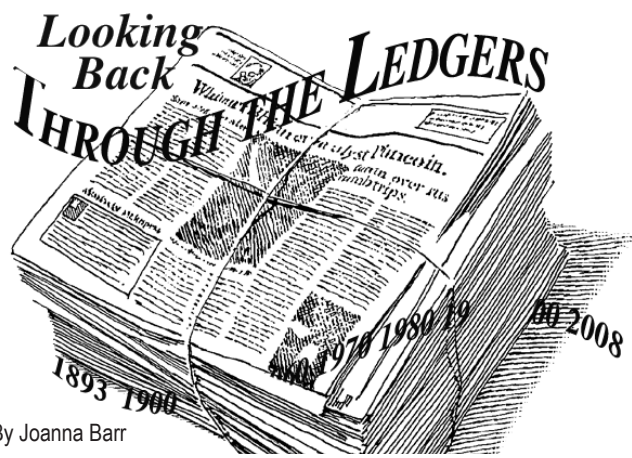
most producing trees like white oak which produce acorns, a preferred food source.

Open spaces can be tilled to grow a variety of crops. Small food plots require only hand tools and a bag of seed. Power machinery is required for larger plots as well as the application of herbicides, lime, and fertilizer.

Our own management plan may have backfired on us this year. Great looking deer regularly showed up on trail cameras in late summer. A sanctuary area of heavy cover is off limits to human traffic beginning well before the first hunting season and is not accessed until after the hunting seasons conclude. A food plot is located adjacent to the sanctuary.

The plan worked too well. Post season scouting revealed that the deer fed in the plot at night and bedded down in the sanctuary during the daylight hours. Consequently, we spent most of the season hunting in the big woods watching birds and squirrels instead of deer.

Deer hunting has become for many of us a year around activity. This may appear to be more work and expense than it is worth. But for people who do it, the experience is as important as the hunt itself. In our case, we will have to work on hunting strategy as well as habitat if we plan to collect some venison next fall.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal January 14, 1891

Bradfield's Female Regulator - Should be used by the young woman, she who suffers from any disorder peculiar to her sex, and at change of life is a powerful tonic: benefits all who use it. Write the Bradfield Reg. Co., Atlanta, Ga. for particulars. Sold by Yeiter & Look.

Frank R Ecker took a number of coops of chickens to the Poultry and Pet Show at Jackson last week. Look out for premiums. Frank scoops them all when he sets out.

Elias D. Parker was chosen as night watch, by the council, last Friday eve. There were three applicants for the position, A. W. Morgan, \$400; Wm Gort, \$1 per night and E. D. Parker, \$1 per night.

J. C. Richmond recently received word from his son, Orson D. Richmond, who is engaged in the Dry Goods business in Santa Cruz Co. Cal. that he had lost his stock of goods by fire, entailing a loss of \$4,000.

Robert Hunter Jr., Justice of the Peace, has collected and turned over to the Village Treasurer fines to the amount of \$45.50. Justice Perry has collected \$32. These fines are for violations of the Village Ordinances.

The combines and trusts are meeting with a great many discouragements this year. The new reaper combine which has attracted so much attention, is gone up the spout. Jealousies and differences in business methods knocked it out and now it is dead.

Twenty-four young ladies and gentlemen took tea

with Mr. and Mrs. Chas Bancroft last Wednesday evening. The young ladies spent the afternoon sewing carpet rags, regular old fashioned bee, said the gentlemen came to make things interesting, of course. Good time? Ask those that enjoyed it.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 13, 1916

Basket Ball. The Lowell high school five defeated the aggregation from the South Grand Rapids high Tuesday night by the close score of 26 to 24. The first half ended 19 to 9 in favor of Lowell but the locals could not continue the fast pace set in the early periods and the visitors came up in reaching distance and only the timekeepers whistle saved Lowell from a defeat. Despite the fact that Lowell just escaped a beating at the hands of South Grand Rapids there was much cause for joy over the showing of the locals. Team work which had been an unknown quantity in the two first games was very much in evidence in the last joust, the boys giving a very neat exhibition especially in the passing game, they sometimes bringing the spectators to their feet by their work on the floor.

Supervisors accept Kent fairgrounds. By a nearly unanimous vote the county board of supervisors Monday afternoon decided to accept the old Kent county fairgrounds, lying south of the city, the purchase price, \$4,797.42, being represented by the indebtedness of the old association. Just what use will be made of the land has not been definitely decided upon. It is believed it will be used as a workhouse. There were only five dissenting votes when the ballot was taken.

Beware of sneezing, kissing and boozing, if you would dodge the influenza, says an expert on germs. The kissee and the sneezer and sneezee are in equal danger; but as to the boozee and boozee, we have not been informed.

Architect Pierre Lindhout is drawing plans for a bungalow which will be erected at Lowell, by Dr. S. S. Lee. It will be constructed of brick and will have nine rooms.—Grand Rapids News.

Why not take your shoe repairing to the REAL shoe shop. Sewed soles while you wait.—Bradish. adv

C. E. Harpel, brother of Mrs. J. W. Brunthaver, had the forefinger of his right hand cut off and his hand

otherwise badly injured last week while working at the Stafford factory in Ionia.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 16, 1941

Home town thoughts: The people do not say "Goodbye" to their dollars when they spend them at home. These dollars keep circulating around town, and making the home town more prosperous for everybody.

Crowds never seem to tire watching the workmen and the two huge cranes and power concrete mixer employed in the construction of the new Main street bridge. It is always interesting to see men at work – and stimulating too!

Ice skating rink open to community. The community ice skating rink located on the school playground was opened for skating Tuesday evening. It was estimated that around 200 persons, both young and old, enjoyed this popular outdoor sport on the opening night. James

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We'd 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.

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LHS January Students of the Month

Lowell High School has announced that Tori Hewitt, 12th grade; Christy Lyon, 11th grade; and Hana Steinebach, 11th grade; are the Lowell High School January 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 Hewitt, Lyon and Steinebach. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Hewitt was nominated by Tammy Coleman and Tricia Miller and they write, "Tori is a very diligent and



Tori Hewitt

determined girl who works hard in both academics and athletics. We think she deserves this recognition. Tori does an amazing job of critically thinking about her work, asking questions and doing her very best. She is diligent in all she does and most importantly, she has a wonderful attitude that fosters excellent relationships with peers and others. What a joy!"



Christy Lyon

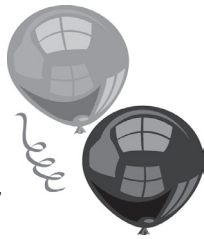
Chaye Klomprens nominated Lyon and she writes, "Christy is an outstanding student! She comes to class prepared to learn each day. In class Christy participates and is always on task. She advocates for herself, seeking help when needed. Christy will also come in outside of class if she needs additional help. She has a solid grasp of the Spanish language and strives to improve each day. Christy is also very mature and helpful to her classmates and myself."



Hana Steinebach

Steinebach was nominated by Jeff McDonald and he writes, "Hana is a wonderful student and is a joy to have in class. She gives 100 percent effort and has a positive attitude in class each day. Hana cares about her grade, asks questions if she doesn't understand a topic and can be found helping her peers. She displays the qualities we expect of our students here at LHS, such as honesty, integrity and treating others with respect. Hana is deserving of a student of the month award here at LHS."

happy birthday



JANUARY 13
Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.

JANUARY 14
Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.

JANUARY 15
Dennis Burns.

JANUARY 16
Alex Stuckey.

JANUARY 17
Kevin Rasch, Joe Potter.

JANUARY 18
Shelby Weston.

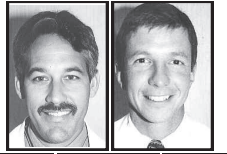
JANUARY 19
Tim Stencel, Susan Cook, Tim Schuitema, Trevor Mooney, Mark Ries, Scott Crandall.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes January 11, 2016
Motions Approved:

1. Infrastructure contract for 2016-2018
2. Lou Kirkbride as member on the Zoning Board of Appeals
3. Glenn Yonkers for Construction Board
4. Terry Conley for Sewer Advisory Committee
5. Abroad to do the timber harvest
6. Resolution 2016-001 Establishing Mileage rate of .54
7. Resolution 2016-002 Roberts Rules of Order
8. Resolution 2016-003 Designating Banking Facilities

Our next Township Meeting will be January 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

health



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

cholecystitis

The gallbladder is a small organ located under your liver on the right upper aspect of your abdomen. It stores fluid that helps break down food in your small intestine.

Inflammation of the gallbladder is called "cholecystitis." Cholecystitis is usually caused by a stone which blocks the gallbladder duct. It can also be caused by scarring of the duct or a tumor.

The most common symptom is severe right upper quadrant abdominal pain within a short time after

eating a fatty meal. Nausea, bloating and sometimes vomiting or diarrhea also occur. The pain can also radiate to your back or right shoulder blade.

As the inflammation continues, infection can also develop. The gallbladder can also tear or leak.

An ultrasound is typically ordered to image the gallbladder. Blood tests are also run.

Most people who develop cholecystitis will require removal of the gallbladder. This is a routine surgery generally done laparoscopically.

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area churches

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Pastor Tony Brumback
9:45 A.M. Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Fellowship
11:00 A.M. Worship

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Nursery & Children
Worship Programs Provided

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(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.
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2275 West Main Street • 897-7188
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Internet: <http://www.fbcloell.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 West. during summer)

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www.lowellumc.com
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Barrier-free entrance
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9 & 11 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....11:15 a.m.
Pastor Brad Brillhart

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Lowell, Michigan

* Statistics published by the Newspaper Association of America from independent researchers.



Thinking spring? Apply for spring turkey hunting now

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters that the spring turkey hunting application period is now open.

“If you are looking to hunt one of the limited-license turkey hunts, make sure to apply now,” said DNR upland game bird specialist Al Stewart. “If you’re looking for broader statewide options in your hunt, you may want to wait and purchase Hunt 234.”

The 2016 spring turkey season runs April 18 through May 31, with several different hunt periods to choose from. The Spring Turkey Digest explains regulations, season dates and hunt units.

Hunt 234 licenses go on sale over the counter, with no application required, March 15. Hunt 234 offers the most days to hunt, as it is valid from May 2-31 and is open statewide except on public land in southern Michigan.

“In Michigan, spring turkey season is a big deal,” said Stewart. “We’re ranked seventh in the nation for turkey harvest, harvesting over 30,000 turkeys while providing a variety of quality hunting options.”

Through Feb. 1, a \$5 spring turkey application may be purchased anywhere hunting licenses are sold

or visit www.michigan.gov/turkey.

Beginning March 1, applicants can check whether they were drawn for a license at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings. Any leftover licenses will be sold until the quota is met in each hunt unit and hunt period.

A base license is required for every resident

base license is available beginning March 1 and is not required to apply. The base license is also a small game license.

Never miss an application period again; sign up for DNR email to get alerts about application periods and learn about upcoming meetings, regulation changes, habitat work and all things natural resources-related. Subscribers can personalize the information to what interests them by topic and location.

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



or online at www.mdnrelicense.com. Hunters may purchase only one spring turkey hunting license.

For more information about spring turkey hunting, watch this YouTube video

and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase a spring turkey license only after they have obtained a base license for the year. The 2016

Rules for multi-line phone systems will improve emergency response

In an emergency, seconds can save a life, which is why new rules go into effect Dec. 31, 2016, that require all Multi-Line Telephone Systems (MLTS) or Private Branch Exchange (PBX) phone systems in Michigan to provide accurate locations for phones when a user dials 911 from one of these systems.

Currently, not all phone systems provide granular location information with the 911 call to enable first responders to know the actual location of the emergency. In many instances, a call from the 12th floor of a large office building may only provide the street address of the building. If the caller is unable to provide his or her specific location within the building and no one else is available to provide assistance, emergency response can be delayed as first responders work to find the individual.

Under administrative rules enacted in October 2011 pursuant to the Michigan Emergency 9-1-1 Services Enabling Act, owners of MLTS or PBX

phone systems in Michigan must upgrade their systems by Dec. 31, 2016, to provide location information.

According to State 911 Administrator Ms. Harriet Miller-Brown, “Having the correct location information associated with a 911 call is vital in making sure the call goes to the correct 911 center with the correct location information. It is also imperative that the 911 operator knows where to send help, even if the caller is unable to speak.”

Owners and operators of MLTS or PBX within Michigan are encouraged to review the complete set of administrative rules to ensure compliance of their systems by the effective date. Rules R 484.901 - R 484.906 can be found on the Michigan Public Service Commission’s website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc>, under “Documents Library.”

To further assist owners and operators in understanding the rule change and requirements, the State 911 Committee developed a guide available at www.michigan.gov/snc, under “Current Issues.”

MSU senior Tina Reyes will join Sen. Stabenow at State of the Union To highlight growing problem of student debt

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow today initiated the #InTheRed campaign to raise awareness of the staggering burden of student loan debt for college graduates and the urgent need to address college affordability. The campaign is led by Democrats in the U.S. Senate, who will be rolling out a comprehensive plan to allow student loan borrowers to refinance high-interest student loans, to increase Pell Grant awards, and to

create new federal and state partnerships to make community college free for eligible students. Senator Stabenow is joined by Tina Reyes, a Michigan State University senior from Flint, Michigan, to unveil the campaign. Ms. Reyes will be Senator Stabenow’s guest at tonight’s State of the Union to increase awareness of the growing problem of student loan debt in Michigan.

“Too many people in Michigan are saddled with decades of debt just

because they wanted a fair shot to go to college and get ahead,” said Senator Stabenow. “That is why I’m joining my colleagues in the Senate to put our country on a path to debt-free college for future generations of students. Making college affordable will improve the lives of millions of Americans and boost our economy by giving graduates the ability to spend their money on a home, a car, and the needs of their families.”

“I am a first generation

college student from Flint, Michigan and without federal and private student loans I would not be able to attend Michigan State University,” said Tina Reyes, Senior, Michigan State University. “Even working multiple jobs, I am concerned about how I will be able to pay my student loan bills which will arrive within a year after my graduation. I support the #InTheRed campaign because it will

Student debt, continued, page 12

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF
LOWELL

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Boys tally wins at home court over Cedar Springs and Jenison

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity boys basketball tallied two wins at home last week when they topped Cedar Springs 73-58 on Tuesday and their first OK White competitor of the year Jenison 75-68 on Friday.

Nonconference opponent Cedar Springs struggled underneath a wide

spread offensive effort from the Arrows who were on top at the half 38-30 and ahead 15 at the final buzzer 73-58.

"Cedar was a difficult match up for us," said coach Kyle Carhart, "They are a very well coached team and they were long and athletic and an excellent rebounding team. Our guys did a nice job of battling on both ends

of the floor in order to be successful."

Senior point guard Ryan Stevens led the squad offensively netting 21 points and also worked hard on the other side of the ball. According to Carhart, "Ryan Stevens had a nice night both passing and rebounding the ball. He helps control the tempo of the game every time we play and to have him near double digit defensive rebounds in a game was huge for our team."

Also scoring in double digits were juniors Matt Beachler (20) and Austin Branagan (13). Others contributing baskets in the win were Avery Buckius, Carter Noskey and Alex Anschutz (4), Gabe Steed

and Andrew Poulton (3) and Mitch Davis (2).

A huge crowd gathered at Lowell High School for the Red Arrows first scheduled OK White conference match up against the Wildcats from Jenison on Friday night.

Three Arrows were back in the double digits, this time Branagan, Beachler and Anschutz, as the team put together a fierce 75-68 win over the Wildcats after trailing at the half. Lowell led by five after the first, but lost major ground in the second as Jenison put up a huge run of successful shots from the three-point range earning 30 points to Lowell's 18. The half ended with the Arrows trailing 42-35.

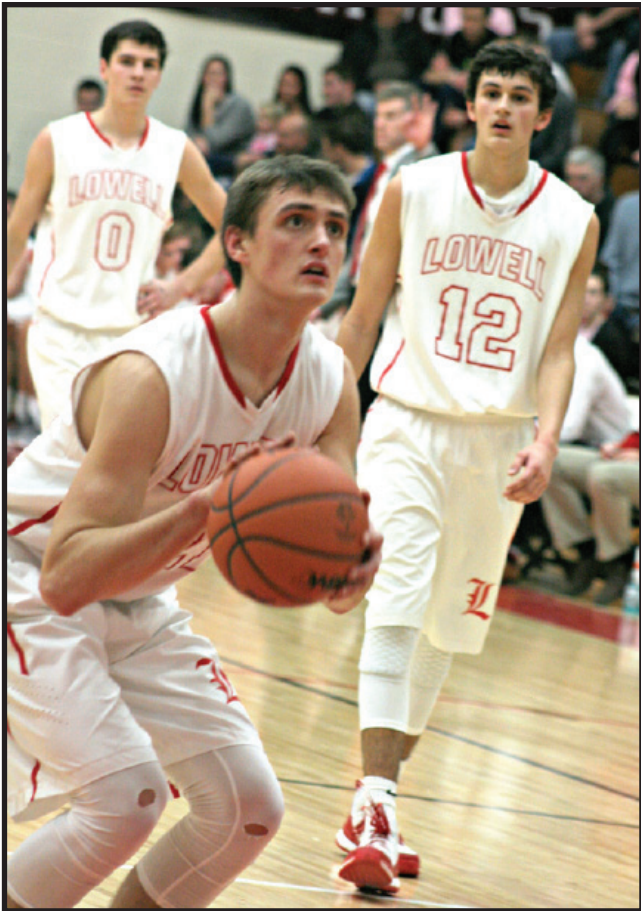


Senior Alex Anschutz added 10 points to the board against Jenison.

"They made a lot of difficult contested shots. They are good players and we just needed to stay the course defensively and understand and hope that

they could not continue making shots at that pace. We felt if we kept our

Boys basketball,
continued, page 11



Top scorers, Austin Branagan, Matt Beachler and Ryan Stevens.

Girls team play close games but drop both

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell girls varsity basketball team could not put together a win in a frustrating week of competition that saw them lose a nail biter to Cedar Springs 51-50 and drop their first OK White conference game of the season 56-48 to Jenison.

On the road at Cedar Springs High School in non-conference play Tuesday the girls led by three at the half 27-24 largely in part to outstanding defensive play. Freshman Regan Coxon created a plethora of scoring opportunities for the team with her aggressive play.

Cedar reversed the trend in the second half as the Arrows lagged in performance according to head coach Jake Strotheide. "The Cedar game was very close. I would say that we had great stretches where we played very hard and were able to make plays, but too many times we didn't have the best effort. In close games, you need to have one or two extra plays where the effort needs to be there," said Strotheide.

Short those needed plays, Lowell fell by just one point as the clock ran out 51-50.

Defensively the team tallied 21 rebounds and eight

steals. Senior Bailey Reitsma led the team offensively with 15 points.

Friday at home the team saw their first conference challenge of the season against the Wildcats of Jenison. The Lady Arrows started out strong to lead 31-26 at the half. Despite a huge increase in effort that kept them right on their tails, Lowell ultimately came up short losing the game 56-48. Contested calls, technical fouls on the court and on the sideline contributed to the

loss as Cedar capitalized on their free throw opportunities to widen the scoring gap at the close of the game.

"I thought our girls played very hard," said Strotheide who exited the game prior to the final buzzer. "They never gave up and stayed together the whole time. Really proud of them and how we are coming together."

Junior Bridget Garter led the team with 18 points and six rebounds. Cassie Dean earned 11 points and three steals.

The team has two home contests scheduled this week. They will take on Forest Hills Northern Tuesday at 7 pm and welcome OK White foe Caledonia on Friday with tip off scheduled for 6 pm.



Lowell's coaching staff showed signs of frustration toward the end of their loss to Jenison.



Senior point guard Ally Frederickson goes after a rebound.

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Red Arrow - GYMNASTICS SPORTS

Arrows host military tribute invitational

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics earned their first victory of the season over OK conference foe East Kentwood High School and presented their now annual Red Arrow Invitational Military Tribute in a busy and prideful, week of competition.

The Lady Arrows kicked off their week on the road Wednesday traveling to East Kentwood where they put together their first win of the season. Lowell finished the night with a total score of 132.75 topping East's 124.825 in the win.

Top performers for the Arrows were Maura Fitzpatrick on the vault scoring an 8.9, Corah Kaufman on the bars with an 8.75, Karmen Anderson scoring an 8.8 on the beam and Joslynn Battle who earned an 8.7 on the floor.

Saturday Lowell welcomed eight area squads to the Red Arrow Invitational Military Tribute which kicked off with a special honoree ceremony.

This is the second year the team has hosted the special military meet which gives members the opportunity to honor a personal friend or family member who served their country through military service. Several Lowell graduates were among the honorees, including Marine Corp Colonel Ben Richmond (1989), Marine Corp Sergeant Mark Richmond (1991), Navy First Class Petty Officer Alfred Miller (1950) and Air Force E4 Pilot Sean Fitzpatrick (2005).

The meet also served as a donation site for Operation Care Package, a nonprofit organization that distributes donations such as non-perishable food, toiletries and entertainment items for soldiers currently deployed across the globe.

Lowell head coach and event organizer Michele DeHaan said the event is something she and her team now look forward to and are

proud to be a part of. "Being able to use our meet to raise awareness and show support to those who have served or are serving in our nation's military is pretty special. It sparks conversations in families about their ancestors and brings people out that have never seen a gymnastics meet before," said DeHaan.

Both Lowell teams placed in the top 10 in the day's competition with the Lowell A team finishing in fourth place with a 132.95 and Lowell B team in eighth place with a score of 122.95.

Sophomore Fitzpatrick led both Lowell teams placing sixth in the all-around competition as an individual after placing third on the vault with a 9.0 and first on the floor with an outstanding routine that earned a 9.325.

Other top performers included Sela Bauman and Karmen Anderson who placed second and third on the beam with a 7.95 and a 7.8 respectively and Alise Forward who placed fourth on the uneven bars with an 8.4 and fifth on the vault with a 8.925.

The ladies will next face Kenowa Hills High School early in the week and then enjoy a respite before facing Forest Hills Central at home Wednesday January 20 starting at 7 pm in the auxiliary gym.



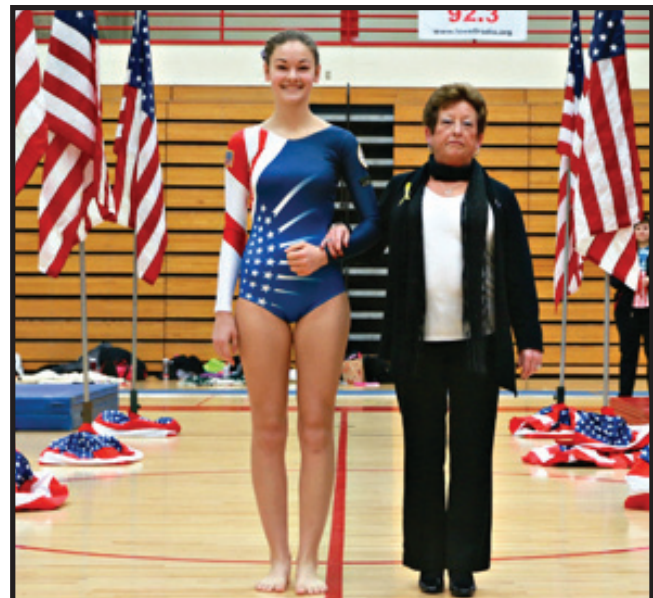
The 2016 varsity gymnastics team last Saturday at their military tribute wearing specially made military patriotic leotards



Lisa Price during her floor routine where she scored 9.075



Elisabeth Tricquet with Sergeant Mark Richmond (brother of Ben Richmond), US Marine Corp, Lowell Class of 1991.



Paige DeHaan with Sergeant Marene Margaret Kenning (VanFarowe), US Air Force.



Freshman Joslynn Battle with her honoree Colonel Ben Richmond, US Marine Corp, Lowell High School Class of 1989

Go Arrows!

Saturday military meet stats

VAULT

TEAM A

- Maura Fitzpatrick 9.0
- Alice Forward 8.925
- Corah Kaufman 8.65
- Karmen Anderson 8.65

TEAM B

- Joslynn Battle 8.4
- Paige DeHaan 8.1
- Olyvia Johnson 8.1
- Elisabeth Tricquet 7.8

BARS

TEAM A

- Alise Forward 8.4
- Sarena Wilterdink 8.3
- Corah Kaufman 8.1
- Maura Fitzpatrick 8.05

TEAM B

- Corah Miller 8.075
- Joslynn Battle 7.45
- Sela Bauman 7.1
- HadyN Nash 6.675

BEAM

TEAM A

- Karmen Anderson 7.8
- Sarena Wilterdink 7.45
- Maura Fitzpatrick 6.9
- Lauren Browning 6.7

TEAM B

- Sela Bauman 7.95
- Olyvia Johnson 6.65
- Paige DeHaan 6.475
- Tori Miller 5.95

FLOOR

TEAM A

- Maura Fitzpatrick 9.325
- Corah Kaufman 9.075
- Lisa Price 9.075
- Sarena Wilterdink 8.55

TEAM B

- Joslynn Battle 8.975
- Sela Bauman 8.7
- Corah Miller 8.35
- Paige DeHaan 8.25

SWAP SALT FOR

Herbs and Spices

IN 2016

FLAVOR FACTORS

Making a New Year's resolution? Don't forget salt. Most Americans consume about a 1,800 milligrams of sodium over the amount recommended by nutrition and health experts. New research shows cooking with spices and herbs could help you ditch the salt shaker and meet sodium recommendations.

Keeping a resolution to cut salt from your diet is easy. Use simple spice swaps to create tasty, low-sodium meals. From seasoning eggs with basil instead of salt to adding spices and herbs to no-salt tomato sauce, the McCormick Kitchens offer three easy tips and recipes to make low-sodium meals full of flavor.

- Best: Use 1/8 teaspoon herb instead of salt into 2 eggs before scrambling.
- Add oregano, garlic powder and red pepper to no-salt added tomato sauce for a tasty, low-sodium pasta dinner.
- Try making Citrus Herbed Chicken with Asparagus, Fiesta Citrus Salmon or Tuscan Pasta. These dishes don't call for any salt. Instead, they swap in basil, garlic powder and oregano.

For more low-sodium tips and recipes — such as shared vegetable salad with Italian herb vinaigrette — visit McCormick.com/recipes/low-sodium to keep your New Year's resolutions on track. To see the full Anderson study, which examined the effects of a behavioral intervention that emphasized spice and herbs, and how it impacts sodium intake, visit McCormickScience.com.

**Fiesta Citrus Salmon**

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves: 4

- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons McCormick Perfect Pinch Salt-Free Fiesta Citrus Seasoning, divided
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 pound salmon fillets

In small bowl, mix juice, oil and 1 tablespoon each seasoning and sugar.

Place salmon in large re-sealable plastic bag or glass dish. Add marinade; turn to coat well. Refrigerate 30 minutes, or longer for extra flavor.

In another small bowl, mix remaining seasoning and sugar. Remove salmon from marinade. Discard any remaining marinade. Rub salmon evenly with seasoning mixture. Grill salmon over medium-high heat 6-8 minutes per side, or until fish flakes easily with fork. (Or bake in 400 F oven 10-15 minutes, or until fish flakes easily with fork.)

Tuscan Pasta

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves: 6

- 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 can (8 ounces) no-salt added tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon sugar (optional)
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Garlic Powder
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Perfect Pinch Italian Seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Black Pepper, ground
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound zucchini, sliced

- 1 package (8 ounces) sliced mushrooms
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 4 ounces pasta, such as spaghetti or linguine

In medium saucepan, mix tomatoes, tomato sauce, sugar and seasonings. Bring to boil on medium heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 20 minutes.

In large skillet, heat oil on medium-high heat. Add zucchini, mushrooms and onion; cook and stir 4 minutes or until vegetables are tender-crisp. Stir tomato sauce into vegetables.

Meanwhile, cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well. Place pasta in serving bowl. Add vegetable mixture; toss well.

Citrus Herbed Chicken with Asparagus

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves: 4

- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Black Pepper, coarse ground
- 1 pound skin-on, bone-in chicken breasts
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Basil Leaves
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Oregano Leaves
- 1 pound asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

In shallow dish, mix flour, Parmesan cheese, garlic powder and pepper. Reserve 2 tablespoons. Moisten chicken lightly with water. Coat evenly with remaining flour mixture.

In large nonstick skillet, heat oil on medium heat. Add 1/2 of the chicken pieces; cook 5 minutes per side, or until golden brown. Repeat with remaining chicken, adding additional oil, if necessary. Remove chicken from skillet; keep warm.

In medium bowl, mix stock, basil, oregano and reserved flour mixture until well blended. Add to skillet along with asparagus. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 3-5 minutes, or until sauce is slightly thickened, stirring frequently. Stir in lemon juice. Return chicken to skillet; cook 2 minutes, or until heated through.



Red Arrow SPORTS

- WRESTLING

Arrows win at home, place third at Fort Wayne Duals and claim championship at Fruitport Invitational

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Another busy week of competitions are in the books for the Lowell varsity wrestling team as they put together their first OK White win of the season over Jenison, placed third at the Fort Wayne Duals and claimed the championship at the Fruitport Invitational.

Wednesday, in their first home contest of the season, the Red Arrow grapplers topped OK White conference foe Jenison High School by a crushing margin of 70-6. Lowell won all but their final contest in the near sweep.

Winning by fall were Jeff Leach at 112, Lane Ryan at 160 and Keigan Yuhas at 189. Winning by decision were Austin Engle at 171, Sam Russell at 125 and Kyle Washburn. Claiming victory

by void were heavyweight Logan Blough, Tyler Lynch, Thomas Hubert, Channing Perry at 135, Austin Mechney and Carter Bierling.

Squad A hit the road for Indiana on Saturday to take part in the Fort Wayne Duals. The Arrows topped defending Division I state champions Brighton High School in the first dual with victories from Russell, Engle, Garrett Pratt and Danny Kruse who earned a win by decision to clinch the 33-24 win.

Logan Blough kicked off the second dual against Macomb Dakota High School with a pin putting Lowell up 6-0 early. Continued top notch grappling produced other big wins by pin from Washburn, Kruse, Max Dean and Max

Bishop putting the Arrows firmly on top of the match which they eventually won 50-12.

A lot of close matches in the third round of competition against Mechanicsburg High School out of Ohio left Lowell on the losing end for the first time of the day falling 42-22. The loss dropped the team into the third-place finals match which they won handily over Oxford High School 50-12.

Squad B claimed the championship at the Fruitport Invitational the same day topping 17 area teams for the honor. Placing first individually were Yuhas, Perry and Hunter Browning. Others claiming top five positions included John Russell (2nd), Lane

Ryan (3rd) and Hubert and Colton Churches (5th).

The wrestlers will host two home events this

week kicking off with an OK White dual against Caledonia at home on Wednesday beginning at 7

pm and wrapping up with the annual Gary Rivers Memorial Invitational Saturday morning at 9 am.



Keigan Yuhas added a win by fall to give the Arrows a 64-0 lead over Jenison.

Boys basketball, continued

defensive intensity high we had a chance," said Carhart.

After the break, the Arrows worked to outscore Jenison by three to narrow the gap to 56-53. There they reclaimed the lead with the sharp shooting of Branagan who led the team with 21 points, his top game as an Arrow according to Carhart.

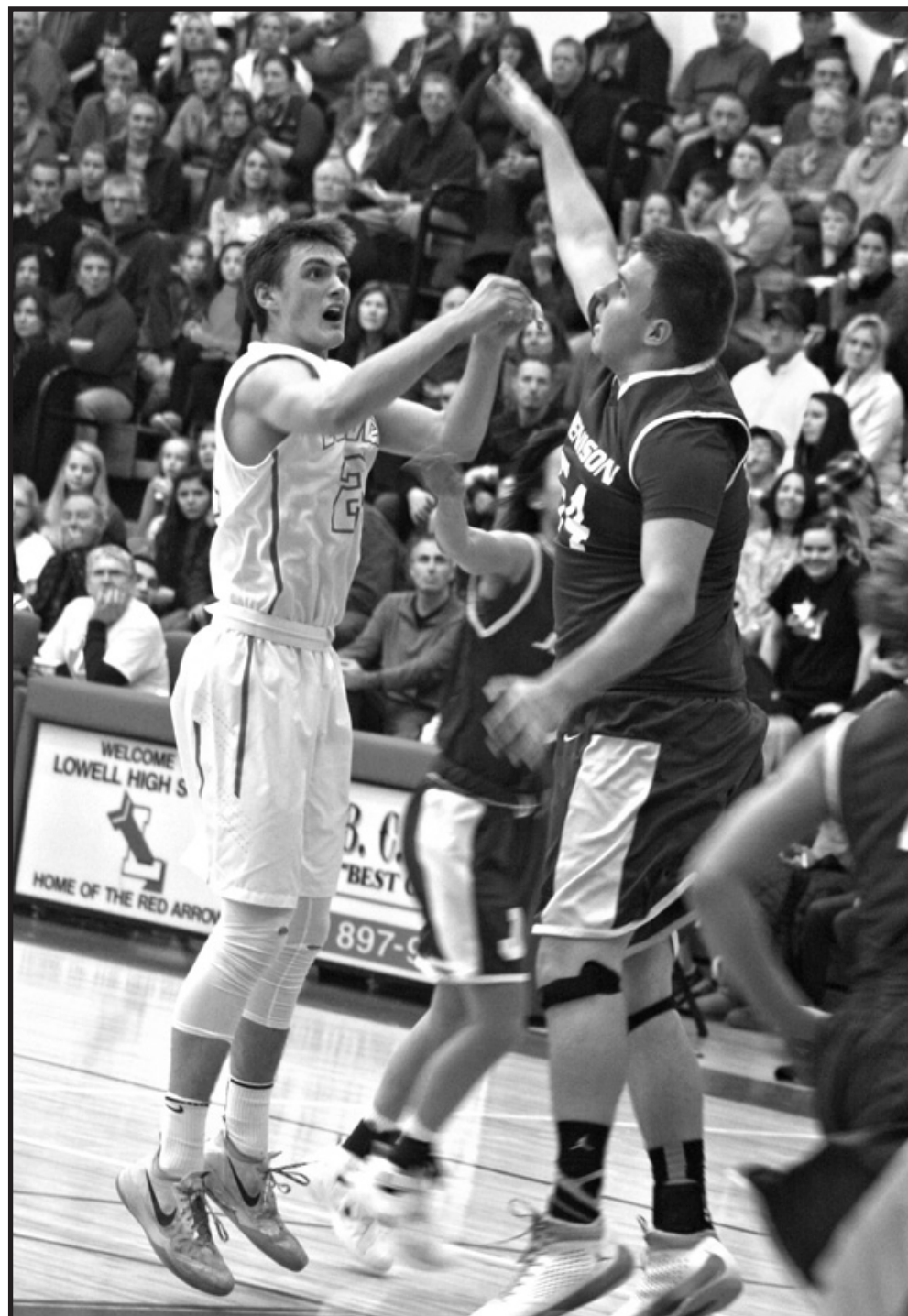
"That was Austin's best game in a Lowell uniform. He played hard on both ends, was dialed in to what we wanted him to do. He rebounded and was physical on both ends. It was a lot of fun to watch."

The other top scorers were Beachler and Anschutz who contributed 17 and ten

respectively. Stevens also had a standout night netting seven points and breaking into the double digits with eleven assists. Noskey (8), Steed (5) and Davis (2) rounded out Arrow scorers.

The win moves the team to a winning record of 5-2 on the season and 1-0 in the OK White giving them positive momentum as they move forward in the tough conference schedule. "Jenison was just another example of how difficult the OK White will be," explained Carhart. "We will have to play well in each conference game and hopefully have some success."

This week the boys will hit the road for non-conference action against Forest Hills Northern on Tuesday and then dive back into the OK White on Friday when they host Caledonia. Tip off is scheduled for 7:30.



Junior Austin Branagan, fighting for a rebound.

Sports Summaries

HOCKEY

Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian (LCSC) varsity hockey cooled two competitors last week with victories on the ice. Wednesday at West Catholic High School the team started strong grabbing a three-point lead in the first period. West Catholic scored twice in the second but failed to overtake the lead leaving LCSC on top 3-2. Goals were scored by Austin Whaley, Nick VanTil and Nate Regan. Friday on their home ice the team pulled out another one goal win over Grand Haven when Eddie Heikkila launched in the game winning score with just a minute left on the clock for a 5-4 win.

BOWLING

Lowell boys varsity bowling earned a sixth-place finish over the weekend when they traveled to Jenison for their annual tournament. Logan Smith led all Lowell bowlers rolling a 217 and a 211 on the lanes.

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obituaries

CLARK

Dave Albert Clark, age 90 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, January 6, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Betty Lou; daughters Candyce "Candie" Sisson and Corliss "Cory" Bulthuis; grandchildren Carol (Dan) Wingeier, Robin Hewitt,

Shannon Sisson, David (Sarah) Bulthuis and Jennifer Johnson; 13 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell American Legion at VFW Flat River Post, 3116 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI 49331.



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KREBS

Gladys Maxine Krebs, age 88 of Boyne City, formerly of Grand Rapids, passed away Sunday, January 3, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Harold; parents, Charles and Kate Posthumus; brothers, Earl and Charles; sister, Donna Johnson. She is survived by her children, Nancy (Chuck) Garber, Christine (Bill) Brooks; sisters, Fran (Keith) Blough, Peg (Hayes) Cargill; brother, Jerry Posthumus; sister-in-law, Theresa Posthumus; brother-in-law, David (Sue) Krebs; grandchildren, Mathew (Susan) Garber, Alexander (Vanessa) Garber, Carmandy Garber, Elizabeth Hackett, Marianne Watkins, Jessica (Art) Vallad, Melanie (Dan) Lewis; great grandchildren, Amanda, Marcus, Raeanna, Alissa, Abigail, Caiden, Elijah, Ava, Fiona, and Vivienne. Funeral service was held at Cascade Christian Church Chapel, Grand Rapids. Pastor Jill Forton officiating. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. Memorial Contributions may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 4595 Broadmoor Ave. S.E., Ste 230, Grand Rapids, MI 49512 or Cascade Christian Church.



Student debt, continued

shed light on how much student loan debt students like me will be struggling to pay soon out of college.”

As part of the #InTheRed campaign, Senate Democrats will be introducing proposals to allow all eligible federal student loan borrowers to refinance their high-interest loans down to the rates offered to new federal borrowers in the 2013-2014 school year; to index Pell Grant awards to inflation; and create new partnerships among the federal government, states, and Indian tribes to help them waive resident tuition in two years of community and technical college programs for eligible students. These provisions

would be fully paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Sixty-two percent of students in Michigan graduate #InTheRed with student loan debt. A student who graduated from a four-year Michigan college or university in 2014 owes on average almost \$30,000 in loans, making Michigan ninth in the country on average student loan debt.

Student loan debt in the United States is over \$1.3 trillion and is the second highest form of consumer debt.

...

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.

~ Socrates

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP Schedule of Regular Board Meetings for 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM
 PLACE: BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC HALL
 8240 ALDEN NASH SE, ALTO, MI
 PHONE: 616 868 6846
 www.bownetwp.org

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| January 18 | July 18 |
| February 15 | August 15 |
| March 21 | September 19 |
| April 18 | October 17 |
| May 16 | November 21 |
| June 20 | December 19 |

This notice posted in compliance with PA 267 as amended (Open Meetings Act) MCLA 41.72A(2)(3) AND WITH THE Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
 Bowne Township Clerk

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
 1st Thursday each month-7:00 pm
 Historic Township Hall

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
 3rd Thursday - 7:00 pm
 Historic Township Hall



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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS trust will be forever barred unless presented to Elizabeth Ann Regts, Trustee, 1809 Belden, S.W., Wyoming, MI 49509, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Gerald H. Regts, who lived at 1809 Belden, S.W., Wyoming, MI 49509, died October 20, 2015.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased or the

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

Elizabeth Ann Regts, Trustee
 1809 Belden, S.W.
 Wyoming, MI 49509

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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What you need to know about winter driving

Winter can be an especially perilous time to be on the roads. Snow, ice, fog and longer nights present challenges to drivers that can lead to crashes.

People do less driving in winter, yet we have more crashes per mile driven. Some 10,780 people were killed in car crashes between December and March in 2013 -- fully one-third of the total for each year. Non-fatal collisions also occur with greater frequency in winter months.

You may be an ace behind the wheel when the sun is shining and roads are dry, but driving in winter weather can be a different story. Drivers need to recalibrate and adjust their driving for winter road conditions.

"Travel can be treacherous when roadway surfaces are compromised during winter storms," says Deborah A.P. Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council (NSC). "The good news is that in-vehicle technologies can help drivers by providing advance warnings and preventing loss of control."

NSC and the University of Iowa recently partnered to launch a campaign called MyCarDoesWhat, to educate drivers about vehicle safety technologies designed to prevent crashes. The MyCarDoesWhat campaign offers three major pieces of advice for driving in wintry conditions:

- Slow down. This is the golden rule of winter driving. Drivers frequently underestimate how long it takes to brake and how difficult it can be to steer on slippery roads.

- Do not use cruise control when driving on slippery surfaces. It will diminish your control over the car and reduce your

reaction time in the event of a skid.

- Bridges and overpasses freeze before roadways, so be alert in cold weather when approaching a bridge.

While a careful and skillful driver is always a vehicle's best safety feature, many safety technologies can help prevent or reduce the severity of winter-related crashes.

They include:

- Anti-lock braking systems (ABS) help drivers maintain control by preventing wheels from locking up. Your ABS works differently than traditional brakes, and requires you to drive differently too. It delivers and releases precise braking pressure to each wheel as needed, so you shouldn't pump the brakes when you have ABS. Just hold them down firmly and look and steer in the direction you want to go. They may buzz and vibrate when the ABS has activated.

- Traction control helps you accelerate without spinning out on slippery surfaces.

- With electronic stability control, your car's computer helps sense when you may be losing control around a corner or curve and can stabilize your car if it begins to veer off your intended path.

- Adaptive headlights adjust to changing roadway conditions -- such as curves -- to provide optimum illumination along the roadway during the long winter nights and periods of low daytime visibility.

"Driving in snow and ice requires much more focus on the conditions and an ability to adapt to an ever-changing, slippery environment," says Daniel McGehee, director of the Transportation and Vehicle Safety Program at the University of Iowa.

Research shows that

most consumers are unsure about how some potentially life-saving vehicle safety technologies work. To get better acquainted with your car's features and learn important winter driving skills, visit MyCarDoesWhat.org on Twitter and Facebook for videos and tools.

With the right knowledge and skills, you can make your winter journeys safer.

(StatePoint)



Looking Back, continued

Topp, recreational director in charge of the rink says it has promise of being in better condition this year than last due to the fact that it has had a few more sprayings.

Fluorescent lighting installed at Hotpoint. The Lowell Hotpoint Company store has just installed complete fluorescent lighting in their business place as a demonstration of the efficiency of this new illumination. They wish to announce that they can install this lighting in homes and business places for a low installation cost and you can save one-third on operating cost. Phone 168 for estimate.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger January 13, 1966

Mrs. Leonard Veneman, 22, had a wide ride for a few minutes early Monday evening, hitting three cars and finally coming to a halt near the City Hall. According to police, she attempted to move the family car from where it was parked on Riverside Drive, and lost control. A block of wood installed by her husband to keep the motor idling faster, between the brake pedal and the throttle, caused the car to go faster, when she stepped on the brake. She hit a car owned by Ethel Souser, parked on the south side of Main Street, and veered across the street and hit a pick-up truck driven by Bruce Freisner. The third car involved in the melee belonged to David Gape of Grand Rapids. She finally halted the car by pulling the emergency brake.

Firemen were called to Newell Manufacturing Company on Friday, when a fire started in the paint booth. No painting operations were going on when the flash fire started. Workmen nearby, extinguished the fire before the Lowell firemen arrived.

Nowak's donate award to Boy Scout troop. Bill Nowak and family, who received the second place award in the Christmas decorating contest sponsored by the Lion's and the Lowell Chamber of Commerce, have donated the check they received to the local Boy Scout troop. Bill has worked with the Boy Scouts, here in Lowell for many years.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 16, 1991

Access to city sewer a must in school's search for new high school land. When it comes to purchasing

land for the new Lowell High School, nothing has weighed more on the minds of Lowell's School administration than whether or not the land has access to the city sewer system. There's an expensive reason for that. Without access to the city sewer, the school would have to build a 26 acre lagoon/pond to house the sewage. It would then have to double that amount of acreage so it would have a spot to irrigate and/or spray the sewage. This would all have to be approved by the DNR. The cost for such an undertaking would be \$1.6 million, in money that was not accounted for in the bond issue. The school was told that the 26-acre lagoon would be able to accommodate any future expansion. It will cost the School \$400,000 to hookup to the city sewer. That price was figured into the bond issue. This point alone, has made the Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, the school's number one choice.

U of M hubcaps have Bernie Kropf singing the "Maize and Blues." If Lowellites were asked to name a single devoted, died-in-the-wool Michigan State football fan, Bernie Kropf would likely be the first name to come to mind. The word "fan" is derived from fanatic, and Kropf fits the definition perfectly. He has held season tickets to M.S.U. football games for 33 years. "That's right, the same seats for 33 years", Kropf said proudly. As if that isn't enough, the Kropf's two sons and a daughter have graduated from M.S.U. Bernie is the type of guy you'd expect to wear green and white underwear and sing the Michigan State fight song in the shower. So, when Kropf took his pickup truck to HM Repair for some service work last week he didn't know he was soon to be sporting some new hubcaps on his truck. Howard Mersman, owner of HM Repair, decided it was time to stir Bernie up a little. While Kropf's truck was in the shop the hubcaps were replaced with a set Mersman had painted maize emblazoned with U of M block style "M's". When Kropf picked up his truck it was parked between two other vehicles. Kropf didn't notice the sporty new hubcaps and headed into town to run some errands. His first stop was at FMB State Savings Bank where bank V.P. Chuck Meyers spotted the flashy hubcaps. Meyers asked Kropf if he had changed his college affiliations and pointed out the hubcaps. To say Bernie can be a little "excitable" about the M.S.U. and U. of M. rivalry is more than an understatement. But, he has taken the joke in stride and has been showing off his new hubcaps all over town.

...

A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.

~ Nelson Mandela

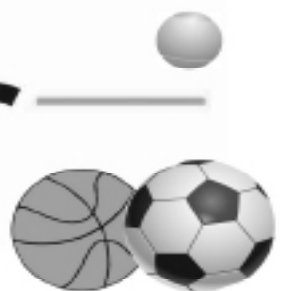
L
Go Red Arrows!



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell

ledger



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ACROSS

1. Visual representation
6. Part of tennis match
9. Hindu dress
13. Japanese-American
14. Anger management issue
15. Strong and sharp
16. Relating to Eastern Catholic churches
17. Group of whales
18. Innocent
19. * ___ line between atmosphere and outer space
21. *Houston's infamous ___
23. "Mele Kalikimaka" wreath
24. *Galilean moons, the ___ largest moons of Jupiter
25. Fertility clinic stock
28. Something inadmissible, to a baby
30. Less taxing
35. Fabled fliers
37. Praise
39. Buddy
40. Angler's hope
41. Muhammad's teaching
43. Capital on the Dnieper
44. Hipbone-related
46. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
47. *E.T. "phoned" it
48. One in ten, pl.
50. Iran Nuclear Deal, e.g.
52. Spanish "sea"
53. "Moonlight Sonata," e.g.
55. Embrace
57. *Matt Damon in 2015 film

CROSSWORD														
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JANUARY 6 - JANUARY 12

- Legendary musician and sometimes actor, David Bowie, 69, died of cancer. He just released what was to be his last album on his 69th birthday and apparently kept his illness a secret. The music video for his song 'Lazarus' seems to hint that he was well aware of his future. 
- A US-led coalition air strike destroyed a cash storage facility used by Islamic State jihadists in the Iraqi city of Mosul. Two 2,000-pound bombs struck the facility, destroying "millions" of dollars worth of cash.
- President Barack Obama gave his last State of the Union message on Tuesday.

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61. *Outer space, mostly
64. * ___ Asimov
65. Bird word
67. Flew a kite
69. OEle de la CitÉ river
70. Hole punching tool
71. Fill with optimism
72. What choir did
73. Brian Griffin on "Family Guy," e.g.
74. User's treatment
31. Punjabi believer
32. "Kick the bucket," e.g.
33. Organ swelling
34. *Mars exploration vehicle
36. *Only one was in John Glenn's Friendship 7
38. *Brent Spiner in "Star Trek"
42. Coffee shop order
45. USDA designation
49. Hot springs resort
51. Country singer Tanya
54. Open a beer bottle
56. Cunning
57. Piggy's title
58. On a cruise
59. Cats and dogs?
60. *Beverage associated with early astronauts
61. Measure of electric potential
62. Beehive State
63. Online ___ tag
66. Be in the red
68. Cotillion ball's main attraction

DOWN

1. African grazer
2. Triple toe loop location
3. "Heat of the Moment" band
4. Black ___ in "Pirates of the Caribbean"
5. Paid killers
6. Sagittarius, e.g.
7. Time period
8. Dancer's beat
9. Union foe
10. Seed cover
11. Gauche or Droite, in Paris
12. ___ Something previously mentioned
15. Arctic-wear
20. Garlic mayo
22. French street
24. Snafus
25. *Space path
26. Bridal veil fabric
27. ___ a play
29. *Famous space acronym

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.

LATEST
ONLINE
POLL
RESULTS

Is it appropriate to prohibit people from immigrating to the U.S. because of their religion?

- Definitely 5%
- Never 74%
- Sometimes 21%

TO VOTE IN
THIS WEEK'S
ONLINE POLL

WWW.
thelowellledger.com

Jan Bieri

Behind
The Scenes

Position: Retired substitute teacher

Residence: Lowell

Education: Hope College

Experience: Education degree, Hope College

Family: Three children
(Bob, Jon and Kay), 12 grandchildren

Hobbies: Swimming, reading, playing piano and organ (self-taught)

Pets: Tony, cat



Jan Bieri leads Bible study at Senior Neighbors every Wednesday morning.

Volunteer uses her teaching skills to help others study the Bible at Lowell Senior Neighbors

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Jan Bieri has been leading a Bible study group at Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson, for over two years. The 78-year-old retired teacher leads a group of about a dozen seniors every Wednesday morning at 10:30.

"We started with six and now we have 12, so we've doubled in size," Bieri said. "It's all word of mouth."

Bieri ran a lunch hour Bible study when she worked briefly at Attwood Corp. One of her coworkers

there went on to work at Senior Neighbors and remembered Bieri's short-lived Bible group.

"She called me up one day and she said, 'Jan, I have some people asking for a Bible study but we have no leader. Would you do it,'" Bieri said. "I said, 'Yeah, I'd do that' and I've been doing it ever since."

Bieri has a degree in education. She was a third-grade teacher in Lowell for a while, but stepped down once her own three children entered the school system.

"I've taught the Bible since I was about 15 years old," Bieri said. "I was a teacher before, but I only taught a short time in public schools. I taught third grade in Lowell."

One might assume that an activity called "Bible study" would entail studying the Bible cover-to-cover, front-to-back starting with page one, but that isn't Bieri's style.

"We have a stack of Bibles that I pass out if people didn't bring their own, but we don't start at

the beginning and go to the end," Bieri said. "We skip around and do different Bible passages. We're doing lessons right now that are based on the concept of 'getting older and wiser.' Over Christmas we did three verses about the birth of Jesus. I come prepared with a lesson every week. It changes. I've used all different kinds of materials. I usually try to buy materials so I don't have to come up with everything by myself. We try to keep our study non-denominational, because we have one girl who is Mormon, we have a couple who are Catholic and the rest, I don't know what church they come from and I don't care. We don't criticize one another."

One might also think that they would eventually finish studying the Bible and move on to some other important religious books or perhaps even some great works of literature, but Bieri said that you can study the Bible indefinitely.

"I'm willing to read from other books for my own enlightenment," Bieri said. "Like, one of the ladies brought me the Book of Mormon. I'm willing to read some of that and discuss it with her, but my focus is to teach the Bible. That's what they asked me to do and that's what I intend to do. I am a Christian. I believe in Jesus. I believe in the Christian faith, that it's the way to heaven."

Born and raised in Chicago, Bieri graduated from Chicago Christian High School and then from Hope College in Holland, which was where she met her future husband, Art Bieri.

"When Art came home from the service we decided to get married," Bieri said. "He was in the army in the Korean War. So I came here to Michigan in 1959 when we got married. He was an assistant to the chaplain

in the army, then he was a seventh- and eighth-grade teacher here in Lowell for 36-and-a-half years."

Art taught math and social studies and coached basketball, tennis and football. He retired from teaching in June 1994. In August 1994 he was injured in what Bieri described as a "car/deer crash." Art lingered in a coma for several months, finally succumbing to his injuries in January 1995.

"We never really had any retirement," Bieri said. "He was in a coma for five months and I sat at his side. Then he died from lack of oxygen to the brain. I've been a widow 21 years. I was 57. You learn to deal with what you have to deal with."

She's kept herself busy substitute teaching and volunteering in various ways around town, including sorting clothes at FROM, driving otherwise immobile people to medical appointments, distributing food to the hungry and mentoring young women

at her church, Calvary Christian Reformed, 1151 W. Main.

"I love Lowell," Bieri said. "When I first came to Lowell it wasn't as progressive as it is now. We have all these activities that go on now. When people come to visit Senior Neighbors they say, 'Wow, I like your town.' You've got this festival and you've got that festival, there's always something going on. I need that. I like that kind of town. Lowell has really grown and I like it. There are wonderful people in Lowell. I think it's a good town."

She said she'll continue to lead the Bible study group at Senior Neighbors until they kick her out.

"I tell them if they think I'm too old and would like me to find them someone else and they all descend on me, saying 'No, no, no, we love you. We've learned a lot from you and we want to keep you,'" Bieri said. "It's important work to me, to come here and to teach."



Jan Bieri at Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson.

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