

honorary women's club members



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Lowell's new postmaster excited to take on the challenges of the job

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell has a new postmaster. Alex Sereseroz, a 44-year-old Cutlerville resident, officially took over the position on Jan. 9, but he has been interim postmaster here for some time.

"The previous postmaster here [Nancy Roth] ended up leaving to go to Jenison," Sereseroz said. "She's the postmaster in Jenison now. I filled in as interim postmaster for just over a year and a half until they put the job posting up. It's normal, when a postmaster leaves they'll have somebody come and fill in for a little bit until they put the job up for a bid. I fell in love with the community here so I said hey, why not, I'm going to put in for it and see if I can get it. I applied for it, had an interview about four weeks ago and I found out on Saturday [Jan. 9] that I got the job."

Sereseroz has been a postal employee for almost two decades.

"I have been with the post office since 1998, so almost 18 years," Sereseroz said. "I've been around a

little while. I started off at the main post office. I was a clerk for a couple years, sorting mail, processing mail and whatnot and then I went into management

around 2001. I primarily supervised in Grand Rapids, the main post office facilities there, as well as Kentwood, Eastown and the Northeast Station. In my

last job I was a delivery and customer service supervisor in Caledonia and then I got asked to fill in for this [Lowell] detail until they found a new postmaster."

The duties of a postmaster are varied and intense. He is personally responsible for every interaction that takes place in Lowell between the public and the postal service.

"As postmaster, basically I oversee the whole installation," he said. "We have a retail unit, which is our windows and I oversee all of our rural carriers and city delivery. I also kind of network with the community a little bit. I assist a lot of customers when they want to mail mass mailings to different areas with Every Door Direct Mail or bulk mailings. There was a little more hustle and bustle when I worked in Grand Rapids. It's a little more laid back here. You still have a lot of the same things that you encounter in the big city, it's just you can work at your own pace and spend more time with your customers and be a little more hands on

with everything. Basically I just try to run the whole show here and keep it all together, run it as efficiently as possible."

Sereseroz is a native of Owosso. In his spare time he enjoys outdoor activities and he is a big fan of movies.

"I'm a big movie freak," Sereseroz said. "I love going to the movies and so does my 10-year-old son. It's normal for us, on the weekends, to hit a couple movies."

He said he's excited to take on the challenges and reap the rewards of being Lowell's postmaster.

"I'm definitely excited about being here in Lowell," Sereseroz said. "It's a great community. I've been here for a year and a half so I've interacted with a lot of the regular customers already. It's awesome here. I'm here to stay for a while. The employees are great here too. This is the kind of place I could stay for a while. I love Lowell. It's a small, nice community where I see some of the same faces over and over, the same customers."



Lowell's new postmaster Alex Sereseroz in front of his office door.

Education foundation initiates fundraiser for tech needs

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Students in Lowell Area Schools will be encouraged to bring a \$10 bill to school at some point between Feb. 1 and Feb. 10 as part of a "\$10 for Technology" fundraiser. The money will be used by the Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation to provide grants to teachers who want to purchase interesting, technologically-advanced learning tools to educate their students.

"We decided to do a fundraiser in February garnering funds for technology enhancements for the school system," said LEF chair, former IT professional and current Davenport University professor Linda LeSage. "These [grants] wouldn't be used for maintenance, like to replace PCs. One teacher wanted used guitars for their music room. That enhanced

their curriculum because then more students could get their hands on a guitar. Those are the kinds of things that we typically do. It could be used for bringing in a set of iPad minis and earphones for the kindergartners so they could hear reading to them. That's really the future, it helps students with different learning styles."

The LEF is designed to supplement money the state provides to schools.

"LEF is set up specifically to fundraise for enhancements to curriculum and improvements in curriculum," LeSage said. "It's a group of non-paid volunteers that get together monthly and work on ways to fundraise and help our school system. We're really trying to make sure our schools are the very best, even though the state keeps cutting the budget for the

school system. We focus on anything that will help the teachers innovate or

enhance their curriculum. In the fall we have the teachers fill out grant [requests] for

us and we provide money to them based on how Education foundation fundraiser, continued, page 3

Geography bee champs



Pictured above are Murray Lake Elementary's ten geography bee finalists. Noah VanLaan was declared the winner of the bee and Logan Acheson was the runner-up. Back row, left to right: Ramsey Ponchaud, Jeffrey Richards, Ryan Baker and Benjamin Bromley; front row: Nolan Jannenga, Jason Korzen, Noah VanLaan, Logan Acheson, Benjamin Gaskin and Colton Byrne.

Blood donations urgently needed by Red Cross

The American Red Cross urgently needs blood donors to make an appointment to give this winter. Eligible blood donors of all types are needed, especially those with O, AB, B negative and A negative.

Blood is needed to respond to emergencies large and small, across the country every day. For Heather Von Glahn, it was a personal emergency – her 8-year-old daughter’s leukemia diagnosis – that inspired her to make the commitment to give blood regularly. “I’ve seen blood save her life at least 10 times,” said Von Glahn. “When friends and family ask what they can do for my daughter, I tell them to donate blood. It matters so much!”

Blood donations are urgently needed now and throughout the winter to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients in need. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red

Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the area include:

KENT COUNTY

Grand Rapids
2/4/2016: 12 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Grand Rapids Community College, 143 Bostwick Ave NE
and 2/8/2016: 12 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Cornerstone University, 1001 E. Beltline Avenue NE

BARRY COUNTY

Middleville
2/3/2016: 12 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Thornapple Township Emergency Services, 128 High Street

Hastings

2/4/2016: 1 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 405 N - M37 Highway

Delton

2/15/2016: 11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., St. Ambrose Church, 11149 Floria Road

IONIA COUNTY

Belding
2/5/2016: 12 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Belding Community Center - Belrockton, 108 Hanover Street

Lake Odessa

2/8/2016: 12 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Central United Methodist Church, 912 Fourth Ave

Portland

2/9/2016: 11:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 690 Maynard Rd

MONTCALM COUNTY

Greenville
2/8/2016: 1 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church, 12501 Montcalm Ave. NE
2/15/2016: 11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., St. Ambrose Church, 11149 Floria Road

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more

information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood donors can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and

provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross

along main street



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.

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL ART COMPETITION

The West Michigan Regional Art Competition will be held from March 4 through April 16 at the LowellArts! King Gallery, 149 S. Hudson St. This year’s distinguished juror is Caitlín Doherty, curator and deputy director of curatorial affairs at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum MSU. Pieces are selected in all visual art media by artists 18 yrs. and older who reside in a 15 county region. Cash awards are presented in five categories. For more information go to www.lowellartsmi.org

SNOWSHOEING & SCAVENGER HUNTING

The Wittenbach/Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes will have snowshoeing and scavenger hunting from 11-4pm on Saturday, Feb. 6. The first 100 snowshoe rentals will be half price (\$2) thanks to the generosity of Lowell Community Wellness. After that, snowshoe rentals will be \$4/person.

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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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

what expenses will you incur when investing?

You invest so that you can achieve a variety of goals, such as a secure retirement. It's inevitable, though, that you will incur some costs when investing, ranging from payments to a financial professional to costs of educational materials. So it's a good idea to familiarize yourself with these expenses.

If you work with a financial professional — and you should, because the investment world is complex — you will need to compensate this individual for his or her expertise and guidance. Financial advisors get paid in different ways, including the following methods:

Fee only — Fee-based accounts may charge a fee as a percentage of your total portfolio. For example, if an account charges 1.5% per year, and your original account balance was \$100,000, you'd pay a \$1,500 fee. The next year, if your account value goes up to \$110,000, you'd pay \$1,650. This arrangement could function in different ways. For example, a financial advisor could work with you to create an overall strategy, consult with you on individual transactions

and then carry out those transactions. Alternatively, the account could be a discretionary one, in which you grant the advisor the right to make all the decisions on your behalf.

A second fee-based arrangement is the per-hour charge, in which an advisor will charge you an agreed-upon amount per hour, then leave it up to you to implement his or her recommendations.

Commission only — Under this model, the financial advisor's compensation consists of the commission he or she gets from the products you purchase. Some commission-based advisors may suggest trades to help you follow an overall financial strategy, while others may simply make the transactions that you've decided upon after consulting with them.

Which of these payment methods is best? There's no one right answer for everyone. Your choice may ultimately depend on several factors, such as how involved you want to be in choosing your own investments, how frequently you plan to trade, how often you'd like to consult with an advisor, and so on. In any case, before

you start working with a financial advisor, make sure you clearly understand how he or she is paid.

Apart from whatever costs are connected to working with a financial advisor, you may incur other expenses while investing. Some types of investments carry fees and expenses, which may or may not be included in the compensation your financial advisor receives. Your advisor should clearly explain the costs associated with all investments and investment programs.

One other area in which you may tack on expenses is through investment-related educational materials. For example, you might subscribe to an investment newsletter, or purchase books or magazines related to investing. Even if you work with a financial advisor, there's certainly nothing wrong with educating yourself as broadly as possible about investment issues. Keep in mind, though, that any recommendations you read about are only intended for a general audience and may not apply to your individual situation.

As you invest through the years, always be aware of expenses and from where they originate. After all, you want to make educated decisions about every aspect of investing — including its costs.

Many students were not 100 percent positive on their choice, but knew that they did not want Donald Trump as their next president. They said that he wouldn't follow through with his promises, that he is more of a comedian than a politician and that they can't take him seriously because of his hair. As for me, none of the candidates have convinced me that they should be the next president of the United States, but I know that I wouldn't vote for Donald Trump.

kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

The presidential elections are coming up in November and I asked my fellow classmates at Lowell Middle School who they wanted to win.

Out of the 30 students I interviewed, 17 wanted Ben Carson to win, followed by Donald Trump with six votes. Hillary Clinton, Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders

each had one vote and four students were undecided.

Ben Carson supporters said that they would vote for him because he is more for peace than other candidates. In addition, students felt that he is speaking more as a doctor than a politician and they liked that in a candidate.

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viewpoint

USDA expands microloans to help farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans will be especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program, which celebrates

its third anniversary this week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help

with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

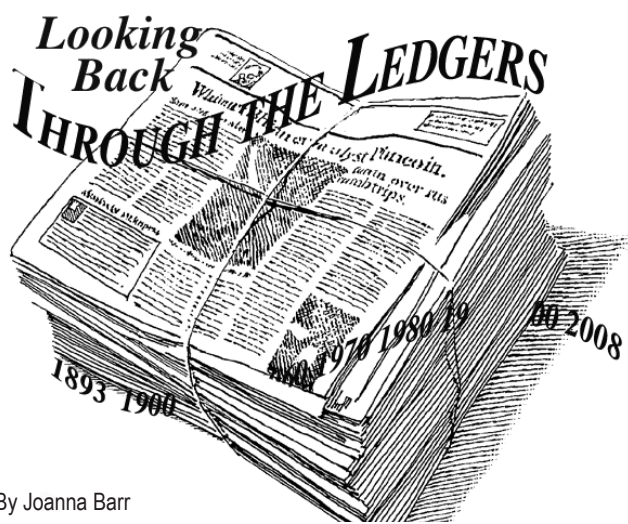
This microloan announcement is another USDA resource for America's farmers and ranchers to utilize, especially as new and beginning farmers and ranchers look for the assistance they need to get started. To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal January 21, 1891

Miss Jones does not like affairs pertaining to herself to be mentioned last, as it were, at the foot, and to appease the commendable spirit she shows she now heads the list of news, very like human nature indeed! Who likes to take a back seat?

Al. Turner returned home from Alabama, several days ago, and reports land plenty, taxes low, northern men welcomed and climate all that could be desired, but the people about one hundred years behind his age. "My Michigan forever." Ada.

Skating on the mill pond is fine and the youngsters and some not so young are making good use of it.

Some fish are being caught through the ice on the mill pond.

The Oyster Supper at the Grange Hall for the benefit of Rev. J. W. Arney was a grand success. The receipts were about \$104 cash, and nothing transpired to mar the pleasure of any, to our knowledge.

Miss Smith complains that I did not spell her neuralgia right! I did surely! I was disciplined on that word in my youth, in a way never to forget it. It is all owing to that imp of unsavory name who haunts every printing press, from that of the great blanket dailies to the child's paper. And another thing, who ever heard of the word "honestness?" Tempus Fugit.

There has been some complaint lately of corn, etc, coming up missing. We can't believe it is any of our neighbors in the grain business.

J. D. Frost and wife have broke up housekeeping for the winter and P. W. Byrnes has moved into their house to look after and take care of things for them.

Ed. Hoag had the misfortune to pound a nail into his knee. There was a board between the hammer and his knee, but nevertheless his knee is very painful.

Mr. Starring, who lived here when Uncle Sam was

calling for volunteers, but now of New York, Sundayed at F. W. Morton's.

Seward Wyman had his foot run over by the hind wheel of a heavily loaded wagon, and it will be some time before he will get the use of his foot again. Mrs. Wyman is improving very slowly.

While Volney Walton was chopping wood Thursday, his ax caught on a limb which threw it back, striking him in the neck just above the jugular vein, coming within one third of an inch of severing that member. A narrow escape indeed.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 20, 1916

Greed unbounded – Citizens Telephone Co. wants pound of flesh. Cedar Springs, Jan. 17.—Plans for establishing an independent telephone exchange here with a capital of \$25,000 were discussed yesterday and today by business men and farmers here as a result of the increase in the rates charged by the Citizens Telephone company. C. F. Tarte, general secretary of the company was here but failed to swing the subscribers back into line. It was stated here that before the end of the week there will not be more than a dozen Citizens phones in operation. The four doctors were granted permission at the meeting to keep theirs temporarily because of the grippe epidemic. Mr. Tarte stated that an increase in the rates at Lowell, Caledonia, Sand Lake and Rockford is planned.

Council's doings – offers reward for nullifiers of liquor law. Notice – The Village of Lowell will pay \$10.00 reward to any person furnishing information leading to the arrest and conviction, of any person furnishing intoxicating liquor to listed persons, or habitual drunkards. Motion carried Yeas 6 Arehart, Henry, Lee, Mange, Weekes and Winegar.

Returns after forty years. David B. Denney of Ellsworth, Antrim county, Mich., called on J. S. Hooker Monday. Mr. Denney was born in Lowell, near where the new school is, in 1852, His people came here from Saranac in the spring of 1847, and were moved here in canoes by J. S. Hooker and settled in a board shanty a few rods south of the place before mentioned. Stephen Denney, father of David, was the first blacksmith and his shop was situated on the same ground where the ledger office is now located. David and wife are now visiting at the home of John Olin. It is 40 years since David has seen Lowell and he notices quite a change. J. S. H.

Those who are so anxious to spend another big bunch of "Other Peoples, Money" for a new home for its drunks and toughs, will not relish this utterance of Mel Trotter: "Every one of those lobsters over there have a better bed, a warmer home and more to eat

than their families which are thrown upon the Rescue mission for support. When Grand Rapids gets so high toned that the Kent county jail is not good enough for its drunks and vagrants, then it had better not send them to jail at all." We have heard something like this before from people who are opposed to stacking public burdens higher and are glad of Mr. Trotter's endorsement. Let's pay for a few of the things already bought before plunging the public any further in debt. Remember, it was the last straw that broke the camel's back.

Dr. J. M. Raynor has issued a warning to farmers in western Michigan against feeding horses and cattle silage which was cut the killing frosts last fall, as it is likely to have moulded, and is liable to poison the stock to which it is fed.

On one of the zero nights last week two men were found dead drunk on a Lowell sidewalk, and the officer who found and cared for them says they could not have lived much longer. It was a narrow escape for the poor inebriates and perhaps some others. This is not good weather for sleeping out of doors.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 23, 1941

From Kent County, Michigan, to County of Kent, England. One of the most vital needs of the homeless in bomb-torn England at the present time is for rolling kitchens in which hot food and drinks may be prepared and distributed at the scene of emergency according to information received from the British War Relief Society. Acting upon that information the "Kitchens for Kent Committee," of which Mayor Geo. W. Welsh of Grand Rapids, is chairman, and Charles Montgomery of Kent City, head of the board of supervisors, is honorary chairman, has set out to raise, by the evening of Monday, Jan. 27, enough money to buy at least one mobile kitchen. The kitchen, which costs \$1,750, would be presented to the County of Kent, England, or Hell's Corners, as it is know because of the terrific bombardments suffered. It would be delivered immediately as a gift from Kent County, Michigan, U. S. A., as a gesture of our sympathy and desire to help the residents of Britain's county bearing the same name. In addition to providing hot food and drinks to homeless men, women and children after bombs have destroyed their homes, they are also used extensively in feeding fire fighting forces, air-raid warriors, the home guard and other units, the committee has been told.

Terrance Deane was granted a building permit at the meeting of the common council Monday night to build a 20x17 frame building to be used as a laundry at 117 South Washington.

LWC inducts two unlikely but deserving honorary members

During last week's annual joint meeting of the Lowell Rotary Club and the Lowell Women's Club (LWC), the LWC inducted two new honorary members. A very surprised Bill Wood and Dave Thompson listened as LWC president Ginny Weber

listed their qualifications: "...years of lugging, toting and delivery of goods and services for the club."

A special mention of Wood's work putting hot sealing wax on jars upon jars of LWC jellies and jams and Thompson's part-time

secretarial responsibilities and his preparation of a wonderful seafood chowder for Christmas Through Lowell's annual fundraiser were also included. Both men were presented with framed certificates for their work.

Dave Thompson and Bill Wood hold the plaques displaying their honorary status.



At Your Local Library



Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

CREATIVE CANVAS PAINTING

Release your inner artist by creating a unique and beautiful painting with the guidance of instructors from Wine and Canvas (sans wine). All supplies will be provided and no previous experience is needed to create a masterpiece in our fun and relaxing environment. Pre-registration is required and participant spots are limited. For adults. Mon., Feb. 1 at 6 pm.

HEART TO HEART CRAFT PARTY

Roses are red, violets are blue, join our Valentine event, just for you! Celebrate Valentine's Day with snacks and crafts. For all ages. Thurs., Feb. 11 at 10 am.

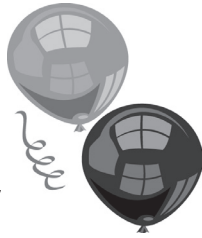
FUN WITH GRANDKIDS: KIDS CAN COOK!

Join Mandy Thompson to learn cooking basics and how to prepare a simple meal with help from Grandma, Grandpa or the big person that comes with you. For ages 4 and up with an adult. Registration is required and limited to 10 pairs of attendants. *This is a nut-free program. Sat., Feb. 13 at 1 pm.

KDALE HOME BREWING BASICS

Jump into home brewing with expert advice from Chrissy Walker of Gravel Bottom Craft Brewery and Supply. Learn everything you need to know to get started brewing including ingredients and equipment. For adults. Wed., Feb. 3 at 6:30 pm.

happy birthday



JANUARY 20

Shelby Baird, Josh Rinard.

JANUARY 23

Amanda Wingeier, Zach Stauffer.

JANUARY 21

James Vezino, Mark MacNaughton, Krysta Jankowski, Brooklyn Rinard.

JANUARY 24

David Szymczak, Haleigh Timmers, Mackenzie Stiles.

JANUARY 22

Cheryl DeYoung, Bob Pfaller, Dale Latva, Jenni Magner, Frances Walling, Glenn Vanbuskirk, Shane Gildner, Reece VanderWarf, Frances DeVries, Elijah Barr.

JANUARY 25

Molly Doyle, Dean Olin.

JANUARY 26

Victor Weeks, Steven Uzarski, Andy Nowak, Alex Dommer.

...

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

~Will Rogers

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canker sores

Canker sores are small shallow painful ulcers that occur on the soft tissues of the mouth or on your gums. Minor canker sores are the most common. They are small and will heal in several weeks.

The cause is unknown but thought to be a combination of several things. Possible triggers include:

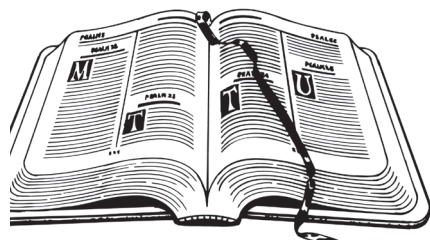
- a minor injury to the mouth or gums;
- toothpaste/mouth rinses that contain sodium lauryl sulfate;
- spicy or acidic foods;
- B12, folate or zinc deficiencies;
- Hi pylori;
- emotional stress.

They may also occur due to other more serious systemic diseases. These include celiac disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and Behcet's disease.

Treatment is not typically needed, but sometimes oral steroid rinses are prescribed for severe cases.

Over-the-counter treatments include topical pastes, creams or gels that relieve pain for a short time. Caution can also be used to speed healing and reduce pain. Home remedies include using a baking soda or salt water rinse and applying milk of magnesia to the ulcer several times per day prior to eating.

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Jobs, continued

change issues are in demand now and will be in the future. How we interact with the environment by designing and engineering smart, sustainable structures and living spaces will be vital. Creative concepts in engineering and the sciences will lead the way on these global and local issues.

Machine operator

Skilled labor will still be in demand according to the agriculture, forestry and commerce departments. We will need educated and skilled people to operate large machines, heavy equipment and the technicians to repair them. Equipment like backhoes, haulers, boats, trucks and cranes are not yet automated and these positions are being unfilled now by retiring baby boomers.

There is such great opportunity and potential for creative careers, but aside from the machine operators, what direct skills are needed to succeed in this unknown career environment? How do you prepare for a career that may not exist now? That may be difficult, but some common skills will be needed across sectors and those abilities can be transferred to many industries and careers.

Multiple organizations have come up with lists of skills needed for the 21st century, including National

Institute for Professional Practice's "The 21st Century Workplace Skills for Success," Envision's "13 Essential 21st Century Skills for Today's Students" and Widget's "16 skills for the 21st Century." They differ some on their emphasis, but all have common threads. I have condensed these down into the four Cs.

Communication. Being able to communicate to a wide range of audiences will be essential. The audiences may differ by generational, cultural, socioeconomic or be diverse in other ways. The medium of communication may have to vary as well. Being technology literate is vital to almost any future job prospect, yet how we use and interact with that technology will be essential. We still need to talk to and communicate with each other.

Creativity. One of the aspects of schools in the past has been to squash creativity; now schools need to cultivate creativity. Basic skills in math, language and science are still needed, but there is also a need to develop creativity and foster imagination in a safe environment, one that allows for failure but encourages students to dream. Innovative thinking to solve problems will be a strength for future generations and even today.

Collaboration/team-work. Working with others to solve problems will be more and more essential. What those "teams" look like will change, too. The workforce will ultimately be more diverse — multicultural, multi-generational and multi-national, therefore having good communication skills coupled with social and cultural awareness will be an asset in this future workplace.

Critical thinking. Few are the jobs that just require an employee to pound in a rivet or just put a part in place. Now more than ever employers are looking for employees to solve problems and make crucial decisions. Critical-thinking skills are valuable

in any workplace setting and can be transferred across industries. Employers will ask more from their employees, looking to them to be the face and force to change the company's direction with innovative ideas.

The atmosphere of the "office" is changing as well. Where and when we conduct business is shifting. How we all adapt to this and work with others will make the difference. This can not only be beneficial to a diverse population, but also can be a positive fit for a changing lifestyle and the next generations.

These generations to come will have different needs and desires from their employers than past

generations. Generation Z and Millennials demand more from their employer — not job security so much, but flexibility. Balancing work, home and social life is a must.

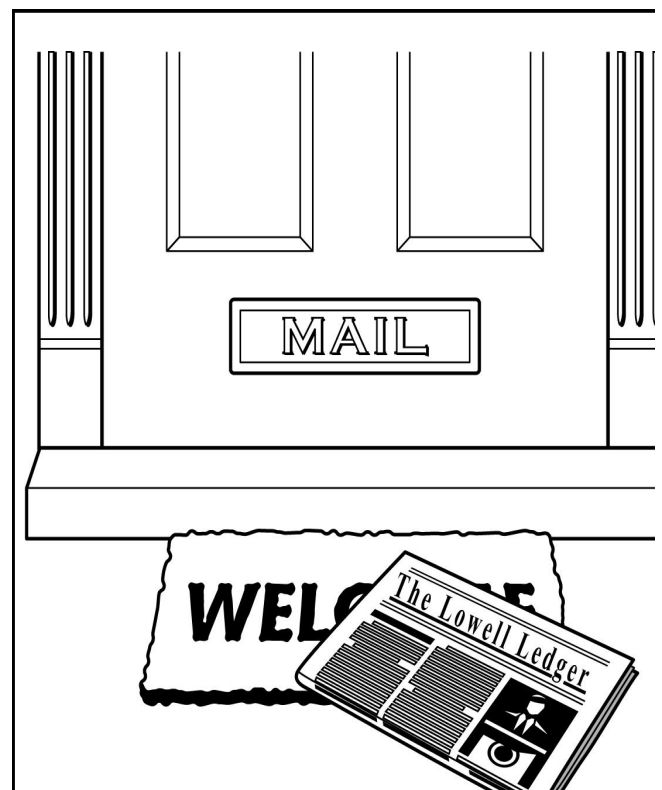
These generations are always connected (social technology and networking), so this should not be a problem. They can and may work from home, but working late at night between taking the kids to school and seeing a movie may become the norm. New generations will not necessarily be loyal to a company unless they believe in its mission and purpose. They are not in it for the paycheck, but for passion. Check out "No job security, no problem for

Generation Z" by CNBC at www.cnn.com


Isn't the future all about change? Yet a lack of preparation for it can be detrimental. However, if students arm themselves with the needed skills to succeed in any field and the fields change, they should be confident to conquer any of those challenges.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>

Thomas W. Long is a Michigan State University Extension educator working primarily in career education/workforce preparation and capacity building.



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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BID PROPOSAL
Sealed bids, in triplicate, for the Lowell Area Schools 2016 Summer Improvements, will be received at Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 Ionia NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 until 2:00 pm local time. Bids received after this time, at this location, will neither be considered or accepted.

All proposals received by the time and date stated above will be opened and read publicly at 3:00pm local time on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 in Room B100, Lowell Area School Administration, 300 High St, Lowell, MI 49331. Bids may be hand delivered an Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. representative just prior to the bid opening.

Bids may be mailed to Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., 300 Ionia NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Mailed bids must be received prior to the bid due time and date stated above. FAXED OR EMAILED BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

In accordance with Section 1267 of the Revised School Code each bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Familial Disclosure Statement completed by the bidder disclosing any familial relationship between the Owner or any employee of the Bidder and any member of the District's Board of Education or the Superintendent of the District.

SITE INSPECTION
A construction pre-bid meeting will be held at Room B100, Lowell Area School Administration, 300 High St, Lowell, MI 49331 on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 starting at 10:00 am local time. All bidders are encouraged to attend.

BID DOCUMENTS
The Bidding Documents may be obtained at ARC-Veenstra Documents Solutions, 800 Monroe Ave NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503, at no cost or deposit. A non-refundable charge of \$30 will be required for mailing documents.

Documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- <http://las2016.blogspot.com/>
- Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. website: www.owen-ames-kimball.com/subcontractors/
- Builders Exchange plan rooms in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Traverse City.
- Dodge McGraw Hill plan rooms in Grand Rapids, Lansing & Southfield.
- Reed Construction Data and Construction Association of Michigan, Detroit.
- Construction News Corp, Cleveland

BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS
Bidders submitting a Bid for this Project shall have qualifications as follows:

- Shall be a reputable, recognized organization, with at least five (5) years successful experience on work of this type and scope of this project.
- Shall have a license where required by public authorities having jurisdiction.
- Shall have ample financial resources for work of this magnitude.

BID SECURITY - PERFORMANCE BONDS
Each bid shall be accompanied by good and sufficient bid security or bid bond in an amount not less than 5% of the Bid amount and shall secure the Owner from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid by a Bidder or by failure of the successful Bidder to enter into a Contract with the Owner if his Bid is accepted by the Owner.

The successful Bidder will be required to secure Performance, Labor and Material bonds for all contracts at or exceeding \$50,000, from a surety company having a rating of A- or better, for the full amount of the Contract.

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Red Arrow **SPORTS**

- WRESTLING

Wrestlers enjoy their still perfect season

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Red Arrow wrestlers shot straight to the top of two competitions last week with wide margin wins that add up to a still perfect season and the potential for the nationally ranked team to march uncontested to the state competition once again.

The squad kicked off the week by earning their second OK White victory of the season with a 50-15 win over Caledonia Wednesday at home. The win makes them 2-0 in the conference, a title they have held for the past six consecutive years. "We were happy with the way our team competed against Jenison and Caledonia and are expecting to be in the hunt for another OK White championship," said second year Lowell head coach RJ Boudro.

The team then capped off the week with a first-place finish at their own Gary Rivers Memorial

Invitational on Saturday. Nine Lowell wrestlers went undefeated at the annual tournament which welcomed 15 Michigan teams on Saturday morning. The tournament, which honors former coach and Lowell wrestling program architect Gary Rivers, featured four pools of teams competing on six mats

spread across the regular and auxiliary gyms at the high school.

Boudro said the tournament is an important one for the program and its members, "The Gary Rivers tournament is a long-standing tradition and Lowell and our guys are proud to host and wrestle in it every year. Coach Rivers has started a tradition here in Lowell of wrestling dominance that has stood for decades."

That dominance was evident as they topped Portage Northern 54-11, Shepherd High School 71-9 and Allendale 55-12. In the semifinals the Arrows met Hudsonville whom they topped 45-16 with the final victory coming from

talented sophomore Austin Engle who boasted a perfect 2-0 finish, also topping his Allendale opponent 12-0.

"Austin is having an awesome season for us," commented Boudro. "He was not in our varsity lineup last year as a freshman, but this year is one of the top ranked 160 pound wrestlers in the state. He placed fourth at the Detroit Catholic Central invite and beat [a] defending state champion in the process."

In the final round of action Lowell met DeWitt High School, who topped Grandville to get to the top of the bracket alongside the Arrows. Lowell produced yet another solid win topping Dewitt 49-13 to claim the tournament's top

honors. Besides Engle, several other grapplers went undefeated en route to the championship. Lucas Hall went 5-0 at 119 pounds, Sam Russell 5-0 at 125, Avery Mutschler 5-0 at 130, David Cruz 3-0 at 160, Max Dean 5-0 at 189, Dan Cruz 5-0 at 171, Logan Blough 2-0 at 215 and Eli Boulton 3-0 at 215.

Boudro said this victory was especially sweet for him as he works hard to continue to celebrate and perpetuate the legacy of champions at Lowell High School. "I am honored to help his legendary status live on and I am grateful for all the hard work the coaches that have preceded me have put in to this great program," said Boudro.



Senior Zeth Dean takes to the mat against a competitor from Portage Northern.



Red Arrow wrestler Keigan Yuhas contorts his Shepherd High School opponent.

This week the team will compete in a trio of competitions starting with their third OK White challenger of the year Forest Hills Central on the road Wednesday. Saturday morning half of the squad will return to the same location for the FHC Rangerbrawl and the other half competes in Cleveland, Ohio, against powerhouse St. Edwards High School who is currently ranked in the top ten nationally.

Sport summaries

BOYS BOWLING

Lowell boys varsity bowling rolled a rescheduled match against Northview High School last Friday at Eastbrook Lanes. Despite dropping the match, several Red Arrow bowlers had top-notch games. Junior Logan Smith led the team with a 195 and 197. Ben Stewart contributed a 152 and 192. Tim Buechler and Xavier Taylor also finished well for the Arrows.

GIRLS BOWLING

The Lady Red Arrow rollers fell to OK Bronze strikers Northview High School last Friday on their home turf, Eastbrook Lanes. Northview edged out Lowell fresh off qualifying for the state tournament earlier in the week. Lowell senior and former state qualifier Ally Stockreef scored best for the team, followed by sophomore Morgan Allison who earned her second best competition finish and senior Marilla Marks.

ICE HOCKEY

Grand Rapids West Catholic netted four goals to top Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian (LCSC) hockey last Friday night at the Kentwood Ice Arena. LCSC started the game off with the lead but fell behind 2-1 by the end of the first period. Despite another third period score, the team fell 4-2 for their first conference loss of the season.

LAS
Elementary
Lunch Menus
week of 1/25/16

MONDAY: Chicken strips, baked beans. **Dinner:** also includes a dinner roll, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mixed fruit, orange slices.

TUESDAY: Beef taco on soft tortilla shell, steamed corn, **Dinner:** Beef taco on soft tortilla shell, steamed broccoli, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, peaches mandarin oranges.

WEDNESDAY: French toast sticks, served w/eggs, hash-brown steak, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, apple slices, orange juice.

THURSDAY: BBQ pork rib-eye on bun, mashed potatoes & gravy, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, kiwi, strawberries, peaches. **Dinner:** Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes & gravy, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, strawberries, peaches.

FRIDAY: Tony's pepperoni pizza on VEG crust, baby carrots, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, red pepper strips, apple slices, juice.

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Red Arrow - GYMNASTICS SPORTS

Gymnasts top Kenowa Hills in conference play

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics topped the combined team of Kenowa Hills, Grandville and West Catholic 139.125 to 135.25 in conference play last Monday at home in the Red Arrows' auxiliary gym.

Corah Kaufman led the Lowell team scoring well on all four events to earn top all-around gymnast honors with a score of 35.55. The talented gymnast earned an

8.9 on the vault, 8.375 on the beam, 9.275 in the floor exercise and a near record breaking score of 9.0 on the bars. According to head coach Michele DeHaan, "Corah Kaufman is creeping up on that school bar record, I can't wait until she breaks it. The record is from the 1990s and is held by Laura Kropf with a 9.1."

Senior Lauren Browning made it back onto the top of the scoreboard

with a mark of 8.075 on the bars, after a serious ankle injury kept her out of play early in the season. "She had a severe ankle injury back in August while trying to learn some new tumbling and when we started our season Oct 26, we were looking at her not competing at all this year," explained DeHaan. "She had surgery in November and has been moving along rather quickly in her recovery. She is back

on beam and bars, and this week she will be back in the lineup on vault and floor."

The team also had an exemplary night on the floor exercise with each of their top four gymnasts scoring above a nine on the event. Kaufman (9.275), Maura Fitzpatrick (9.1), Sarena Wilterdink (9.25) and Joslynn Battle (9.0) produced their top-notch scores using the team's spring floor, an option that is not often available to them. "This meet with Kenowa was our only home dual meet this year where we were able to use our spring floor. When we cannot use the spring floor and only have a wrestling mat and foam to compete on, we have to water down the girls tumbling due to floor being so much harder. They aren't able to do all the tumbling that is in their routines so they can't score as high. They were on cloud nine to be able to do their full floor routines in front of a home crowd," said DeHaan.

Top vault finishers were Alise Forward (9.05), Fitzpatrick (9.0), Kaufman (8.9) and Karmen Anderson (8.8). Kaufman's 9.0 on the bars was followed by Forward (8.45), Fitzpatrick

(8.375) and Browning (8.075). Top performers on the beam were Anderson (8.95), Kaufman (8.375), Wilterdink (7.975) and Sela Bauman (7.8).

Now 2-0 in conference play, the team looks to top Forest Hills in dual action on Wednesday at home and at the Kenowa Hills Invitational on Saturday.



Sarena Wilterdink doing a wolf full during her floor routine.



Gymnast Karmen Anderson on the bars during the Red Arrows' win at home.

- BASKETBALL

Red Arrows nab second conference win over Scots

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell's Matt Beachler led the Red Arrows to a 75-61 victory last Friday night as they nabbed their second OK White win of the season over the Scots of Caledonia in front of an enthusiastic home audience.

Beachler sunk the first four points of the game and continued to soar offensively amassing 19 points by the half and 31 by the final buzzer to lead the team. That total represents 41 percent of all points scored as the highly recruited guard continues to offer top performances on the court this season.

In previous games this season, the junior has tallied similar totals including 27 points against Forest Hills Eastern, 29

against Northview, 31 over Detroit Henry Ford and 24 points over defending state champion Godwin Heights.

Avery Buckius and Austin Branagan also added fuel to the game which the Arrows led 17-5 at the end of the first period, after a slow Caledonia start and 37-27 at the half. The pair dominated at the glass making good use of rebounds to total 14 points combined.

The Arrows pushed their lead to 16 points after the third and though they were out shot in the fourth, earned the 75-61 victory easily. Seniors Ryan Stevens and Alex Anschutz both had archetypal nights for the Arrows, Stevens leading in assists and contributing six points to the scoreboard and Anschutz netting 12 points.

In another widespread offensive effort, something that has become commonplace for the team, who boasts a deep and talented bench, three other Arrows contributed baskets in the win. Marcus Malling and Mitch Davis each contributed three while Carter Noskey put up six.

Now 6-2 on the season and 2-0 in the OK White, the team faces several challenging conference games in the coming weeks that will help to determine their potential for championship and another record breaking season. Last year the Red Arrows compiled 14 wins, a feat not accomplished since 1984.

Basketball,
continued, page 11



Junior point guard Matt Beachler soared above the competition.



President responds favorably to letter from senators asking for federal assistance to Flint, to help state meet its responsibility to families

President Obama has signed the State of Michigan's emergency declaration to help families and children in Flint.

The U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) and Congressman Dan Kildee (D-MI) had written a letter to President Barack Obama urging

him to support the State of Michigan's request for federal assistance in Flint.

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) Saturday issued the following statement in response to President Obama signing the State of Michigan's emergency declaration to help families and children in Flint:

"I greatly appreciate the President's quick action in responding to the urgent needs of families in Flint. I will continue to push for federal resources to address this crisis, and for a commitment of resources from the state to meet the immediate needs of the community and to set aside a Future Fund to address the long-term needs of children and families."

In addition to the substantial financial commitments we expect the State of Michigan to provide, we are asking for your help in marshaling any available federal resources to combat the near-and long-term health, behavioral, and cognitive effects that are well documented for children and vulnerable populations exposed to dangerously high lead levels and other harmful pathogens. Reviewing the authorities and resources the federal government can provide is a critical first step in what will be a long-term effort by the State of Michigan to address the needs of the people in Flint.

Thank for your consideration of this most important request. We stand ready and willing to work with your Administration to explore any avenues of assistance that Congress might be able to provide as you consider the federal government's response to the state's emergency request.

Full text of the letter:

Dear Mr. President:

We write to support the request for federal assistance submitted by the State of Michigan late yesterday evening.

Over the last several years, our Governor and state regulators have failed to meet their legal responsibilities to protect the public health and well-being of the people of Flint. While a series of unconscionable and short-sighted decisions by these officials created this crisis, the impacts on the people of Flint are no less severe than if a natural disaster was responsible for this situation.

LAS WINTER VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

* Denotes a game at Eastbrook Lanes

1/25 at 3:30 p.m. Forest Hills Central*

1/27 at 3:30 p.m. East Grand Rapids*

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a meet at LHS in the auxiliary gym

1/23 at 10 a.m. Kenowa Invite

1/25 at 7 p.m. at Rockford

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

* Denotes a game at the Kentwood Ice Arena

1/23 at 5 p.m. Milford*

1/29 at 8 p.m. at West Catholic

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a game at LHS main gym

1/22 at 6 p.m. at Forest Hills Central

1/26 at 7 p.m. at EGR

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a game at LHS main gym

1/22 at 7:30 p.m. at Forest Hills Central

1/26 at 7 p.m. EGR*

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a meet at LHS main gym

1/23 at 9 a.m. FHC Rangerbrawl at FHC high school

1/23 at 12 p.m. at St. Edward, Ohio

1/27 at 7 p.m. EGR*

Schuette recognizes National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Day

In a continuing effort to identify and rescue thousands of children and adults trapped in the forced sex and labor trades, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette recognized January 11 as National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Day.

While law enforcement and other private and non-profit entities, such as the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission, the Michigan State University Human Trafficking Task Force and the University of Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic, are working to combat human trafficking, Schuette said that educating the public to notice and report suspected cases of human trafficking is a vital part of saving lives.

"Bringing more attention to human trafficking is an essential part of identifying and rescuing children and adults trapped in the dark worlds of forced sex and labor," said Schuette. "This crime does not just happen in the movies or on television. It is happening in the shadows every day, all around us. But, by learning what to look for, anyone can help identify and report suspected human trafficking to authorities."

Schuette encourages citizens to take a few moments to learn more about human trafficking by visiting the following websites:

State of Michigan - www.michigan.gov/humantrafficking

Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force

<https://www.facebook.com/MHTTF>

Michigan State University:

cj.msu.edu/programs/human-trafficking/

University of Michigan:

www.law.umich.edu/clinical/humantraffickingclinicalprogram

If you believe you have witnessed or are aware of a potential case of human trafficking, call your local police or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888.

Schuette served as one of ten attorneys general nationwide selected to lead the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) Presidential Initiative on Combating Human Trafficking, called Pillars of Hope.

Basketball, continued



Stevens- Senior team captain Ryan Stevens set the pace for the Arrows 75-61 win.

This week the team will hit the road twice as they take on Forest Hills Northern in a rescheduled non-conference match up on Tuesday and then visit last year's undefeated OK White champion the Forest Hills Central Rangers on Friday.



Senior Carter Noskey added six to the scoreboard in a widespread offensive effort.

Girls struggle in second OK White match up

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Another frustrating week for the Lowell girls varsity basketball team as they dropped their second OK White conference match up of the season to Caledonia at home last Friday night.

The Arrows started out with some sharp shooting including the first of six successful three pointers by the team, from Cassie Dean, that gave Lowell an early lead. That advantage dwindled toward the end of the period which ended flush at 12.

Caledonia outscored Lowell 15-10 in the second period giving them a five point advantage 27-22 at the close of the half. Junior Bridget Garter netted ten points in the half to lead Lowell scorers.

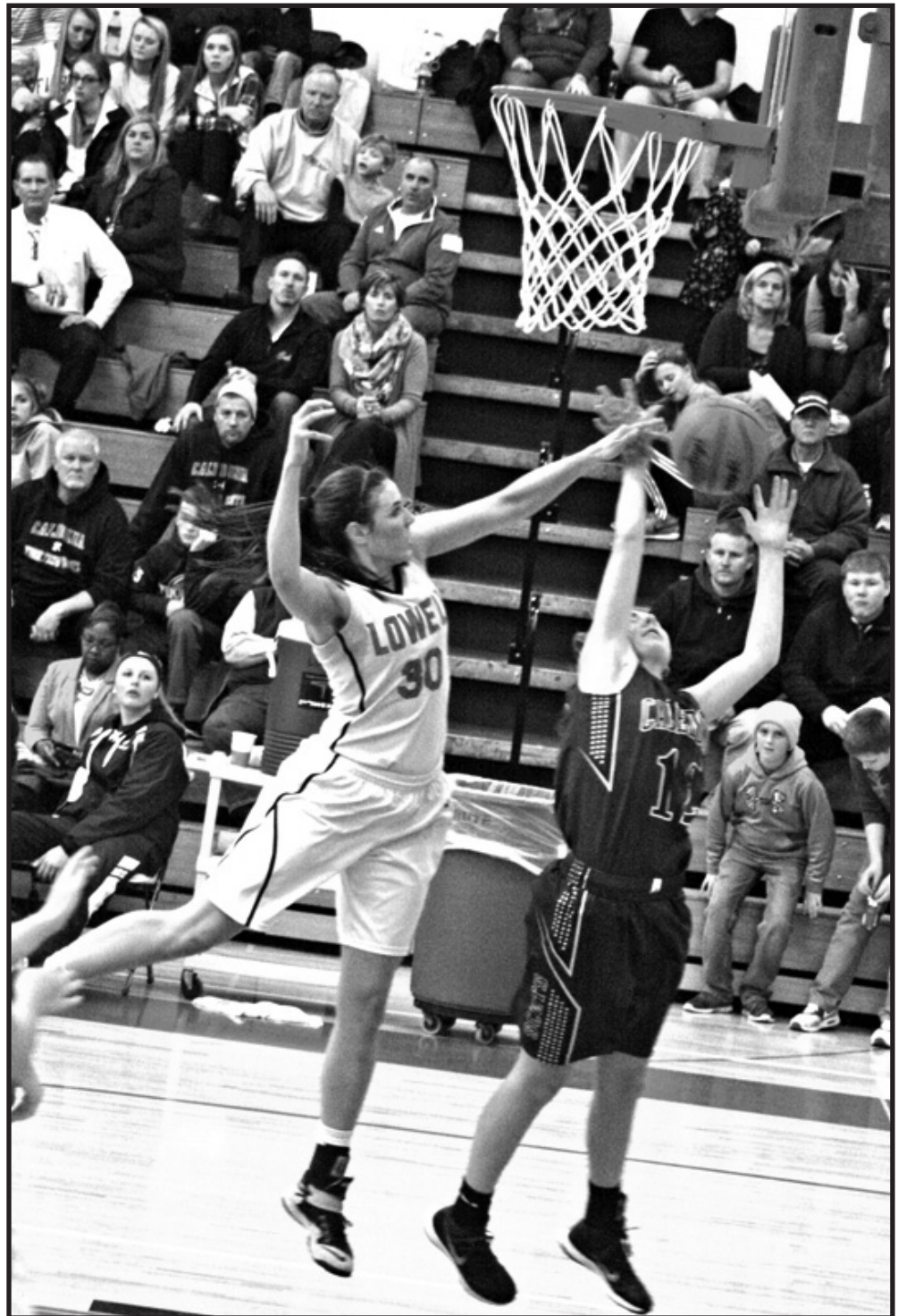
A slow moving third period saw both teams put just five points on the scoreboard allowing

Caledonia to maintain their five point advantage moving into the final stanza of the game. Caledonia managed to outscore Lowell for the third period in a row, with a tally of 10-9 in the fourth, thanks in part to several opportunities at the free throw line in the last moments of play giving them the 42-36 win.

Garter ended the game with 12 points to lead the team offensively, followed by senior Bailey Reitsma. Reitsma, a 5'9" forward and team captain, is a well rounded player that serves the team well each week. According to head coach Jake Strotheide, "Bailey can do it all. She's willing to defend the other team's best player as well as give it her all on the offensive end. Last year she was second in rebounding on our team, coming off the bench."

Defensively, the team totaled thirty rebounds and saw aggressive play and huge blocks out of senior Ally Frederickson and sophomore starter Dean, who chipped in eight points to the team total. "Cassie is a great athlete that works very hard on defense. She loves the game of basketball and wants to get better everyday," Strotheide said of the young guard.

The Arrows will look to improve on their current season record of 2-7, 0-2 in conference play, as they head back into action twice this week, first, a rescheduled match up with Forest Hills Northern at home Tuesday night at 7 pm; second, a Friday night game against Forest Hills Central where the Arrows will hit the court at 6 pm seeking their first OK White win of the season.



Senior team captain Ally Frederickson moving in for the block.

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports
the lowell ledger
Go Red Arrows!

obituaries

MARSHALL

Edwin Y. Marshall, age 95 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, January 12, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife Faith; sons Donnal and Gordon; daughters Laurie Marshall and Geralyn Bryant. He is survived by his wife Barbara; children Janice

Sampson of Fruitport, MI, Charles (Daina) Marshall of Lake George, CO, Dale Marshall of Hurst, TX, Margaret (Dick) Howey of Grand Rapids, MI, Janelle Curry (Nick Pouch) of Fruitport, MI, Renee Butterworth (Joe Zimmerman) of Boulder, MT, Mark Butterworth (Mary Ellen) of Palmdale, CA; daughter-in-law Marlene Marshall of Lowell, MI; son-in-law Emmitt Bryant of Kentwood, MI; sister Eudora Danoski; 22 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; also great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Edwin served in the Army during World War II. He was the oldest veteran at the Lowell VFW Post. A funeral service was held. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.



SCOTT

Michael Scott, age 64 of Lowell, passed away Friday, January 15, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 44 years Connie; children Brian (Deb) Scott and Kristina (Luis) Maldonado; sisters Pat Carigon and Cathy (Mario Ortez) Scott; 4 grandchildren Brandon & Jenna Scott, Cailey & Mariah Maldonado and many nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Gilda's Club, 314 S. Hudson St, Lowell, MI 49331.



WISNER

Marian J. Wisner, age 93, of Lowell, entered into the presence of her Lord on Monday, January 18, 2016. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Ada Reidsema and husband, Allen (2010). She is survived by children, Carol Ertle, Lois (Tim) Nelson, Gerald (Ruth) Wisner, David (Catherine) Wisner; daughter-in-law, Kay Wisner; son-in-law, Duane Ertle; grandchildren, Daniel (Leigh Ellen), Jonathan (Missy), Nathan (Heather) Ertle, Lori Nelson Morris, Steven (Natalie) Nelson, Julie (Trevor) Brightwell, Jennifer (Daniel) Crisp, Joe (Lauren) Wisner, Molly (Brad) Carl, Maggie Wisner; 22 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Lucille (Loren) Brunsink. Marian graduated from Creston High School as Valedictorian in 1940. She also graduated from Blodgett Nursing School and worked as a Registered Nurse at Dr. McKay/Gerard's office in Lowell for many years. Memorial services will be held on Friday at 2:30 p.m. at Rest Haven Chapel 1424 Union N.E. Grand Rapids. Reverend Burland Margesson officiating. Interment Alton Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the chapel. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Rest Haven Homes, 1424 Union N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan.



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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO.

Estate of Mary I. Estes. January 13, 2016
Date of birth: 1/1/1926.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Mary I. Estes, died 12/10/2015.

the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Suzanne Lyon, personal representative at 11620 East State Rd 47, Sheridan, IN 46069 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Mary L. Benedict (P45285)
4519 Cascade Rd. SE Ste. 14
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-942-0020

Gerald Estes and Suzanne Lyon
11620 East State Rd. 47
Sheridan, IN 46069

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against


CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm., in the City Hall at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. The subject of the hearing will be:

Special Land Use Request for a winery/ brewery for New Union Brewery, 400 W. Main Street. The proposal is to open a brewery in the existing building at the subject address for the purpose of producing and selling beer. The City of Lowell Zoning Ordinance provides for a winery/brewery in the C-3 district with special land use approval from the Planning Commission.

Copies of documentation on the special land use request and the City's Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Written Comments will be received until the night of the hearing.

If you are planning to attend this hearing and are handicapped requiring any special assistance, please notify the City Clerk by calling at (616) 897-8457 as soon as possible.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk

eye to eye



Michael Flohr, MD

half of those with glaucoma don't know it; are you at risk?

Approximately 2.7 million Americans have the potentially blinding eye disease glaucoma, but only half are aware of it. Meanwhile, glaucoma incidence is on the rise. Researchers predict that glaucoma will affect as many as 6.3 million Americas by 2050.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve, which links the eyes to the brain. It is most commonly associated with elevated pressure inside the eye, known as intraocular

pressure, or IOP. Without treatment, glaucoma can cause irreversible vision loss in a person's peripheral (side) vision, then in his or her central vision. With early diagnosis and treatment, sight can be preserved. However, glaucoma has no noticeable symptoms in its early stages, so it is imperative that people know the risk factors and schedule yearly vision exams.

Certain factors can increase an individual's risk of developing glaucoma, including:

- **Family History:** Individuals with a parent or sibling with glaucoma have a nine times higher risk of developing the disease, according to one study.

- **Older Age:** As people age, their risk for glaucoma increases. Because this is the case for several eye diseases, the Academy recommends that adults start getting regular comprehensive eye exams at age 40. This is the age when early signs of eye disease and changes in vision may first occur, even if you have seemingly perfect vision. It is important to get comprehensive eye exams from an ophthalmologist, a physician specializing in medical and surgical eye care.

- **African, Hispanic or Asian Heritage:** People of African and Hispanic heritage are three times

more likely to have the most common form of glaucoma than Caucasians. Glaucoma-related blindness is at least six times more prevalent in African Americans than in Caucasian Americans. Additionally, people of Asian heritage are at an increased risk of a sudden and acute form of glaucoma known as angle-closure glaucoma.

- **Nearsightedness:** People who are nearsighted are more likely to have glaucoma. One study even found that the more severe the nearsightedness, the higher the risk of glaucoma.

- **Type 2 Diabetes:** Having type 2 diabetes increases risk of glaucoma. The longer a person has lived with diabetes, the greater their risk for glaucoma becomes.

"Many of my patients are surprised to learn that

one or more of these factors put them at an increased risk," said Michael Flohr, M.D., Ophthalmologist at Advanced Eyecare Professionals. "Being aware of your personal risk of glaucoma is the first step to saving your sight. If you are at risk, get an exam from an independent eye care specialist – the sooner you do, the better we can protect you from vision loss."

Glaucoma treatment ranges from medicated eye drops to a variety of surgeries that can help reduce high IOP. This may involve procedures that make small changes in the eye to help fluid drain more easily. In some cases, small devices known as shunts or stents are inserted in the eye to increase the flow of the eye's fluid.

People age 65 or older and concerned about their eye disease risk may be eligible for a medical eye exam at no out-of-pocket cost through EyeCare America™. In addition, those who are at an increased risk for glaucoma may also qualify for a glaucoma exam through EyeCare America. This public service program from the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology matches volunteer ophthalmologists with eligible patients in need across the United States. To see if you, your friends or family members are eligible, visit www.eyecareamerica.org

To learn more about glaucoma, its risk factors and its treatment, visit <http://aepeyecare.com/eye-disease/glaucoma>

Looking Back, continued

Although you might not think so, folks, spring is just around the corner! J. F. McClure of R. R. 2, Alto, reports the first robin of 1941. The bird was seen at Bowne Center and Mr. McClure says he was making a lot of noise. Probably complaining about our inclement weather, don't you think?

Looks as though the common council will soon find it necessary to provide more parking space in the business district. At present parking regulations as to time apply only to Main street which means that on at least two or three of the intersecting business streets some cars are parked all day long which naturally makes it difficult for out of town visitors to find places

to park. It might be a good idea to pave alleys in the rear of the stores with blacktop.

The contract for the new diesel generator to be purchased from Fairbanks Morse Company was signed by the village officials on Jan. 14, 1941. The contract calls for the installation within six months from the date of signing.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger January 20, 1966

"If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed." Benjamin Franklin. 1731. We are indebted to Franklin for more than just the above, as he was not only one of the greatest Americans, but a prominent printer. Monday of this week, January 17, was the anniversary of his birth 260 years ago.

Family out in cold after Tuesday fire. Fire in an apartment house at 218 South Hudson Street, forced Patricia Hall and her 4 children and another tenant, Becky Rebecca, out in zero weather on Tuesday morning. This was the second fire at the apartment building owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Laux, sr., Lowell. The first fire was Sunday evening when a stove overheated in an unoccupied upstairs apartment. The fire at 8:30 a. m. on Tuesday, started around the oil space heater, Fire Chief Baker revealed. The flames spread through two rooms damaging furniture and charring the walls before it could be extinguished.

Record vote approves school bond issue. A record turnout Monday of 1,247 voters approved a bond issue for \$750,000 to build additions on the high school and Alto Area Elementary School and construct a new elementary school on the west side. The margin of victory was just 42 votes: 641 voted yes, 599 no. Seven votes were spoiled. Approval of tax payers in the district will allow construction to start by late spring; additions to the high school and Alto Elementary are hoped to be ready by this time next year. The new 11 class room and all purpose room elementary school to be built on the south-east corner of the high school site is expected to be ready for use in September of 1967.

J. P. Burroughs & Son, Inc., who operate the C. H. Runciman Company Plant in Lowell, reported an improvement in the company's earnings in 1965. On sales of \$11,491,960, the company was able to pay 10 cents per share on the 1,424,142 shares outstanding. In 1964, the company was only able to pay 2 cents per share.

The winter's biggest snow storm, that buried Lowell under a foot of white stuff, last Wednesday night, resulted in only one accident, police reported. Edward W. Heim, 64, who was plowing snow, and Albert E. Ketcham, 25, Lowell, were involved in an accident at the intersection of North Monroe and Marsac Streets. There was only minor damage.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 23, 1991

Students enjoy snow sculpting morning. Back in the fall of the year, Bushnell Elementary Principal, Dave Burdette proposed a snow sculpting day to his 22 elementary teachers. The idea was accepted. Burdette suggested that when the snow was at a good packing stage, and the weather bearable, all 22 classes would spend a portion of the day outside cleverly sculpting a piece of art from snow. On Monday, Burdette informed the Bushnell teachers that all the elements were just right and that "snow sculpting" day would be Tuesday. Classes started their snow sculpting work at 10:30 a.m. and the last piece of work was completed at 11:15 a.m. "The kids have a long haul between now and spring. An activity like this breaks up the routine," Burdette said. "It's also an activity that teaches children to work together." The Bushnell Principal said all 22 teachers were extremely pleased with the success of the activity.

Ingraham honored with Council's "Arty." At its annual meeting on Jan. 15, the Lowell Area Arts Council presented Lori Ingraham, outgoing Chairman of the Board of Directors, with the Arts Council Arty, an award given yearly to a volunteer who supports and works for the arts in the Lowell area. Ingraham, who teaches Kindergarten at Alto Elementary, has been a long-time member of the Arts Council, along with her husband Bill. Both worked long hours when the Council acquired its present facilities in the King Milling complex and set about the task of renovating the facilities into an office, gallery, and workshop space. "It means a lot to be recognized for my work at the Lowell Area Arts Council. I'm not only pleased but extremely honored to be recognized from among the hundreds of other Arts Council volunteers. It's a special honor," Ingraham said.

During the Korean War, and even through the Vietnam War, people referred to these hostilities as police actions. Today, the war in Iraq (Operation Desert Storm), is simply called a political conflict. War's uncertainties and anxieties play a role in people's willingness to make everyday financial decisions. The conflict, which may, take many young and innocent lives, has caused people, even those of us in Lowell, to reflect and to deal with our uncertainties and anxieties; to question whether this war is right or wrong, and maybe even deal with everyday-type decisions a little differently. "I think age has something to do with the way people have dealt with the Gulf crisis, and now the war, in the Persian Gulf," Lowell realtor, Connie Reedy said. "I believe younger people don't have the fears of the older people."

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SUPER BOWL

ACROSS

- 1. October stones
- 6. "The _____ bone's connected to the back bone"
- 9. Show appreciation
- 13. Set to zero
- 14. Down Under bird
- 15. James Blunt's "_____ Beautiful"
- 16. Actor Owen
- 17. Credit card rate
- 18. Bone-chilling
- 19. To begin with
- 21. *NFL Commissioner
- 23. Doh, re, mi, fa, _____, la, ti, doh
- 24. Beacon light
- 25. Actors' group
- 28. First name in jeans
- 30. _____ Russian grandmaster
- 35. Heidi's shoe
- 37. Bulgarian money
- 39. Actress Watts
- 40. Indian music
- 41. 100 centimes
- 43. *Teams have an offensive and defensive one for the game
- 44. Frenchman's love
- 46. Charlie "Bird" Parker's sax
- 47. Pop group "'N _____"
- 48. *Like Super Bowl
- 50. Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- 52. Epitome of easiness
- 53. Margarita fruit
- 55. Throw one under it?
- 57. *Expensive big game purchase
- 61. *Three-time Super Bowl MVP

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JANUARY 13 - JANUARY 19

• Glenn Frey, 67, guitarist and a founding member of The Eagles, died on Monday in New York City of complications from rheumatoid arthritis, acute ulcerative colitis and pneumonia.



• The Onion has been sold to the Spanish-language network Univision. It will have a 40 percent controlling stake in The Onion.

• On Saturday Australians Dt. Ken Elliot and his wife Jocelyn were kidnapped by Al-Qaeda from their home. For the past 42 years they have been providing the only emergency medical care in Djibo, a country that borders the west African countries of Niger and Mali. Elliot is the only surgeon in the area and he and his wife are in their 80s.

• According to a study published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change the amount of man-made heat energy absorbed by the seas has doubled since 1887.

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- 65. Some are bright
- 66. Chain letters
- 68. Defier
- 69. Mr. Ed's remark
- 70. Young newt
- 71. Do like phoenix
- 72. Sunbathes
- 73. High or low card

74. "The Second Coming" poet

DOWN

- 1. Black and white "killer"
- 2. Fox coat, e.g.
- 3. "Clueless" catch phrase
- 4. *Played this year at _____ Stadium
- 5. End of "cholesterol"
- 6. Asia's "_____ of the Moment"
- 7. Rascal
- 8. Rid of impurities
- 9. Like most U.S. campuses
- 10. A siren's song, e.g.
- 11. Seed cover
- 12. Banana skin
- 15. Beefeater
- 20. Elf perch
- 22. Acorn producer
- 24. Mollusks with two shells hinged together
- 25. Scrawny one
- 26. Remember this battle
- 27. "Taras Bulba" author
- 29. Wang or Bradley
- 31. *Walter Payton does it in "The Super Bowl Shuffle"
- 32. Tissue growth
- 33. Yemeni neighbor
- 34. *Given name of man the trophy is named after
- 36. Cheap trinket
- 38. Not in favor
- 42. Fast food option
- 45. Dog stand staple
- 49. Jodie Foster's '08 movie "_____s Island"
- 51. *Game day
- 54. _____ Mythological princess of Colchis
- 56. Fixed look
- 57. Not a word?
- 58. One of #65 Across
- 59. Bit attachment
- 60. Links to a posted photo
- 61. First one on a ship
- 62. Pavarotti's song
- 63. Hitler's Eagle's _____
- 64. Aphrodite's lover
- 67. *Represented last year by Seahawks

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Does a politician's stand on environmental issues affect your vote?

- Definitely
- Partially
- Never

TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

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thelowelledger.com

Young actors perform in Lowell Arts! youth theater production of *The Bremen Town Musicians*

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

LowellArts! Players Youth Theater presented two public showings of *The Bremen Town Musicians: Nothing is Worthless* written by Ric Averill at the Lowell Performing Arts Center last weekend.

The Friday night and Saturday afternoon performances featured a cast of 13 young thespians from Lowell and the surrounding areas showcasing their talent in dual roles.

Directed by local theater veteran Brent Alles, who began working with LowellArts! in 1999, the short production centered around two different but parallel stories. The first in classic fairy tale fashion as four farm animals find themselves cast from their homes. The cat, played by Elise Charron; a dog performed by Olivia Ettinger; a donkey, Isiah Perysian; and a rooster, Shawn Smith; band together to prove their worth through their unique barnyard musicianship.

With a meow, a bark, a hee haw and a cock-a-doodle-do the foursome unwittingly frighten a group of robbers who, in their rush, abandon their golden riches leaving it behind for the musically inclined mammals.

In the second half, a similar story plays out as an urban fairy tale featuring the same talented actors in the leading roles. In this version Jake the Junkman, played by Perysian, welcomes some of society's castaways, a homeless

woman, a deaf girl who struggles to communicate and a street kid, to his soon-to-be condemned junkyard. As they fight against the bureaucracy that aims to throw them out to build a parking lot in the space, the group develop a plan to convince the government officials, through music, that what they see as a junkyard was actually an art park.

The thespians shined in their respective roles emoting the current social content while still maintaining a sense of fun

and age appropriateness for the young audience. The main roles were supported by a cast of talented and comedic supporting actors, including Olivia DeCator, Sierra Hieshetter, Emma Organek, Jenna Perry, Kyla Sanders, Ivy Ries, Destiny Schmidt, Lanie Schmidt, and Sabrina Schmidt.

Director Alles was assisted by stage manager Sarah Harmon and producer Yvonne Alles in the effort, which he feels is an important one for the young

actors involved. "Perhaps one of the most important reasons to get kids involved in theater is the building of confidence. It's wonderful to see a first-time actor get that big grin on their face when they're greeted by their "adoring public." Beyond that, working on overall presentation skills is important for children's development and are skills that can be carried over to many other walks of life besides that of the theater," said Alles.



Isiah Perysian, Shawn Smith, Olivia Ettinger and Elise Charron in their starring roles as ousted farm animals turned musicians.



Elise Charron, Olivia Ettinger, Isiah Perysian and Shawn Smith in their starring roles as society's castaways.



Sabrina Schmidt, Sierra Hieshetter and Ivy Ries, bow at the close of the Saturday afternoon performance.

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