

greg pierce plans retirement



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miss iowa talks to kids



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lhs sports



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Public objects to manner in which Lowell's city manager is fired at last council meeting

– Council votes to hire additional special legal counsel

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell city manager Mark Howe was publicly fired by the city council during their meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Council chambers were packed with a crowd of about 50 that spilled out into the hall. Although it would take the council a few more minutes to get to the issue, members of the public seemed to already know what was on the council's agenda. Several

Mr. Howe gone against your direction or policies? The city manager is an employee of the city and he answers to the council and to the direction and policies of the council. As an employee of the city Mr. Howe only followed the direction of the previous council. An election occurred and new councilmembers were seated and the city manager is now following the direction of the new council. I have not read or

of the city itself. The city manager reports to the city council and I think this city council needs to make sure

that due process is followed regarding whatever action you take with the city manager.”

“If you are to vote against keeping the city manager we have, at this point it's either three of you are working off of hearsay based on what somebody else has told you, rather than your own experience with Mark, or you've tried to put yourself on the council for some reason that is not necessarily to the benefit of those of us who live in this community,” said retired pastor Roger LaWarre, who

City manager fired, continued, page 3

“...basically we've got kind of a kangaroo court going on here.”

~ Roger LaWarre

citizens spoke during citizen discussion three minutes into the meeting. First to address the council was Perry Beachum, owner of Beachum Flooring. Beachum would return to

heard of the city manager going against the policies of the new or previous council. I would ask that the council show where Mr. Howe violated the direction of the council before termination.”



Lowell resident Roger LaWarre approached the council with his concerns.

the podium two more times during the one hour and 15 minute meeting.

“I have read that the council, or some of the council, is thinking of terminating the current city manager, Mr. Howe,” Beachum said. “My question to you is, since the election and the new council being seated, has

“I'd like to concur with the comments made by the previous speaker,” said local resident Dennis Kent. “I'm not really here to challenge your authority to take whatever action you need with city staff. I'm just hopeful that you can follow a procedure to do that in the interests of the person affected as well as the image



Attorney Katherine Henry recently settled a lawsuit with the former city manager and the city council in Belding.



Jon Francis spoke encouragingly to the board members.

Participants party while sprinting through first ever Pub Poker Run



The top three winners, Brian Decker, Diane Lubinskis and Cindy Nosko, won \$200 between them.

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Downtown Lowell was taken over by a roving gang of gamblers last Tuesday when the Pub Poker Run enticed 25 card players to come play the traveling poker game. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce event was the brainchild of local residents Cutter Phillips and Betsy Davidson.

“They would get a playing card and enjoy whatever discount or festivities each particular location had to highlight their business,” Phillips said. “This was about

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Lowell Light & Power general manager Greg Pierce, pictured here at a LL&P board meeting in 2014.

Lowell Light & Power general manager announces retirement

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

It was revealed at a recent Lowell Light & Power board meeting that general manager Greg Pierce plans to retire soon. Pierce's announcement came during the last five minutes of the LL&P board meeting on Jan. 14.

"I have picked a retirement date," Pierce said at the meeting, which

is available to watch on YouTube. "March 25th [of] this year. I wanted to make you aware of that. I have promoted [LL&P chief accountant] Steve [Donkersloot] to the assistant general manager's position. He and I will be working closely together over the next ten weeks."

"Congratulations," LL&P board chairman Greg

Canfield said at the meeting. "Enjoy life. The board can't thank you enough for what you've done for Lowell Light & Power and for the community."

Pierce, reticent as usual to speak with the Ledger, would provide only the following e-mailed comment.

"I am retiring," Pierce said. "I hope to do what all

retirees do, spend time with my children and family, enjoy my grandchildren and do more fishing. As for the rest of it, the Lowell Light & Power board will be assessing how they want to move forward."

It is not known at this time how or when the board will replace Pierce, or with whom.



along main street

...
Civility costs nothing, and buys everything.

~ Mary Wortley Montagu

BLUE WATER RAMBLERS

LowellArts! presents a CD release on Saturday, Jan. 30; a concert for the Blue Water Ramblers at Larkin's Other Place, 315 W. Main St. in downtown Lowell. The musicians

play a wide range of diverse folk music styles—many include lyrics about Michigan and the Great Lakes region. Local, founding band member Banjo-Jim Foerch expresses his home-state pride along with his musical pals, through songs and sing-a-longs. In addition to the concert, event-goers will also be eligible for door prizes and can participate in several 50/50 drawings. For more information visit www.lowellartsmi.org

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., Feb. 3 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

LOWELLARTS! 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 Caitlin 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

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.

LAS
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Lunch Menus
week of 2/1/16

MONDAY: Popcorn chicken w/finer roll, baked beans. Breakfast: corn dog, baked beans, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, mixed fruit, peaches.

TUESDAY: Ravioli pasta w/sauce & breadstick, green beans, Breakfast: Biscuits w/whipping sauce, seasoned corn, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, mandarin orange slices, bananas.

WEDNESDAY: Waffles & sausage, hash brown stars, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, peaches, applesauce.

THURSDAY: Homemade macaroni & cheese w/finer roll, seasoned broccoli, Breakfast: no dinner roll, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, fruit goop, apple.

FRIDAY: Tony's pepperoni pizza on WG crust, side salad, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, chilled fruit, juice.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ANY QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP, LOWELL TOWNSHIP, VERGENNES TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF LOWELL, WHO IS NOT ALREADY REGISTERED, MAY REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE CITY OR TOWNSHIP OFFICES, AT ANY SECRETARY OF STATE BRANCH OFFICE, OR OTHER DESIGNATED PLACES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

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- AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 8, 2016

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City manager fired, continued

would return to the podium later in the meeting.

“The city manager as well as the council need to consider more than just the loud voices,” said former city clerk Betty Morlock in an e-mail that was read aloud at the meeting by current city clerk Sue Ullery. “You need to consider what is best for the city and that is not an easy thing to do. [...] All you need to do is talk and work together.”

The actions to fire Howe began about ten

their services,” Beachum returned to the podium to ask.

“The people that voted you in there want you to make your own decisions,” said local resident Jon Francis. “[Do] what you guys want to do, your own direction and not have a handful of people try to deter you from the people that elected you to do your job.”

“I believe I recognize the attorney,” said Diane LaWarre. “You [Henry]



At the meeting, police chief Bukala, left, informed mayor Jeff Altoft that there may be a conflict of interest in regard to hiring attorney Katherine Henry. Afterward, Altoft would give no comment saying he is under a "gag order" from attorney Henry.



Perry Beachum questioned whether Howe had gone against this board's policies.

minutes into the meeting, when the council made their move to hire Belding attorney Katherine Henry as “special legal counsel.”

“I didn't get that all written down what you wanted to do, so could you explain it,” Altoft asked DeVore.

“I sure can,” DeVore said. “Pursuant to section 7.7 of our city charter the council, upon its own initiative, may retain special legal counsel to handle any matter in which the city has an interest. In order to ensure we are properly handling our discussion of a continuing personnel issue, I move to retain special legal counsel. I've asked attorney Katherine Henry here tonight for that purpose. Specifically, I move to hire attorney Katherine Henry as special legal counsel for advising us on our discussion of continuing personnel issues at a mutual hourly rate of \$200.”

This brought members of the community back to the podium.

“Shouldn't you be going out to a bid situation for this... if you're going to hire somebody for

were involved in the Belding situation. I certainly would not want us to get into that type of a... I don't know what I would call it, but I know it was a big problem in Belding. I just wouldn't want us to get into that situation.”

“The Belding situation” refers to Henry's 2014 lawsuit against former Belding city manager Meg Mullendore and the city of Belding. Henry sued them for violations of the Open Meeting Act, malicious prosecution, abuse of process, equal protection violations, defamation libel, intentional infliction of emotional distress, Freedom of Information Act violations and free speech infringement. She asked for over four million in damages but eventually settled in 2015 for \$250, the “encouragement” of Belding city councilmembers and the Belding city manager to receive education about Michigan's Open Meetings Act and FOIA laws, and Henry was required to release all claims against Mullendore.

Finally, Henry herself approached the podium.

“My understanding when being asked here tonight was to assist you all in making sure that you weren't... that none of you were going to step over a line of violating some sort of rights or some sort of legal requirement,” Henry said.

Councilor Hodges asked Henry for her legal specialty. Henry replied that “a law degree is a law degree” and went on to describe her education and her work experience. Hodges asked if Henry had any experience specific to municipal or labor law.

“I won't identify clients, I didn't get permission ahead of time to identify clients,” Henry said. “But I can tell you that I've handled these issues in courts of law, both state courts and federal courts in Michigan.”

Before the council could take a vote, Lowell police chief Steve Bukala had a few words to add.

“When it comes to labor law, I have to look out for the best interests of the municipality,” Bukala said. “One thing that we have to be considerate of is the employee's interests, which would be Mr. Howe; the employer's interests, which would be the city and all the citizens; and preventing mistakes.”

“And that is why we are hiring counsel,” Altoft said.

“I understand that,” Bukala said. “Some of you ran on the issue of transparency as well. I think it would be to the interest of the city council to know that Ms. Henry and her husband are friends with the labor representative of the department of public works. I think it would be a conflict of interest to hire her. If your interest is to hire an attorney outside Mr. [city attorney Dick] Wendt, there are several other attorneys that specialize in labor law that, right in this area, would be available. I just think it's a conflict of interest to have Ms. Henry be your representative in this matter.”

Immediately after Bukala's speech, the council voted 4-1 to hire Henry. Councilor Jim Hodges was the sole “no” vote. The council then moved on to

their second agenda item, firing city manager Mark Howe.

“The city has had a lot of contention over city manager Howe and his actions in the last few years,” DeVore said. “These issues have been discussed in both public meetings and among the public generally. Given recent events, I've reviewed our city charter, which states, 'The city and its officers shall have the power to do any act to advance the interest, good government, and prosperity to the city and its inhabitants, to protect the public peace and general welfare. The city manager shall be responsible to serve at the pleasure of the council. The mayor shall preside at council meetings and shall be conservator of the peace. The council itself shall provide for public peace and health and safety of persons and property, investigate municipal affairs and, when deemed necessary, any office or department of the city. The council shall see that the provision is made for the public peace. The city manager shall serve at the pleasure of, and be subject to removal by, the council. The city manager shall perform the duties of his office under the authority of, and be accountable to, the council. It shall be the duty of the city manager to see that all laws and ordinances are enforced. 'Black's Law Dictionary' defines 'serving at the pleasure of' as 'the assignment of someone to an appointment that can be taken away at any time with no requirement of a notice or a hearing.' So considering our duty is to provide for the public peace and considering the continuing actions taken in the last few years, I move that Mark Howe be immediately removed from [the] office of city manager and that this termination be considered because of an illegal and criminal act or breach of the terms and conditions of the employment contract.”

The uproar after Howe's firing eventually died down and the council moved on to the meeting's regular business. The council approved a bid of \$28,800 a year from Manszewski Landscaping for three years of mowing services at city-owned property around town and approved \$168,935 for the purchase of a new plow truck. They also approved a brewery ordinance that would allow a restaurant to include a brewery or a winery as part of their establishment and approved a motion that would authorize the city manager to prepare a “job creation grant application” for the upcoming Big Boiler Brewing Company on Main St. One little snafu in this plan, however, was that the council had just fired the city manager. Mayor Altoft assured the council that the grants will still be applied for.

“We will make sure it gets taken care of,” Altoft said.

Somebody in the audience called out, “How?

court going on here,” Roger LaWarre returned to the podium to say. “I haven't heard anything from you, either, in terms of the actual charges that would merit removing an individual from office immediately. [...] I'm really wondering where we're going to be going for two years if this is the kind of way you're going to operate.”

The council voted 4-1 to fire Howe, again with Hodges the sole “no” vote. As Howe took a seat in the audience there was a quick burst of scattered applause followed by a long, awkward silence as Altoft directed police chief Steve Bukala to retrieve various keys from the keyring in Howe's pocket.

“Do you have a plan? Do you have an interim [city manager] in mind?” Beachum came back later in the meeting to ask. “Obviously you had this prearranged, so have you put together a thought of a new hiring process? Are you going to go out and hire anybody? What's your plan? [...] Nothing is going to get done because you haven't thought ahead.”

“I think you're making a big mistake,” Hodges said. “Thank you, Jim,” Altoft said. “Right now it just sounds to me like basically we've got kind of a kangaroo

It says you have to have a city manager. You voted him out.”

“I think if we work with the Downtown Development Authority and the city attorney and Sue, I think we can continue the grant process as we've been doing it,” DeVore said.

Someone else in the audience called out an expletive in protest at that comment.

“If we need to ask for help, we'll be able to ask for help,” DeVore said.

In an e-mail to the Ledger Hodges said, “It was most inconvenient and disturbing when the events of Tuesday evening took place. I do not know the reason of the firing. I did not get any information from any councilmember at or prior to, nor after the meeting, as to a case or reason for the termination. I am surprised by the swift actions of the other four councilmembers. While I was aware of there being some dislike for Mark Howe, I thought there would be a systematic building of a case for seeking a resignation as an attempt to address the outcome with grace instead [of] an abrupt firing in public. I am truly disappointed in the lack of style and professionalism shown by our elected officials. And, as I said during the meeting, I think they are [and] have made a big mistake.”

Contacted in the days after the meeting, councilors DeVore and Teelander each said that Altoft would speak for them. Altoft, however, said that he has been placed under a “gag order” by attorney Henry, but that he will be able to reveal more information “after the special meeting” on Jan. 26. City attorney Dick Wendt did not respond to the Ledger's attempts to contact him and Henry refused to comment.

The council held a special meeting at city hall on Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 5 pm. The next regular meeting will be at city hall on Monday, Feb. 1 at 7 pm.

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outdoors

heads up

Dave Stegehuis

Times change, and this directly affects our lifestyle. How we spend our time and even what we value is adjusted to accommodate the reality of our lives.

In a rural America hunting and fishing was an integral part of everyday life. Skills were passed from one generation to the next. As the country evolved into an industrial based economy, fishing and hunting transitioned from subsistence to a recreational activity. Harvested wildlife is still consumed, but for most people it is not necessary for survival. Technology and the information age has separated us even further from our relationship with the land.

Although hunting and fishing are no longer necessary, it does provide people an opportunity to intimately connect with

nature. This relationship is mentally and physically beneficial to individuals and also benefits the land and creatures that live there. Hunters, for example, have a vested interest in maintaining healthy populations of birds and animals. This requires clean air and water in natural areas to support the wildlife. Hunters are first to recognize problems in the wildlife community. This group is not shy about making some noise and insisting that something be done to improve conditions for wildlife. In addition, funding for conservation projects comes from fishing and hunting license fees and federal taxes on guns, ammunition and fishing equipment.

It is good for wildlife and the environment if citizens are directly involved with activities

which regularly bring them close to nature. Adults not currently engaged can explore hunting and fishing opportunities. Those already in the field or on the water can encourage others to do so and provide advice and guidance. Youth of today may miss out entirely because of obvious distractions. We all want to provide advantages and opportunities for our children so they will have the best chance to live productive and fulfilled lives. Although there are many good reasons why not everyone hunts or fishes, it doesn't mean kids should not be offered a chance to participate so they can make their own decision based on personal experience.

In our current culture, this opportunity could slip by unnoticed. Just a heads up so you might pause a moment and consider exploring the possibility of adopting a hunting and fishing lifestyle.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 10 am and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming

volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted

to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on the 2003 National Assessment for Adult Literacy and the 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey, up to 14.6 percent of adults in Kent County lack basic prose literacy skills and have difficulty using certain reading and writing skills considered necessary in everyday life. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call 459-5151 (ext. 10) or email info@literacycenterwm.org to register.

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL



viewpoint

to the editor

concern over procedure

To the Editor:

I am concerned over two actions taken under "Old Business" at the January 19th city council meeting, which resulted in removing the city manager (Mark Howe) from his job during the meeting. At the previous meeting, the new council noted their intention to be more open and to encourage public discussion. However, these two actions were done with no explanation or serious discussion of the issues, even when requested by citizens at the meeting and one of the councilmembers. An attorney (Katherine Henry?) was hired at \$200/hour as a result of the first action by the council. The council and the attorney were evasive when asked about her experience, how she was selected and why she was hired. The attorney

was also argumentative when responding to questions from one of the councilmembers. The second action, to remove Mr. Howe, was done with no explanation of any specific performance issues, again as requested by citizens at the meeting and one councilmember.

I am not questioning the council's authority to remove the city manager, but the process was disrespectful to Mr. Howe and was not openly explained to the public at the meeting. It was obvious that discussions had occurred with at least some councilmembers prior to the meeting regarding these two actions.

A city manager follows the direction of the city council. This new council could have provided the city manager with

new direction and goals, monitored his performance and then decided on the appropriate action. There should have been some open public discussion before these actions were taken regarding:

- how and when the decision to remove the city manager was made;
- specific problems with the city manager;
- corrective actions pursued with the city manager prior to this action;
- fiscal and operational impacts to the city;
- the process and reasons for hiring a new attorney, when there is already an attorney under contract with the city;

- interim plans for city operations without a manager; and
- the process and cost for replacing the city manager.

This process was not handled well, with only two meetings into the new mayor's term in office. I hope this mayor and council are more open and encourage public discussion, per their adopted rules of procedure, as they continue to lead the city, govern and make additional decisions regarding the future of Lowell over the next few years.

Thank you,
Dennis Kent

council elected fair and square

To the Editor,

I attended the city council meeting of January 19th. I was shocked to hear two different men come up and voice very strong derogatory opinions. One called the council a

"Kangaroo Court." These are new faces elected to the council. They were elected fair and square. Now they are trying to do their duty because we elected them to office. From what I see and hear they are doing a

flourish, the past between semesters for occupancy. The School board confidently expect that a settlement will made, and that the building will be accepted in time for school next Monday. The public is invited to inspect their new plant Sunday from one to five in the afternoon. On Friday afternoon of next week exercises will be held in the lower grades, and the public may see the plant in operation. Dedication will be held sometime in March.

School basketball – Lowell High lost to South Grand Rapids. Lowell High lost its first games of the high school schedule last Friday night when it was forced to submit to a 27 to 17 defeat at the hands of South Grand Rapids. However the boys played well and had the court Smith Memorial church been larger and the ceiling higher there would have been no question about the result of the contest. Despite this handicap the locals fought savagely and deserved a slightly higher score than was given them. With the defeat of South Grand Rapids by South High last Tuesday night, the defeat will be slightly averaged should Lowell turn around and hand South a beating when these two teams come together the last of February.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 30, 1941

Coasting accident is close call. An unusual coasting accident occurred last Friday night at the Lowell electric light plant near White's Bridge. Loretta, 12 and Theodora, 11, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Ted VanOcker, were sliding down hill near the plant and misjudged a turn, sliding out onto the river below the dam. The sled broke through the ice, letting the little girls down into about ten feet of water. Another sister ran into the plant and told her parents what had happened and Mr. VanOcker went and called to the girls. As it was about 8 o'clock at night, he could not see the girls but

great job. Let's give them a chance to prove their worth. They are all upstanding young men wanting to do their duty.

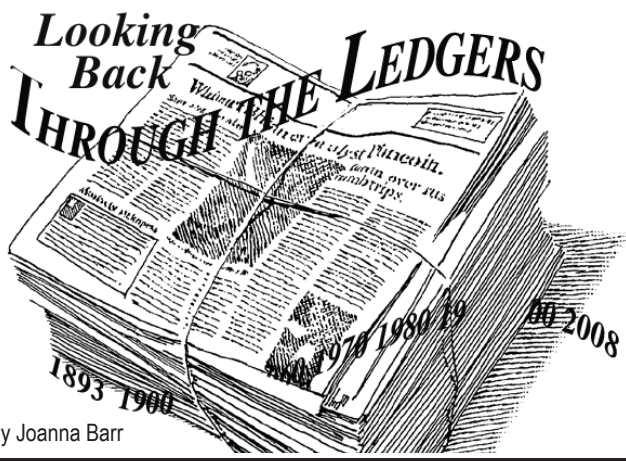
I remember being at meetings before these new faces when folks would get up to ask questions or express real concern. They would be told it was not on the agenda or they could not comment. Now we have folks getting up and trying to tell these fellows what and how to do their job. If they are so interested, why didn't they run for election themselves; then they could make the decisions. I think we should all give these guys a fair chance, then at the next election decide if they've done what we asked them to do. One guy already left after one term - too much squabbling and nothing getting settled. Isn't it a shame that this kind of animosity is going on?

I've lived around Lowell most of my life. My kids took swimming lessons at the King Memorial Pool. We shopped at Cary's and Weeks' for clothing. Don't forget Molly Wepman. Kroger and A&P were still alive. Christiansen's

Grocery was a great grocery store and even had their own stamp book for dishes. Remember S&H green stamps? When my four kids were little we came to the Strand Theater to see Disney movies, then [went] to the drug store for ice cream. We got our vehicles at Wittenbach in the good old days. So many changes. Life is full of changes. That's progress. It is still a great city and we need to trust our elected officials to do the job they were elected to do.

Come to the meetings, get behind this council and show them you support them doing what they feel is best for the city. Just because you had "special" friends on the council doesn't mean they were doing a "special" job there. We all make mistakes. Let's learn from them. The previous council had their years in office, now let's give these guys their time in office and if they can't produce, then the next election you can change the faces again. Come on Lowell, give this council a fair chance.

Thanks,
Mary Ann Geldersma



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal January 28, 1891

R. D. Stocking has a nice stock of guns which he will sell very low. Any thing from a cheap Flobert to a fine English double barrel. Call early and get first chance, as they will be sold very low. Must go.

The Electric Light Co. have already outgrown their plant and Saturday received a new 60 light dynamo to replace the 80-light machine they first put in. They have received orders for more commercial lights than they expected.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 3, 1916

School opens in new building Monday February, 7. But old bell will not ring. Public inspection Sunday. Grade exercises Friday. Dedication in March. Working plan outlined. Superintendent Frazee makes the following official announcement of the new Lowell High School building opening. Completing details and winding up the cleaning up on schedule with a

We love to hear from you!



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

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

the lowell ledger

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616.897.9261

ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

college news

Michigan Technological University has released the dean's list for the 2015 fall semester. Of the 7,100 students enrolled for the fall semester, 1,541 achieved dean's list status.

To qualify for the dean's list a student must take 12 or more grade point credits and achieve a semester grade point average of 3.5 or better. Asterisks indicate those earning straight-A averages of 4.0.

Local students who qualified are, of Ada: Joseph Chen, computer engineering; Donovan Doran, mechanical engineering; Alexander

Flory, mechanical engineering; and Payton Novak, civil engineering; of Alto: Randal Brinks, electrical engineering; and of Lowell: Derek Chopp,* computer engineering; and Benjamin Peterson, materials science and engineering.

Matthew Reitsma, son of James and Laura Reitsma, of Lowell, was named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2015-16 school year. To be named to the dean's list a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

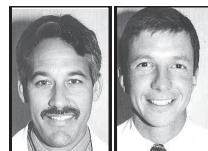
LMS spelling bee champions



Spelling bee winners are pictured, left to right: Sydney Munson and runner-up Austin Hendrick.

The Lowell Middle School spelling bee finalists have been announced after a close race. The winner was Sydney Munson; the runner-up was Austin Hendrick. Munson and Hendrick will move on to the regional spelling bee on February 23.

health



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



graves' disease

Graves' disease is an immune system disorder that causes hyperthyroidism. Hyperthyroidism is the over production of thyroid.

Too much thyroid causes many symptoms, including tremors, anxiety and irritability, weight loss, rapid heart rate, profuse sweating, enlargement of the thyroid gland, and bulging eyes (about 30 percent of people).

Graves' disease can occur in anyone, however some factors increase risk, such as family history of Graves' disease, being a woman, age under 40, other autoimmune disorders,

pregnancy, smoking, and stressful life events.

Complications may include heart damage, weakened bones and muscle disorders. Blood tests are used to diagnose this condition.

Treatment typically involves radioactive iodine therapy to destroy the overactive thyroid. Sometimes an oral medication is used to block thyroid production. Beta blockers are used to rapidly relieve tremors, rapid heart beats, sweating, and muscle weakness. Surgery to remove part of the thyroid is also an option.

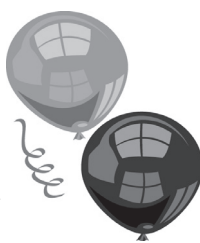


We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations



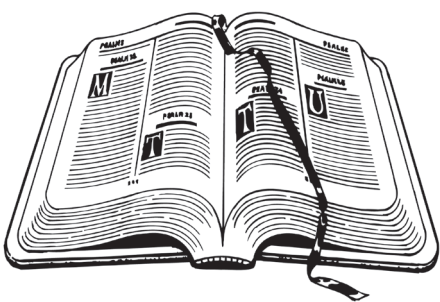
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happy birthday



- JANUARY 27**
Jacqueline (Bay) Saylor, Brittani Anderson, Dianna Rhodes, Lori Smith, Nancy Roth, Andrea Dewey.
- JANUARY 28**
Ryan White, Cher Mastenbrook, Amy Newhouse, Renee Peters, Veda Joyce Nearing, Kyle Washburn.
- JANUARY 29**
Brenda Traetz, Kim Call, Karen Potter, Zach DeBold.
- JANUARY 30**
Susan Roudabush, Nicholas Kinsley, Tyler Call, Josh Dietz, Shirley Stevens.
- JANUARY 31**
Rick Fonger, Brian Rasch.
- FEBRUARY 1**
Lila Grummet, Chris Vezino, Ryan Teelander, Sommer Mercer, J. Johnson, Monica Burt, Ryan Peel, Lydia Koeppel.
- FEBRUARY 2**
Marie Wade, Sarah Baker.

area church



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885 Lincoln Lake SE
616.897.5906
Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M.
Pastor J. Richard Sherlock
Responding to the Living God, with a progressive voice and working hands, we are called to feed Christ's Community in mind, body, and spirit.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-27
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
Worship Service.....Sunday -10:30 A.M.
(Nursery available)
Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

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2275 West Main Street • 897-7168
Barrier Free
Internet: <http://www.fbc Lowell.org>
Rev. Jon Pickens & Pastor Phil Severn
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M.
Sunday School, nursery - adult.....11:20 A.M.
All/All/A - K-5, during school year.....Wed. 6:15 - 8 P.M.
Youth Ministry - grades 6-12.....Mon. 8:30 - 8:30 P.M.
(Youth Ministry moves to Wed. during summer)

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

the community and the businesses within it. Tuesday nights are typically slower for restaurant traffic. We were doing this to bring people out, let them have some fun, raise some money and have a good time."

Participants traveled from location to location, picking up a playing card at each stop. Upon arrival at their final stop, Larkin's Restaurant, the cards were turned in and whoever had the best poker hand was the winner. First-place winner Brian Decker received \$110, second-place winner Diane Lubinkas earned \$60, third-place winner Cindy Nosko won \$30 and the three

biggest losers each received \$10. The rest of the money, "probably around \$100" according to Phillips, was donated to Alpha Women's Center, 517 E. Main.

"I won \$110," said first-place winner Decker. "\$100 in cash plus \$10 in Lowell Bucks."

Decker said that he had a lot of fun and plans to participate if the chamber puts on a similar event in the future.

"I visited five local pubs and re staurants on Main St. and had a really good time," Decker said. "I went to Sneaker's, Main St. Inn, Century Post Pub, Flat River Grill and ended

up at Larkin's Restaurant. Good time had. All the local people are great. I had a good time. I really enjoy

downtown Lowell. I go to all these places anyway."

Decker said he plans to

spread his winnings around.

"I'll probably buy my office lunch," Decker, an

employee of Crystal Flash, said. "I like to share."



All 25 of the gamblers at Larkin's after the Pub Poker Run.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of MARIA JOSEFA NODA-NODA

Guardianship File No. 16-198,667-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including Elisa Lopez-Noda whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on February 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Kent Co. Probate Court,

180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian and Conservator.

Dated: January 26, 2016

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 391-1675

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda S. Van Essen (P75001) 3425 Kelly St. Hudsonville, MI 49426 Phone (616) 633-0196

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LPD December statistics

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

According to recently released statistics for December, Lowell's police and fire departments were busy. Lowell police made 20 arrests during December, down from 23 the previous month. These arrests included seven drug violations, four for drunk driving, three for outstanding warrants, five for driving with a suspended driver's license and one that is described in the police department's information as "other arrests." That adds up to a total of 307 arrests by Lowell police during 2015.

The police department responded to plenty of misdemeanors in December as well. There were two larceny calls, two dog complaints, two calls for malicious destruction, six disorderly conduct calls and five assaults. Lowell Police were called to "assist" 52 times and were dispatched to nine accidents. In 2015 there were 80 assaults, eight instances of breaking and entering, 81 calls for larceny, 38 dog complaints and 133 accidents in Lowell.

The Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services

Authority took 75 calls in December. Among their incidents in December were four fires, 51 rescue and emergency medical calls and six false alarms.

Blue Water Ramblers CD release concert

Join us for a family-friendly concert.

Saturday January 30, 7pm At Larkin's Other Place, 315 W. Main St., Lowell

The Blue Water Ramblers, diverse folk music including lyrics about Michigan and the Great Lakes region. Benji-Joe French (from Lowell) explains his home-state pride along with his musical joys, through songs and singalongs.

Cash bar, clear prices, 60/60 drawings, proceeds support LowellArts!

\$10 Presale / \$12 At the Door
Doors open at 6:30pm.

Presale tickets available by calling 616-837-3545 or at www.lowellarts.org.

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- Division 2 (Ages 7-9) • 6:30 PM
- Division 3 & 4 (Ages 10-18) • 7:15 PM

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EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Why is the Arctic such a crucial area to focus on in efforts to stem global warming? - *Joseph Constabile, Dedham, MA*

The image of a polar bear standing on a shrinking iceberg has become one of the most iconic symbols of global warming, yet few of us realize just how important the Arctic's ice is, wherever we may live on the earth. Researchers consider the Arctic to be an "indicator region" for the rest of the planet, given that even small differences in temperature there can have profound ecosystem impacts and can give us a better idea of the types of problems we can all expect down the road.

Of course, the effects of global warming have been under scrutiny in the Arctic for decades already. Since 1979, the extent of the Arctic's permanent ice cap has shrunk by upwards of 20 percent. Even worse, the remaining ice has thinned by as much as two-thirds in some parts of the Arctic. Recent models suggest this ice loss will only accelerate in the next several years due to a global warming feedback loop called the "albedo effect," whereby less ice means less reflection of the sun's radiation back into space and thus more warming at the Earth's surface. And not only is the ice shrinking—parts of the ice cap are also rupturing: The Ward Hunt Ice Shelf, the largest block of ice in the Arctic and intact for some 3,000 years, finally cracked in 2000, and within two years split all the way through.

These changes up north are already starting to have ripple effects elsewhere. For starters, the entire Arctic ecosystem is being forced to shift with the changing climate. Animals like polar bears, whales and seals are changing migration patterns, in turn impacting native people who depend on them for sustenance. Meanwhile, other organisms are overpopulating, given all the new habitat opening up. Rising temperatures have allowed the spruce bark beetle to add an extra reproduction cycle each year. As a result the pesky little beetles decimated 3.4 million acres of Alaska's forests over just 10 years.

And then there's the issue of sea level rise. Thanks in large part to melting Arctic glaciers, sea level is expected to rise some three feet on average around the world in the next century, flooding over 22,000 square miles in the United States alone. This pressing issue threatens island

production all over the world. Cold water from the melting ice could also potentially halt the Gulf Stream, which brings warm weather to Europe. This would result in a steep drop in temperature for much of northwestern Europe and would affect weather patterns far beyond.

While it may seem futile for us to try to stop Arctic ice melting, we do in fact have the power. We can all work to reduce our carbon footprints by flying and driving less, turning down (or off) the heat or air conditioning, speaking up to our elected officials, and even divesting from companies that support the continued development of fossil fuels.

CONTACTS: NOAA Arctic Change website, <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/detect/climate-strat.shtml>; EPA Carbon Footprint Calculator, <http://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>.



nations especially. Countries like the Maldives, precariously perched just six feet above sea level, are as concerned as anyone about melting glaciers in the Arctic. And warming in the Arctic also affects weather patterns vital for food

EarthTalk® is produced by Doug Moss & Roddy Scheer and is a registered trademark of Earth Action Network Inc. View past columns at: www.earthtalk.org. Or e-mail us your question: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Purple Out at Murray Lake



Elyse Veldman is pictured, center with purple sweater and purple polka dot skirt, surrounded by brother Drew, cousin Emma and several Murray Lake Elementary students.

It was a wave of purple in the hallways at Murray Lake this past Tuesday morning. Students were inside walking the halls due to icy conditions on the playground and purple was the predominant color in the hallways. This was due to Murray Lake students and staff supporting Elyse Veldman.

Veldman was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) several years ago. Tuesday was CF Awareness Day. Supporters of a cure for CF are asked to wear purple as a sign of their support. Over three hundred MLE students and staff members found purple to wear to show Elyse their support.

Craig Veldman, Elyse's father commented, "Elyse was up at 5:30 am on Tuesday because she was so excited to go to school and see all the purple. Please thank all of the students and staff for making her feel so loved." Veldman, his wife Tara and her sister and brother-in-law Josh and Kristen Bruwer hold an annual golf outing to raise money to help find a cure for CF. The outing, called "Hope for my Sister," is held every summer at Arrow Head Golf Course.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Board will be held at a regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, February 15, 2016 at 7:00 PM**, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at **10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider special exception use permits as follows:

William Schreur has applied for an amendment to his existing special exception use permit of an approved Bed and Breakfast and Rural Recreation Facility which is regulated in Chapter 3, section 201.306A, R-3 - Special Residential District. The applicant has requested to construct a solid wall on the west side and wrapping around each corner by 10 feet of the open pavilion building. The remaining walls will stay open sided. The property is known as River Edge Bed and Breakfast & Gathering Place located at 786 Flat River Dr, Lowell.

The complete applications can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Township Clerk at the Township Offices. Comments may also be emailed to: clerk@vergennesswp.org.

Mani Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Miss Iowa visits Alto students to spread a message of strength, compassion and empathy

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Alto Elementary recently hosted a real live beauty queen. Gorgeous hair, charming disposition, bright eyes, intelligence and a brilliant smile; everything you might expect. Except former Miss Iowa Nicole Kelly also has a lucky fin.

Kelly, ambassador of the Lucky Fin Project, was born without her left forearm. Never allowing her physical difference to deter her, she rose to the top of her state pageant winning the title of Miss Iowa in 2013. And she went on to compete on the national stage in the Miss USA competition.

Since that time she has used her public platform to speak and motivate at schools nationwide encouraging students to embrace and accept differences. She does this work through the Lucky Fin Project which was founded to educate, celebrate and encourage those born with limb differences.

Alto PTO president Cindy Johnston said that Kelly tailored her message for two different assemblies featuring lower and upper elementary students.

“For lower elementary, she showed clips from Finding Nemo and a documentary on Winter the Dolphin. She talked students through the ideas that although these animals have either a “lucky fin” or no tale, they still are able to do everything. This allowed her a platform to tell the kids about how she was born differently,” said Johnston.

Students like third grader Carol Carothers and first grader Wilson Johnston seemed to hear her message loud and clear. “She was very loving and caring. I learned to never give up on my dreams,” said Carothers after the assembly.

Johnston added, “She showed us it’s okay to be different. It makes us interesting.”

Older students received some of the same material but also a more complex message that stressed the idea that personal perspective shapes the course of our lives.

“Nicole gave them a more interactive message and the idea that they have the power to choose their life perspective. In telling her own story and showing our students that having one hand is not shameful, she hopes the kids start to view their differences in the same light,” said Johnston.

Case Heisman, an Alto fifth grader, said of the assembly, “I like that she calls her arm her lucky fin just like Nemo and Winter.” Fellow fifth-grade student Makayla Kyes said, “She was very kind and inspirational.”

“Ultimately, Kelly’s message to any age of students is that they have the power of choice in their life’s perspective,” said Johnston, “We are thankful for the opportunity to refocus our efforts on what it means to persevere and embrace our differences.”



Alto Elementary students hear from Lucky Fin Project ambassador Nicole Kelly.



Above, Miss Iowa 2013 Nicole Kelly poses with Alto Elementary students and at left fields questions from the group.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell girls find their footing in non-conference matchup

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell girls varsity basketball put together a win over non-conference competitor Forest Hills Northern and a thrilling overtime battle against OK White foe Forest Hills Central in their most successful performance of the season last week.

Tuesday night the Lady Arrows welcomed Forest Hills Northern to the court where they battled it out for a 40-34 win. FHN started out on top leading 14-11 at the close of the first quarter but lost offensive steam and their lead in the second when they put just three points on the board leaving the Arrows out front 20-17 at the half.

The Arrows outscored FHN by two points in the third and by one in the fourth where they went five of seven at the free throw line to extend their lead and seal the victory, the team's second of the season.

As a team the Arrows earned five successful three-point baskets, 31 rebounds, nine assists and went 11 of 18 from the line. Junior multi-sport athlete Bridget Garter led the offensive effort netting 14 points. Other top contributors were senior captains Ally Frederickson and Bailey Reitsma, who

contributed eight and seven points respectively; and Cassie Dean who chipped in seven.

Dean was the belle of the basketball on Friday night when she propelled the Arrows into overtime against Forest Hills Central with a hail Mary of a three-point shot at the buzzer sending fans into a frenzy and tying the game at 44.

Leading up to that explosive moment the Arrows had struggled in the first falling behind 16-11 despite offensive effort from Frederickson, Reitsma, Riley Conlan and Regan Coxon who sunk a three pointer. Frederickson scored a two-point basket in the second quickly followed by a pair of successful free throws which, combined

with a three pointer from Reitsma, gave Lowell a 24-23 advantage at the half.

Lowell opened the second half scoring with baskets from Dean and Garter to give the Arrows a seven-point lead. The lead shifted a few times the remainder of the period but the Arrows landed back on top 33-31.

With just seconds

remaining FHC nailed a free throw to put them three points ahead of the Arrows. In a do or die play, Dean thrust the ball at the glass and landed the crucial three-point basket inducing an elated celebration on the court and in the stands.

Unfortunately for the young Arrow team, several missteps in the form of fouls during the four-minute overtime sent FHC to the line where they worked well and regained the game winning 53-46.



The Arrows celebrate Cassie Dean's last second buzzer beater against Forest Hills Central last Friday.

This week the girls will hit the road twice for a pair of difficult OK White conference match ups. Tuesday the team will take on the Pioneers of East Grand Rapids at 7 pm and on Friday the Eagles of Grand Rapids Christian at 6 pm.



Senior Ally Frederickson works from the free throw line during the Arrows OK White conference match-up on the road.

- GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics Stats Wednesday at Forest Hills Central

Lowell 134.5
FHC 136.8

A Team top scores

Vault Lauren Browning..... 8.8
Bars Corah Kaufman..... 8.4
Beam Corah Kaufman..... 8.35
Floor Karmen Anderson 9.0

B Team top scores

Vault Corah Miller..... 8.9
Bars Joslynn Battle..... 7.65
Beam Tori Miller..... 7.575
Floor Joslynn Battle..... 8.675

Saturday at Kenowa Hills Third-place finish

Floor
A Team
Maura Fitzpatrick..... 9.15
Corah Kaufman..... 9.0
Sarena Wilterdink..... 8.975
Lauren Browning 8.725
Karmen Anderson 8.375

B Team

Sela Bauman 8.575
Paige DeHaan..... 8.3
Emily Lothian 8.125
Hadyn Nash..... 8.05
Amber Brown..... 7.4

Beam

A Team
Karmen Anderson 8.4
Maura Fitzpatrick..... 8.25
Corah Kaufman 8.05
Lauren Browning 7.7
Alise Forward..... 7.0

B Team

Sela Bauman 7.8
Paige DeHaan..... 7.7
Olyvia Johnson..... 7.7
Amber Brown..... 7.4
Tori Miller 7.05

Bars

A Team
Corah Kaufman..... 8.85
Maura Fitzpatrick..... 8.525
Alise Forward..... 8.5
Karmen Anderson 8.4
Sarena Wilterdink..... 8.3

B Team

Joslynn Battle..... 8.05
Amber Brown..... 7.9
Hadyn Nash..... 7.55
Olyvia Johnson..... 7.35
Sela Bauman 7.15

Vault

A Team
Maura Fitzpatrick..... 8.85
Alise Forward..... 8.8
Lauren Browning 8.75
Corah Kaufman..... 8.75
Sarena Wilterdink..... 8.2

B Team

Hadyn Nash..... 8.5
Amber Brown..... 8.35
Paige DeHaan..... 7.9
Sela Bauman 7.9
Tori Miller..... 7.75



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Red Arrow - BASKETBALL SPORTS

Winning ways continue for Lowell Red Arrows

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity hoops added a pair of victories to their already successful season last week overpowering non-conference foe Forest Hills Northern 70-45 and stringing together their third consecutive OK White victory with a 60-44 win over Forest Hills Central.

Tuesday on the road the team faced the Huskies of FHN in a dominating performance that saw 11 Arrows adding points to the team's winning total. Lowell led from the first quarter where they more than doubled their opponent's efforts with a score of 16-7. FHN managed to narrow that gap in the second, but

the Arrows still outscored them 18-15 to maintain a 34-22 lead at halftime.

Lowell continued their reign in the second half out-shooting the Huskies by three in the third and by ten in the fourth to win the game 70-45. Seniors Ryan Stevens and Gabe Steed led Lowell scoring with 12 apiece. Junior Matt Beachler netted ten for the squad.

Others chipping in on the strong offensive effort were Carter Noskey (9), Avery Buckius and Austin Branagan (8), Alex Anschutz (4), Marcus Malling (3), Mitch Davis (2), and Ethan Bates and Zach Petroelje (1).

Senior Austin Branagan kicked off scoring for the

Arrows with a two-point shot Friday when the team visited last year's undefeated Forest Hills Central squad. After graduating some senior power and losing highly recruited Xavier Tillman FHC struggled against the Arrows only managing to outscore them in the second period.

In the first, the Arrows nearly shut them out allowing them only one point while racking up 14 on the back of a string of successful three-point shots from Matt Beachler (3) and Marcus Malling (1). Malling added two more three pointers in the second putting the Arrows up 20-3 before FHC went on a scoring run simultaneous

to a scoring drought from Lowell. FHC won the period 20-11 but the Arrows maintained a 25-20 lead at the half due to the Ranger's slow start.

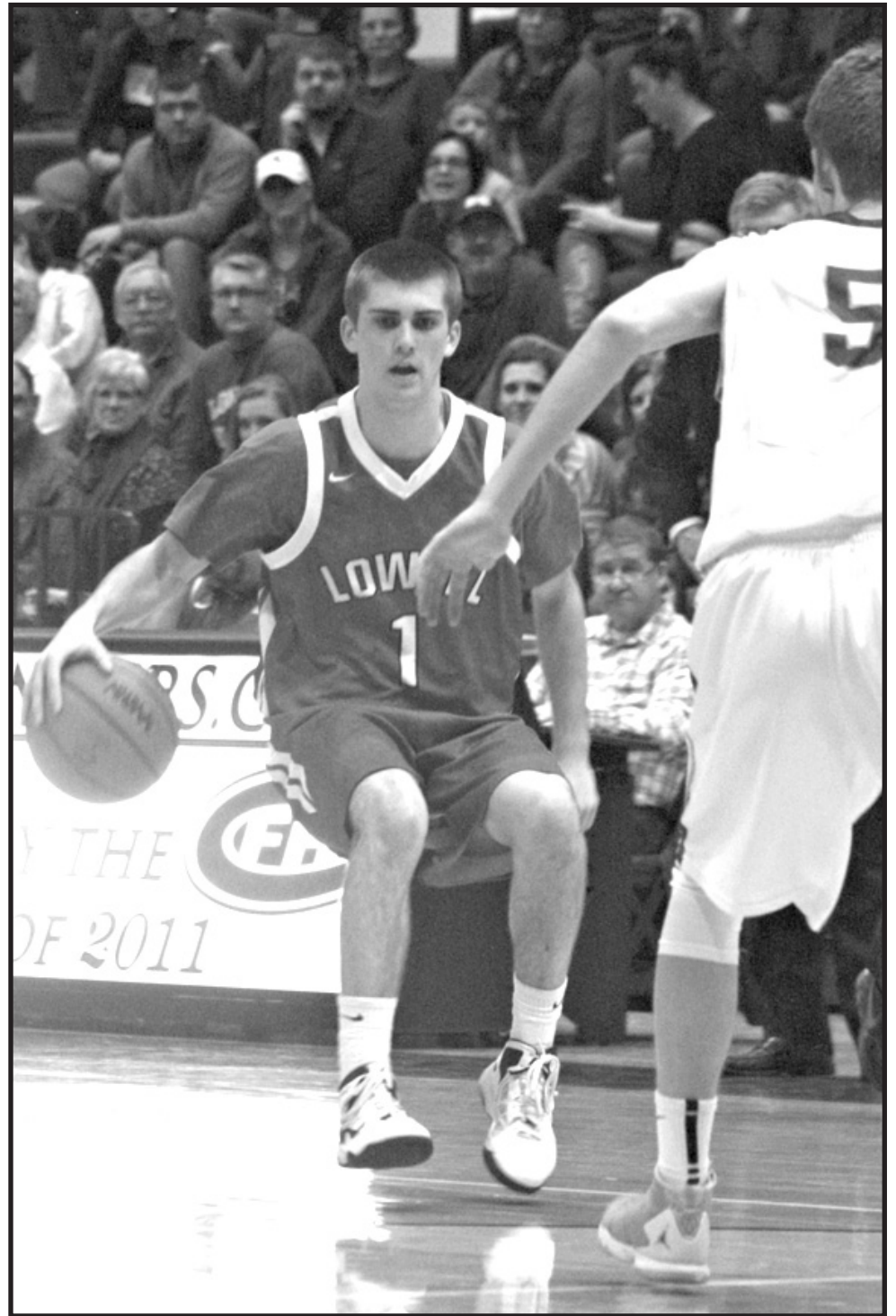
The Arrows kept the

lead in the third 47-36 and straight through to the end of the game where they nailed their third conference win of the season 60-44. Junior Austin Branagan was a powerhouse on

defense and led the team's offensive effort with 13 points. Stevens, Malling and Beachler each earned 12, Steed put up seven and Noskey and Anschutz each netted two.



Junior Matt Beachler contributed a total of 22 points during the teams two match ups last week.



Senior Gabe Steed drives down the court during the Arrows' game against defending OK White conference champs Forest Hills Central.

On the schedule this week are the two teams standing between the Arrows and a perfect 5-0 start in OK White conference play, East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Central. The Arrows will meet the Pioneers Tuesday on their home turf with tip-off scheduled for 7 pm and then hit the road Friday to meet the Eagles beginning at 7:30.



obituaries

PATTERSON

Lucinda "Cindy" Ann Patterson passed away Wednesday, January 20, 2016, of accidental injuries. Cindy was born January 7, 1959, to Olen and Violet of Lowell. Cindy is survived by her husband of six years Greg Patterson of Custer; and her daughter, Angela of Scottville. She is also survived by her brothers, Olen (Rita) Miller of Custer, Ralph (Sandy) Miller of Canal Winchester, OH, and Donald (Joella) of Saranac; also surviving are her nieces, Rachel and Kelly; and her nephews, Olen Jr. and Tony; along with many treasured cousins. Cindy was predeceased by her parents; her brother Boyer; and her son Christopher. Cindy had a great many friends who will miss her. She was a talented seamstress and loved life. Visitation will be 11:00 am Saturday, January 30 with a memorial service following at 12:00 pm at Pentwater Friendship Center, 310 N Rush St, Pentwater, MI. (231-869-7901). In lieu of flowers, donations accepted to offset funeral expenses.

STERZICK

Mathilde Theresia Sterzick (nee Hubner), age 87 of Alto, passed away Friday, January 22, 2016. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, William; daughters, Victoria Sterzick, Barbara (Craig) Paull; sister, Anne Dohrer; grandchildren, Alexis (Agustin) Manzanares, Olivia Coates, Ian Paull, Emily Paull. Funeral service was held at Alto United Methodist Church. Rev. Andrew Jackson officiating. Interment Merriman Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Alto United Methodist Church Building Fund, 11365 64th St. S.E., Alto, MI 49302.



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN
The Probate Court for the County of Kent
In the matter of **BETTIE LESLIE**, Guardianship
File No. 15-198,522-GA, Conservatorship File No. 15-198,521-CA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including children and grandchildren whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on February 08, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian and Conservator.

Dated: January 21, 2016

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 391-1675

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC
Attys. for Petitioner by
Amanda S. Van Essen (P75001)
3425 Kelly St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
Phone (616) 633-0196.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN
The Probate Court for the County of Kent
In the matter of **ROBERT LESLIE**, Guardianship
File No. 15-198,524-GA, Conservatorship File No. 15-198,523-CA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including children and grandchildren whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on February 08, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian and Conservator.

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Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
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(616) 391-1675

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC
Attys. for Petitioner by
Amanda S. Van Essen (P75001)
3425 Kelly St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
Phone (616) 633-0196.

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STINCHCOMB

William Roger Stinchcomb, 67, of Lawrence, passed away Sunday, January 10, 2016, at Rose Arbor Hospice Residence, Oshtemo Township. William was born May 12, 1948, in Cleveland, OH; the son of James and Wanda (Showalter) Stinchcomb, both of whom precede him in passing. Also preceding him in passing were his wife, Joyce Ogden-Stinchcomb on November 26, 2012; a brother, Warren Stinchcomb; and a sister, Suzanne Stinchcomb. William was a graduate of Lowell High School. He was quick to start a conversation and always had a ready laugh for everyone he met. In his spare time, he loved guitar, collecting coins and cheering on his Michigan State Spartans, of which he was a diehard fan. William is survived by a daughter, Shannon Stinchcomb of Lawrence; three brothers, Bruce (Nan) Stinchcomb of Grandville, Craig Stinchcomb of Grand Rapids and Mark Stinchcomb of Lowell; two sisters, Patricia (Cliff) Terpstra of Morley and Wendy Stinchcomb (Dave Stern) of Chattanooga, Tenn.; along with many other family members. As per William's wishes, cremation has taken place. The family will welcome friends from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on Friday, January 29 at the Van Buren Conference Center, Lawrence. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in William's name may be made to the family. The family has entrusted the Calvin Funeral Home, Hartford; with arrangements. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at <http://www.calvin-leonardfh.com>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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

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

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

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2016
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

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

Linda Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	B	A	C	K	F	A	Q	L	A	M	A	
P	I	Q	U	E	E	M	U	V	I	X	E	N
T	A	U	P	E	S	P	A	I	N	E	R	T
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4	8	1	3	2	6	5	7	9
3	5	6	7	1	9	2	8	4
7	3	5	2	9	8	4	1	6
9	2	4	1	6	5	8	3	7
6	1	8	4	3	7	9	2	5
8	6	2	9	4	3	7	5	1
5	4	3	8	7	1	6	9	2
1	9	7	6	5	2	3	4	8

Hockey team helps out food pantry



The Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian varsity hockey team recently held a food drive. The Lowell players donated a portion to FROM; the Caledonia and South Christian teammates donated to food pantries in Caledonia and Byron Center. Pictured are: Ethan Campbell, Nick Vantil, Jake Pratt, Charlie Hayes, Austin Whaley and Logan Propst at FROM with volunteer Barb Rush.

Cheer champs

Lowell Champion Force Division I cheerleaders took first place at state competition on Sunday Jan. 7 at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids. The girls pictured are Abby Butler, 6; Makenna Ferguson, 5; Amaris Hill, 6; Rowin Keely, 6; and Rylee Kyes, 5.



they answered his call. He immediately jumped in and swam out to the children and got hold of them both but the machines were running, causing the water to churn around and consequently Mr. VanOcker was practically helpless. He instructed his wife to go into the plant and get a long spear, which she did. She caught it on Mr. VanOcker's clothing and towed the group to where he could stand on the bottom. Mrs. VanOcker then pulled one of the little girls out and in the meantime had sent for Jerry DeVine, another plant employee, who helped pull out the other child and Mr. VanOcker. Mrs. VanOcker says that if the girls had not been expert swimmers they wouldn't have had a chance. The incident was not far from being tragic and should warn all children to exercise extreme caution when coasting or ice skating.

Supt. W. W. Gumser reports that school attendance is gradually getting back to normal after the recent flu siege. One teacher is absent, however, due to a case of measles.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger January 27, 1966

Council divided over contractor to build sewage treatment plant. The Lowell City Council split 3-2 on awarding the contract to build a sewage treatment plant last Wednesday at a special meeting. Richard Schlernitzauer, Phillip Schneider and Charles Doyle voted awarding the contract to John F Sadler of Milford for a bid of \$327,775, and Mayor Arnold Wittenbach and Herbert Reynolds voted to give the contract to the low bidder Erhardt Construction Company of Grand Rapids, on a bid of \$327,400. The Milford firm won the contract award on the 3-2 vote. Several Lowell citizens, who belong to the AFL Carpenter's Union, claimed they will be able to work at home if the Sadler Company was given the job. Some of these men are presently working for Sadler, who is constructing a similar plant in Ionia.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 30, 1991

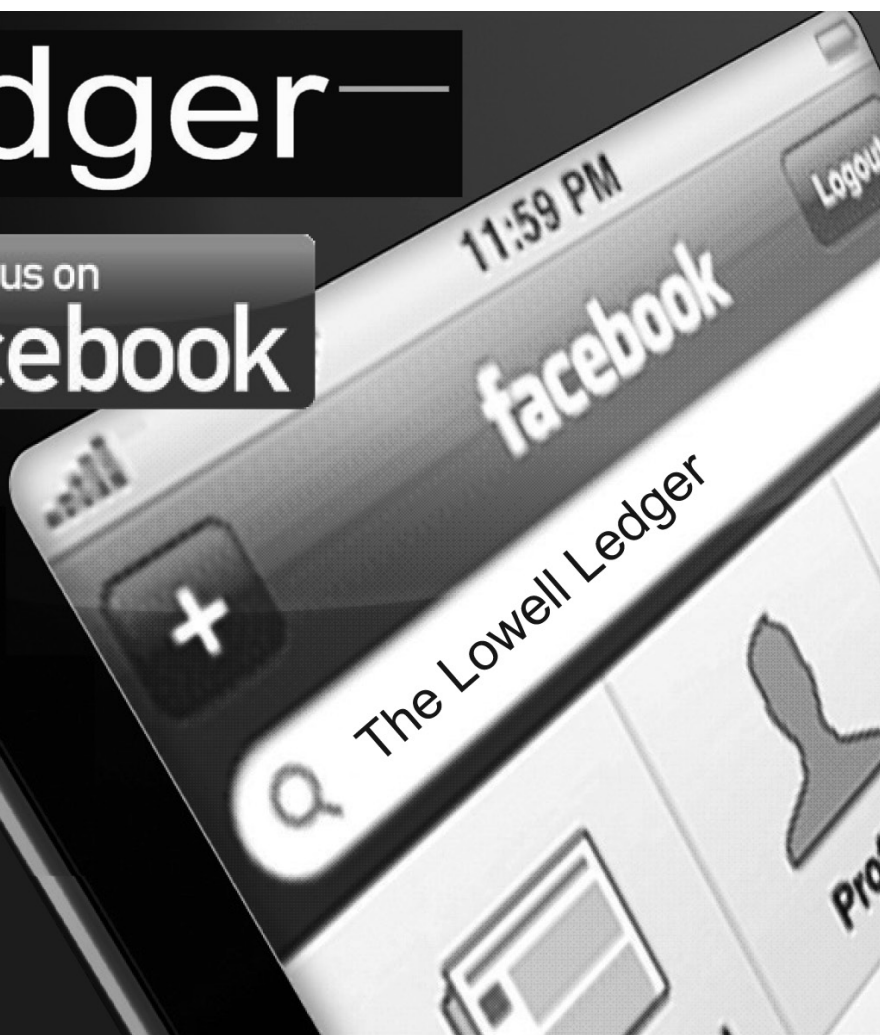
LAAC contemplates life without grant monies. Governor John Engler's proposed cut of \$36.6 million in cultural programs has painted a grim picture for the Lowell Area Arts Council and other local arts organizations. The procedure to deal with Engler's proposal is that the Legislature has 10 days to respond, then the Governor has 30 days to respond to the Legislature's proposal and the Legislature then has 10 days to respond to his counter-proposal. This whole process will be 50 days or until about the first week in March. Senator Vern Ehlers believes the Governor's proposal is likely to be rejected, but he is hopeful about restoring any of the arts funding. Ehlers' main concern ideals with the inequities in earlier funding by the Michigan Council for the Arts. According to the Senator, some arts organizations have received 99 percent of their 1991 grant money and others have received none. In a meeting with the LAAC Board, Senator Dick Posthumus explained that while Engler is catching the wrath for the cuts, the decision to cut funds was made before Engler went into office. "Some of the funds were distributed in December. The Blanchard people issued them. The decisions were not based on a fair system," Posthumus said. One way to reinstitute a fair system is to move the responsibility of funds from the commerce department to the education department. "Administratively, I believe it would be a good idea," Posthumus said. The concern of the AAB is that many of its members have already spent or committed the current grant money which it now will not get. [Arts Advisory Board chairperson Sharon] Yentsch explains, "This will mean that many will now face laying off staff, cutting programs or going out of business. This action has caused panic across the arts community."

Write to your Lowell area servicemen. 11 local servicemen are now serving in Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. There are 11 Lowell residents currently serving over in Saudi Arabia. The Lowell Ledger has received numerous calls asking the paper to print the names and addresses of these servicemen so area residents can write to them. The Ledger has compiled a list of 11 servicemen. The Ledger was able to get the addresses of four of the servicemen.

the lowell
ledger

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

- 1. Often follows "taken"
- 6. Common inquiries
- 9. Tibetan monk
- 13. Shakira's soccer-playing partner Gerard
- 14. Down Under bird
- 15. Female fox
- 16. Greyish brown
- 17. *Romantic destination
- 18. Unable to move
- 19. *Valentine and the like
- 21. *a.k.a _____ Awareness Day to some
- 23. Found on grass some mornings
- 24. *Lover of Aeneas
- 25. *Special celebratory drink
- 28. Preakness, e.g.
- 30. Release of gas
- 35. Baker's baker
- 37. "In the _____" by Village People
- 39. Sound of battle
- 40. "Nana" novelist
- 41. West African storyteller
- 43. _____do-well
- 44. *Keep nuptials a secret
- 46. Alternative to truth
- 47. German mister
- 48. Nine voices, pl.
- 50. Seaside bird
- 52. Chester White's home
- 53. Lack of clarity
- 55. Workout unit
- 57. *Woo
- 61. *Popular Valentine shapes

CROSSWORD														
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13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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- 64. Defendant's excuse
 - 65. Cook's leaf
 - 67. Torn down
 - 69. Imitate
 - 70. Grave acronym
 - 71. Treeless plain
 - 72. *Chaucer or Poe
 - 73. Sierra Nevada, e.g.
 - 74. An end zone is 10 of these
- DOWN**
- 1. Address abbreviation
 - 2. Objectivity preventer
 - 3. Greenish blue
 - 4. *Expert archer?
 - 5. More keen
 - 6. Come clean, with "up"
 - 7. Unit of electric current
 - 8. To some degree
 - 9. End of "traveling"
 - 10. Figure skating jump
 - 11. Mother in Provence
 - 12. "Hardworking" insects
 - 15. Relating to wine
 - 20. Nasality in speech
 - 22. *Words of commitment
 - 24. Stray from the accepted
 - 25. *Rose amount
 - 26. Convex molding
 - 27. Cantaloupe, e.g.
 - 29. *Form of greeting
 - 31. Hyperbolic tangent in math
 - 32. Songs sung by three or more voices
 - 33. Deflect
 - 34. **Love means never having to say you're _____
 - 36. Back of neck
 - 38. Bygone era
 - 42. To the point
 - 45. Like Thai cuisine, e.g.
 - 49. Cul de _____
 - 51. Just about
 - 54. _____ Monochromatic equid
 - 56. _____-_____la
 - 57. Freeway exit
 - 58. Hodgepodge
 - 59. Play charades
 - 60. Slightly
 - 61. Hoopla
 - 62. Russian autocrat
 - 63. *Seal with a kiss and do this
 - 66. Be ill or unwell
 - 68. "_____ and don'ts"

Puzzle solution on page 12



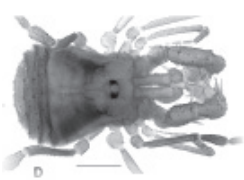
LEDGER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday:
8 am - 5 pm
Friday: 8 am - Noon
Closed Sat. & Sun.

P.O. Box 128
Lowell, MI 49331
897-9261



JANUARY 20 - JANUARY 26

- Scientists have discovered a huge new spider in the woods of southwest Oregon. The new daddy longlegs species, (Cryptomaster behemoth), towers over other creatures of its kind. It is elusive and difficult to find because it hides out under logs and leafy debris on the forest floor. 
- Ben and Jerry's has introduced "Bernie's Yearning," a new, extremely limited-edition ice cream flavor inspired by Vermont senator Bernie Sanders. The pint of plain mint ice cream is topped by a chocolate disk that represents "the huge majority of economic gains that have gone to the top 1% since the end of the recession."
- The skies are clear now but health risks remain for East Coast residents still struggling to dig out from under the snow left by the blizzard of 2016. So far there have been at least 45 snowstorm-related deaths and more than a dozen were people who suffered heart attacks while shoveling. At least 10 people died while shoveling in New York City. Shoveling-related heart attacks were also reported in New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

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1			6			3	4	

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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.

Sudoku solution on page 6

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

WWW.
thelowellledger.com

Musher visits Alto Library and shares his love of the sport

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Dan "The Dog Sled Man" Anderson and six of his Siberian Husky sled dogs drew nearly 100 people of all ages to the Alto Library last Saturday for "Mush." The special presentation introduced those in attendance to the preparation, tools and challenges of leading a sled dog team. Anderson also touched briefly on the most famous of sled dog races, the Iditarod.

He began the hour-long event explaining the equipment necessary to be a musher, or sled rider. Anderson showcased three different sleds as well as the personal gear needed to endure the cold temperatures of the sport for both man and pup.

Anderson, who owns Tun-Dra Kennels in Nunica, then talked about the Iditarod. The most elite sled dog race, the Iditarod is a more than 1,000 mile trek across frozen Alaskan land spanning from Anchorage to Nome. The annual March race takes between 9-15 days to complete and consists of a musher and sixteen sled dogs.

Anderson also detailed the required food and supplies to participate in the race, which included an ax for building fires, four booties per dog to protect their feet and two pounds of dog food per dog to keep them fed. Doing the math, attendees figured the musher needed to carry 32 pounds of food and 64 dog booties.

Taking a short musical break Anderson then played a track called "I did the Iditarod Trail" from folk artist Jim Varsos, better known as Hobo Jim. Audience members chimed in during the fun sing-along. A brief history of Alaska and its wildlife and resources were also featured during the indoor portion.

Attendees got to meet six of Anderson's beautiful and well-mannered sled dogs both bred and trained at his kennel. Everyone huddled in to get the opportunity to greet and pet them. Anderson, speaking with a megaphone, continued his talk by introducing each of the huskies by name and then fielding questions before wrapping up the presentation.



Dan "The Dog Sled Man" Anderson introducing six of his Siberian Huskies.



Don Hulbert gives one of the guest Huskies a pet during the presentation.



One of six Siberian Huskies from Tun-Dra Kennels who visited the Alto Library.



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